



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
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*Our Shared Mission: We are saved by grace through faith
 to share the good news of the Gospel with all people
 and live God's love by our words and actions.*

Monthly Newsletter – January 2022



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IMPORTANT: Worship Schedule Inside

Current Worship Schedule

Indoors (COVID-permitting) • Masks Encouraged

NOTE: There are TWO, Joint Worship Services in the coming weeks due to Annual Meetings being held at each Congregation.

Sundays, January 2, 9, 16, 23 9:00am Worship at Gethsemane

Sunday, January 30* **10:30am Joint Worship at St. Stephen's**
(11:30am St. Stephen's Annual Meeting)

*Traditionally, we have a **JOINT** Worship service with our friends from St. Stephen's if a month has **five** Sundays. St. St. happens to be having their **Annual Meeting** that Sunday (1/30), so Worship will be in **Stephenson**. We'll worship together as one family of God, say our goodbyes, and then St. St. will then hold their Meeting.

Sunday, February 6** **9:00am Joint Worship at Gethsemane**
10:00am Gethsemane Annual Meeting

Now, it's **OUR turn to have our Annual Meeting, our turn to invite St. Stephen's folks to worship in Wallace. Worship will conclude around 10am, we'll have a 5-minute stretch-break, grab some coffee, and then launch into our **Annual Meeting**. Council Members will join Pr. Brenda in sharing the **story** of our past year as a Congregation. We'll briefly look over reports, **vote** on a Budget for 2022, and be on our way! We need **10%** of our members to attend to constitute a **quorum**, meaning, we need YOU. **Yes, you!** Please plan to attend this beautiful, year in review!



**PRAYERS
FOR OUR MILITARY**
And Their Families

- 5 Everit Porter
- 6 Elmer Mullard
- 18 Sarah Krzych
- 20 Shelby Hoof
- 22 Jeff Peretto
- 24 Julie Kohrt
- 28 Juanita Kraus

Jordan Baril, Jay Chapple,
Trish Dams, Thomas
Dutkavich, Brent Jurmu,
Jared Jurmu



*Check out the beautiful
plants near the Highway 41
entrance! Cool spirals!*

*Thank you for holding the friends and families of our
Congregants in your daily prayers. **Corrections?**
Additions? Please contact the Church Office. Thanks!*

We continue to hold in prayer:

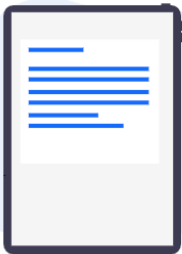
Avery Hayward	Bruce Christenson	Caitlin Christophersen	Christopher Mack
Dan Etelamaki	David Kohrt	Dean Kauthen	Deanna Thill
Delores Erickson	Delores Gill	Denise Marineau	Dennis Kaczmarczyk
Dennis Paul	Diane Wangerin	Dorothy Peretto	Emily Christenson
Evan Mack	Evelyn Gewerth	Gene Wangerin	James Dutkavich
Jamie Beeharry	Jim Gill	Jim Wenger	Joan Hofer
Karen Raether	Keith Thoun	Kenny Kline	Kevin Havelka
Lewis Nicholson	Logan Parrett	Lois Azelton	Lorrie Stone
Luann Q. Kiefer	Macy Berszenyi	Michelle Beauchard	Mike Lubore
Mike McCarthy	Mike Pfeiffer	Miles Sorenson	Rob Boe
Robert Berszenyi	Ronnie Anderson	Sandy Baumler	Sarah Hess
Sheila Konkell	Stephanie Wallgren	Sue Skowronski	Tammy Parrett
Terry Stage Roddy	Tom Kuntze	Tom Wenger	Tracy Klatt
Vernon Paul	Wally Majkrzak	Wayne Sundstrom	Wendy Gravelle
Wendy Hanson	Wendy Majkrzak		



SimpleChurch CRM

SimpleChurch is the name of our new, Church Management System. It's the software we use in both Offices to keep track of ALL of our church records, replacing *Shepherd's Staff*. We've been busy inputting and updating records after the Joint Council approved this more cost-efficient program. Just SOME of its helpful features include:

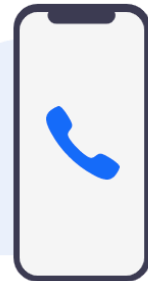
- Logging **Interactions**: lets us jot down when we've called or visited a church member
- Easy and visually-astute accounting system assists our Financial Team with **Offerings**
- **Mass Contact** feature gives us options when it comes to reaching out to Congregants.



Email



Text Message (SMS)



Voice Message

Speaking of Mass Contact...we now have 3 ways to **quickly** and **efficiently** reach out to you:

By EMAIL: This will be an easy way to send electronic Newsletters, notices of immediate prayer needs, and/or information about Bible Studies and classes. This method even allows us to attach files such as photos or documents.

By TEXT: We'll use this method when we need to send you a very short message in a very quick amount of time. As far as we can tell, the number used by SimpleChurch is: **22383**. Go ahead and ADD it as one of your CONTACTS, so you'll know it's US the next time we text.

By VOICE: Perhaps you received a recorded phone call from a 1-866 number in late December. (*Pr. Brenda was testing out the system, and recorded a message about Christmas Services.*) We're letting you know the actual number that is most frequently used by the company, as we don't want you to let it go to voicemail (thinking it might have been one of those annoying telemarketers). **1-866-665-4386** seems to be the number that is generated and used by SimpleChurch. Again, we'd suggest ADDING it as one of your CONTACTS, so you'll know it's US the next time we call.

THANK YOU for your **patience and grace
as we explore new ways to use SimpleChurch!**



STEWARDSHIP + FORTUNE LAKE UPDATES

Dear Congregation,

As most of you know, Gethsemane has an active, on-going community **mission** to help anyone who might need transportation assistance to important, life-management appointments. These sorts of needs fall under the purview of what is known as our **Social Ministry Team**.



Travel to appointments is often taken for granted. Imagine for a minute, not being able to make or keep an appointment, simply because there is no extra money in the budget to purchase fuel to travel to town.

Our program provides a gas voucher, made out to the individual, and is only redeemable for the amount issued, and only works at a specific gas station. While a typical voucher is around \$20, the amount of assistance varies depending, among other considerations, on how far away the individual must travel for an essential appointment,

Thankfully, we have successfully managed to fund this program since its inception in 2013. The time has come to let you know that our funding has gone dry: **we've reached a point where we need to ask that you prayerfully consider giving an offering specifically to the Social Ministry Fund**. May we continue to bless others.



Peace to you all,

Wendy Hanson, *Congregation President, Social Ministry Team*

“Disconnect to Reconnect:

JR/SR High Retreat” - Feb 4-5, 2022



FORTUNE LAKE
A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

Technology is everywhere these days, there's just no way around it.

Fortune Lake invites youth currently in grades 7-12 to take a **break** from screens and join us at camp for an **unplugged retreat**. This one-night retreat will be held February 4-5 and will feature Bible Studies, games, and camp style activities designed to encourage attendees to disconnect from their electronics and reconnect with the people around them.

Details: Check-in Friday night at 6 pm CST. The retreat will conclude at 4 pm CST on Saturday. A snack will be provided on Friday night as well as breakfast, lunch, and a snack on Saturday. Youth attendees will lodge in duplex cabins. Youth group leaders will lodge in duplexes or retreat lodges.



As of this moment, Pastor Brenda is heading to Camp with 2 of our Youths. If you know of any other 7th- 12th graders that would love to join us, CALL Pr. Brenda ASAP! **Registration Deadline: January 28, 2022 by 5 pm CST.**



2022 Lifelong Faith Formation

Winter classes begin in January with varied, interesting opportunities! Register by January 7.

Northern Great Lakes Synod
nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation

For more information, contact Deacon Lori Ward at
lori.ward@nglsynod.org or (615) 519-1969 (cell)

The upcoming schedule of Lifelong Faith Formation classes offers a diverse series of online classes for adults who want to increase their knowledge of the Bible, grow in spirituality, and explore contemporary Christian concerns.

The 2022 winter series includes:

- **Introduction to Biblical Hebrew - 8 Sunday evening sessions**
- **The Samuel Series: Prayer and the Spiritual Life - 7 Monday morning sessions**
- **The Big Picture Bible Discussion - 4 Tuesday evening sessions**
- **The Book of Ezekiel, Part II - 10 Wednesday evening sessions**
- **Anishinaabe Culture - up to 3 Thursday evening sessions**
- **Dialogue with the Islamic Resource Group - 2 sessions on a Thursday and Friday evening**

Registration will open around December 10. You are invited to sign up for more than one class. A syllabus will be posted around January 1 by the teachers who use them. The registration deadline is Friday, January 7 at 5 pm ET.

Prior to the first class in January, instructors will send Zoom links to participants.

Daily Bible Readings - Year C

*Year C focuses on the Gospel of **Luke**. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings are of prophetic proclamation chosen in chronological order and highlighting Jeremiah. The second, New Testament, readings are chosen mainly from Galatians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy and 2 Thessalonians.*

Sat. Jan. 1 — The Holy Name of Jesus

Numb 6:22-27 Psalm 8:1 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:15-21

Prayer of the Day: *Eternal Father, you gave your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be a sign of our salvation. Plant in every heart the love of the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Sun. Jan. 2 — Second Sunday of Christmas

Jeremiah 31:7:14 Psalm 144:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:1-9, 10-18

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon.— Jan. 3	Job 42:10-17	Luke 8:16-21	Psalm 72.
Tue.— Jan 4	Isaiah 6:1-5	Acts 7:44-53	Psalm 72.
Wed.— Jan 5	Jeremiah 31 :7-14	John 1:1-9, 10-18	Psalm 72
Thu. - Jan 6	Isaiah 60:1-6	Ephesians 3:1-12	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Fri.— Jan. 7	Ecclesiastes 2:1-11	1 Corinthians 2:1-10	Psalm 29
Sat.— Jan. 8	Ecclesiastes 3:1-15	1 Corinthians 2:11-16	Psalm 29

Sun. Jan. 9 — Baptism of Our Lord / Epiphany

Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 (3) Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon.— Jan. 10	Judges 4:1-16	Ephesians 6:10-17	Psalm 106:1-12
Tue.— Jan. 11	Judges 5:12-21	1 John 5:13-21	Psalm 106:1-12
Wed— Jan. 12	Numbers 27:1-11	Luke 11:33-36	Psalm 106:1-12
Thu.— Jan. 13	Jeremiah 3:1-5	Acts 8:18-24	Psalm 36:5-10
Fri.— Jan. 14	Jeremiah 3:19-25	1 Corinthians 7:1-7	Psalm 36:5-10
Sat.— Jan. 15	Jeremiah 4:1-4	Luke 11:14-23	Psalm 36:5-10

Sun. Jan. 16 — Second Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11

Prayer of the Day: *Lord God, source of every blessing, you showed forth your glory and led many to faith by the works of your Son, who brought gladness and salvation to his people. Transform us by the Spirit of his love, that we may find our life together in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon.— Jan. 17	Isaiah 54:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Psalm 145
Tues.— Jan. 18	Song of Solomon 4:1-8	1 Corinthians 1:3-17	Psalm 145
Wed.— Jan. 19	Song of Solomon 4:9-5:1	Luke 5:33-39	Psalm 145
Thurs.— Jan. 20	Isaiah 61:1-7	Romans 7:1-6	Psalm 19
Fri.— Jan. 21	Nehemiah 2:1-10	Romans 12:1-8	Psalm 19
Sat.— Jan. 22	Nehemiah 5:1-13	Luke 2:39-52	Psalm 19

Sun. Jan. 23 — Third Sunday after Epiphany

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21

Prayer of the Day: *Blessed Lord God, you have caused the holy scriptures to be written for the nourishment of your people. Grant that we may hear them, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that, comforted by your promises, we may embrace and forever hold fast to the hope of eternal life, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.*

Mon.— Jan. 24	Jeremiah 36:1-10	1 Corinthians 14:1-12	Psalm 119:89-96
Tues.— Jan. 25	Jeremiah 36:11-26	2 Corinthians 7:2-12	Psalm 119:89-96
Wed.— Jan. 26	Jeremiah 36:27-32	Luke 4:38-44	Psalm 119:89-96
Thurs.— Jan. 27	2 Chronicles 34:1-7	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 71:1-6
Fri.— Jan. 28	2 Chronicles 35:20-27	Acts 19:1-10	Psalm 71:1-6
Sat.— Jan. 29	2 Chronicles 36:11-21	John 1:43-51	Psalm 71:1-6

Sun. Jan. 30 — Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through you Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon.— Jan. 31	1 Kings 17:8-16	1 Corinthians 2:6-16	Psalm 56
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Pastoral Musings

by Rev. Brenda Greenwald

Dear Church,

I was recently gifted the sweetest, little **Nativity** you ever did see. Measuring just over an inch and a half tall, this little Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus was crafted using a technique called “**quilling**” (*No, not quilting...not THIS time, at least!*). Quilling is the art of tightly-wrapping tiny, colorful pieces of paper in order to form a bigger picture. (*I have a quilled cross in my office at Gethsemane if you'd ever like to see the technique close-up.*). In this case, the little circles of paper were shaped into the base, the manger, and the bodies of the Holy Family. This hand-made Nativity was a precious reminder of that night so long ago, and a gift I will forever **treasure**.



Treasure....what do we really **treasure** in our lives? We treasure our **health** – thankful when it’s good, and mourned when it’s lost. We treasure **time** spent with loved ones, be they near or far away. We might even treasure **food**, not only for its tasty, nutritional value, but for its ability to bring us together. Ask a 4-year-old what *he* treasures, and well, I guarantee you it’s going to have something to do with **dinosaurs** or trucks!

What was it that **Mary** treasured, that holiest of nights, when she could finally rest from childbirth? ¹⁹“**But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.**” Mary treasured the words, the excitement, the confirmation, really, that *her* Son was **THE** One the world had been awaiting. What parent doesn’t want to hear glowing things about their child, much less heavenly prophecies about a Savior?! Truth be told, Mary didn’t really *need* to wait for an excitable tale from Shepherds, or revel in the incredible news from heavenly angels to know what, or rather **WHOM**, she would **treasure**: she would treasure the tiny **infant** that lay before her. She would treasure the **hope** found in this little soul. She would treasure her **role** in this Divine mystery, this true, miracle of life, the **Word** made flesh.

Ponder your treasures, dear Church. Ponder **YOUR** roles, ponder **YOUR** hopes, as the beautiful story from long ago has not yet concluded. The Life and Love that was brought forth upon this earth some 2022 years ago is a life-force that can fill **YOUR** hearts with beautiful things, and that is certainly something wonderful to **ponder**.

Pondering with you,

Fr. Brenda

NOTE: The December 16, 2021 Council Meeting was cancelled due to Weather / Power Outages.



“Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.” Isaiah 1:18



Many thanks to all who helped keep our parking lot plowed, our entryways shoveled, and our sidewalks ice-free!

THE CROSS IS THE TRUE GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

A REFLECTION BY ELCA PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



I remember this jarring image: It was the Christmas Eve candlelight service at my home congregation. A banner depicting Mary and Jesus in the manger had been hung from the ceiling at the front of the nave completely obscuring the large suspended cross. I had seen that banner on Sunday mornings, but on this Christmas Eve in the semidarkness something else appeared. A spotlight that illumined the cross now shown on the banner with the effect of making the outline of the cross appear as the background of the Christmas scene.

The cross on Christmas? I didn't want the crucified Christ casting a shadow on the Christ child. Christmas is about angels and shepherds and the babe, lying in a manger, not betrayal and death. I didn't like it. Christmas can be such a fraught season. It is forced to carry so much emotional freight. We must be merry. We must be filled with good cheer. We must be home surrounded by family. We must turn our lives into the happy endings of every TV Christmas special. There is a certain driven-ness to get everything done, to get everything perfect by the stroke of midnight on Dec. 24. Secular culture reflects this. A Christmas Carol and How the Grinch Stole Christmas are stories of redemption. The song "I'll Be Home for Christmas" and the film Home Alone are filled with wistful longing. I remember a M*A*S*H episode where the doctors in the operating room turned the clock back to 11:59 p.m. on the 24th so a young soldier's death wouldn't be recorded on Christmas.

But what are we longing for? Certainly, we want peace in our homes and in the world. We want love and a place to belong. We want life and the end of all the deadly things in the world that bring death and destruction. We want reconciliation. We want rest. We want hope. We want the assurance that all of this means something. We want to know that someone cares. And so, we try to accomplish all of those things and squeeze it all into the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. No wonder we can find ourselves exhausted and empty on Dec. 26. The mall scene the day after Christmas—returning broken toys and ill-fitting or unwanted sweaters, the picked-over look of marked down Christmas decorations and wrapping paper—is the retail version of the reality of a broken world that doesn't know peace or love or hope. Except

The hope of Christmas is fulfilled on Good Friday. The cross is part of Christmas. "Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you; hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 296). All of our Christmas glorias are realized in Jesus' glorification on the cross. We have peace. We have hope. We are loved. And not just at Christmas.

The cross is the Christmas gift. Through it, God reconciles and heals. Through it, God's love is made known and in God's love we are known and have our home. And it is a gift. We don't have to spend our energy and time hoping to attract the gift or the Giver by making everything right by Christmas. If we aren't physically at home, if our lives have not turned into the happy endings of TV Christmas specials, if we are estranged from family, if we are not merry, even if we should die, this gift of life has come to us.



Let's be gentle with ourselves and each other this Advent and Christmas. Let's not fret about imperfect lives and incomplete holiday preparations. We won't ever get it completely right. That's God's work. It is the best gift exchange ever. Martin Luther wrote: *"Is not this a beautiful, glorious exchange, by which Christ, who is wholly innocent and holy, not only takes upon himself another's sin, that is, my sin and guilt, but also clothes and adorns me, who am nothing but sin, with his own innocence and purity? And then besides dies the shameful death of the cross for my sake ... that I may live with him eternally"* (Luther's Works, Vol. 51).



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

2022 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Worship and Annual Meeting Details Inside

January



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

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