

## **St. Stephen's Lutheran Church**

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Stephenson, MI 49887

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**Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald**

Phone/Text: 720.989.8218

E-mail: [Pastor@gsslutheran.org](mailto: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.*



<b>May and June Birthdays/Anniversaries, Prayers . . . . .</b>	<b>2</b>
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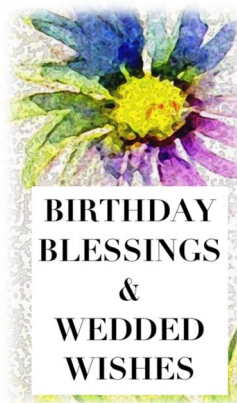


### ***Hospitalized? Welcome a visit?***

Contact the **Office** at 906.753.4932, or reach out to **Pastor Brenda** directly at **720.989.8218** (call/text), and we'll make it happen!



- 5 - Al Raether
- 6 - Nancy Diehm, Wally Majkrzak
- 9 - Kate Dubey
- 10 - Mackenzie Bright
- 11 - Kami Salo
- 12 - Shirley Olson
- 15 - Karen Raether, Logan Parrett
- 21 - Lyle Revall
- 22 - Doreen Grinsteiner
- 26 - Judy Anderson, Saml Salo
- 29 - Janet Voss
  
- 20 - Roger & Doreen Grinsteiner
- 22 - Wally & Wendy Majkrzak



- 6 - Roger Grinsteiner
- 7 - Janice Kuharski
- 8 - Deb Kruhmin
- 13 - Elaine Haban
- 15 - Angela Keyzers
- 18 - Bob Berglin
- 21 - Harlan Anderson
- 22 - Jenni Wagner
  
- 2 - Dennis & Cyndie Berger
- 5 - Pr. Dave & Jane Christenson
- 6 - Tim & Cheri Leiphart
- 11 - Al & Karen Raether
- 16 - Todd & Penny Nehls

***We continue to hold our military members in our prayers:  
Jordan Baril, Jay Chapple, Ken Dam, Trish Dam, Brent Jurmu, Jared Jurmu***

***We continue to hold the following in prayer:***

- |                       |                           |                              |                              |                              |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Ann</b> Best →     | <b>Benjamin</b> Hollister | <b>Bill</b> Johnson          | <b>Dan</b> Etelamaki         | <b>Darwin</b> Diehm          |
| <b>Deanna</b> Thill   | <b>Deborah</b> Becklund   | <b>Dennis</b> <u>D</u> ibble | <b>Dennis</b> <u>P</u> aul   | <b>Dennis</b> <u>S</u> aari  |
| <b>Dick</b> Durrow    | <b>Dorothy</b> Roemer     | <b>Emily</b> Christenson     | <b>Heather</b> Brisson       | <b>James</b> Dutkavich       |
| <b>Jenna</b> Perras   | <b>Kaitlin</b> Shelby     | <b>Karen</b> Raether         | <b>Karron</b> Wittgren       | <b>Kevin</b> Havelka         |
| <b>Logan</b> Parrett  | <b>Luann</b> Q. Kiefer    | <b>Macy</b> Berszenyi        | <b>Marcia</b> Droese         | <b>Mark</b> Thoune           |
| <b>Mary</b> Bright    | <b>Matt</b> Koldos        | <b>Mike</b> <u>L</u> ubore   | <b>Mike</b> <u>M</u> cCarthy | <b>Mike</b> <u>P</u> feiffer |
| <b>Miles</b> Sorenson | <b>Robert</b> Berszenyi   | <b>Ronnie</b> Anderson       | <b>Ryan</b> Derrickson       | <b>Sandy</b> Baumler         |
| <b>Sarah</b> Hess     | <b>Sharon</b> Powell      | <b>Tammy</b> Parrett         | <b>Terry</b> Stage Roddy     | <b>Tim</b> Bruce             |
| <b>Tracy</b> Klatt    | <b>Warren</b> Suchovsky   | <b>Wendy</b> Gravelle        | <b>Zeke</b> Gill             |                              |

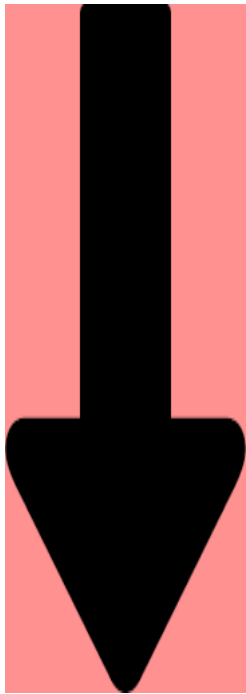
***We extend the comfort + hope of the resurrection to the family + friends of  
+Margaret Galbraith+ and +Rev. John Shallow+***



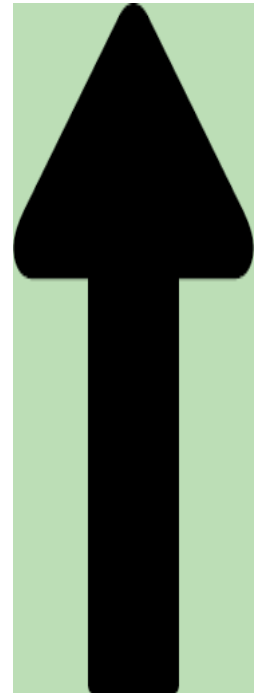
***Thank you for holding the friends and families of our Congregants in your daily prayers.  
Corrections? Additions? Please contact the Church Office.***

**Worst Day Ever?** A Poem by Chanie Gorkin

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald



Today was the absolute worst day ever  
And don't try to convince me that  
There's something good in every day  
Because, when you take a closer look,  
This world is a pretty evil place.  
Even if  
Some goodness does shine through once in a while  
Satisfaction and happiness don't last.  
And it's not true that  
It's all in the mind and heart  
Because  
True happiness can be attained  
Only if one's surroundings are good  
It's not true that good exists  
I'm sure you can agree that  
The reality  
Creates  
My attitude  
It's all beyond my control  
And you'll never in a million years hear me say  
Today was a very good day



**Now, read it from bottom to top, the other way, and see how you really feel about your day.**

**Chanie Gorkin** (now 25) wrote this poem at the age of 16. A student at the all-girls Beth Rivkah High School in Brooklyn, Chanie is an Orthodox Jew, affiliated with the Lubavitch branch of Hassidic Judaism. Her poem, she's explained, reflects the Jewish idea that it's possible to control how we see the world, whether negatively or positively: **"I don't think there is such a thing as the worst day ever... I wanted to show how your day is really based on how you look at things."**

The **God** who promises us new mercies each morning is the same God who sits with us in the pits of despair. The **Savior** whose first miracle enlivened a wedding party in peril is the same Savior who had nails driven through his wrists. The **Spirit** who comes into our hearts upon prayer is the same Spirit who blows as the Spirit sees fit. While we are all accompanied by our God, our Savior, our Savior, it IS up to us to view the world in a negative or positive light. **How will YOU read YOUR day today?**

Reading upward with you,

*Pr. Brenda*

## Welcome to the 2023 Synod Assembly Online Workshops!

Join people from across the Northern Great Lakes Synod for a fun and interesting series of short programs from **Monday, May 15 - Wednesday, May 17, 2023**. Enjoy time

together as you explore different aspects of life in the church. **Free of charge and open to anyone** who wants to take part, the workshops are 50-minutes each (with the exception of "Understanding Treaty Rights" which is two hours). Time will be allocated for questions and comments. **Advance registration is not required**. Zoom links will be posted prior to each program, and many programs have great, Promo Videos to watch to tell you more ahead of time. Visit THIS LINK for all the necessary information:

[nglsynod.org/assembly/online-workshops/](https://nglsynod.org/assembly/online-workshops/)



## Resources for Worship Planning

*Lucas Wickstrom, Chair of NGLS Worship Committee*

Monday, May 15 at 11 am ET / 10 am CT (Meeting ID: 843 1303 4377, Passcode: 110777)

Tuesday, May 16 at 1 pm ET / 12 pm CT (Meeting ID: 874 5530 8532, Passcode: 632024)

Looking for new (or old) resources and ways to plan worship? This workshop will provide you with resources and ways to plan worship that connects and inspires.

## Congregational Financial Check-Up

*Pr Terry Frankenstein, Synod Treasurer*

Monday, May 15 at 5 pm ET / 4 pm CT (Meeting ID: 873 5210 3185, Passcode: 777217)

Download the Financial Check-Up Worksheet on the NGLS Website.

Are you interested in Financial Best Practices for your congregation? Based on the content of a recently developed Synod Financial Worksheet, NGLS Treasurer Pastor Terry Frankenstein will review topics important to church leadership, including: How are offerings handled? What process is used to approve payables? Are financial reports clear, including those covering restricted funds and investments? What about Portico and all those federal and state forms? The intent of this workshop is to help participants begin valuable conversations in their home congregations.

## #NGLSYouth

*Stefanie Ehle, NGLS Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Monday, May 15 at 6 pm ET / 5 pm CT

Stop by this workshop to learn what young people in our synod have been up to this year and how you can support and grow youth ministry in your congregations. Knowledge/use of hashtags are not required : )





## Fortune Lake: Growing in Grace, Reconciling in Christ

FLLC's Total Inclusion Task Force, Amanda Rasner, Camp Director

Monday, May 15 at 7 pm ET / 6 pm CT (Meeting ID: 874 8604 5355, Passcode: 202150)

For the past year, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp's Total Inclusion Task Force has been stewarding conversations around how we operationalize inclusion of our LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual) siblings, particularly in the outdoor ministry setting of Fortune Lake. Join this interactive workshop to learn more about the importance and impact of this work and where we think the Holy Spirit is nudging us today and into the future.



## "Could this be the Christ?" A wellspring of scandals in John, Ch. 4

Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique

Tuesday, May 16 at 4 pm ET / 3 pm CT

Wednesday, May 17 at 4 pm ET / 3 pm CT

Pastor Tommy has been leading Bible Studies for the Synod's Lifelong Faith Formation program since it was launched in 2020, applying his seminary and pastoral experiences to his teaching, along with his sense of humor. For this workshop he says, "We will take a deep-dive into the story of the woman at the well, and leave scandalized and fulfilled all at the same time."

## Faithful Innovations: What it is and how it can help your congregation in an adaptive, communal learning process

Rev. Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop

Tuesday, May 16 at 6 pm ET / 5 pm CT (Meeting ID: 816 5270 2415, Passcode: 047338)

Wednesday, May 17 at 1 pm ET / 12 pm CT (Meeting ID: 829 0820 3203, Passcode: 465610)

Seventeen Congregations from our synod have participated in the Faithful Innovations Training Process. This introductory workshop will clarify what this training experience is about and how it could benefit your congregation. After learning about Faithful Innovations, you and a team of 4 to 7 people would be invited to participate in the next training cohort which begins June 17, 2023. You may learn more at: [nglsynod.org/faithful-innovations](https://nglsynod.org/faithful-innovations).

## All Are Welcome Here?

Pr Jared Howard, Faith, Calumet; Vicar Melissa Salminen, Seminarian; Pr Bruce Thorsen, Bethany, Ishpeming

Tuesday, May 16 at 7:30 pm ET / 6:30 pm CT (Meeting ID: 834 1699 9253, Passcode: 843506)

As people of God, we are called to see the divine in everyone we meet but Christians as a group has had a difficult time living into the welcome of all people. While we may say we are welcoming, we often fall short in welcoming those who are different than us because of how they look, who they love, or how they introduce themselves. Using materials from the recent Kaleidoscope Lenten Challenge and materials from Reconciling Works, this workshop will seek to help us extend welcome to our siblings who identify as LGBTQIA+ and take time to learn what these descriptors mean.



## Understanding Treaty Rights

Jerry Jondreau of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Katy Bresette of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe, and Pr Julie Belew, Holy Cross, Baraga

Wednesday, May 17 from 6-8 pm ET / 5-7 pm CT (Meeting ID: 894 9669 2119, Passcode: 501561)

Our guests from Dynamite Hill Farms will be presenting the historical and legal aspect behind the intention of treaties and their relevance to understanding what it means to be a sovereign nation.

## Daily Bible Readings, Year A - May

*Year A focuses on the Gospel of Matthew. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings focus on major Genesis narratives, the covenant with Moses, and the establishment of Israel in the Promised Land. The second, New Testament, readings are from Romans, Philippians and 1 Thessalonians.*

Mon – May 1	Ezekiel 34:17-23	1 Peter 5:1-5	Psalms 100
Tue – May 2	Ezekiel 34:23-31	Hebrews 13:20-21	Psalms 100
Wed – May 3	Jeremiah 23:1-8	Matthew 20:17-28	Psalms 100
Thu – May 4	Genesis 12:1-3	Acts 6:8-15	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16
Fri – May 5	Exodus 3:1-12	Acts 7:1-16	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16
Sat – May 6	Jeremiah 26:20-24	John 8:48-59	Psalms 31:1-5, 15-16

**Sunday May 7 – Fifth Sunday of Easter** Acts 7:55-60, Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 (5), 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14

**Prayer of the Day:** *Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon – May 8	Exodus 13:17-22	Acts 7:17-40	Psalms 102:1-17
Tue – May 9	Proverbs 3:5-12	Acts 7:44-56	Psalms 102:1-17
Wed – May 10	Proverbs 3:13-18	John 8:31-38	Psalms 102:1-17
Thu – May 11	Genesis 6:5-22	Acts 27:1-12	Psalms 66:8-20
Fri – May 12	Genesis 7:1-24	Acts 27:13-38	Psalms 66:8-20
Sat – May 13	Genesis 8:13-19	John 14:27-29	Psalms 66:8-20

**Sunday May 14 – Sixth Sunday of Easter** Acts 17:22-31 Psalm 66:8-20 (8) 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21

**Prayer of the Day:** *Almighty and ever-living God, you hold together all things in heaven and on earth. In your great mercy receive the prayers of all your children, and give to all the world the Spirit of your truth and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon – May 15	Genesis 9:8-17	Acts 27:39-44	Psalms 93
Tue – May 16	Deuteronomy 5:22-33	1 Peter 3:8-12	Psalms 93
Wed – May 17	Deuteronomy 31:1-13	John 16:16-24	Psalms 93

**Thursday May 18 – Ascension of Our Lord** Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47 (5), Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53

**Prayer of the Day:** *Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Fri – May 19	2 Kings 2:1-12	Ephesians 2:1-7	Psalms 93
Sat – May 20	2 Kings 2:13-15	John 8:21-30	Psalms 93

**Sunday May 28 – Day of Pentecost** Acts 2:1-21, Ps 104:24-34, 1 Cor. 12:3b-13, Jn 20:19-23

**Prayer of the Day:** *O God, on this day you open the hearts of your faithful people by sending into us you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for Holy Spirit. Direct us by the light of that Spirit, that we may have a right judgment in all things and rejoice at all times in your peace, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon – May 29	Joel 2:18-29	Romans 8:18-24	Psalms 104:24-34,35b
Tue – May 30	Ez. 39:7-8, 21-29	Romans 8:26-27	Psalms 104:24-34,35b
Wed – May 31	Numbers 11:24-30	John 7:37-39	Psalms 104:24-34,35B



## Daily Bible Readings, Year A - June

Thu – June 1	Job 38:1-11	2 Timothy 1:8-12a	Psalms 8
Fri – June 2	Job 38:12-21	2 Timothy 1:12b-14	Psalms 8
Sat – June 3	Job 38:22-38	John 14:15-17	Psalms 8

**Sunday June 4 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Pentecost** Gen 1:1–2:4a Psalms 8 (1), 2 Cor 13:11-13, Matt 28:16-20

**Prayer of the Day:** *Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon – June 5	Job 38:39–39:12	1 Corinthians 12:1-3	Psalms 29
Tue – June 6	John 39:13-25	1 Corinthians 12:4-13	Psalms 29
Wed – June 7	Job 39:26–40:5	John 14:25-26	Psalms 29
Thu – June 8	Lamentations 1:7-11	2 Peter 2:17-22	Psalms 50:7-15
Fri – June 9	Lamentations 3:40-58	Acts 28:1-10	Psalms 50:7-15
Sat – June 10	Exodus 34:1-9	Matthew 9:27-34	Psalms 50:7-15

**Sunday June 11 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** Hos 5:15–6:6, Ps 50:7-15, Rom 4:13-25, Matt 9:9-13, 18-26

**Prayer of the Day:** *O God, you are the source of life and the ground of our being. By the power of your Spirit bring healing to this wounded world, and raise us to the new life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – June 12	Leviticus 15:25-31; 22:1-9	2 Cor. 6:14–7:2	Psalms 40:1-8
Tue – June 13	Hosea 8:11-14; 10:1-2	Hebrews 13:1-16	Psalms 40:1-8
Wed – June 14	Hosea 14:1-9	Matthew 12:1-8	Psalms 40:1-8
Thu – June 15	Exodus 4:19-23	Hebrews 3:1-6	Psalms 100
Fri – June 16	Exodus 4:27-31	Acts 7:35-43	Psalms 100
Sat – June 17	Exodus 6:28–7:13	Mark 7:1-13	Psalms 100



**Sunday June 18 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** Exod 19:2-8a, Ps 100, Rom 5:1-8 Matt 9:35–10:8

**Prayer of the Day:** *God of compassion, you have opened the way for us and brought us to yourself. Pour your love into our hearts, that, overflowing with joy, we may freely share the blessings of your realm and faithfully proclaim the good news of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – June 19	Joshua 1:1-11	1 Thessalonians 3:1-5	Psalms 105:1-11, 37-45
Tue – June 20	1 Samuel 3:1-9	2 Thessalonians 2:13– 3:5	Psalms 105:1-11, 37-45
Wed – June 21	Proverbs 4:10-27	Luke 6:12-19	Psalms 105:1-11, 37-45
Thu – June 22	Jeremiah 18:12-17	Hebrews 2:5-9	Psalms 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Fri – June 23	Jeremiah 18:18-23	Acts 5:17-26	Psalms 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18
Sat – Jun 24	Jeremiah 20:1-6	Luke 11:53–12:3	Psalms 69:7-10 [11-15] 16-18

**Sunday June 25 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** Jer 20:7-13, Ps 69:7-10, 16-18, Rom 6:1b-11, Matt 10:24-39

**Prayer of the Day:** *Teach us, good Lord God, to serve you as you deserve, to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not to seek for rest, to labor and not to ask for reward, except that of knowing that we do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – June 26	Micah 7:1-7	Revelation 2:1-7	Psalms 6
Tue – June 27	Jeremiah 26:1-12	Revelation 2:8-11	Psalms 6
Wed – June 28	Jeremiah 38:1-13	Matthew 10:5-23	Psalms 6
Thu – June 29	Jeremiah 25:1-7	Galatians 5:2-6	Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18
Fri – June 30	Jeremiah 28:8-14	Galatians 5:7-12	Psalms 89:1-4, 15-18



# Church Council Minutes

## Wednesday, MARCH 15, 2023 - 9a



**Present:** Cheri Leiphart / Keith Olson / John Starzynski, Pr. Brenda Greenwald

**Absent:** Bob Berglin

Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting called to order at **9a**.

**Devotions:** *So, we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.* 2 Corinthians 4:18 - **Keith** read our devotion today.

### Agenda Approval

- Correction: Change "PM" to "AM" in Call to Order, Secretary's report should say FEBRUARY
- Change: Next Council Meeting changed to Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 9a

**Motion: John**

**Second: Keith**

**Result: CARRIED**

### Secretary's Report / Minutes

Pr. Brenda

**Motion: John**

**Second: Keith**

**Result: CARRIED**

### Pastor's Report

Pr. Brenda

#### CALENDAR ITEMS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Ash Wednesday</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Funeral Worship</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>BINGO - Roubal's</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Faith Formation</b></li> <br/> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>LENT</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Holy Week</b> Schedule</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>JOINT</b> Service</li> </ul> | <p>2/22/23: <b>Weather</b> impacted Noon, cancelled Evening.</p> <p>2/25/23 <b>+Linda Djupstrom+</b> (Service + Lunch at St.)</p> <p>3/14-21-28/23                      <b>BINGO (G), Party</b> on 3/28/23</p> <p>3/15-22-29/23                      <b>"Will You Betray Me?"</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Simon - Pharisee, Rachel, Simon - Bystander, Dinah, Judas</i></p> <p><b>Supper</b> (515), <b>Service</b> (600), <b>Study</b> (6:30).    March 1-29<br/>(discussed)</p> <p>4/30/23 at <b>St.</b> 9am.</p> |
|--|--|

#### MINISTRY MOMENTS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Community</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Confirmation</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Continuing Ed</b></li> <br/> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Death</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Food Pantry</b></li> <br/> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Roubal's</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Menom. Health</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Northland</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>NGL Synod</b></li> <br/> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Visits</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Youth 3/10/23</b></li> </ul> | <p>3/10/23 - Semi-<b>Accident</b>                      3/21/23: Birth of <b>Twins</b></p> <p><b>Engaged</b>, but lacking in Biblical foundations</p> <p><b>Moses Project: Module 8: Think Like a Farmer: Traditioned Innovation</b></p> <p><i>In this module, we'll ask ourselves to think like farmers: to innovate, to lead change, and to imagine how to move the heritage of our congregation forward to face present and future challenges and opportunities. We'll do so by learning from Revs. Nicole + Grant Woodley who farm, have co-pastored, and embody traditioned innovation.</i></p> <p><b>+Michael Vincent+</b> (Visit in Green Bay)</p> <p>In <b>DIRE</b> need of <u>funding</u>. Pr B chairing Grant Funding</p> <p><b>***John S. gave Pastor the name of the head Lion to contact for funding</b></p><br><p><b>Worship</b> on 03/26. BINGO-Tuesdays. 3/28/23 Party</p> <p><b>Worship</b> on 03/28.</p> <p>Annual Meeting with Ann Rasner (G), Christensons (St)</p> <p>Conference 5 Meeting: Graphic being developed to easily explain Bishop Election to congregations.</p> <p>Asked to speak at Planned Giver's Luncheon - Assembly</p> <p>Home: 3                      Retirement Home: 2    Office: 4</p> <p><b>Unbirthday Event:</b> Bethel. (2 kids cancelled, Pr B ended up going alone)</p> |
|--|--|



**Treasurer / Financial Secretary's Reports**

Sandy Chaney, Treas. - Danielle Bergquist, Fin. Sec.

Council noticed (and celebrated!) a POSITIVE trend in regards to consistent giving to the General Fund. Sincerely praying this continues, and we can build-back our funds to comfortable levels.

**Motion: Keith**

**Second: John**

**Result: CARRIED**

**Ministry Team Reports**

- **Property Team**
  - Will repair the damaged **plaster** in the Narthex.
  - Discussed an upgrade to the **Lights** in the Fellowship Hall - will save us \$10-15/month to switch-out. Looking to fund 80 or so LED bulbs. Pastor will do a creative, light-inspired launch...soon. Likely after Easter.
- **WELCA:** Cheri expressed her gratitude that WELCA not only jumps in when asked, but is usually already 1 step ahead! Council shared in her gratitude!
- **Worship/Music:** Mentioned the inspiring nature of worship-*"Keeps people awake!"*

**OLD Business**

- **Final Lenten Supper:** WELCA will provide the Supper on Wednesday, March 22, 2023.
- **Garbage Update:** Dennis D has been a trash treasure! A bag blessing! A refuse relief!
- **Re-Keying Update:** Keith obtained a solid quote from Ace. Pr. Brenda made a **motion** to accept the quote from Ace Hardware for \$749.97 to re-key St. Stephen's, create a panic-bar exit door downstairs, and repair the main safe. Cheri **seconded** the motion, and the motion **carried**. Thank you, Keith, for nailing down all of the specifics!

**NEW Business**

- **Easter Breakfast:** After much discussion, it was decided to **CHANGE** the time of the Easter Breakfast to 7:45am, **BEFORE** the Easter Worship Service, in hopes that people would come early and then worship (instead of worshipping...and then heading straight out the door.) Pastor Brenda will contact all locations that hold this info, and notify them of the time change. Breakfast items were decided upon, and a sign-up sheet will begin circulating Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**NEXT STEPS, ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: **Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 9a**  
then **6p at Gethsemane for JOINT Meeting.**

**Motion to Adjourn: Pr Brenda TIME: 10:29a**

**CLOSING – *The Lord's Prayer***



## Church Council Minutes

### Tuesday, APRIL 18, 2023 - 9a



**Present:** Cheri Leiphart / Keith Olson / John Starzynski, Pr. Brenda Greenwald **Absent:** Bob Berglin  
 Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting called to order at **9:01a**.

**Devotions:** Isaiah 49:15-16 - NEVER forgotten by our Maker and Creator. Pr Brenda

#### Agenda Approval

- Additions: AC/Furnace, Spring Clean-Up, S/O Keying Date; Corrections: Tuesday not Wednesday  
**Motion: John**
**Second: Keith**
**Result: CARRIED**

#### Secretary's Report / Minutes

Pr Brenda

**Motion: Keith**                      **Second: John**                      **Result: CARRIED**

#### Pastor's Report

Pr. Brenda

##### CALENDAR ITEMS

- Holy Week**                      4/2-4/9: **NUMEROUS** Blessings through many Worship services
- Funeral Worship**              4/10/23 **+Margaret Galbraith+** (Service + Meal at St.)
- Chili Supper**                      4/26/23: First (Annual?!) Chili Supper: 4:30-6:30-St.
- Bethesda**                      4/27/23: Cemetery Meeting at St.
- JOINT Service**                      4/30/23 at **St.** 9am. 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Bring **FOOD!**
- Moses Project**                      4/30/23: Pr B to **IOWA** following worship
- UWEC**                      5/07/23: Pr B to **Eau Claire.** Pr **Nick** leads worship.
- Synod Assembly**                      5/18-5/20: Alvin/Sharon Etelamaki (St), Wendy Hanson (G)

##### MINISTRY MOMENTS

- CaringBridge**                      **Website:** Moses Project Mentor's Family in crisis (Iowa)
  - Community**                      3/22/23: Birth of **Twins**; 3/28/23: **BINGO** Thank You
  - Confirmation**                      Fascinating **Bible Verse** selections - deep insights!
  - Continuing Ed**                      Confirmation of **+Nathan Douglas Klein** on 5/28/23
  - Funeral Planning**                      Other Confirmands to assist in leading worship **at G.**
  - Food Pantry**                      **FINAL Moses Project** Month! WOW!
  - Grace, Pembine**                      **Module 9:** *Without self-awareness and knowledge of our emotional wounds and triggers, in addition to our sources of joy, purpose, and motivation, we don't bring our whole selves to leadership. Without self-knowledge, we may do things, say things, think things that don't serve God's kingdom well, hurt the Body of Christ, and undermine our ministry. Like idols made of gold, there are subtle lies we believe and listen to that keep us tired, on edge, and reactive. Uncovering these subtle lies and which ones we readily believe helps us become centered again in who God created us to be and empowers us to stay grounded in the chaos of leadership.*
  - Roubal's**                      Helping multiple members **pre-plan** their services
  - Members**                      PLEASE come in a chat with Pr B. HONORED to help.
- +Margaret+** Donations, Plea to **Lion's Club**  
 Organist/Pianist left: St/G proving them with **Music Worship** on 03/26. BINGO-Tuesdays. 3/28/23 Party  
**Return** of some familiar faces, **intro** to some **new**

**Pastor's Report**

...Continued

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Menom. Health     | <b>Worship</b> on 03/28.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Advisor | <b>Renewed</b> connection; listening for the Holy Spirit                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NGL Synod         | 4/28-29: Synod Council <b>Retreat/Assembly Prep</b> (Zoom)                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visits            | Home: 6                      Retirement Home: 2                      Office: 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth             | 5/13/23: Family <b>Hike</b> Day  |

**Treasurer / Financial Secretary's Reports**

*Sandy Chaney, Treas. - Danielle Bergquist, Fin. Sec.*

Council noticed (*and celebrated!*) a POSITIVE trend in regards to consistent giving to the General Fund. Sincerely praying this continues, and we are able to build-back our funds to comfortable levels. Keith will give a **Temple Talk** of encouragement on May 21, 2023.

**Motion: Pr B**

**Second: Keith**

**Result: CARRIED**

**Ministry Team Reports**

- **Bethesda:** Meeting on 4/27, Flag will be up soon, topsoil needed where tree fell
- **Faith Formation:** Agreed to pause classes until Fall 2023
- **Fellowship:** Thrilled it continues! Made a note to PAIR folks for Fellowship in 2023. Reminder that Fellowship time snacks can be **SIMPLE**, not entrées.
- **Memorial Fund:** 2 Memorial: in honor +Linda Djupstrom+ and +Margaret Galbraith+
- **Property Team:** Russ will repair the damaged **plaster** in the Narthex.
  - John will purchase the new **LED lights** from Menards for Fellowship/Kitchen thanks to a generous donation. Talk about letting one's light SHINE! **WOW**.
  - Part of the **roof** will be resealed once weather cooperates (Bob)
- **WELCA:** Gratitude for their partnership!
- **Worship/Music:** "Rockin'!"

**NEW and ONGOING Business**

- **Easter Breakfast:** Thankful it was moved to before. 56 people.
  - Cut down on white milk for next year, and right amount of food.
- **AC/Furnace:** John will contact Johnson Furnace to schedule our bi-annual check-up
- **Spring Cleaning:** Saturday, May 6th (with May 13th as backup). 9-noon. Potluck.
- **S/O Keying Project:** May 10th is first choice for S/O to come re-key, May 12th backup.
  - John will look at the Safe door to see if it can be safely removed/lifted.
- **Chili Supper:** Team will arrive ASAP on Wed. April 26. Thrilled with church support!

**NEXT STEPS, ADJOURNMENT**

Next Meeting: (Joint Council 4/18, 6p at G) then **Wednesday, May 17, 2023 at 9a**

**Motion to Adjourn: Pr Brenda                      TIME: 9:57a**

**CLOSING – The Lord's Prayer**



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America



# May & June



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Lakes Synod  
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# Bimonthly Newsletter - 2023

**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church**  
PO Box 435  
Stephenson, MI 49887

