

September

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

Physical: S214 Willow Street
Stephenson, MI 49887
SOffice@gsslutheran.org

Mailing: PO Box 435
(906) 753-4932
Sunday Worship: 9:00a

Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald

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Fall

2024



October

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September 8, Service Activity: Following worship on this **God's Work. Our Hands Sunday**, we'll be tackling two projects: packing up **Celebration Bags** for the Food Pantry and then assembling the **School Kits** for Lutheran World Relief.



September 12, 4:30-6p, Top the Tater: Spud some time with our friends at G at their 5th Annual **Top the Tater (Potato)** Dinner, complete with delicious toppings like stroganoff and beef tips and SO much more! **Come hungry - and bring a friend!**

September 29, 10:30a Joint Worship: Gather for the only worship service this Sunday at **Gethsemane** at **10:30a** for a **JOINT** worship with our Gethsemane friends. It's a great time for a **POTLUCK**, so bring (1) a **dish to share**, and (2) an extra **non-perishable item** for the Food Pantry!



Sunday, October 6, 12:30p: Blessing of the Animals in the Backyard of the Parsonage (N6106 US Hwy 41, Wallace, MI, 49893). Held in honor of St. Francis of Assisi (*the patron saint of animals*), this service will be short and sweet, and families are invited to attend **WITH THEIR PETS**, farm animals, and furry friends!

October 16, 4:30-6p Chili Supper: Get ready to indulge in the **3rd Annual Chili Supper** here at **St. Stephen's**. This sensational event will offer a mouthwatering array of chili **varieties** and tantalizing **toppings** from which to choose. Don't miss this fantastic feast filled with savory flavors!



Birthday Blessings

September

- 5 Jordan Crawford
- Heather Esmahan
- 6 Paul Francour
- 12 Keith Olson
- 17 Tracy Klatt
- Carrie Bright
- 19 Crystal Salo
- 21 Pat Heiden
- 25 Tony Hofer
- 29 Pr Dave Christenson

October

- 4 Linda Cappaert
- 7 Cindy Raush
- 9 Easton Callahan
- 17 Eric Keyzers
- 22 Tim Leiphart
- 26 Jamie Crawford



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

- 4 Gary Sue Hess
- 13 Jim + Tammy Francour

- 1 Sean + Carrie Bright
- 5 Bruce + Danielle Bergquist
- 10 Ken + Sandy Chaney
- 14 Jamie + Callie Crawford
- 21 Harlan + Judy Anderson

We continue to hold the following in prayer:
Julie Greenwald, Adam Menor, Sharon Starr

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

+Betty Mueller+



July 16, 1947
August 7, 2024
Mother of Heather
(Pete) Christenson,
Pastor Dave + Jane
Daughter-in-love

+Mary Dombrowski+



Jan 20, 1935
Aug 26, 2024
Beloved Member
of St. Stephen's
Lutheran Church

+Clarence Pelkey+



Oct 10, 1935
Aug 28, 2024
Brother-in-law
of Ann Rasner

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

In the Midst of Change...

Bishop Katherine Finegan

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I have heard it said, "If nothing ever changed, there would be no butterflies." What I hear in this quote is the promise of better, the hope of beauty, and the surprise of blessing that can come from change. Our world, our society, our climate, our culture, our Church—all are in the midst of change, transition, and maybe even transformation.

But we are not so keen on change. People like to sit in the same pew, go to the same place for coffee, sit in the same place at the dinner table, observe traditions and rituals that give order, structure, and meaning to our days. Sure, we might rearrange the furniture or put-up new curtains, but these changes are of our own making. We choose the change and we can change it back if we want to. It's when changes are imposed upon us that we may balk, resist, or resent what another has decided or how the flow has shifted. No one decided that the Church or culture should change, but it has. And because I believe the Holy Spirit knows how much we resist change, we, as the Church, are being pushed in a direction that we would not go in willingly but is God's will nevertheless. So here we are, and already I see the promise of better, the hope of beauty and unexpected blessing.

In July, 27 lay people who provide preaching in their own and neighboring congregations met for a Preaching Seminar. The goal was to further equip them for the ministry they are already doing—using their gifts in ways that perhaps would not happen if there were enough pastors to go around. These gifted, spirited, and conscientious leaders invested their time and effort to learn more in order to do better. Efforts will continue to support and equip lay leaders and preachers for the work of ministry alongside pastors and administrative interims.

I see congregations becoming more collaborative, partnering together with neighboring congregations for ministry and education, supporting each other, becoming more aware of each other, learning from each other. I see us becoming more mindful of the work of the Holy Spirit in our midst. Our classes on spirituality, prayer, and discernment offered through Lifelong Faith Formation continue to be well-attended. I see a heightened tolerance for discomfort as people have the courage to engage in conversations around race, politics, gender issues, and more. More and more, people in our congregations are lowering their defenses to learn something new. Book studies, the Kaleidoscope Challenge, and study of ELCA social statements provide ongoing opportunities for deeper engagement and conversation concerning issues that do not have a sound bite answer.



I am proud of us for the innovation I see, the resilience, the adaptability, and the commitment to ministry and congregational life, even in the face of uncertainty and civil division. Be aware that in our world, and in our congregations, anxiety can present as anger, negativity, and a desire to blame or demonize when really there is no one to blame. Change is simply happening. And our calling as disciples of Jesus is to respond in a way that is life-giving, compassionate, and in alignment with Jesus' command to love God and neighbor.

Change is afoot...even in the Synod office. Courtney Wehmeier, our Synod Office Administrator for the last year, was accepted into a graduate program in Leeds, England to pursue a degree in Marketing Analytics. Her last day was in July. Pastor Jim Duehring, our Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission for the last seven years, has joined the ranks of the retired as of August 31. As of this writing, the search for new staff continues. In the meantime, Betsy Koski, our Synod bookkeeper and fill-in-the-gap-gal, and myself will do our best to meet the demands of Synod ministry. And of course, in this staff transition, there is opportunity. Perhaps circumstances will necessitate inventing a new way of doing things. Perhaps we will be blessed with new staff that provide unique perspectives and a skill set that we didn't know we needed.

Whatever the future brings - in our country, in our world, in our congregations, in our synod, God is at work...in you and your community of faith. Together, we will strive to respond to change in a way that proclaims that we are disciples of Jesus and children of God, united in mission and planting seeds for future hope, beauty, and blessing.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan



St. Stephen's Third Annual

Chili Supper



Wednesday, **October 16** from **4:30-6:00p**



Menu includes: Chili, Cornbread, & Dessert

Extras: Crackers, French Bread, Onions, Shredded Cheese, Sour Cream

Suggested Donation*

\$10 Adult (Ages 13 & up) **\$5** Youth (Age 6 -12) Kiddos (Ages 5 & Under) **FREE!**

*Proceeds to support Ministries at St. Stephen's

Dinner held at:

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church - ELCA
5214 Willow Street - Stephenson, MI 49887



After the great success of our first, TWO Chili Suppers in **2023**, the Council is excited to announce that our **THIRD** Annual Chili Supper is **JUST** around the corner!

We look forward to filling the **Fellowship Hall** with folks who love to enjoy a delicious bowl of chili, and we'll need **YOUR** help to make it festive and fun!

Be on the lookout for sign-up sheets, and **spread the word** to anyone and everyone! **Let's get cookin'!**



Stewards of Children Training

October 2, 5-7:30p at Gethsemane

YOU...yes, YOU are invited to a VERY important training being held at Gethsemane in October.

The

Main

Point

Stewards of Children® is an evidence-informed, award-winning, two and a half hour training that teaches adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Through interviews with a very diverse group of people with lived experience, experts, and treatment providers, *Stewards of Children®* teaches adults practical actions they can take to reduce instances of child sexual abuse in their organizations, families, and communities.

Participants will exit the training being able to engage in conversations about child sexual abuse prevention with other adults and enact prevention policies where children live, learn, and play. They will also be able to recognize and react to boundary violations as well as suspected child abuse and disclosures. Participants will transfer the skills they learn into their communities, helping to embed prevention practices into their communities and help embed prevention practices within their spheres of influence to help proactively prevent child sexual abuse.

THE ISSUE: One in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. While many of us grew up with warnings of “stranger danger”, the truth is most children who experience sexual abuse are victimized by someone they and their family know and trust. Sexual abuse is the biggest public health crisis facing children today, and research shows that people who experience sexual abuse as children are more likely to suffer from life-long psychological and health consequences, including post-traumatic stress syndrome, substance abuse, depression, and early death.

The good news is child sexual abuse can be stopped. Through education and training, adults can be empowered to recognize the signs of child sexual abuse, respond responsibly, and create organizations and communities that are safe for kids.

Guided by the belief that all children have **rights**, we offer programmatic expertise in grassroots community mobilization, innovative program design, capacity building, strategic communication, pioneering partnerships, and evidence-informed training. **Behavior change** is at the core of all we do.

Training features include:

- Delivered by rigorously trained instructors and facilitators
- Features powerful videos paired with robust facilitated discussion
- Teaches 3 foundational, empowerment skills:
 - Making choices that protect children
 - Taking risks to minimize danger to children
 - Supporting each other
- Highlights *The 5 Steps to Protecting Children™* and how to apply them

All

of

the

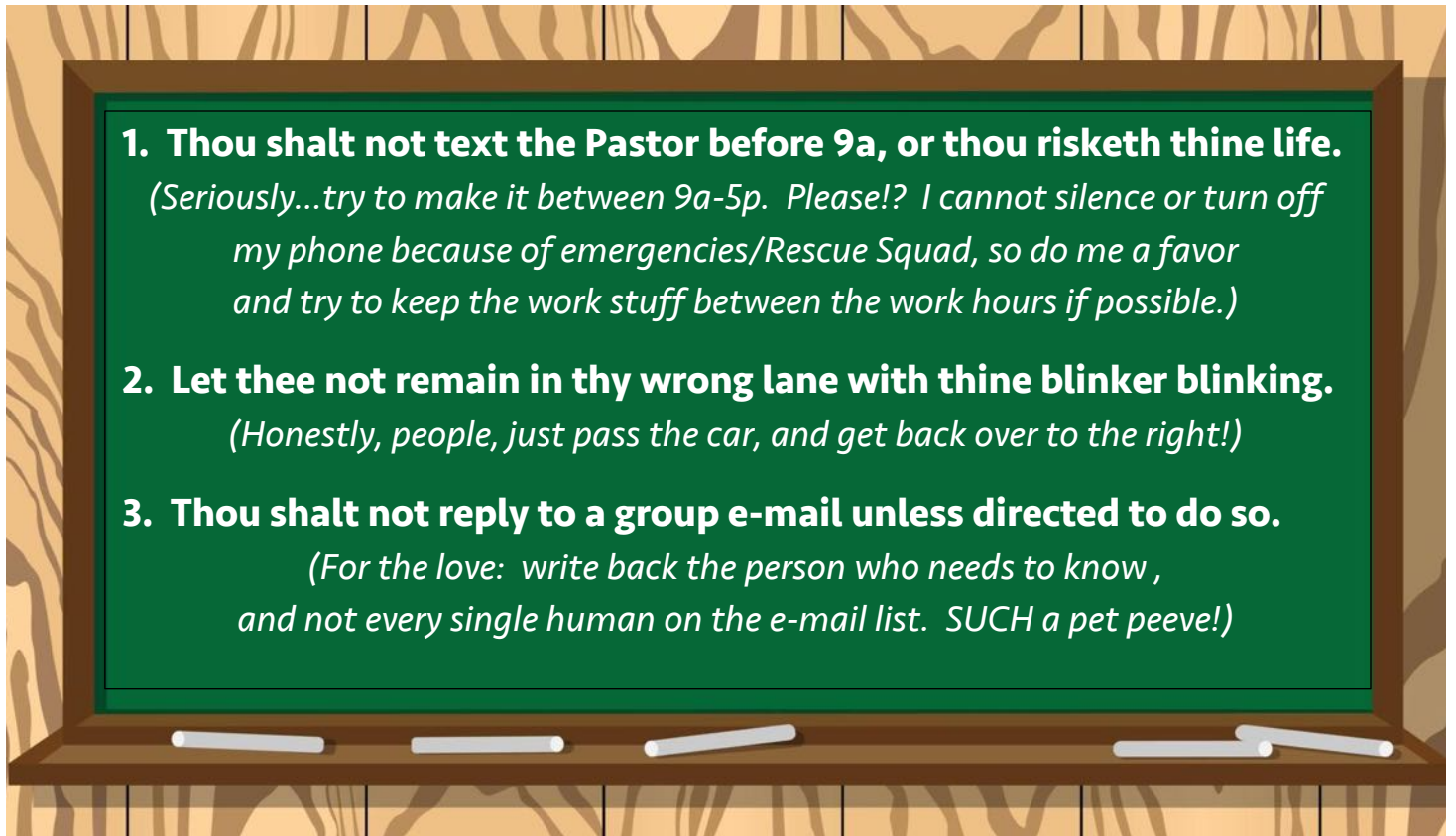
Nitty

Gritty

Details

We need EVERYONE on board when it comes to protecting our children. JOIN ME October 2! ~ Pr Brenda

Back to school? Time for Rules!



So, I'm MOSTLY kidding about the rules listed above (except the phone thing – I try to make myself super available to anyone at any time, but even this gal needs to take a moment or two and quiet her mind!)

In all seriousness, we really are fortunate to have the Good Book, which has a lot to teach us about what rules we are to follow...



- Of course, we have the Big 10 (**Exodus 20**). Those are pretty **non**-negotiable.
- The entire book of **Proverbs** offers some great guidance on...everything!
- **Colossians 3:23** is a favorite, especially when the paperwork gets tedious
*"Whatever you do, work heartily,
as for the Lord and not for humankind."*
- And then there's **Ephesians 4:32**, which really gets to the heart of the matter:
*"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted,
forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."*

So, in the end, we can make up as many rules as WE wish could be enforced, but the ONE who rules us all is the only ONE worth truly following.

Pr. Brenda



Hospitalized? Upcoming procedure? 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!



Daily Bible Readings, Year B – September 2024

Sun. Sep. 1 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Deut. 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15:1; James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Prayer of the Day: *O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon – Sep. 2	Deuteronomy 4:9-14	1 Timothy 4:6-16	Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48
Tue – Sep. 3	Deuteronomy 4:15-20	1 Peter 2:19-25	Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48
Wed – Sep. 4	Deuteronomy 4:21-40	Mark 7:9-23	Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48
Thu – Sep. 5	Isaiah 30:27-33	Romans 2:1-11	Psalm 146
Fri – Sep. 6	Isaiah 32:1-8	Romans 2:12-16	Psalm 146
Sat – Sep. 7	Isaiah 33:1-9	Matthew 15:21-31	Psalm 146

Sun. Sep. 8 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Psalm 146 (2); James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark 7:24-37

Prayer of the Day: *Gracious God, throughout the ages you transform sickness into health and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord, Amen*

Mon – Sep. 9	Joshua 6:1-21	Heb. 11:29–12:2	Isaiah 38:10-20
Tue – Sep. 10	Joshua 8:1-23	Heb. 12:3-13	Isaiah 38:10-20
Wed – Sep. 11	Judges 15:9-20	Matt. 17:14-21	Isaiah 38:10-20
Thu – Sep. 12	Joshua 2:1-14	Heb. 11:17-22	Psalm 116:1-9
Fri – Sep. 13	Joshua 2:15-24	Jam. 2:17-26	Psalm 116:1-9
Sat – Sep. 14	Joshua 6:22-27	Matt. 21:23-32	Psalm 116:1-9

Sun. Sep. 15 — Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 116:1-9 (9); James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38

Prayer of the Day: *O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon — Sep. 16	1 Kings 13:1-10	Romans 3:9-20	Psalm 119:169-176
Tue — Sep. 17	1 Kings 13:11-25	Colossians 3:1-11	Psalm 119:169-176
Wed — Sep. 18	Isaiah 10:12-20	John 7:25-36	Psalm 119:169-176
Thu — Sep. 19	Judges 6:1-10	1 Cor. 2:1-5	Psalm 54
Fri — Sep. 20	1 Kings 22:24-40	Rom 11:25-32	Psalm 54
Sat — Sep. 21	2 Kings 17:5-18	Matt 23:29-39	Psalm 54

Sun. Sep. 22 — Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jer 11:18-20; Psalm 54 (4); James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37

Prayer of the Day: *O God, our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon — Sep. 23	2 Kings 5:1-14	James 4:8-17	Psalm 139:1-18
Tue — Sep. 24	2 Kings 11:21—12:16	James 5:1-6	Psalm 139:1-18
Wed — Sep. 25	Jeremiah 1:4-10	John 8:21-38	Psalm 139:1-18
Thu — Sep. 26	Exodus 18:13-27	Acts 4:13-31	Psalm 19:7-14
Fri — Sep. 27	Deuteronomy 1:1-18	Acts 12:20-25	Psalm 19:7-14
Sat — Sep. 28	Deuteronomy 27:1-10	Matthew 5:13-20	Psalm 19:7-14

Sun. Sep. 29 — Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Num. 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Psalm 19:7-14 (8); James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50

Prayer of the Day: *Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon — Sep. 30 Zechariah 6:9-15 1 Peter 1:3-9 Psalm 5

<h2>October 2024</h2>

Tue — Oct. 1 Zechariah 8:18-23 1 John 2:18-25 Psalm 5

Wed — Oct. 2 Zechariah 10:1-12 Matthew 18:6-9 Psalm 5

Thu — Oct. 3 Genesis 20:1-18 Galatians 3:23-29 Psalm 8

Fri — Oct. 4 Genesis 21:22-34 Romans 8:1-11 Psalm 8

Sat — Oct. 5 Genesis 23:1-20 Luke 16:14-18 Psalm 8

Sun. Oct. 6 — Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Gen 2:18-24 Psalm 8 (5) Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16

Prayer of the Day: *Sovereign God, you have created us to live in loving community with one another. Form us for life that is faithful and steadfast, and teach us to trust like little children, that we may reflect the image of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon — Oct. 7 Deuteronomy 22:13-30 1 Corinthians 7:1-9 Psalm 112

Tue — Oct. 8 Deuteronomy 24:1-5 1 Corinthians 7:10-16 Psalm 112

Wed — Oct. 9 Jeremiah 3:6-14 Matthew 5:27-36 Psalm 112

Thu — Oct. 10 Deuteronomy 5:1-21 Hebrews 3:7-19 Psalm 90:12-17

Fri — Oct. 11 Deuteronomy 5:22-33 Hebrews 4:1-11 Psalm 90:12-17

Sat — Oct. 12 Amos 3:13—4:5 Matthew 15:1-9 Psalm 90:12-17

Sun. Oct. 13 — Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Psalm 90:12-17 (12) Heb 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us your gift of faith, that, forsaking what lies behind and reaching out to what lies ahead, we may follow the way of your commandments and receive the crown of everlasting joy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon – Oct. 14	Obadiah 1-9	Revelation 7:9-17	Psalm 26
Tue – Oct. 15	Obadiah 10-16	Revelation 8:1-5	Psalm 26
Wed – Oct. 16	Obadiah 17-21	Luke 16:19-31	Psalm 26
Thu – Oct. 17	Genesis 14:17-24	Romans 15:7-13	Psalm 91:9-16
Fri – Oct. 18	Isaiah 47:1-9	Revelation 17:1-18	Psalm 91:9-16
Sat – Oct. 19	Isaiah 47:10-15	Luke 22:24-30	Psalm 91:9-16

Sun. Oct. 20 – Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Is. 53:4-12 Psalm 91:9-16 (9) Heb. 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45

Prayer of the Day: *Sovereign God, you turn your greatness into goodness for all the peoples on earth. Shape us into willing servants of your kingdom, and make us desire always and only your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon – Oct. 21	1 Samuel 8:1-18	Hebrews 6:1-12	Psalm 37:23-40
Tue – Oct. 22	1 Samuel 10:17-25	Hebrews 6:13-20	Psalm 37:23-40
Wed – Oct. 23	1 Samuel 12:1-25	John 13:1-17	Psalm 37:23-40
Thu – Oct. 24	Jeremiah 23:9-15	Hebrews 7:1-10	Psalm 126
Fri – Oct. 25	Jeremiah 26:12-24	Hebrews 7:11-22	Psalm 126
Sat – Oct. 26	Jeremiah 29:24-32	Mark 8:22-26	Psalm 126

Sun. Oct. 27 – Reformation Sunday

Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 126 (5) Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52



Prayer of the Day: *Eternal light, shine in our hearts. Eternal wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance. Eternal compassion, have mercy on us. Turn us to seek your face, and enable us to reflect your goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen*

Mon – Oct. 28	Exodus 4:1-17	1 Peter 2:1-10	Psalms 119:17-24
Tue – Oct. 29	2 Kings 6:8-23	Acts 9:32-35	Psalms 119:17-24
Wed – Oct. 30	Jeremiah 33:1-11	Matthew 20:29-34	Psalms 119:17-24
Thu – Oct. 31	Exodus 22:1-15	Hebrews 9:1-12	Psalms 119:1-8

 **Remember to wear RED** 
on Reformation Sunday,
October 27!

Faith is CAUGHT more than it is TAUGHT!



Here's Colton catching the faith of the Armor of God from his Aunt B! (Pastor Brenda)



Taylor and her cousin, Emma (kneeling) certainly caught the faith during the summer time as campers at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp in Crystal Falls, MI.



Fall Fest at FLLC

Saturday, October 5

We are so excited to provide members of your congregation and community an opportunity to support our ministry here at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp - and have a lot of fun in the process!

fortunelake.org

There are **two events** running simultaneously:

- **ONLINE Auction** Sept. 25 through Oct 5th at 5p CST
- **LIVE Auction** AT camp at 11a on Oct. 5th



ALL MORNING

Chapel: Draffle Ticket Sales / Country Store

FROM 9:30 - 10:30a CT

Dining Room: Continental Breakfast and Bake Sale

Chapel: Country Store (*hand-made crafts*) & Quilt Preview

STARTING at 11a CT

Chapel: Opening of the **LIVE** Auction of Quilts!

Unable to make it in-person? Join us for our **VIRTUAL** Auction from anywhere beginning on Wednesday, September 25 and closing on Saturday, October 5 at 5p CT. Here's the **LINK:** auctria.events/fortunelake

The Annual Sauerkraut Dinner

Thursday, October 24th from 4:30-6p



Gethsemane looks forward to filling their **Fellowship Hall** with lots of folks who love to enjoy a delicious bowl of sauerkraut. So, they'll need **YOUR** help to eat the goods! **Save the date and bring a friend!**



Dual-Month Newsletter - 2024

Important Dates and Information inside!

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

