



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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**Sunday
Worship
10:30a
(Fellowship
BEFORE)**



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- Dwelling in the Word: May 2024**
Luke 8:4-15: Parable of the Sower
- 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?**

⁴When a large crowd was gathering, as people were coming to him from town after town, he said in a parable: ⁵“A sower went out to sow his seed, and as he sowed some fell on a path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶Some fell on rock, and as it grew up it withered for lack of moisture. ⁷Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. ⁸Some fell into good soil, and when it grew it produced a hundredfold.”



As he said this, he called out, “If you have ears to hear, then hear!” ⁹Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰He said, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but to others I speak in parables, so that ‘looking they may not perceive and hearing they may not understand.’”

¹¹“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹²The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. ¹⁴As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. ¹⁵But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart and bear fruit with endurance.”

Birthday Blessings
MAY

JUNE

- 5 Al Raether
- 6 Wally Majkrzak
- 10 Kenzie Bright
- 11 Kami Salo, Brady Norton
- 12 Shirley Olson
- 15 Karen Raether
- 22 Doreen Grinsteiner
- 26 Judy Anderson, Sam Salo
- 29 Janet Voss

- 6 Roger Grinsteiner
- 7 Janice Kuharski
- 13 Elaine Haban
- 15 Angela Keyzers
- 18 Bob Berglin
- 21 Harlan Anderson
- 22 Jenni Wagner

We invite you to pray for those serving in the military:
Jordan Baril, Jay Chapple, Ken Dams, Trish Dams, Brent Jurmu, Jared Jurmu

Happy Anniversary

- May 20 Doreen + Roger Grinsteiner
- May 22 Wendy + Wally Majkrzak

- June 5 Jane + Pr Dave Christenson
- June 6 Cheri + Tim Leiphart
- June 11 Dot + Dennis Davis
Al + Karen Raether
- June 16 Penny + Todd Nehls
- June 30 Angela + Eric Keyzers

We continue to hold the following in prayer:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Callan Johnson | Cheryl Anaya | Don Schmelling | Gary Klatt |
| Jerry Parthie | James Dutkavich | Tom Dutkavich | Zeke Gill |

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



+Dick Francour+ Father of Paul, Jim **+Nancy Anderson+** Dennis's Wife, Heather's Mom, Sara's Nana
+Marlene Robbins+ Wayne Thill's Cousin **+Jane Thoun+** Ruth's Mother-In-Law

Thank you for holding the family and friends of these Congregants in your prayers. Please contact the Office with any corrections.

Hospitalized? Welcome a visit? Contact the Office at **906.753.4932**, or reach out to **Pr Brenda** directly at **720.989.8218** (call/text), and we'll make it happen!



Important Dates in **MAY** and **JUNE**

May 11 – 17 (online) Synod Assembly **Workshops** (see page 5 for more details)

May 18 – Saturday **Synod Assembly:** Pr Brenda, Carol K, Donna T

May 19 – Sunday **Pentecost, Graduation, and Confirmation**



May 26 – Sunday Special Speaker: **Debbie V.** Mission Interpreter (Synod)

May 30 – Thurs. **Blood Drive** at Gethsemane

10a – 3p and our goal is 25 units! All donors will receive an exclusive Tetris and Red Cross shirt!

Sign-up at [RedCross.org](https://www.redcross.org) TODAY!



May 31 – Friday *Light the First **Campfire** for FLLC – see Pr B for more info*

June 19 – Wed.

Day Visit: Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp: esp. for G + St!

Church! We will enjoy an intergenerational day at Camp, complete with Bible study, waterfront time, pontoon ride, games, a picnic lunch, a visit to the canteen, camp songs, and loads of fun! **ALL AGES WELCOME...**from the littlest little to the wisest senior! Programming runs 9a – 3p and includes all of the basic camp activities. \$30/person. *Watch for sign-ups, and save the date!*



June 30 – Sunday

**Annual
Church Picnic**
at Erickson Park
(Stephenson)



Worship/Picnic at **Erickson Park**, just north of St.

Pastoral Musings

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald

Dear Church, I wanted to share with you the message I spoke to the 2024 Graduating Class of Stephenson High School. *Pr. Brenda*

STOP. DROP. and ROLL. It's one of the **VERY** first drills we practice as children. If for some reason you find yourself **ON FIRE** (*not recommended*) you're told to **STOP** what you're doing, **DROP** to the ground, and **ROLL** over and over so that the fire is totally smothered. Pretty practical advice. I figure if it's important enough to be one of your **FIRST** lessons, then, I think it's important enough to be one of your **LAST**.

STOP yourself from comparing **YOUR** life to others. **DROP** the pretense that you have to measure up to those *around* you. **ROLL** those harmful thoughts over to the God who made YOU...YOU. **YOU** are **FEARFULLY** and **WONDERFULLY** made! **Psalm 139** reminds you of this! **You**. In your **OWN** right. All your **QUIRKS**. All your **HABITS**. All your **PERSONALITY**. Own it. God made YOU, just as you are. Don't apologize for it. Give **THANKS** for it! Live **INTO** it.

STOP panicking when failure seems imminent. **DROP** those stressed-out **shoulders** from holding up your ears. **ROLL** your furrowed-brow back to its original position, and **BREATHE**. You can't do much in life if you can't **BREATHE**. God gave us the breath of LIFE to LIVE life...mistakes and all. You're going to miss turning-in that paper on time. **Breathe**. You're going to blow an interview at least once. **Breathe**. You're going to forget to pay that bill. **Breathe. Breathe** yourself back to the **grace** that covers you, even when things go awry.

STOP yourself from **saying** things you'll regret. **DROP** the foul language, and **ROLL** out your thoughts from a place of **CARE**. So often, the quickest and wittiest comebacks slice **deeper** than we intend. Find ways to let others **shine** – and **cheer** them on. Find ways to build others **up** – and **applaud** their efforts. Let the words of **YOUR mouths**, and the meditations of **YOUR hearts**...be acceptable...be encouraging...be full of **LOVE**.

STOP yourself from thinking that **YOU** are in this world **ALONE**. **DROP** the idea that you have to be **SELF-made** or **SELF-reliant**. **ROLL** into those God-given people who will be there to catch you. We hand you a diploma in a few days, and you get kicked-loose from an educational system that watched you grow. But along with that little document of **SUCCESS** comes ALL the **LOVE** and ALL the **SUPPORT** and ALL the **PRAYERS** that will **CONTINUE** to go with you. Whether you are headed to a job, or more schooling, or the family business, **KNOW. SENSE. FEEL.** that there are **GOD-GIVEN PEOPLE** who will **STILL LISTEN** on the other end of a phone, who will **STILL REPLY** to those late-night texts, who will **STILL REACH OUT** when the voicemail sounded sad. Don't pretend you have it all together....*none of us DO!* We're in this together. We're **ALL** just trying our best.

And, so, I **sincerely pray** that you **heed** the precautionary phrase of **STOP. DROP. and ROLL**. I hope you have **reason** to put it into **action**. (*I mean, without the **FIRE** part, of course.*) But that you have reason to **STOP** holding back **DROP** any fears and **ROLL** into what comes next in your life. May God bless **YOU** and the **FIRE** within your **souls**. **AMEN**.



Synod Assembly Workshops: May 11 - 17



Synod-Wide Seed Sower Hike

Lead by U.P. Wild Church

May 11th - 19th

A joint event between the Northern Great Lakes Synod and U.P. Wild happening in conjunction with Synod Assembly Workshops. Hikes will take place between May 11th - 19th. Click below for details on how to join your conference's hike.



ELCA

Sowing Seeds Through Story

Lead by Nick Kiger

and Karen Kretschmann

Monday May 13 - 6:00 pm CT / 7:00 pm ET

The ministry of our congregations, our synods and our churchwide organization is woven together through story. Our ministry stories convey messages about our faith, our relationships, our dreams and even our fears. During this workshop we will explore ways to share our stories that keep the transformative work of Jesus and our faith at the heart while engaging each other in something bigger than ourselves.



Land Acknowledgments: A Spiritual Practicality and Plan for Congregations.

Lead by Pastor Bucky Beach, Pastor Julie Belew, and Nancy Heykes

Monday May 13 - 5:00 pm CT / 6:00 pm ET

Join for a resource presentation and discussion of the why and how of doing land acknowledgments as a congregation practice as a beginning step to walk with our Indigenous neighbors. Led by Pastor Bucky Beach, Pastor Julie Belew, and Nancy Heykes, members of the NGLS Walking With Our Indigenous Neighbors Committee.

willingness to experiment. It involves asking good questions. 19 Congregations in the Northern Great Lakes Synod have participated in this Faithful Innovations training model in the last 5 years. This workshop will give you an introduction into this process and invite you to consider having a team from your congregation join in this training.



Stewardship - ECRF

Lead by Pastor Mike Markwell

Tuesday, May 14 at 1:00 pm CT / 2:00 pm ET

Wednesday, May 15 at 6p CT / 7:00 pm ET

It's all Greek to me!

Lead by Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn

Wednesday, May 15 at 6:30 p CT / 7:30 p ET

Thursday, May 16 at 2:00 p CT / 3:00 p ET



What is up with all these translations of the Bible? Popular Bible website Bible Gateway gives free access to sixty-three different translations of the Bible in English, and that isn't even all of the English translations. The work of translators is still ongoing, and new translations of the Bible are published regularly. But why is all this work necessary? What is the point of all this translation work? Perhaps more poignantly, how do we engage with Scripture when the selection of different Bibles is overwhelming? In this workshop session, we'll take a glimpse from 10,000 feet to appreciate the difficult work our translators are doing for us and dive into the midst of what these different translations have to do with how we engage with scripture.



Stewardship - ECRF

Lead by Pastor Mike Markwell

Tuesday, May 14 at 1:00 pm CT / 2:00 pm ET

Wednesday, May 15 at 6p CT / 7:00 pm ET



Northern Great Lakes Synod Budget

Lead by Synod Treasurer

Pastor Terry Frankenstein

Thursday, May 16 at 6p CT / 7p ET, Friday May 17th

Faithful Innovations

What it is and how it can help your congregation in an adaptive, communal, learning process. Lead by Pastor Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop and Director of Evangelical Mission: Tuesday, May 14 at 6p CT / 7:00 pm ET. "Listen, Experiment, Reflect."



Discussion on Civic Life and Faith draft Social Statement

Lead by Synod Vice President

Chuck Thomas

Friday, May 17 at 6:00 pm CT / 7:00 pm ET



Everyone wants to know how to improve our congregational ministries. It begins with intentional listening and

Daily Bible Readings, Year B

Wed — May 1	Isaiah 65:17-25	John 14:18-31	Psalms 80
Thu — May 2	Isaiah 49:5-6	Acts 10:1-34	Psalms 98
Fri — May 3	Isaiah 42:5-9	Acts 10:34-43	Psalms 98
Sat — May 4	Deuteronomy 32:44-47	Mark 10:42-45	Psalms 98

Sun. May 5 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48 | Psalm 98 (4) | 1 John 5:1-6 | John 15:9-17

Prayer of the Day: *O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all we can desire; 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 6	Deuteronomy 7:1-11	1 Timothy 6:11-12	Psalms 93
Tue — May 7	Deuteronomy 11:1-17	1 Timothy 6:13-16	Psalms 93
Wed — May 8	Deuteronomy 11:18-21	Mark 16:19-20	Psalms 93
Thu — May 9	Acts 1:1-11	Ephesians 1:15-23	Psalms 47
Fri — May 10	Exodus 24:15-18	Revelation 1:9-18	Psalms 47
Sat — May 11	Deuteronomy 34:1-7	John 16:4-11	Psalms 47

Sun. May 12 — Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 | Psalm 1 (6) | 1 John 5:9-13 | John 17:6-19

Prayer of the Day: *Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in 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 — May 13	Exodus 28:29-38	Philippians 1:3-11	Psalms 115
Tue — May 14	Numbers 8:5-22	Titus 1:1-9	Psalms 115
Wed — May 15	Ezra 9:5-15	John 16:16-24	Psalms 115
Thu — May 16	Genesis 2:4b-7	1 Corinthians 15:42b-49	Psalms 33:12-22
Fri — May 17	Job 37:1-13	1 Corinthians 15:50-57	Psalms 33:12-22
Sat — May 18	Exodus 15:6-11	John 7:37-39	Psalms 33:12-22

Sun. May 19 — Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 | Ps 104:24-34, 35b (30) | Rom 8:22-27 | John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Prayer of the Day: *Mighty God, you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world. Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, 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 20	Joel 2:18-29	1 Corinthians 12:4-11	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b
Tue — May 21	Genesis 11:1-9	1 Corinthians 12:12-27	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b
Wed — May 22	Ezekiel 37:1-14	John 20:19-23	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b
Thu — May 23	Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20	Romans 8:1-8	Psalms 29
Fri — May 24	Isaiah 2:1-5	Romans 8:9-11	Psalms 29
Sat — May 25	Isaiah 5:15-24	John 15:18-20, 26-27	Psalms 29

Sun. May 26 — Holy Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8 | Psalm 29 | Romans 8:12-17 | John 3:1-17

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 — May 27	Numbers 9:15-23	Revelation 4:1-8	Psalms 20
Tue — May 28	Exodus 25:1-22	1 Corinthians 2:1-10	Psalms 20
Wed — May 29	Numbers 6:22-27	Mark 4:21-25	Psalms 20
Thu — May 30	Exodus 31:12-18	Acts 25:1-12	Psalms 81:1-10
Fri — May 31	Leviticus 23:1-8	Romans 8:31-39	Psalms 81:1-10
Sat — June 1	Leviticus 24:5-9	John 7:19-24	Psalms 81:1-10

Daily Bible Readings, Year B (continued)

Sun. June 2 — Second Sunday after Pentecost Deut. 5:12-15 | Ps 81:1-10 | 2 Cor. 4:5-12 | Mark 2:23—3:6

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty and ever-living God, throughout time you free the oppressed, heal the sick, and make whole all that you have made. Look with compassion on the world wounded by sin, and by your power restore us to wholeness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon — June 3	Exodus 16:13-26	Romans 9:19-29	Psalm 78:1-4, 52-72
Tue — June 4	Exodus 16:27-36	Acts 15:1-5, 22-35	Psalm 78:1-4, 52-72
Wed — June 5	1 Samuel 21:1-6	John 5:1-18	Psalm 78:1-4, 52-72
Thu — June 6	Isaiah 28:9-13	1 Peter 4:7-19	Psalm 130
Fri — June 7	Deuteronomy 1:34-40	2 Corinthians 5:1-5	Psalm 130
Sat — June 8	Genesis 2:4b-14	Luke 8:4-15	Psalm 130

Sun. June 9 — Third Sunday after Pentecost Genesis 3:8-15 | Ps 130 | 2 Cor. 4:13—5:1 | Mark 3:20-35

Prayer of the Day: *All-powerful God, in Jesus Christ you turned death into life and defeat into victory. Increase our faith and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon — June 10	1 Samuel 16:14-23	Revelation 20:1-6	Psalm 74
Tue — June 11	1 Kings 18:17-40	Revelation 20:7-15	Psalm 74
Wed — June 12	Isaiah 26:16—27:1	Luke 11:14-28	Psalm 74
Thu — June 13	Genesis 3:14-24	Hebrews 2:5-9	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
Fri — June 14	1 Kings 10:26—11:8	Hebrews 11:4-7	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
Sat — June 15	2 Kings 14:1-14	Mark 4:1-20	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

Sun. June 16 — Fourth Sunday after Pentecost Ez 17:22-24 | Ps 92:1-4, 12-15 | 2 Cor 5:6-10, 14-17 | Mk 4:26-34

Prayer of the Day: *O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon — June 17	Ezekiel 31:1-12	Galatians 6:11-18	Psalm 52
Tue — June 18	Jeremiah 21:11-14	Revelation 21:22—22:5	Psalm 52
Wed — June 19	Jeremiah 22:1-9	Luke 6:43-45	Psalm 52
Thu — June 20	Job 29:1-20	Acts 20:1-16	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
Fri — June 21	Job 29:21—30:15	Acts 21:1-16	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
Sat — June 22	Job 37:1-13	Luke 21:25-28	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

Sun. June 23 — Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Job 38:1-11 | Ps 107:1-3, 23-32 | 2 Cor 6:1-13 | Mark 4:35-41

Prayer of the Day: *O God of creation, eternal majesty, you preside over land and sea, sunshine and storm. By your strength pilot us, by your power preserve us, by your wisdom instruct us, and by your hand protect us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon — June 24	Exodus 7:14-24	Acts 27:13-38	Psalm 65
Tue — June 25	Exodus 9:13-35	Acts 27:39-44	Psalm 65
Wed — June 26	Joshua 10:1-14	Mark 6:45-52	Psalm 65
Thu — June 27	Lamentations 1:16-22	2 Corinthians 7:2-16	Psalm 30
Fri — June 28	Lamentations 2:1-12	2 Corinthians 8:1-7	Psalm 30
Sat — June 29	Lamentations 2:18-22	Luke 4:31-37	Psalm 30

Sun. June 30 — Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Lam 3:22-33 | Psalm 30 | 2 Cor 8:7-15 | Mark 5:21-43

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty and merciful God, we implore you to hear the prayers of your people. Be our strong defense against all harm and danger, that we may live and grow in faith and hope, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*



Church Council Minutes

March 20, 2024 - Council Meeting



Present: Cheri Leiphart, Keith Olson, Kami Salo, John Starzynski, Pr. Brenda

Excused: Kelly Francour

Dwelling in the Word devotions were read by Keith

Meeting Called to Order: **3:56p**

AGENDA APPROVAL: Motion to accept: John; **Seconded** by Keith. **Carried**

- **ADD:** Video Conference with Sam Salo

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Motion to accept Minutes: Pr Brenda; **Seconded** by Keith. **Carried**

PASTORAL REPORT: February 16 – March 20, 2024 Pr Brenda

CALENDAR

- **Events** **World Day of Prayer** (3/1/24) *Fantastic GSS, low attendance*
Guest Preaching: Holy Family (3/6/24, Lent) *Catholic applause!*
Holy Week: Palm, Maundy, Good, Easter. Promote, attend, **PRAY.**
- **Photo Directory** **April 7, 14, 28:** Ask **EVERYONE** if they've signed-up. *Continually!*
- **Holy Closure** **St. James** (Pr Linda Forray) – 4/14/24 at 2p
- **JOINT Meeting** **JOINT Council Meeting:** Wednesday, April 17th at Gethsemane
9:15a St. Stephen's Monthly Council Meeting
10:15a JOINT Council Meeting
11:15a Lunch with Both Councils
12:15p Gethsemane's Monthly Council Meeting
- **Funerals** **+Herman Schuette+** 5/18/24 at Gethsemane
- **Weddings** **Marnie Schuette / Jay Wangerin** – 6/22/24 at Gethsemane
Jordan Crawford / Kellie Haulotte – 9/28 24 at St. Stephen's

MINISTRY MOMENTS

- **Community** **Kiwanis Kapers** – Co-Directing. Rehearsals. Shows April 5, 6, 7
Senior Night Invite – Basketball Game
(to be shared verbally at meeting)
- **Concerns** Stations of the Cross – deep dive into all 14 stations.
- **Confirmation** **BINGO** with folks at **Northland** 3/16/24. May 19 = 3 Confirmands.
- **Faith Formation** Mid-Week **Lenten** Series (5 weeks): **"Journey to the Resurrection"**
- **Fortune Lake** St: **Duelly, Taylor, Emma** registered, G: **Everit** soon
- **Menom. Health** Worship (03/26/24).
- **NGL Synod** *Dwelling in the Word* **ZOOM; Child Protection Plan** now Synod-wide
- **Roubal's** **BINGO** (G+) Party cancelled due to illness at Roubal's
- **Visits** Home: **5** Hospital/Dr Office: **1** Retirement: **3** Office: **6**

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Some **discrepancies** were discovered when comparing the 2-page report. (*Payroll numbers didn't match last year's numbers at all, some items were listed in two places, expenses weren't categorized*)
- Cheri will confer with Sandy to **clarify** before next Council Meeting (April).
Motion to accept all financial reports was made by John, and **seconded** by Keith. **Carried**

BRIEF MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

Social Ministry (Cheri)	WELCA (Kelly)	Property (John)
World Day of Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten Soup Soupers • May 19th Preparations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BS Lawn Care • Real Timber for side of Church • Lawn fixed from winter plowing

Motion to approve all Ministry Team reports was made by Kami; **seconded** by John. **Carried**

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS

1. **Chili Supper:** Money to purchase outdoor banner. John will check on this.
2. **Council Installation:** Sunday, April 7th
3. **Confirmation/Graduation:** WELCA advised of date and the number of events being celebrated on the one day. They will take care of refreshments.
4. **Nicolet Bank Update:** Sandy was advised of policy change: Statements will now be received via e-mail to avoid the \$8 PER statement charge from the bank.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Sam Salo Video Call:** Specifics of lawn-care work discussed. *"After speaking with Mr. Diehm, the previous lawn-cutter, I anticipate the cutting of the lawn to take 3 hours. We'll cut the lawn 1/week at \$100 per cut, totaling approximately \$400 per month."* Cheri will confirm with Insurance company that we can have someone under 18 cutting the lawn.
2. **Lenten Survey:** results discussed. Suggested that we continue with SOUP and SERVICE only.
3. **Council Agenda:** to be shared via Google DOCS from now on for ease of editing
4. **World Day of Prayer:** delightful day of unique worship and fellowship. Delicious treats, good to see some folks from the community. Surprised it wasn't more well-attended.

NEXT STEPS

a. Next St. Stephen's Council meeting -

April 17th at Gethsemane:

- 9:15 am St. Stephen's Monthly Council meeting
- 10:15 am JOINT Council Meeting
- 11:15 am Lunch with both Councils
- 12:15 pm Gethsemane's Monthly Council meeting

Motion to adjourn was made by Pr Brenda

Meeting was adjourned at **5:06p**

Meeting closed with **The Lord's Prayer.**

Respectfully submitted, Kami Salo, Council Secretary



Church Council Minutes

April 17, 2024 - Council Meeting



PRESENT: Cheri Leiphart, Keith Olson, John Starzynski, Pastor Brenda **EXCUSED:** Kelly Francour, Kami Salo

Opening Prayer: Pr Brenda

Meeting CALLED TO ORDER: 9:17a

AGENDA APPROVAL: **Motion** to accept: John; **Seconded** by Keith. **Carried**

SECRETARY'S REPORT: **Motion** to accept Minutes: Keith; **Seconded** by John. **Carried**

PASTOR'S REPORT: March 21 – April 17, 2024

Pr. Brenda

CALENDAR

- Events** **Holy Week** – moving. memorable. heart-breaking. humbling.
- Holy Closure** **St. James - ELCA** (Pr Linda Forray) – 4/14/24 at 2p
- Bethesda** **Spring Meeting:** Tuesday, 4/23/24. 6p at St.
- Photo Directory** **April 28 + May 5 – Awesome response so far! Info gathering, too!**
- Funerals** **+Herman Schuette+** 5/18/24 at Gethsemane
- Synod Assembly** 5/18/24 at Zion: **G:** Carol K **St:** Donna Th.
- Blood Drive** 5/30/24 at Gethsemane. **Redcross.org** to sign-up.
- Weddings** **Marnie Schuette / Jay Wangerin** - 6/22/24 at Gethsemane
Ashley Anderson / Beau Thoney - 9/28/24 - at Gethsemane
Jordan Crawford / Kellie Haulotte - 9/28/24 - at St. Stephen's

MINISTRY MOMENTS

- Community** **Kiwanis Kapers** – great collegiality, tough to navigate during LENT
Baccalaureate Planning with Seniors (**May 5, 2p**)
Convos with business leader to support **young women** in the UP
- Concerns** *(to be shared verbally at meeting)*
- Confirmation** Deep conversations and preparations continue
- Eagle's Wings** Grateful for successful **LAUNCH** / implementation
Site Visit at G: 5/1/24 – *Northern Sound and Video*
- Faith Formation** MANY conflicts during mid-week Lent. Just Soup + Service for 2025?
- Food Pantry** **Pallet** of Food ~ \$2,300. Often **GONE** by week 3.
- Fortune Lake** **Annual Meeting** 4/28/24 (Brights, Mary Jo M, Ann R, Pr B)
- Menon. Health** New Activities Director; Great Easter service with residents 3/26/24
- NGL Synod** Synod Assembly Prep. In-Person planning in **Norway** 4/26-27/24
- Roubal's** New **Songbook** just about complete – complete with **audio** CDs
- Thrivent** Working w/ an **agent** for +Diehm+ estate and future planning
- Visits** Home: **15** Hospital: **0** Retire. Home: **2** Office: **10**
Phone: **DAILY** Text: **DAILY** Squad Calls: **2**

Motion made at conclusion of Pastor's Report by **John** to add a **"Food Pantry"** giving line item to our

yearly budget in the amount of **\$500** to be sent to the Menominee Mid-County Ministerial Association.
Seconded: Keith. **CARRIED**

TREASURER'S REPORT + FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Sandy Chaney (T), Danielle Bergquist (FS)

Motion to Accept March 2024 Report: John

Seconded: Keith

CARRIED

BRIEF MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

Bethesda (Keith)	Faith Formation (Kami)	Fellowship (Kelly)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spring Meeting on Tuesday, April 23 at 6p 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation to CONCLUDE May 19 with 3 Confirmands. Confirmation to BEGIN in Fall with 2 new Confirmands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter Breakfast Photo Sessions
Finance (John)	Memorial (John)	Property (John)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update from Cheri/Sandy on Bank Accounts at St 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> +Estate of Nancy Diehm+ (details from Pr Brenda) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lawn-mowing Insurance update Spring Cleaning Date: May 11 9 – 11a with Potluck Lunch
Social Ministry (Cheri)	WELCA (Kelly)	Worship/Music (Cheri)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Pantry in dire need of funding – loss from storm wiped people out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All set for Graduation + Confirmation? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter Worship Church Picnic (JOINT meeting) Lectionary Change (JOINT)

Motion to Accept ALL UPDATES: Cheri

Seconded: Pr B

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

- Council **Installation** Date: Prayer will be said when Council Members are present
- Nicolet **Bank** changes/Signatures: In progress. A headache to capture all signatures.

NEXT STEPS

- Next** St. Stephen's Council Meeting: Wednesday, May 15. Time TBD.
- Dwelling in the Word* **Devotion** for May 2024: John

Motion to Adjourn: John

Time Adjourned: **10:10a**

CLOSE with THE LORD'S PRAYER

Respectfully submitted by Pr Brenda

Dwelling in the Word: June 2024
Psalm 121 - "Psalm of Ascent"

- 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?**

- I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?
- My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
- He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.
- He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
- The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
- The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.
- The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.
- The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in, from this time on and forevermore.





Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

May + **June**



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

Dual-Month Newsletter - 2024

Important Dates and Information inside!

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

