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Gethsemane Lutheran Church

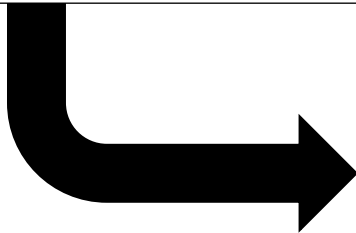
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*Our Shared Mission: We are saved by
grace through faith to share the good
news of the Gospel with all people and live
God's love by our words and actions.*

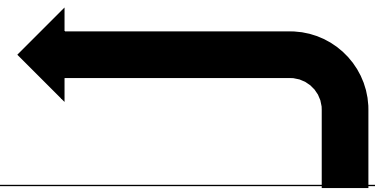


Monthly Newsletter - June 2021

Want to
TAKE OFF
your mask?



**YOU
ARE
WELCOME
HERE**



Want to keep
your mask **ON**
for health
or personal
reasons?

After a LONG and prayerful 14 months, we are (cautiously) announcing the return to our familiar, patterns of Holy Worship:

- Worship is indoors in our Sanctuary
- Masks are worn at YOUR personal convenience
- Congregational singing has returned
- A full-reading of the liturgy will occur

Holy Communion will still be celebrated using individual cups, and we will hold off on indoor Fellowship Time for a bit, just until the vaccination rate of our county has risen just a bit more, and Social Distancing will still be encouraged while inside the building.



*Thank you for all you have done to help
protect your neighbor during these trying times!*

CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

The Church Council of Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Wendy Hanson | Wendy Christophersen | Sandy Gill | Deb Kruhmin | Judi Freis
Carol Klein | Mary Jo Mahaffy | Janet Mullard | Ruth Thoun

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - APRIL 14, 2021

Members Present: Wendy Christophersen, Sandy Gill, Wendy Hanson, Deb Kruhmin, Sarah Krzych, Mary Jo Mahaffy, Janet Mullard, Ruth Thoun, Carol Klein, Pastor Brenda Greenwald

Meeting Called to Order: 6:48 pm

AGENDA APPROVAL

Ruth asked to have "Treasurer's Position" added to New Business
Motion to accept the Agenda with the addition was made by Sandy;
Motion was seconded by Mary Jo.

Motion Carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion was made by Wendy C to accept the Minutes from the March Council meeting;
Motion was seconded by Deb.

Motion Carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Brenda had just a short verbal report noting that there were lots of views for the Easter Online Worship, and that a lot of her time was used preparing for Confirmation that took place on April 11, and that Eva's Confirmation will take place when we can gather safely and that the other confirmands will participate!

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Position: Ruth informed the Council that she would like to give up the position of Treasurer by the end of the year - but she will definitely train and assist anyone who is willing to accept the job.
- b. Lawn Mowing Church/Parsonage: Motion was made by Ruth to increase the compensation per mowing from \$100 to \$110.
Motion was seconded by Mary Jo.
Sarah has agreed to continue with the mowing.

Motion Carried.

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

- a. Property - Ruth noted that she has asked Shane Konell to stop by the parsonage and give us a quote for refinishing the deck.

Next Gethsemane Council Meeting: Thursday, May 20th at 6 pm

Motion to Adjourn was made by Sandy; seconded by Wendy C.

Motion Carried.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Klein, Secretary

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES - May 20, 2021

Members present: Wendy Christophersen, Judi Freis, Sandy Gill, Wendy Hanson, Carol Klein, Mary Jo Mahaffy, Janet Mullard,
Pastor Brenda Greenwald *Excused: Deb Kruhmin, Ruth Thoun*

Devotions were led by Wendy (June devotions - Janet)

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:19 pm

AGENDA APPROVAL

- Several items were added to the Agenda - under Old Business: c.) Ratified Constitution sent to Synod.
Under New Business: a) Masks; b) Daily Bread donation; c) Old Outside sign; d) Confirmation Cake; e) Sumac on parsonage property; f) Pastoral Annual Review; g) Synod Conference update.
- Motion to approve the Agenda with additions was made by Sandy; Second: Janet. Carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

- Motion to accept the printed Minutes from April 2021 was made by Judi; Second: Mary Jo. Carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

- Pastor Brenda noted that during the past month she had attended a Confirmation Planning at Fortune Lake with other pastors; presided at funerals and burials for +Paul Sederquist+, +Christine Havelka+, and +Muriel Sullivan+.
- Upcoming events will be Confirmation (5/23) for Eva Schultz, funeral services for +Jeffrey Grundstrom+ in June, and two weddings in September.
- Other upcoming events include leading the Memorial Day service at Bethesda and Stephenson cemeteries, taking some vacation time June 10-15, and possibly a worship service at the Menominee County Fair.
- Pastor also noted that Angel is back and is currently adjusting her hours which are posted on the front door. Angel's daughter, Belle, will be taking care of janitorial duties.
The Food Pantry is now open on Tuesday evenings, reusable bags have been provided, and 31 new families were served this past month!
Pastor is preparing and will present on June 9 a workshop on Understanding Trauma for local Rescue Squad members.
Regulations have been lifted and area clergy are now able to provide services at Roubals!

FINANCIAL SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORTS

- Motion to accept the written report from Ann was made by Judi; Second: Sandy. Carried.
- Motion to approve the written report from Ruth was made by Carol; Second: Mary Jo. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- Technology Upgrade in Sanctuary - will now move forward
- AED - Mary Palmer will be available for next Council meeting
- Our ratified Constitution has been sent to the Synod

NEW BUSINESS

- Masks: Pastor Brenda informed the Council that wearing masks in the building will now be a personal choice but social distancing is still a must.
Daily Bread - donation of \$50 will be sent as these are sent to us free of charge. Older Outside Sign: is in desperate need of repair or removal - tabled Confirmation Cake - no inside fellowship just yet
- Sumac on parsonage property: Sarah will get an estimate for removal
Pastoral Annual Review - a committee will be selected to create a review process. (Wendy will share info available from the Synod)
- Synod Assembly - was totally virtual and some presentations are still available to be viewed online. Next year's Assembly will be held in Hancock.

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

- Property - Outdoor Sign and Sumac
- Education - will possibly be having Sunday School this Fall!

Motion to accept updates was made by Sandy; Seconded: Wendy C. Carried.

Next Council Meeting: June 17 at 6:00 pm Motion was made by Janet to adjourn.

Second: Mary Jo Time 7:22pm.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Klein, Secretary



8 Debbie Kruhmin
 13 Colin Christophersen
 18 Millie Haulotte
 21 Jim Roubal
 24 Lisa Roubal
 25 Ally Schultz
 26 Trevor Christophersen
 28 Janet Mullard
 30 Jim Skowronski

16 Janet and Elmer Mullard
 21 Brian and Debbie Panske



Jay Chapple
 Trish Dams
 Thomas Dutkavich
 Jared Jurmu
 Brent Jurmu
 Julie Tanguay



*We trust in the comfort and hope
 of the Resurrection for the family of:
 + Christine Havelka + (Mother of Sara, Wife of Darrell)*

We continue to hold in prayer:

Art Kaliszewski	Becca Merk	Bethany Gearheart	Brian Raether
Caitlin Christophersen	Connie Kendrick	Crystal Salo	Dan Etelamaki
David Kohrt	Deanna Thill	Dennis Paul	Delores Erickson
Denise Marineau	Dorothy Klein-Wassink	Dorothy Peretto	Emily Christenson
Evelyn Gewerth	Gene Wangerin	James Dutkavich	Jim Gill
Jim Wenger	Karen Raether	Keith Thoun	Kevin Havelka
Lewis Nicholson	Logan Parrett	Lois Azelton	Lorrie Stone
Luann Q. Kiefer	Macy Berszenyi	Mike Lubore	Mike McCarthy
Rob Boe	Robert Berszenyi	Sandy Baumler	Sarah Hess
Sheila Konkel	Shirley Wangerin	Stephanie Walgren	Tammy Parrett
Tom Wenger	Tony Gill	Tracy Klatt	
Wayne Sundstrom	Wendy Gravelle	Wendy Hanson	

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

PASTORAL MUSINGS FROM PR. BRENDA

Dear, dear Church,

As you all know, I **live** directly across the highway from Gethsemane Lutheran Church. This means that when I look out my front, picture window, I have a direct line of sight to the wooden cross in front of the Church.

Now, for MONTHS, I have had a front-row seat to whichever fabric happens to be draped over the cross: purple fabric during Lent, black fabric for Good Friday, and most recently, white fabric for the season of Easter. *(Yes! It's a whole season, not just a day!)*

MOST times, the flag would be waving in the breeze, and I'd say a quick prayer of thankfulness that I get to serve two fantastic congregations here in the UP. **SOME** days, however, the fabric would have become **tangled** during the night. The one side would be all **twisted**-up and caught on one of the arms of the cross. Other times, it would look as though someone had **knotted** the entire thing TO the cross. Either way, if it had not UNTangled or UNknotted itself, I would drive by the cross, and set things straight, and put the fabric back in place.

I must have done this for **WEEKS** before realizing: how incredibly **FUTILE!** What was I accomplishing!? Here I was, cleaning up the CROSS: the symbol of such a violent and horrific act upon which our God's SON was killed. Clean-up the cross!? Who did I think I was? Humanity was what put Jesus up on that cross to begin with, and here I thought I could straighten up the cross.

When this thought finally hit me, I sat on the ledge, near the cross, and thought about ALL the **ways we try** to clean-up, to sanitize the Cross and the message of the Gospel:

- we tell the good, ole familiar Bible stories, and leave out the ones that would mean some hard, personal work for us
- we pick hymns that only focus on love and joy, and omit the ones that would mean actually having to think through Christ's sacrifice
- we do silly things like trying to tidy-up the fabric on the cross, when in fact, the cross did the straightening-up FOR US already.

Our Christian past - and the happenings on the cross - are neither neat nor tidy, and nor is the path forward. But lest we think there are only knots and entanglements ahead, we must also remember the **HOPE** and **GRACE** that the very cross itself gives. I leave you with this **second picture**: some free-flowing fabric on a cross, bags of manure to fertilize the soil nearby, and bright greenery surrounding bulbs just ready to burst into life. I couldn't help but chuckle when coming upon this scene! **Such is life**:

- we're going to be blown about a bit, but will land and cling to the promises of the Cross,
- life might STINK at times, but the struggle just might fortify us for that next battle, and
- the blossoming promise of new and beautiful life is always near. **Thanks be to God!**

Praising God for the messy and beautiful promises of the Cross,
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 second, New Testament, readings are from 1 and 2 Corinthians, Ephesians, James and Hebrews.

Tue — June 1	Exodus 25:1-22 1	Cor 2:1-10	Psalm 20
Wed — June 2	Num 6:22-27	Mark 4:21-25	Psalm 20
Thu — June 3	Isaiah 28:9-13 1	Peter 4:7-19	Psalm 130
Fri — June 4	Deut 1:34-40 2	Cor 5:1-5	Psalm 130
Sat — June 5	Genesis 2:4b-14	Luke 8:4-15	Psalm 130

Sun. June 6 — 2nd Sunday after Pent Genesis 3:8-15, Psalm 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 & 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 7	1 Sam 16:14-23	Rev 20:1-6	Psalm 74
Tue — June 8	1 Kings 18:17-40	Rev 20:7-15	Psalm 74
Wed — June 9	Isaiah 26:16—27:1	Luke 11:14-28	Psalm 74
Thu — June 10	Gen 3:14-24	Heb 2:5-9	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
Fri — June 11	1 Kings 10:26—11:8	Heb 11:4-7	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
Sat — June 12	2 Kings 14:1-14	Mark 4:1-20	Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

Sun. June 13 — 3rd Sunday after Pent: Ezek 17:22-24, Ps 92:1-4, 12-15, 2 Cor 5:6-10, 14-17, Mark 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 14	Ezek 31:1-12	Gal 6:11-18	Psalm 52
Tue — June 15	Jer 21:11-14	Rev 21:22—22:5	Psalm 52
Wed — June 16	Jer 22:1-9	Luke 6:43-45	Psalm 52
Thu — June 17	Job 29:1-20	Acts 20:1-16	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
Fri — June 18	Job 29:21—30:15	Acts 21:1-16	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32
Sat — June 19	Job 37:1-13	Luke 21:25-28	Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

Sun. June 20 — 4th Sunday after Pent Job 38:1-11, Psalm 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 21	Exodus 7:14-24	Acts 27:13-38	Psalm 65
Tue — June 22	Exodus 9:13-35	Acts 27:39-44	Psalm 65
Wed — June 23	Joshua 10:1-14	Mark 6:45-52	Psalm 65
Thu — June 24	Lam 1:16-22	2 Cor 7:2-16	Psalm 30
Fri — June 25	Lam 2:1-12	2 Cor 8:1-7	Psalm 30
Sat — June 26	Lam 2:18-22	Luke 4:31-37	Psalm 30

Sun. June 27 — 5th 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.*

Mon — June 28	Lev 21:1-15	2 Cor 8:16-24	Psalm 88
Tue — June 29	Lev 15:19-31	2 Cor 9:1-5	Psalm 88
Wed — June 30	2 Kings 20:1-11	Mark 9:14-29	Psalm 88

JUNE 6, 2021 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

taking+ faith home

Be careful of judging others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God
Monday	Genesis 3:8-15	Adam and Eve hide from God
Tuesday	2 Corinthians 4:13–5:1	Living by faith
Wednesday	Matthew 4:1-11	The temptation of Jesus
Thursday	Genesis 3:1-7	Adam and Eve eat forbidden fruit
Friday	John 8:39-59	Distinguishing truth from evil
Saturday	Psalms 130	Prayer of lament and hope
Sunday	Mark 4:26-34	Parables of Jesus

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

And looking at those who sat around [Jesus], he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:34-35 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, help us to see your healing and saving work in our daily lives through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Dear God, we thank you for feeding us with this food and for nurturing us with hope in your saving work through Christ Jesus. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you to know you are brothers and sisters of Christ Jesus.



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JUNE 6, 2021 HYMN OF THE WEEK Out of the Depths

taking+ faith home

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- When people disagree and are unkind to each other, how can they resolve the dispute?
- What is something you would describe as evil?
- The scribes described Jesus' healing others as the work of evil. How would you describe Jesus' healing of others?

DEVOTIONS



Read: Mark 3:20-35.

In the opening chapters of Mark, Jesus has already cast out demons and healed lepers and others with physical ailments, but scribes said he did this work on behalf of demons. To this accusation, Jesus states in the strongest terms possible that such a position is wrong. It is one thing not to see God's liberating work at play in the world. It is another to dare to call it the work of evil. The good news is that Jesus' work of healing (same word for salvation in the Greek language) is real and is meant to bless and save lives. In our age of divided loyalties and accusations, Jesus' words are a good warning to us not to judge others too harshly. Even though you may not see it, they may be doing the work of God to free lives and reconcile relationships. It is a sobering thought for sobering times. When have you felt that someone was acting in a way opposed to God's work in the world? Explain.

Pray: God of power and might, in Christ's name help us to recognize your healing work in the world and be part of reconciling relationships. Amen.

SERVICE



A life of service begins with an attitude of humility and repentance. Psalm 130:1-2 states, "Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication." We are asking God to hear our cry for help and our cry for forgiveness. God hears our prayers. Pray either alone or with others as you ask for God to hear your prayer of repentance so that you can be a loving servant.

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Summer activities will begin soon. Talk about your plans and the changes in schedules. Conclude your discussion time with this prayer: *Dear God, thank you for school, work, friends, and family. As we begin our summer activities, keep us safe, renew us in body and spirit, and help us to show kindness to others. Amen.*



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org

JUNE 13, 2021
HYMN OF THE WEEK
As Rain from the Clouds

WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

CARING CONVERSATIONS

- Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:
- Describe your experience with gardening and planting seeds.
- Think or talk about a time you have seen an act of kindness make a big difference in someone's life.
- Jesus describes the reign of God through images of tiny seeds and growth. In what way is this a message about God's kingdom?

DEVOTIONS

Read: Mark 4:26-34.

With Jesus' depiction of the kingdom of God, one would expect comparisons to something like spectacular cedar trees of Lebanon (Ezekiel 17:22 and Psalm 92:12) or some other vision of grandeur. Jesus chooses something more akin to a weed, a mustard bush that is prolific in Judea. It's an example that likely made his hearers chuckle, not gasp with indescribable awe; it's another example of getting people to see differently. Just as relentless as mustard bushes or weeds are, God's reign will not be deterred. It is like the seed planted that grows and grows without human intervention. As the Gospel of Mark gets underway, the message is that the kingdom is coming. The kingdom is viewed through surprising, even humorous comparisons. It will not be stopped, not by evil, not by scribes, not by disciples who fall again and again. Evil will be overcome, voices of the kingdom will be heard, and imperfect followers will keep pointing to Christ's victory over sin and death. How do you help others see the kingdom of God more clearly?

Play: Almighty God, help us to see and believe with the eyes of faith that your reign will win the day through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SERVICE

The smallest of seeds planted can become the largest of plants. Likewise, the smallest acts of kindness can grow to make a very large difference in someone's life. Think of someone who is not so visible or lonely and reach out to them. In what way does reaching out to them grow the kingdom of God?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

Use a leafless branch and cut out leaf shapes. During devotion time this week, think or talk about ways you have seen and felt God at work in the world. Write down those ways on leaves and add them to the branch. Praise and thank God each time you add leaves by praying: Dear God, we thank you for caring for us. May your presence in our lives help us to continue to grow and care for others, even in ways we may not see or understand. Amen.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: www.milestonesministry.org



Come on **Wednesday, June 9th at 9:00 am** (or whenever you can get there) and let's **deep-clean our kitchen** in hopes of future Fellowship Times and events! Only thing you need to BRING is a willingness to help! *Coffee provided!*

~ Angel and Belle ~

Hi, my name is **Angel**, for those of you who don't already know me. I have been the church secretary and custodian for almost 2 years now. Since the church re-opened I have resigned from the custodian position. I suggested my oldest daughter as a replacement.

Hi, my name is **Belle**, Angel is my amazing mama. I am graduating from Stephenson High School on June 6th, with honors, in the top ten of my class. I have been accepted to UW Green Bay and plan to attend at the Marinette campus. I plan to travel a bit this summer before college.





***“Lift high the cross,
the love of Christ proclaim”***

A unique look at Gethsemane at night, as seen by Pr. Brenda, upon ringing the bells for +Christine Havelka+. A bell is tolled for each year of someone’s life upon news of their death.



***“Morning by
morning,
new mercies
I see...”***

Thanks to our groundskeeper, Tena Roubal, and God’s good grace, our building is surrounded by colorful bulbs promising us that Spring is here!



***“I do, and I ask God
to help and guide me.”***

Affirming the promises spoken over her at Baptism, **Eva Schultz** is Confirmed on Pentecost Sunday. Blessings upon ALL of our Confirmands! Come, Holy Spirit, come, in ALL of our lives!

***“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty...
Absolutely - just not in this pew!”***

Congregants found the Sanctuary to look a bit different when they returned to in-person worship on May 2, 2021. Even with some pews taped off (complete with amusing signs to encourage social distancing), folks still found a way to gather as the Church.



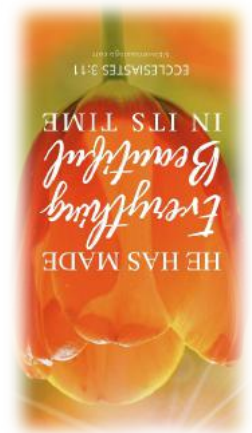


Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

2021 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE

***This Monthly Newsletter covers information and happenings
for the Congregation of Gethsemane Lutheran Church.***



**Gethsemane
Lutheran Church**
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