



St. Stephen's 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 10:30am Worship at St. Stephen's

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 Gethsemane if a month has **five** Sundays. We happen to be having our **Annual Meeting** that Sunday (1/30), so Worship will be in **Stephenson**.

Worship will conclude around 11:20am, we'll have a 5-minute stretch-break, grab some coffee, and then launch into our **Annual Meeting**. Council Members will join Pr. B 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!

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

**This week, Gethsemane is holding their Annual Meeting. Thus, we'll worship together as one family of God in Wallace, say our goodbyes, and then G will hold their Meeting.



- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 01 Dennis Berger, | 22 Lengel Wade |
| Mary Jardeen | 26 Callie Crawford |
| 09 Dan Baumler | 27 Sandy Chaney |
| 11 Linda Djupstrom | 27 Lily Grinsteiner |
| 13 Pam Sederquist | 29 Sally Oliver |
| 15 Penny Nehls | 31 Justin Majkrzak |
| 15 Teran Belec | 31 Cheryl Harris |
| 19 Cyndie Berger | |



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

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
Esther Mack	Evan Mack	Evelyn Gewerth	Gene Wangerin
James Dutkavich	Jamie Beehary	Jim Gill	Jim Wenger
Joan Hofer	Karen Raether	Keith Thoune	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 Konkol	Stephanie Wallgren	Sue Skowronski
Tammy Parrett	Terry Stage Robby	Tom Kuntze	Tom Wenger
Tracy Klatt	Vernon Paul	Wally Majkrzak	Wayne Sundstrom
Wendy Gravelle	Wendy Hanson	Wendy Majkrzak	

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

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 Colossians 1 and 2 Timothy and 2 Thessalonians.

Sat. Jan. 1, 2022 - Name of Jesus Numbers 6:22-27, Psalm 8 (1), Gal 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.*

Sun. Jan. 2 - 2nd Sunday of Christmas Jer 31:7:14, Ps 144:12-20 (12), Eph 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.*

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 – Epiphany/Baptism of Our Lord Isa 60:1-6, Ps 72:1-7, 10-14, Eph 3:1-12, Matt 2:1-12
Prayer of the Day: *O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

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 - 1st Sunday after Epiphany Isa 43:1-7, Ps 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.*

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 - 2nd Sunday after Epiphany Isa 62:1-5, Ps 36:5-10 (8), 1 Cor 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.*

Mon – Jan 17	Isaiah 54:1-8	Romans 12:9-21	Psalms 145
Tue – Jan 18	Song 4:1-8	1 Corinthians 1:3-17	Psalms 145
Wed – Jan 19	Song 4:9—5:1	Luke 5:33-39	Psalms 145
Thu – Jan 20	Isaiah 61:1-7	Romans 7:1-6	Psalms 19
Fri – Jan 21	Nehemiah 2:1-10	Romans 12:1-8	Psalms 19
Sat – Jan 22	Nehemiah 5:1-13	Luke 2:39-52	Psalms 19

Sun. Jan. 23 - 3rd Sunday after Epiphany Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10, Ps 19 (7), 1 Cor 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, read, 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.*

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

Sun. Jan. 30 - 4th Sunday after Epiphany Jer 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6 (6), 1 Cor 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 your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon – Jan 31	1 Kings 17:8-16	1 Corinthians 2:6-16	Psalms 56
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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.

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – COUNCIL MINUTES
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2021 – 11:30am *(rescheduled due to storm)*

PRESENT: Harlan Anderson (*President*), Keith Olson, Kami Salo (*Secretary*), Al Raether, Pr. Brenda Greenwald

EXCUSED: Bob Berglin, Cheri Leiphart (*Vice-President*), John Starzynski

Meeting called to order: 11:30am

Agenda Approval:	Motion to Accept: AL	Seconded: KEITH	CARRIED
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Secretary's Report:	Motion to Accept: KEITH	Seconded: AL	CARRIED
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Pastor's Report	<i>Pastor Brenda</i>
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- Community Christmas Caroling: Tree Lighting in Stephenson (12/6), West Bagley Homemakers (12/14), First Methodist - Menominee (12/14)
- Baptism: +Brian Charles Hafeman (11/28)
- Sabbath Time: Actually planning some outings in 2022
- SimpleChurch: Figuring out all the new perks! Testing and tweaking.
- ROUBAL's: Had to cancel 11/28 - COVID exposure
- Northern Great Lakes Synod: Bp Katherine asked Pr B to participate in the NGLS Christmas service. Video will be used for 12/26/21 Online Worship
- Annual Conference Meeting via Zoom (12/9): Pr B elected to a 3-year term on Synod Council
- Peer Group: Preach Like a Girl group via Calvin College has concluded
- Mutual Ministry Team: Planning with Pr. Jim from the Synod to form such a Team
- Theology: Thankful for questions via text, Messenger, phone, etc.
- PRAYING OVER... attending a Pastoral Retreat in April 2022.



Treasurer / Fin. Sec. Reports	Motion to Accept: AL	Seconded: KAMI	CARRIED
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Ministry Team Reports	Liaison(s)	Updates
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|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Bethesda Cemetery | Keith | Winter-ready. Flag removed, new flag to be purchased. |
| • Faith Formation | Kami | Middle School/High S headed to FLLC |
| • Fellowship/Social Ministry | Kami | (suspended at this time) |
| • Finance Team | Al, Harlan, John | Budget meeting date January 5, 2022. \$125 donation |
| • Memorial Fund | John | (none this month) |
| • Property Team | Al, Cheri, Harlan, John, Keith | Wreath, Tree and Manger! Thank you! |
| • Stewardship Team | Cheri | Letter: current status, Jan. '22 bulletins will have weekly \$\$ |
| • WELCA | Harlan | Re-start with Holiday Notes? Calls? Meetings? |
| • Worship/Music | Keith | |

Motion to Accept: AL	Seconded: KEITH	CARRIED
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OLD Business: No old business

NEW Business

- a. Volunteer List to be put back out for weekly money counting help and other Worship positions.
- b. Harlan will pay half of the garbage pickup bill, and begin bringing his home trash to St. St.
- c. Wally will continue to do snow removal. THANK YOU, WALLY!
- d. Prayerfully consider various names of people who would serve on 2022 Ministry Teams. Connecting with members, personally invite them, and join them praying over serving.
- e. The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 30, 2022.
- f. Audit committee – Keith will lead, pulling together a team prior to the Annual Meeting.
- g. Christmas Gifts
- h. Yoga group Tuesday mornings: approved to meet at St. St. on Tuesdays. Pr/Denise will follow-up.
- i. Winter walkers welcomed: (Denise's parents)
- j. Discussion: Mission Support 2022 conversation paused until Budget meeting.
- k. Worship cancellation process/demo: SimpleChurch making things easier! Demo to come!

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Accept: Pr. Brenda

Time: 12:16pm

Church Council closed the meeting with *The Lord's Prayer*.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kami Salo

“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.*

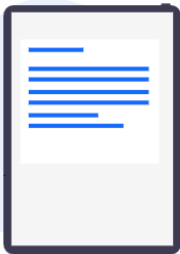




SimpleChurch CRM

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:

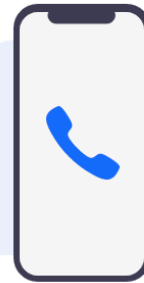
- Logging **Interactions**: lets us jot down when we've called or visited a church member
- Easy and visually-astute accounting system assists our Financial Team with **Offerings**
- **Mass Contact** feature gives us options when it comes to reaching out to Congregants.



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!



With gale force winds, our humble Manger could not withstand the gusts, but the strength of Mary did prevail. Thank you, Alvin and Keith, for coming to the rescue and making it strong enough to withstand a category 4!



A great **BIG** thank you to Alvin and Keith for getting and putting up our Christmas tree and to Keith, Shirley, Sharon, Alvin, Cheri, and Norma for beautifully decorating our tree and the Sanctuary for the Christmas season.

O come let us adore Him!

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



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

2022 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Worship and Annual Meeting Details

January



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

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