



Summer

# St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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 SOffice@gsslutheran.org      Sunday Worship: 10:30a



2024

**Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald**

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**Pastor Brenda** is heading west to Colorado on 7/8, and will return to the pulpit on 7/28, and to her e-mail and messages on Tuesday, 7/30.



**Rev. Dr. Keith Kolstad** will be our guest preacher on both 7/14 and 7/21, and all three of the Pastors on this page are available, should a Pastoral emergency arise.



Call **Pr Linda Forray** at **906.374.0159** if located in/near the **Wallace** area.



Call **Pr Dave Christenson** at **906.639.2806 (H)** or **906.250.2404 (C)** if in/near **Stephenson**.



Call **Pr Keith Kolstad** at **715.587.7898** if you are **unable** to reach Pr Dave or Pr Linda.

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

July 14, 21	Worship, 10:30a Pr Keith, guest preacher
July 28	Worship, 10:30a
Aug. 4, 11, 18, 25	Worship, 10:30a
September 1	Worship switches to <b>9:00a</b>
September 8	<b>God's Work, Our Hands</b> Sunday

**The Annual Time Swap begins ON September 1, 2024**  
**Worship will be at 9:00a for the next year.**



15	Jane Christenson	1	Dalten Wagner, Kelly	July 2	Wayne + Janet Salo
16	Bruce Bergquist		Francour, Kawaunee Hofer	July 8	Keith + Crystal Salo
18	Madison Bergquist	2	Janet Salo	July 18	John + Pattie Starzynski
21	Alvin Etelamaki	3	Lynda Keller	July 22	Bob + Judy Stone
	Judy Stone	12	Bob Stone		
22	John Starzynski	13	Sharon Etelamaki	Aug 1	Bill + Karen Grundstrom
23	Wendy Majkrzak	16	Berkley Norton	Aug 5	Paul + Kelly Francour
26	Gary Hess	20	Betty Poradek	Aug 19	Jim + Janet Voss
29	Wayne Salo	30	Carla Dutkavich	Aug 27	Roy + Tammy Parrett

***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:***

<b>James</b> Dutkavich	<b>Jerry</b> Parthie	<b>Julie</b> Greenwald
<b>Ruth</b> Thoune	<b>Sharon</b> Starr	<b>Tom</b> Dutkavich



May the **comfort** and **hope** of the **Resurrection** be with the friends and families of **+Zeke Gill+** son of Sandy and Jim Gill (Gethsemane).



***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 **906.788.4234**, or reach out to **Pr Brenda** directly at **720.989.8218** (call/text), and we'll make it happen!



## Finding a Way Forward

Bishop Katherine Finegan

### Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I'm on Facebook. I do not comment often, unless it is to wish someone a "Happy Birthday". I see recipes and gardening tips, anniversary announcements and pictures of baptisms. I also see people I know and love posting polarizing memes that demonize those with whom they disagree. And I suspect the post that was shared can trace its origin to those countries most interested in sowing seeds of discord and division in our country.

BE KIND TO ONE ANOTHER,  
TENDERHEARTED,  
FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER,  
*as God in Christ*  
FORGAVE YOU.  
— EPHESIANS 4:32 —

It is concerning, especially as we journey towards our November elections and all that is at stake in our votes. I do not write to tell you how to vote. That is not the way of the ELCA Lutheran Christian. I do write to encourage you to be mindful of how you engage in conversation and discernment leading up to this year's election. There are people in your congregation who love you and who disagree with you. Will you demonize them? Will you lump them in with those you deem to be unworthy? Or will you extend grace, be kind, and forgive them for not agreeing with you?

Abraham Lincoln, who shepherded the United States through the Civil War, stated, "America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves."

I hope and pray that as tensions rise, as political lines are drawn, as alliances are declared, that our communities of faith will remain places of civil discourse, open conversation, and unified in our commitment to proclaim Christ and work for his mission. We are first and foremost citizens of the kingdom of God – not Republicans, not Democrats, not Independents. The lens we apply to politics is that of the open tomb, to weigh and assess the policies and positions of candidates based on how well they align with the priorities and example of Jesus. This, of course, is not so easily done. But the task becomes easier if we consider what is important with others, in our community of faith, employing conversation, prayer, and debate that allows for mutual respect in the midst of varying perspectives.

### I encourage you to be careful of what you post and find out first:

- Is it true? Check the news source.
- Who generated the post?  
*Do not be an unwitting accomplice to outside influencers.*
- Does it further the conversation?

*Or simply drop an emotional zinger meant to inflame and increase anxiety.*



Keep in mind that conversation around such important and complicated subjects is best held in person. Social media provides a distance that reduces meaningful discussion to soundbites and allows people to be their worst selves. Do not be your worst self. It is at times such as this that the Church and your church can be a place of not just civility, but of safety and hope. Whatever the election results, whatever the reaction to those results, we, the body of Christ, will continue to be united in ministry for the sake of the one who died and rose to save.... even those who nailed him to the cross. By the grace of God, our forgiveness will be just as inclusive and will bear witness to the power of Christ to heal, to reconcile, and to find a way forward...together.

*Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan*

## Planning way, Way, WAY Ahead!

Along with delightful temperatures, the summer months also bring us lots of **“Back to School” sales!** Take advantage of the great deals, and stock-up on the supplies we’ll need to pack-up a ton of **SCHOOL KITS.**



While we gather the supplies in **SUMMER**, the School Kits themselves will be assembled following worship on **Sunday, September 8**, known as **“God’s Work, Our Hands”** Sunday.



These **kits** will be loaded into a giant **BOXCAR** in mid-October, and sent to a warehouse in Delaware where **Lutheran World Relief** sorts and ships these items to those in need around the globe.

Please pay **SPECIAL** attention to the **list** below, getting **EXACTLY** what is written. We **can’t** use sharpened pencils, we **can’t** send **SHARP** scissors, etc. Just follow the details below, and we’ll be on our way to some **AMAZING** kits!

## This sounds great! What should I purchase?!

- Notebooks** . . . . . Wide/College Ruled. 70-sheets. 8x10.5 in.  
**NO loose-leaf. NO Composition Notebooks**
- Ruler** . . . . . Inches/Centimeters
- Pencil Sharpener** . . . . Any color
- Blunt Scissors.** . . . . **BLUNT** Safety scissors
- Crayons.** . . . . . Box of 16 or 24
- Pencils** . . . . . #2, **UN**sharpened
- Black or Blue Pens** . . . Ballpoint. **NO gel.**
- Eraser** . . . . . 2.5 inches



## Where do I put all the stuff I bought?!

Bring to the **Table** by the Office in the Fellowship Hall by **SUNDAY, September 1, 2024**

Thank you for doing **GOD’s** work with **YOUR** hands!

**I Love to Tell the Story**

**Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald**

**Dear Church,**

I'm using my article space this issue to give you a heads-up about an exciting, biblical shift that will occur beginning September 1: not only will our worship **TIMES** change that day (*St will worship at 9a for a year, and G will worship at 10:30a*) but we will also be changing our Scripture format – how we **TELL THE STORY** - to what is known as the **Narrative Lectionary**. **What does this mean**, you ask? Such a good, Lutheran question! **Read on:**



**“Lectionary”** = the assigned, weekly, reading lists we read aloud in worship

**We have been using what is known as the “Revised Common Lectionary.”**

- Organized into 3-year cycles of readings: 1<sup>st</sup>, Psalm, 2<sup>nd</sup>, Gospel.
- The years are designated **A** (Matthew), **B** (Mark), **or C** (Luke), with John sprinkled into each, and follow that order (Year ABC, ABC, etc.)
- Each yearly cycle begins on the first Sunday of **Advent** (*usually early December*) and conclude with **Christ the King** Sunday (*usually late November*).
- Was used to give congregations a wide-breadth of Scripture (*and to keep those Pastors who only want to preach on their favorite Biblical passages from repeating themselves!*)

**Come September 1, 2024, we will be switching to the “Narrative Lectionary.”**

- The Narrative Lectionary focuses on teaching the larger story (**narrative**) of God and God's people found through the Bible, from Creation to the early, Christian Church.
- The Bible is a **library** of writings from a long period of time containing many different genres of literature. The NL helps tell a series of stories that facilitate an **understanding of/appreciation** for the broader biblical story.
- Told in canonical order ( in a **ninth-month** cycle (*September – May*))

**Unique Features of the Narrative Lectionary (NL)**



The **NL** has just **two** readings each week:

- A **“preaching text”** (*from the Old Testament through Advent, a Gospel from Christmas to Easter, and from Acts/Epistles from Easter to Pentecost*)
- An **“accompanying text”** (*the accompanying text is from a Gospel when the preaching text is from the Old Testament or Acts/Epistles, and from a psalm when the preaching text is from a Gospel*)

Each congregation is different and that what works best depends on **context**. Some congregations have found it most helpful to read **just** the assigned narrative lectionary text on a given Sunday. Others have found it helpful to find complementary texts to use **with** the assigned reading.

**FALL:** the narrative lectionary moves rapidly through the **Old Testament** story – beginning in Genesis around the start of September and culminating with the promise of the Messiah during December (Advent).

**WINTER:** The narrative lectionary moves in order through **one Gospel** – tracing the story of **Jesus** in canonical order from birth, through ministry, passion, and culminating with the story of the resurrection at Easter.

**SPRING:** the narrative lectionary engages part of the story of the early church, as told in **Acts** and other **New Testament** writings.

**SUMMER:** Each summer session contains at least three units, including at least one series from the **Old Testament**; one series from the **New Testament**; and one **catechetical** series (*Ten Commandments, Sacraments, Creeds or Lord's Prayer*).



### **WHY** are we trying this, Pastor Brenda?

Most Christian preaching **assume** that worshipers already **know** the basic biblical story – and thus most Christian preaching does not seek to **equip** people to know the biblical story. The NL seeks to be one part of an approach that seeks to **equip people** to know God's story – to **find themselves** in God's story and to find in that story the love of the God in Christ. This is the exciting part for us, dear Church – the chance to know these stories **ANEW!**

Narrative threads include emphasizing that the **Bible** is a story of:

- **Belonging:** God created a creation that would belong to God, where everything within the creation would belong to everything else. God's gracious activity includes reknitting the relationships of belonging.
- **Creation and re-creation:** God created the world in such a way that creation renews itself. But God has graciously intervened to bring about re-creation and the Bible ends with the promises that one day all creation will be brought to consummation.
- **God working through deeply flawed people and institutions:** God's choice to work through broken people (*Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, David*) and broken institutions (*nations, monarchy*) to bring mercy and love to creation.
- **The importance of the Old Testament for Christian faith:** We often lack an understanding of how the Old Testament is Christian scripture and what role the Old Testament plays in mature Christian faith.



*Pr. Brenda*

**Looking forward to TELLING THE STORY in all sorts of new ways, Church!**

## Daily Bible Readings, Year B – JULY 2024

Mon – July 1	Leviticus 21:1-15	2 Corinthians 8:16-24	Psalm 88
Tue – July 2	Leviticus 15:19-31	2 Corinthians 9:1-5	Psalm 88
Wed – July 3	2 Kings 20:1-11	Mark 9:14-29	Psalm 88
Thu – July 4	Jeremiah 7:1-15	1 Corinthians 4:8-13	Psalm 123
Fri – July 5	Jeremiah 7:16-26	2 Corinthians 10:7-11	Psalm 123
Sat – July 6	Jeremiah 7:27-34	Matthew 8:18-22	Psalm 123

### Sun. July 7 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

*Ez 2:1-5, Psalm 123, 2 Cor. 12:2-10, Mark 6:1-13*

**Prayer of the Day:** *God of the covenant, in our baptism you call us to proclaim the coming of your kingdom. Give us the courage you gave the apostles, that we may faithfully witness to your love and peace in every circumstance of life, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon – July 8	Ezekiel 2:8—3:11	2 Corinthians 11:16-33	Psalm 119:81-88
Tue – July 9	Jeremiah 16:1-13	James 5:7-12	Psalm 119:81-88
Wed – July 10	Jeremiah 16:14-21	John 7:1-9	Psalm 119:81-88
Thu – July 11	Amos 2:6-16	Colossians 2:1-5	Psalm 85:8-13
Fri – July 12	Amos 3:1-12	Colossians 4:2-18	Psalm 85:8-13
Sat – July 13	Amos 4:6-13	Luke 1:57-80	Psalm 85:8-13

### Sun. July 14 – Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

*Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 85:8-13, Ep 1:3-14, Mark 6:14-29*

**Prayer of the Day:** *O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon – July 15	Amos 5:1-9	Acts 21:27-39	Psalm 142
Tue – July 16	Amos 9:1-4	Acts 23:12-35	Psalm 142
Wed – July 17	Amos 9:11-15	Luke 7:31-35	Psalm 142
Thu – July 18	Jeremiah 10:1-16	Colossians 1:15-23	Psalm 23
Fri – July 19	Jeremiah 10:17-25	Acts 17:16-31	Psalm 23
Sat – July 20	Jeremiah 12:1-13	Luke 18:35-43	Psalm 23

## JULY 2024

(continued)

### Sun. July 21 — Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

*Jer. 23:1-6, Psalm 23, Eph 2:11-22, Mark 6:30-34, 53-56*

**Prayer of the Day:** *O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon — July 22	Jeremiah 50:1-7	Hebrews 13:17-25	Psalm 100
Tue — July 23	Zechariah 9:14—10:2	Acts 20:17-38	Psalm 100
Wed — July 24	2 Samuel 5:1-12	Luke 15:1-7	Psalm 100
Thu — July 25	1 Kings 19:19-21	Colossians 1:9-14	Psalm 145:10-18
Fri — July 26	2 Kings 3:4-20	Colossians 3:12-17	Psalm 145:10-18
Sat — July 27	2 Kings 4:38-41	John 4:31-38	Psalm 145:10-18

### Sun. July 28 — Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

*2 Kings 4:42-44, PS 145:10-18, Eph 3:14-21, John 6:1-21*

**Prayer of the Day:** *Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon — July 29	Genesis 18:1-15	Philippians 4:10-20	Psalm 111
Tue — July 30	Exodus 24:1-11	Romans 15:22-33	Psalm 111
Wed — July 31	Isaiah 25:6-10a	Mark 6:35-44	Psalm 111

## Daily Bible Readings, Year B – AUGUST 2024

Thu — Aug 1	Exodus 12:33-42	1 Corinthians 11:17-22	Psalm 78:23-29
Fri — Aug 2	Exodus 12:43—13:2	1 Corinthians 11:27-34	Psalm 78:23-29
Sat — Aug 3	Exodus 13:3-10	Matthew 16:5-12	Psalm 78:23-29

### Sun. Aug. 4 — Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

*Ex. 16:2-4, 9-15, Ps 78:23-29, Ep 4:1-16, John 6:24-35*

**Prayer of the Day:** *O God, eternal goodness, immeasurable love, you place your gifts before us; we eat and are satisfied. Fill us and this world in all its need with the life that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*



## AUGUST 2024

(continued)

Mon — Aug. 5	Numb 11:16-23, 31-32	Ephesians 4:17-24	Psalms 107:1-3, 33-43
Tue — Aug. 6	Deuteronomy 8:1-20	1 Corinthians 12:27-31	Psalms 107:1-3, 33-43
Wed — Aug. 7	Isaiah 55:1-9	Mark 8:1-10	Psalms 107:1-3, 33-43
Thu — Aug. 8	1 Samuel 28:20-25	Romans 15:1-6	Psalms 34:1-8
Fri — Aug. 9	2 Samuel 17:15-29	Galatians 6:1-10	Psalms 34:1-8
Sat — Aug. 10	1 Kings 2:1-9	Matthew 7:7-11	Psalms 34:1-8

### Sun. Aug. 11— Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:4-8, Ps 34:1-8, Ep 4:25—5:2, John 6:35, 41-51

**Prayer of the Day:** *Gracious God, your blessed Son came down from heaven to be the true bread that gives life to the world. Give us this bread always, that he may live in us and we in him, and that, strengthened by this food, we may live as his body in the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon — Aug. 12	1 Kings 17:1-16	Ephesians 5:1-14	Psalms 81
Tue — Aug. 13	Ruth 2:1-23	2 Peter 3:14-18	Psalms 81
Wed — Aug. 14	Jeremiah 31:1-6	John 6:35-40	Psalms 81
Thu — Aug. 15	Job 11:1-20	Acts 6:8-15	Psalms 34:9-14
Fri — Aug. 16	Job 12:1-25	Romans 16:17-20	Psalms 34:9-14
Sat — Aug. 17	Job 13:1-19	John 4:7-26	Psalms 34:9-14

### Sun. Aug. 18 — Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Pr 9:1-6, Psalm 34:9-14, Ep 5:15-20, John 6:51-58

**Prayer of the Day:** *Ever-loving God, your Son gives himself as living bread for the life of the world. Fill us with such a knowledge of his presence that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life to serve you continually, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon — Aug. 19	Genesis 43:1-15	Acts 6:1-7	Psalms 36
Tue — Aug. 20	Genesis 45:1-15	Acts 7:9-16	Psalms 36
Wed — Aug. 21	Genesis 47:13-26	Mark 8:14-21	Psalms 36
Thu — Aug. 22	Joshua 22:1-9	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Psalms 34:15-22
Fri — Aug. 23	Joshua 22:10-20	Romans 13:11-14	Psalms 34:15-22
Sat — Aug. 24	Joshua 22:21-34	Luke 11:5-13	Psalms 34:15-22

# AUGUST 2024

(continued)

## Sun. Aug. 25 — Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jo 24:1-2a, 14-18, Ps 34:15-22, Ep 6:10-20, Jo 6:56-69

**Prayer of the Day:** *Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon — Aug. 26	Nehemiah 9:1-15	Ephesians 5:21—6:9	Psalm 119:97-104
Tue — Aug. 27	Nehemiah 9:16-31	Ephesians 6:21-24	Psalm 119:97-104
Wed — Aug. 28	Isaiah 33:10-16	John 15:16-25	Psalm 119:97-104
Thu — Aug. 29	Exodus 32:1-14	James 1:1-8	Psalm 15
Fri — Aug. 30	Exodus 32:15-35	James 1:9-16	Psalm 15
Sat — Aug. 31	Exodus 34:8-28	John 18:28-32	Psalm 15

The theme of this year's Synod Assembly was based on the very first section of **1 Corinthians 3:6: I planted the seed. Apollos watered, but God has been making it grow.**

**Pr Brenda** met up with **Carol Klein** from G (L) and **Donna Thonne** from St (R) at Zion Lutheran in Marinette on 5/18.



**Doreen Grinsteiner** makes sure our Altar is bedecked with floral beauty each week while **Sam Salo** can be found mowing our vast (and hilly!) property! **Thank you, both!**



Newly Baptized **+Easton Matix Callahan**, great-grandson of Bill + Karen Grundstrom.



Our **Confirmands on Pentecost Sunday: Brock Bergquist (L), Kenzie Bright (C), and Dalton Wagner (R).**



Kiddos gathered for the Sneak Peek on a **VERY, Spirit-filled day: Pentecost, May 19.**



Two more of our 2024 Stephenson Graduates: **Chelsea** Christophersen (L) and **Sara** Havelka.



**The Bergquist Bunch!** 2024 SHS Graduate **Morgan (L)**, Confirmand **Brock**, and 2024 NWTC Grad **Madison!**



Our Congregational Day Visit to **Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp** on 6/19 was simply delightful! Food & fellowship, faith & fun, all in God's creation!



Celebrating **Miss Janice Kuharski**, St. Stephen's Oldest member! This young lady turned 96 years young on June 7!

Bethesda Cemetery Sexton **Wally Majkrzak** and Bethesda Board Member **Keith Olson** worked extra hard to make sure Old Glory is properly illuminated at night! Way to go, boys!

