



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald

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Sunday Worship: 10:30a (Fellowship BEFORE)



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IMPORTANT DATES For Your Calendar

January 2	Blood Drive at Gethsemane: 10a - 3p (redcross.org)
January 7, 14, 21	Sunday Worship at G (9a), St. (10:30a)
January 28	Sunday Worship at G (9a), St. (10:30a) Annual Meeting for St. AFTER 10:30a Worship
February 4	SPECIAL Joint Worship at Gethsemane at 9am (Annual Meeting for Geth. <u>AFTER</u> Joint Worship)
February 14	Ash Wednesday: Mini-service at 12p at St. Stephen's Full Service 6p at Gethsemane

WRITE THIS DOWN



January

- 1 Mary Jardeen
- 13 Pam Sederquist, Sean Bright
- 15 Penny Nehls
- 20 Mary Dombrowski
- 26 Callie Crawford
- 27 Sandy Chaney
- 29 Sally Oliver



Happy Anniversary

Feb 3

Feb 17

February

- 6 Kim Belec
- 8 Nick Diehm
- 10 Lee Spaude
- 16 Pr Brenda Greenwald
- Roy Parrett
- Keith Salo
- 23 Pattie Starzynski
- 24 Shaw Salo
- Alvin & Sharon Etelamaki
- Fred & Kim Belec

We invite you to pray for those serving in the military:

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

We continue to hold the following in prayer:

Dave Hannon Gary Klatt Zeke Gill

May the comfort and hope of the Resurrection be with the friends and family of

+Jimmy Berzsenyi+ brother of Pattie Starzynski.



Thank you for holding the friends and families of our Congregants in your prayers. Contact the Office with any corrections.

LOOKING AHEAD...

(More details sent in February 2024)

- **Ash Wednesday** - February 14, 2024
 - Mini-Service at 12p - at St. Stephen's
 - Full Service at 6p - at Gethsemane
- **Mid-Week Lenten Services**
 - 5:15p Supper (Soup & Sandwich Suppers)
 - 6:00p Service
 - 6:30p Study: Class led by Pr B (Topic TBD)
 - February 21 St. Stephen's
 - February 28 Gethsemane

The Season of Lent



Hospitalized? Welcome a visit? Contact the Office at **906.788.4234**, or reach out to **Pr Brenda** directly at **720.989.8218** (call/text), and we'll make it happen!

Pastoral Musings

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald

(For those of you who were unable to join us Christmas Eve..)



Merry Christmas, dear Church.

As we gather in the **quiet** of this hallowed eve, with the **tree** aglow, delightful **decorations, poinsettias** a-plenty, **family** squished next to you in the pew, the **manger** scene outside in **place**...

You know...yeah.....let's PAUSE for a moment, and talk about that **Manger**. Might I **remind** you that it has **NOT** been an **easy** path to set-up that **manger**!?!)



Year after year, we **stumble** into **ONE** adventure after another! I mean, **WHO** could forget the **Winter** of **2019**, where **THIS** very **HOLE-Y** Mary was part of the scene.

Holy Mary was followed by **THIS!** **Holy Hurricane**-like winds of **2020**, which **blew** right through our **lives**...and apparently? Right through the manger, too!



The story of "Mary's Many Miseries and Mishaps" was **not** even **CLOSE** to being over, because she went **MISSING** the next year...Only to be **discovered** - perfectly safe in the back of a **pick-up truck** seen **HERE!**



So, THIS year, we were **DETERMINED** to have our **ducks** in a row, or make that our **Disciples** and **Devotees** in a row. So, **THIS** year, as you can **see.. Oh, for St. Peter's sake!!! THIS** is what I **found** when checking out the Nativity **THIS year**: (And NO, I did not **PUT** them in this order...This is how I **FOUND** them!): A **shepherd** boy with 2 little **sheep**, a bunch of **kings** who don't technically arrive for another month (let alone the don't arrive for 2 more YEARS in the actual timeline). Don't miss timid **Joseph**, peeking out from 5th in line, and **Mary** and the **baby**, **hiding** behind it all!

Not only did it make me **laugh**, to, once again, see these **characters**, all **hiding** behind the church sign outside...But, it also made me **think**: might **WE** want to **hide** a little bit from the **chaos** and **crazy** of our **OWN** lives sometimes? All those squeaky-clean, **calendars** you might **receive** over the next few days, proclaiming the **new year** ahead, will **QUICKLY** be **filled** with appointments and practices, meetings and games. Each little, white **square** that stood so perfectly **blank** and **clean**...will be **chock-full** with details and numbers and names and places. **Maybe**, it's ok to take a **moment** every once in a while, to **hide** behind the **strength** of a shepherd, or to hide behind the **wisdom** of a king, or even to hide away with a tiny **BABY**.



NOW, **thankfully**, the Nativity Crew pulled things together, and we have a perfectly, delightful Manger Scene, as seen HERE. Kings in place, Mary, Joseph and the baby. Apparently, the SHEEP have garland this year – WHATEVER. The Shepherd Boy is in place with his mini-flock AND...

Wait a minute...!!! Please ZOOM in...



Zoom in **ONE** more time... **LILLIAN ANN!** How did **YOU** get into the manger!? Why, look at **THIS** – even **Berkley** can't believe her little **Church** friend found her way into the **Manger!**



OH, LILY! My goodness, there she is: all **3 and a half years** of spunk, nestled between the **Holy Family** and the **Shepherd Boy**. Now, if you've heard me **preach** before, you've **heard** me say this **phrase: Faith is CAUGHT more than it is TAUGHT.** Meaning, kids (of **ALL** ages) **catch on** to the workings of a **faith** grounded in **Jesus** by **CATCHING-ON** to the **words** and **songs** and **activities** they see around them. They **CATCH ON** much **faster** and much **deeper** than if we sat those **same** folks down and simply **bored** them to death with **teachings** and **tests**. *(And that's coming from a former elementary school music teacher!)*

Faith is CAUGHT more than it is TAUGHT. Nobody **made** Lily hug the Shepherd Boy in the manger that day, it's just something she **instinctively** did. She **REACHED OUT IN LOVE.** Lily wasn't concerned with the hustle and bustle that **WE** place on that manger scene from so long ago. **She** wasn't concerned with the fact that *"there was no room for them in the inn."* She **FOUND** room, and jumped **RIGHT** into the story, something we **Pastors** try and encourage folks to do **EVERY TIME** you **hear** the word of God: **WONDER** where **you** would have **FIT** into some of those wild stories. Lily saw her place **RIGHT THERE**, in that little, make-shift, birthing room, right next to the **Son of God** and his **family** and **friends.** **She jumped right in.**

Church, it can be that **simple.** It can be that **pure.** When **WE** cast a worrisome **shadow** of **panic** into this ancient story, when we insert frantic **anxiety** over finding a place to give birth, when we cast our own **FEARS** on the story of that night in Bethlehem, we **cheat** ourselves out of **CATCHING** a little of that **FAITH** we're could have been **FEELING** all along! Take **Verse 6** from our Gospel, for example. It says that **"while they were there,"** **Mary** was ready to give **birth.** A better interpretation or translation, should really read **"while they had been there for a bit.... Mary had the baby."** Meaning, we **can** picture the family being **settled** a bit, **instead** of frantically running around, having **just** arrived, because Mary's **water** had just broken and the **baby** was coming. **NOW. Whooooo. Slow it down a bit. Take the story in.**

CATCH the faith of Joseph, **knowing** – **TRUSTING**, really, he'd find a place. When **WE** project our **OWN** concern over them being **FORCED** to go and participate in the **Census**, we **rob** ourselves of the not-so-hidden **blessings** that came out of this story of old. I mean, I'm **NOT** going to speak for a pregnant woman about the about the 90-miles it took to **GET** there, but perhaps the **journey** itself was a blessing,

Joseph was coming **HOME** to a whole bunch of **people** who'd were excited to see him, AND his **partner** was about to give birth. They had returned to his **family's** hometown so, you just **KNOW**... *"that there was an **AUNTIE** there, somewhere in the background, just prepping a warm **blanket** or 5 to swaddle the kid. I mean there was **NO ROOM** for them at the house, my **GAWSH**, but they weren't going to let the **kid** go **COLD!**"*

CATCH the **FAITH** of a kid who doesn't **judge** the stable for not being a 3-story Barbie Dream House. (ICK). It's a bunch of **wood** nailed together (*mind you, it's been fortified to withstand those hurricane-force winds we talked about earlier*), but's it's **simple** wood. Providing **simple** shelter. For a **simple** family. **And Lily just scooted right up to that family.**



That's the ENTIRE POINT of Christmas, CHURCH: Scooting closer to Christ. Every one of you who came to this service tonight, whether you come every week (*or were thrown into the family vehicle tonight!*) took **ONE** little scoot, **closer to Christ**. **ONE** little scoot, closer to **God**. It's the whole reason God came to **earth**. God gave a **child** named **Jesus** to US on **Earth**, so that US on **earth** could be **closer to God**. As in, hands-on, totally-embraced, hugging-the-shepherd boy-next-to-you, **kind of CLOSE**.

Catch the faith of a kid who jumped into a manger this night:
the **cute** one named **Lily**, who came to bring us **JOY**
and the **saving** One named **Jesus**, who came to bring us **LOVE**. **AMEN!**

Pr. Brenda





Daily Bible Readings, Year B

Year B focuses on the Gospel of Mark with more selections from the Gospel of John than any other year. The semi-continuous readings from the Old Testament focus on the covenant of David and Wisdom literature. The second, New Testament, readings are from 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, James and Hebrews.

Mon — Jan. 1	Psalms 8 (1)	Galatians 4:4-7	Luke 2:15-21
Tue — Jan. 2	Proverbs 1:1-7	James 3:13-18	Psalms 148
Wed — Jan. 3	Proverbs 1:20-33	James 4:1-10	Psalms 110
Thu — Jan. 4	Proverbs 3:1-12	James 4:11-17	Psalms 110
Fri — Jan. 5	Proverbs 22:1-9	Luke 6:27-31	Psalms 110
Sat. Jan. 6	Ephesians 3:1-12	Matthew 2:1-12	Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14 (11)

Sun. Jan. 7 — Baptism of Our Lord

Genesis 1:1-5 | Psalm 29 (3) | Acts 19:1-7 | Mark 1:4-11

Prayer of the Day: *Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Jan. 8	Genesis 17:1-13	Romans 4:1-12	Psalms 69:1-5, 30-36
Tue — Jan. 9	Exodus 30:22-38	Acts 22:2-16	Psalms 69:1-5, 30-36
Wed — Jan. 10	Isaiah 41:4-12	John 1:29-34	Psalms 69:1-5, 30-36
Thu — Jan. 11	Judges 2:6-15	2 Corinthians 10:10-11	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
Fri — Jan. 12	Judges 2:16-23	Acts 13:16-25	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18
Sat — Jan. 13	1 Samuel 2:21-25	Matthew 25:1-13	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

Sun. Jan. 14 — Second Sunday After Epiphany

1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20] | Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 (1) | 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 | John 1:43-51

Prayer of the Day: *Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Jan. 15	1 Samuel 9:27—10:8	2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1	Psalms 86
Tue — Jan. 16	1 Samuel 15:10-31	Acts 5:1-11	Psalms 86
Wed — Jan. 17	Genesis 16:1-14	Luke 18:15-17	Psalms 86
Thu — Jan. 18	Jeremiah 19:1-15	Revelation 18:11-20	Psalms 62:5-12
Fri — Jan. 19	Jeremiah 20:7-13	2 Peter 3:1-7	Psalms 62:5-12
Sat — Jan. 20	Jeremiah 20:14-18	Luke 10:13-16	Psalms 62:5-12

Sun. Jan. 21 — Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3:1-5, 10 | Psalm 62:5-12 (6) | 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 | Mark 1:14-20

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon — Jan. 22	Genesis 12:1-9	1 Corinthians 7:17-24	Psalms 46
Tue — Jan. 23	Genesis 45:25—46:7	Acts 5:33-42	Psalms 46
Wed — Jan. 24	Proverbs 8:1-21	Mark 3:13-19a	Psalms 46
Thu — Jan. 25	Deuteronomy 3:23-29	Romans 9:6-18	Psalms 111
Fri — Jan. 26	Deuteronomy 12:28-32	Revelation 2:12-17	Psalms 111
Sat — Jan. 27	Deuteronomy 13:1-5	Matthew 8:28—9:1	Psalms 111

Sun. Jan. 28 — Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18:15-20 | Psalm 111 (10) | 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 | Mark 1:21-28

Prayer of the Day: *Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon — Jan. 29	Numbers 22:1-21	Acts 21:17-26	Psalm 35:1-10
Tue — Jan. 30	Numbers 22:22-28	1 Corinthians 7:32-40	Psalm 35:1-10
Wed — Jan. 31	Jeremiah 29:1-14	Mark 5:1-20	Psalm 35:1-10
Thu — Feb. 1	Proverbs 12:10-21	Galatians 5:2-15	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Fri — Feb. 2	Job 36:1-23	1 Corinthians 9:1-16	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Sat — Feb. 3	Isaiah 46:1-13	Matthew 12:9-14	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

Sun. Feb. 4 — Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31 | Psalm 147:1-11, 20c (3) | 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 | Mark 1:29-39

Prayer of the Day: *Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon — Feb. 5	2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37	Acts 14:1-7	Psalm 102:12-28
Tue — Feb. 6	2 Kings 8:1-6	Acts 15:36-41	Psalm 102:12-28
Wed — Feb. 7	Job 6:1-13	Mark 3:7-12	Psalm 102:12-28
Thu — Feb. 8	1 Kings 11:26-40	2 Corinthians 2:12-17	Psalm 50:1-6
Fri — Feb. 9	1 Kings 14:1-18	1 Timothy 1:12-20	Psalm 50:1-6
Sat — Feb. 10	1 Kings 16:1-7	Luke 19:41-44	Psalm 50:1-6

Sun. Feb. 11 — Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12 | Psalm 50:1-6 (2) | 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 | Mark 9:2-9

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Feb. 12	Exodus 19:7-25	Hebrews 2:1-4	Psalm 110:1-4
Tue — Feb. 13	Job 19:23-27	1 Timothy 3:14-16	Psalm 110:1-4

Wed. Feb. 14 — Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 | Psalm 51:1-17 (1) | 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 | Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21



Prayer of the Day: *Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Thu — Feb. 15	Daniel 9:1-14	1 John 1:3-10	Psalm 25:1-10
Fri — Feb. 16	Daniel 9:15-25a	2 Timothy 4:1-5	Psalm 25:1-10
Sat — Feb. 17	Psalm 32	Matthew 9:2-13	Psalm 25:1-10

Sun. Feb. 18 — First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17 | Psalm 25:1-10 (10) | 1 Peter 3:18-22 | Mark 1:9-15

Prayer of the Day: *Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Feb. 19	Job 4:1-21	Ephesians 2:1-10	Psalm 77
Tue — Feb. 20	Job 5:8-27	1 Peter 3:8-18a	Psalm 77
Wed — Feb. 21	Proverbs 30:1-9	Matthew 4:1-11	Psalm 77
Thu — Feb. 22	Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18	Romans 3:21-31	Psalm 22:23-31
Fri — Feb. 23	Genesis 16:1-6	Romans 4:1-12	Psalm 22:23-31
Sat — Feb. 24	Genesis 16:7-15	Mark 8:27-30	Psalm 22:23-31

Sun. Feb. 25 — Second Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 | Psalm 22:23-31 (27) | Romans 4:13-25 | Mark 8:31-38

Prayer of the Day: *O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon — Feb. 26	Genesis 21:1-7	Hebrews 1:8-12	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Tue — Feb. 27	Genesis 22:1-19	Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Wed — Feb. 28	Jeremiah 30:12-22	John 12:36-43	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Thu — Feb. 29	Exodus 19:1-9a	1 Peter 2:4-10	Psalm 19

Our **Carols, Cocoa, and Cookies Sing-Along** had an excellent turnout, and the Silent Auction raised close to **\$1000** for the **HVAC** system at our sister Church, Gethsemane





Church Council Minutes

December 12, 2023 - Council Meeting



Present: Cheri Leiphart / Keith Olson / Pr. Brenda Greenwald
 Pledge of Allegiance. Meeting called to order at **9:33a.**

Excused: John Starzynski, Bob Berglin

Devotion: *Dwelling in the Word* for December 2023: **Acts 16:6-15** (Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey)

AGENDA APPROVAL	Motion to Accept: <u>Keith</u>	SECOND: <u>Cheri</u>	FAVOR
SECRETARY'S REPORT	Motion to Accept: <u>Keith</u>	SECOND: <u>Cheri</u>	FAVOR

PASTORAL REPORT: November 22 – December 12, 2023 Council Meeting Pr Brenda

CALENDAR ITEMS

- **Baptisms** Jackson James Hafeman (1/14/24) at Gethsemane
- **Funerals** +Wade Paul+ (11/27/23) – Funeral (Anderson-Diehm)
 +Jimmy Berzsenyi+ (12/10-11/23) – Funeral + Burial (Cadieu, Riverside)
- **Events** Hanging of the Greens (11/29 G, 12/02 St)
 FIRE in Stephenson (12/6/23) – Wade Family, VSU/Community Ctr
 CCC = AMAZING turnout from Community, \$1,000 raised for HVAC
 Movie Night (12/15/23) – Congregant-supported!
 JOINT Worship (12/24/23) – 9a at Gethsemane – Advent 4
 Christmas Eve Worship (12/24/23) – 4p at St. Stephen’s
 Christmas Eve Worship (12/24/23) – 5:30p at Gethsemane
 JOINT Worship (12/31/23) - 9a at Gethsemane – Bring FOOD
 Blood Drive (1/2/24) – at Gethsemane - *Register today!*
- **Weddings** Lexi Rasner / Alex Aretz (1/20/24) (Gethsemane) in Carney
 Jordan Crawford / Kellie Haulotte (9/28/24) at St. Stephen’s
- **Community** Local Family in Need (*food, clothing, transport*) - Coord. with SASD
 Basketball Games = networking
 Angel Tree: Kimberly-Clark connection (Francours)
Palettes of both wipes and Pull-Ups
 West Bagley Homemakers – Christmas Sing-Along (12/12/23)

MINISTRY MOMENTS

- **Concerns** (*to be shared verbally at meeting*)
- **Confirmation** Service = main component; Cookies with Bishop;
- **Faith Formation** *The Chosen* will probably be our next series. Video+ Discussion
- **Food Pantry** Grateful for coverage in November (G), continued support (G + St.)
- **Fortune Lake** Thanks for voting: Thrivent gifted them \$15,000
- **Membership** Grateful for regulars
- **Menom. Health** 11/28/23, 12/19/23 – early to accommodate Christmas
- **NGL Synod** *Dwelling in the Word* ZOOM
- **Office Manager** Part-time. HE taking personal time for care of Mother
- **Rescue Squad** Members, support of Stephenson FD
- **Roubal’s** Worship: 11/26, called on to visit resident of local congos
Holiday Christmas Sing: 12/22/23
- **Visitors** Introduce yourselves, SIT WITH THEM
- **Visits** Home: 2 Hospital: 8 Retirement: 6 Office: 3

TREASURER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY Reports

Sandy C, Treas., Danielle B, Fin. Sec

1. The ongoing uptick in consistent giving gives us **GREAT HOPE** for **2024!** **Thanks be to GOD!**
2. Two things in particular were noted and **celebrated**:
 - a. Total Income at this time last year was around \$56K. This year? **\$76K!**
 - b. Profit/Loss Comparison last year was -\$12K in the hole. This year? Nearly **\$3K** in the positive!

Motion to Accept ALL REPORTS: Pr B

SECOND: Cheri

FAVOR

MINISTRY TEAM LIAISONS

UPDATES / NOTES

- **Bethesda Cemetery** (Keith) – Solar light investigation begins, as the light we have is adequate – it just lets off a rather wimpy illumination.
- **Faith Formation** (Pr B) – Looking ahead to introduce “*The Chosen*” series to the congregation: DVD video with a discussion to follow. 8 weeks course. Praying our little ones come on a regular basis so that we can re-start Faith Formation sessions on Sunday morning, during worship.
- **Property Team** (John, Keith, Cheri) – Annual Report submitted!
- **Stewardship** (Cheri) - **Find Your Joy** Volunteer forms have been collected – thanks be to EVERYONE who connected their strengths to the needs of our congregational life.
- **WELCA** – (Pr B) – Angel Tree is going strong!
- **Worship/Music** (Keith) – Appreciative of the seasonal, music change. Annual Report submitted!

Motion to Accept: Keith

SECOND: Pr B

FAVOR

OLD / ONGOING BUSINESS

1. **New Council Members:** Praying folks who have been nominated/contacted personally will consider serving on the Church Council. The congregation will vote these folks in at our Annual Meeting, and their terms would begin in January 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Audit Committee Members** have been determined. Report to be completed in December 2023.
2. Keith made a **motion** to approve the proposed **2024 Budget**, to be shared with the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 28th, 2024, following worship. Cheri **seconded**. **FAVOR**.

NEXT STEPS & ADJOURNMENT

- a. **Next** St. Stephen’s Council Meeting: Very short meeting, immediately following the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024.
- b. *Dwelling in the Word* **Devotion** for January 2024: **Pr Brenda**

Motion to Adjourn: Pr B

Time Adjourned: 10:52a

CLOSING - THE LORD’S PRAYER

Dwelling in the Word **January 2024**

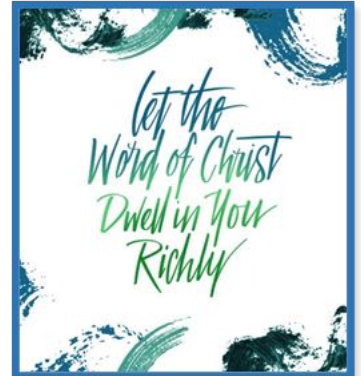
Psalm 23 - "Shepherd's Psalm"

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He makes me lie down in green pastures;
 he leads me beside still waters; ³he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.
4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
 I fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
 and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.



February 2024 **Matthew 25:31-46 - "Judgment of the Nations"**

- 1. What catches your attention?**
- 2. What questions does this passage raise for you?**
- 3. Where might God's Spirit be nudging you in this passage?**



Lifelong Faith Formation Classes via the Synod are now available! Registration is open for the winter classes offered by the Northern Great Synod. Beginning this January and February, our Lifelong Faith Formation program will offer another diverse schedule of online learning opportunities. Special thanks to the pastors and lay people who are teaching this winter. In alphabetical order, the upcoming courses are:

Native America and the Stewardship of the Land: Land Acknowledgments and Beyond

Instructors: Pastor Bucky Beach, Nancy Heykes, and Pastor Dave Van Kley

Open to Interpretation: Insights into Translating the Bible

Instructor: Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn, Zion and Salem, Ironwood

Stewards of Children: Instructor: Pastor Kari Vadis, Trinity, Rhinelander

Stewardship of Animals: Instructor: Cindy Sjoquist, First Lutheran Church, Gladstone, w/ guest speakers; Meeting in-person at First Luth. Online option.

The Book of Proverbs Part One: Instructor: Pr Tommy Richter, Zion, Manistique

The Way of the Dream: God's Forgotten Language

Facilitators: Jon Magnuson, Barb Ojibway, and Will Sharp, carpenter, bookbinder, and writer.



Visit <https://bit.ly/NGLSFF24> to sign up today!