



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 435 - Stephenson, MI 49887

Office Manager: Denise Wangerin

Office Phone: (906) 753-4932

E-mail: Soffice@gsslutheran.org



Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald

Phone/Text: 720.989.8218

E-mail: Pastor@gsslutheran.org

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 July & August 2022

Birthdays and Prayer Lists	2-3
Important Dates	4
Daily Bible Readings	5-7
Pastoral Musings	8
June Church Council Minutes	9
Letter From Bishop Finegan.	10-11

SPECIAL SERVICES in the NEXT MONTH

- 1. Sunday, July 31:** This is a JOINT Worship Service, held AT Gethsemane, **9am.**
- 2. Sunday, August 7:** This is a JOINT Worship Service, held at Erickson Pavilion in Stephenson, at **10:30am.** Potluck to Follow.



WORSHIP

Our Worship Times *(until September 4, 2022)*
9a Gethsemane, 10:30a St. Stephen's



July



Happy Anniversary

2 Wayne & Janet Salo
8 Keith & Crystal Salo
18 John & Pattie Starzynski
22 Bob & Judy Stone

2	Tyler Crawford	22	John Starzynski
5	Jane Christenson	23	Wendy Majkrzak
14	Alayna Klatt	24	Brianna Hess
16	Bruce Bergquist	24	Gary Hess
18	Madison Bergquist	29	Margaret Galbraith
21	Alvin Etelamaki		



Happy Anniversary

1	Tyler Sulk	12	Bob Stone
2	Janet Salo	13	Sharon Etelamaki
3	Lynda Keller	23	Patty Vandenberg
4	Karen Tickler	30	Fred Lesperance
11	Kayla Berger	31	Kevin Crawford
11	Rosalie Wade		

5	Paul & Kelly Francour
19	Jim & Janet Voss
27	Roy & Tammy Parrett



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



We continue to hold in prayer:

*Hope and comfort in the Resurrection to the friends and family,
wife Ruth, and the three sons of: **+Keith Thoune+***

Bruce Christenson	Dan Etelamaki	Darwin Diehm	Deanna Thill
Dennis Kaczmarczyk	Dennis Paul	Emily Christenson	George Hensley
Jenna Perras	Karen Raether	Kenny Kline	Kevin Havelka
Logan Parrett	Luann Q. Kiefer	Macy Berszenyi	Marcia Droese
Matt Koldos	Mike Lubore	Mike McCarthy	Mike Pfeiffer
Miles Sorenson	Paul Larmour	Rob Boe	Robert Berszenyi
Ronnie Anderson	Sandy Baumler	Sarah Hess	Shirley Gulbis
Tammy Parrett	Terry Stage Roddy	Tracy Klatt	Wendy Gravelle
Wendy Majkrzak	Zeke Gill		

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



***** Important Dates in JULY and AUGUST *****



American Red Cross Blood Drive

Save a Life, Give Blood

Gethsemane Lutheran Church, ELCA
Open, air-conditioned, Fellowship Room
N6095 US Hwy 41 • Wallace, MI 49893 • 906.788.4234
July 11, 2022 • 10am – 3pm
Schedule Online: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>
Event Coordinator: Wendy Hanson



FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP PRESENTS
**ONE WONDERFUL DAY:
AN ORIGINAL MUSICAL**

Saturday, August 6 at 3pm CT
Historic Crystal Theatre
Tickets available at fortunelake.org



Save the Date!

(and Pray for Sunshine!)

10:30am on Sunday, August 7, 2022
Erickson Pavilion in Stephenson

We'll gather for Worship, and enjoy a Potluck Meal!
Bring your own Drinks; Table Serve Provided!

Come one, come all! Bring a friend...bring 'em all!



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.



Fri – July 1	Jeremiah 51:47-58	2 Corinthians 8:1-7	Psalm 66:1-9
Sat – July 2	Zechariah 14:10-21	Luke 9:1-6	Psalm 66:1-9

Sun. July 3 - 4th Sunday after Pentecost

Isa 66:10-14, Ps 66:1-9 (4), Gal 6:[1-6] 7-16, Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Prayer of the Day: *O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus, you are the city that shelters us, the mother who comforts us. With your Spirit accompany us on our life's journey, that we may spread your peace in all the world, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon – July 4	Jeremiah 6:10-19	Acts 19:21-27	Psalm 119:73-80
Tue – July 5	Jeremiah 8:4-13	Acts 19:28-41	Psalm 119:73-80
Wed – July 6	Joshua 23:1-16	Luke 10:13-16	Psalm 119:73-80
Thu – July 7	Genesis 41:14-36	James 2:14-26	Psalm 25:1-10
Fri – July 8	Genesis 41:37-49	Acts 7:9-16	Psalm 25:1-10
Sat – July 9	Leviticus 19:1-4, 32-37	John 3:16-21	Psalm 25:1-10

Sun. July 10 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost

Deut 30:9-14, Psalm 25:1-10 (4,) Col 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-37

Prayer of the Day: *O Lord God, your mercy delights us, and the world longs for your loving care. Hear the cries of everyone in need, and turn our hearts to love our neighbors with the love of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon – July 11	Job 24:1-8	James 2:1-7	Psalm 25:11-20
Tue – July 12	Proverbs 19:1-17	1 John 3:11-17	Psalm 25:11-20
Wed – July 13	Ecclesiastes 9:13-18	Matthew 25:31-46	Psalm 25:11-20
Thu – July 14	Genesis 12:10-20	Hebrews 5:1-6	Psalm 15
Fri – July 15	Genesis 13:1-18	Ephesians 3:14-21	Psalm 15
Sat – July 16	Genesis 14:1-16	Luke 8:4-10	Psalm 15

Sun. July 17 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 18:1-10a, Psalm 15 (1), Col 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42

Prayer of the Day: *Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon – July 18	Exodus 18:1-12	Colossians 1:27—2:7	Psalm 119:97-104
Tue – July 19	Proverbs 9:1-18	1 John 2:1-6	Psalm 119:97-104
Wed – July 20	Deuteronomy 12:1-12	John 6:41-51	Psalm 119:97-104
Thu – July 21	Esther 2:19—3:6	Acts 1:15-20	Psalm 138
Fri – July 22	Esther 3:7-15	Acts 2:22-36	Psalm 138
Sat – July 23	Esther 4:1-17	Luke 8:22-25	Psalm 138

Sun. July 24 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost Gen 18:20-32, Ps 138 (8), Col 2:6-15 [16-19], Luke 11:1-13

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon – July 25	Esther 5:1-14	Colossians 2:16—3:1	Psalm 55:16-23
Tue – July 26	Esther 6:1—7:6	Romans 9:30 —10:4	Psalm 55:16-23
Wed – July 27	Esther 7:7—8:17	Matthew 5:43-48	Psalm 55:16-23
Thu – July 28	Proverbs 23:1-11	Romans 11:33-36	Psalm 49:1-12
Fri – July 29	Proverbs 24:1-12	Ephesians 4:17-24	Psalm 49:1-12
Sat – July 30	Ecclesiastes 1:1-11	Mark 10:17-22	Psalm 49:1-12

Sun. July 31 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost Eccl 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23, Ps 49:1-12 (3), Col 3:1-11, Luke 12:13-21

Prayer of the Day: *Benevolent God, you are the source, the guide, and the goal of our lives.*

Teach us to love what is worth loving, to reject what is offensive to you, and to treasure what is precious in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.



Mon – Aug. 1	Ecclesiastes 2:1-17	Colossians 3:18— 4:1	Psalm 127
Tue – Aug. 2	Ecclesiastes 3:16 -- 4:8	Colossians 4:2-6	Psalm 127
Wed – Aug. 3	Ecclesiastes 12:1-8, 13-14	Luke 12:22-31	Psalm 127
Thu – Aug. 4	Job 21:1-16	Romans 9:1-9	Psalm 33:12-22
Fri – Aug. 5	Ecclesiastes 6:1-6	Acts 7:1-8	Psalm 33:12-22
Sat – Aug. 6	Genesis 11:27-32	Matthew 6:19-24	Psalm 33:12-22

Sun. Aug. 7 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost Gen 15:1-6, Ps 33:12-22 (22), Heb 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your church.*

Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may be ready to receive you wherever you appear, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Mon – Aug. 8	2 Chronicles 33:1-17	Hebrews 11:1-7	Psalms 89:1-18
Tue – Aug. 9	2 Chronicles 34:22-33	Hebrews 11:17-28	Psalms 89:1-18
Wed – Aug 10	Jeremiah 33:14-26	Luke 12:41-48	Psalms 89:1-18
Thu – Aug. 11	Joshua 7:1, 10-26	Hebrews 10:26-31	Psalms 82
Fri – Aug. 12	1 Samuel 5:1-12	Hebrews 10:32-39	Psalms 82
Sat – Aug. 13	1 Samuel 6:1-16	Matthew 24:15-27	Psalms 82

Sun. Aug. 14 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost Jer 23:23-2,9 Ps 82 (8), Heb 11:29—12:2, Luke 12:49-56

Prayer of the Day: *O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon – Aug. 15	Jeremiah 23:30-40	1 John 4:1-6	Psalms 32
Tue – Aug.16	Jeremiah 25:15-29	Acts 7:44-53	Psalms 32
Wed – Aug. 17	Jeremiah 25:30-38	Luke 19:45-48	Psalms 32
Thu – Aug. 18	Numbers 15:32-41	Hebrews 12:3-17	Psalms 103:1-8
Fri – Aug. 19	2 Chronicles 8:12-15	Acts 17:1-9	Psalms 103:1-8
Sat – Aug. 20	Nehemiah 13:15-22	Luke 6:1-5	Psalms 103:1-8

Sun. Aug. 21 - 11th Sunday after Pentecost Isa 58:9b-14, Ps 103:1-8 (4), Heb 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17

Prayer of the Day: *O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon – Aug. 22	Ezekiel 20:1-17	Hebrews 3:7— 4:11	Psalms 109:21-31
Tue – Aug. 23	Ezekiel 20:18-32	Revelation 3:7-13	Psalms 109:21-31
Wed – Aug. 24	Ezekiel 20:33-44	Luke 6:6-11	Psalms 109:21-31
Thu – Aug. 25	Proverbs 15:13-17	1 Peter 3:8-12	Psalms 112
Fri – Aug. 26	Proverbs 18:6-12	1 Peter 4:7-11	Psalms 112
Sat – Aug. 27	Proverbs 21:1-4, 24-26	Matthew 20:20-28	Psalms 112

Sun. Aug. 28 - 12th Sunday after Pentecost Prov 25:6-7, Ps 112 (4), Heb 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:1, 7-14

Prayer of the Day: *O God, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

Mon – Aug 29	2 Chronicles 12:1-12	Hebrews 13:7-21	Psalms 119:65-72
Tue – Aug 30	Isaiah 2:12-17	Titus 1:1-9	Psalms 119:65-72
Wed – Aug 31	Isaiah 57:14-21	Luke 14:15-24	Psalms 119:65-72

Pastoral Musings

Dear Church,

I've had a few weather Apps on my phone for years, but I usually follow the one from **The Weather Channel**. I make sure the dew point isn't going to be oppressive (because if it is, you can be assured that the A/C is coming on!), I see if there is any chance for rain (otherwise, I need to really water my plants), and I take a look at the general forecast.



The **REAL** reason I tune-in, however, is to see the **RADAR**. I like to see if there are any fast-moving, severe storms coming our way, and plan my day accordingly. Included in this program, The Weather Channel app also has **Weather Alerts** - color-changing messages that let me know if things are going to get wild and if the weather is going to be severe in our area. Recently, however, the app has also added an advisory message to its alerts: "**BE PREPARED AND HAVE A PLAN**". OK! You have my attention! But...how do I prepare?! Do I prepare my house? My pets? My yard!? What plan do I need to put into place!? Do others know about this plan!? Mr. Weather Channel, **you're not very helpful!**

While the details to these two questions are **lacking** in **helpful** content on the app, I had to smile at the parallel to our lives of **faith**: **WE** have already been issued this message of **BE PREPARED AND HAVE A PLAN**, long ago, by a God who set things into motion. **Noah** put a plan to love God in place, even while doing so completely alone! **Joshua's** plan was more compassionate than commanding, inspiring God's people to obey. **Mary** was TOLD the plan, and was prepared to follow it through deep faith. The plan of a Baptizing Man named **John** was to repent your sins, and turn to God. **Mary Magdalene** certainly hadn't planned on running into the Risen Lord, but she was prepared to tell everyone she knew!



And finally, **WE** have the **ULTIMATE** planner, **Jesus**, whose very life alerts us to the love and grace of a life led by God. **WE** are to be prepared for Jesus to come again. **WE** are to be planning lives of faith that honor Jesus, the servant leader. **WE** are to be prepared to share our faith with **both** those who believe **AND** with those who question.

Perhaps you even have this app on your phone...or even on a bedside table or kitchen counter: **The Bible**. Our holy scriptures are FILLED with examples of how to BE PREPARED AND HAVE A PLAN. I'm not just talking about the **DON'Ts** - *the don't do this, and don't do that*. I'm also taking about the **DOs**: DO love your neighbor, DO forgive a hundred times over, DO remember to place Jesus at the center of your actions.

In this beautiful, summer season, I'd like to issue YOU a weather alert: BE PREPARED to share the love of Jesus with yourself and others, and HAVE A PLAN to do just that!

Weathering life's storms and sunshine with you,
Pastor Brenda

ST. STEPHEN'S Council Minutes: Sunday, June 19, 2022 – After Worship

PRESENT: Cheri Leiphart (President), Keith Olson (Vice-President),
Bob Berglin (Secretary), Pastor Brenda

Meeting called to order: 11:55a

Agenda Approval:	Motion to Accept: Pr B	Second: Bob	FAVOR
-------------------------	-------------------------------	--------------------	--------------

- **ADDITIONS**

1. Bank Minutes
2. 75th Anniversary Celebration
3. Rental of Fellowship Hall

NEW BUSINESS

1. Official Bank Minutes

- The Congregational Council of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church of Stephenson, MI officially names the following **Officers** for the 2022 Council Year (beginning December 31, 2021): Cheryl (Cheri) Leiphart as President, Keith Olson as Vice-President, Robert (Bob) Berglin as Secretary, and John Starzynski as Member.
- A **Motion** was made by Keith Olson to **remove** former-member Harlan Anderson from any and all accounts pertaining to St. Stephen's Lutheran Church of Stephenson, MI. **Seconded** by Pastor Brenda. Motion **PASSED**.

2. 75th Anniversary of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

- Seeing as how the Anniversary was supposed to be celebrated during the Pandemic years, the **Motion** was made by Keith Olson to postpone the 75th Anniversary, and go all out when we hit our **80th** Anniversary. **Seconded** by Bob Berglin. Motion **PASSED**.

3. Rental of Fellowship Hall

- Discussion ensued regarding: (a) just how many Saturdays would be required for Jason Niemi to rent the Fellowship Hall of St. Stephen's from 8:30a-4pm, (b) how the class could conflict with congregant activities/weddings/funerals and (c) the presence of weapons inside our worship/gathering space. A decision to **deny** the request was made due to the request being in conflict with our missional guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion: Keith Olson	Time: 12:08p
---	---------------------



A Letter from Bishop Katherine

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As I write this, it is the Monday after our 34th Synod Assembly. We are in the second year of a three-year theme focused on the passage from I Corinthians, “And now Faith, Hope, and Love Abide, these three.” We know the greatest of these is love, but this year we are focusing on Faith.

Martin Luther describes faith as a “living, busy, active, mighty thing.” As Lutherans, we teach that faith is a gift. And yet, faith is dynamic and moving, less a package to be opened and more a relationship to be nurtured - less a possession, and more a commitment of trust. In these last couple of pandemic years when we have had to work harder to stay connected, I think we understand more clearly the part that we play in building and nurturing our faith community.



Synod Assembly is a perfect example of what we do to build our faith community and celebrate a wider view of church. I hope you felt connected as you gathered in person as a voting member, participated in the week of online workshops, or watched the business meeting livestream. I believe for the most part, things went smoothly. The sound was a little uneven from conference to conference, but people were willing to repeat their question or comment until we all understood.

One thing that I do not believe was understood fully was the reasoning and purpose of Resolution #7. In the fall of 2021, I was presented with the requirement to amend our constitution by our Churchwide Secretary, Sue Rothmeyer, who was being proactive in ensuring the 60/40 balance of lay and clergy voting members at synod assemblies in order to forestall any disputes as to the legality of a given outcome in future elections. We are one of a few synods who still have the provision in our constitution that all retired rostered leaders in attendance at Synod Assembly receive both voice and vote.

Concern over lay and clergy balance has not been an issue. In our synod before as so many pastors who have retired have not stayed geographically in our synod. Many, after retirement, have stayed on our NGLS roster, but they have moved far away and never expected to attend Synod Assembly. In the last few years, this has changed, and more of our retired pastors have chosen to stay local and may well plan to attend Synod Assembly.

Granted, we are not the Florida/ Bahamas Synod, where I am guessing retired clergy outnumber active clergy and lay voting members combined, but the challenge to defend the constitutional requirement of at least 60% lay voting membership at Synod Assembly is the same.

Other synods have chosen different methods. Some ensure the balance by saying that:

1. No retired pastors are given voting privileges unless they are serving a congregation as an interim.
2. The retired pastors meet and agree who among them will represent their vote. The amount of voting members is a certain percentage of the total retired clergy population, often 10%.

After my conversation with Sue Rothmeyer, I sent an email to all our retired pastors presenting them with the issue. I invited them to a Zoom meeting and welcomed their input. If they could not attend the Zoom, I asked that they send me their thoughts via email. I welcomed their ideas as to how best to constitutionally ensure the required balance.

Currently we have, or soon will have, 61 retired clergy on our roster, 35 of which might reasonably be expected to attend Synod Assembly. If each congregation sends their full number of lay people, we would see about 170 lay people at Synod Assembly, which would allow 110 clergy to be voting members. Assuming that 79 congregations will send a clergyperson (knowing that some have a Licensed Lay Minister), this allows for roughly 31-32 retired clergy to be voting members.

If, like some synods, we went with 10% of retired clergy, that would only afford 6 retired clergy the privilege of voting. Wanting to maximize the number of retired clergy who could vote, the proposal was made to wait until registration closed, have a hard number of lay voting members and active clergy, and from that, calculate the remaining balance of 40% of clergy and how many retired clergy could then vote.

I am very glad that more retired pastors are choosing to stay on the territory of the NGLS. They offer invaluable support and wisdom to the church, helping the work of ministry in countless ways even after retirement. I continue to be deeply grateful for their partnership and willingness to help. Having to limit, even a few, from the privilege of voting at Synod Assembly is a reality that this resolution seeks to address as fairly as possible, maximizing the voting participation of retired clergy who attend Synod Assembly.



What can you do?

- Maximize the amount of lay people your congregation sends to Synod Assembly and pay attention to gender balance.
- Rotate Synod Assembly participation among your members, giving more people the joy and witness of being church together.
- Next year we will be in person. Please include travel expense, hotel expense, and registration cost in your congregational budget for next year. Registration will be more like it was pre-COVID, about \$180 per person.
- As always, the registration fee for retired clergy is waived.

Synod Assembly is energizing, joyful, informative, and Spirit blessed. We are church together, and never more so than when we worship and partner in ministry together. This year was good, but I look forward to us all being together, in person, next year.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org



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

July & Aug

**2022 MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER**

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
PO Box 435 - Stephenson, MI 49887
Office Phone: (906) 753-4932
E-mail: Soffice@gsslutheran.org

