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St. Stephen's 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, 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, and **Fellowship Time** will eventually return.

Thank you for all you have done to help protect your neighbor during these trying times! God's Work, Our Hands!



ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – COUNCIL MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2021

PRESENT: Harlan Anderson, Cheri Leiphart, Keith Olson, Al Raether, Kami Salo, Pr. Brenda Greenwald. **Excused:** John Starzynski

Devotions: *Pastor Brenda*

- Meeting called to order: 6:05pm

Agenda Approval

- a. **Motion to Accept: KEITH** **Seconded: AL** **CARRIED**

Secretary's Report

- a. **Motion to Accept: AL** **Seconded: KAMI** **CARRIED**

Pastor's Report

- **REPORT on FILE**

Treasurer / Financial Secretary's Reports

Sandy Chaney, Treas. - Danielle Bergquist, Financial Sec.

- a. Written Reports - to be taken home and read.
b. **Motion to Accept: CHERI** **Seconded: AL** **CARRIED**

Ministry Team Reports

- **Bethesda Cemetery** **Keith** Lawn mowing. Old decorations to be removed. Sharon Etelamaki's family to donate military flag.
- **Faith Formation** **Kami** Will start in the fall.
- **Fellowship/Social Ministry** **Kami**
- **Finance Team** **Al, Harlan, John**
- **Memorial Fund** _____
- **Property Team** **Al, Cheri, Harlan, John, Keith** Removing the tree. Cabinet door fixed.
- **Stewardship Team** **Cheri**
- **WELCA** **Harlan** Bulletins being sent to non-attendees.
- **Worship/Music** **Keith**
- a. **Motion to Accept: AL** **Seconded: KAMI** **CARRIED**

OLD Business

- a. Back-up Treasurer: Continue to ask around.

NEW Business

- a. The Council approved the formation of the **Emergency Fund account**.
b. The Council approved the formation of the **Pastor's Discretionary Fund account**.
c. Possible rental of church basement to a Karate friend of Al's.
d. Next Council Meeting is Wednesday, May 19, 2021 at St. Stephen's.
e. **Motion to Accept: AL** **Seconded: KEITH** **CARRIED**

ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion to Accept: AL** **Seconded: CHERI** **Time: 6:48pm**
b. Church Council closed the meeting with *The Lord's Prayer*.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kami Salo



6 Roger Grinsteiner
7 Janice Kuharski
13 Elaine Haban
15 Ava Johnson
21 Harlan Anderson
27 Renee Peretto



2 Dennis & Cyndie Berger
5 Pr. Dave & Jane Christenson
6 Tim & Cheri Leiphart
11 Al & Karen Raether
11 Tyler & Kortney Sulk
16 Todd & Penny Nehls



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



We trust in the comfort and hope of the Resurrection for the following families:

+ ***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	Sarah Hess	Sheila Konkell
Shirley Wangerin	Stephanie Walren	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!*

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 — Second Sunday after Pentecost 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 and trust in him, that we may triumph over all evil in the strength of the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Gospel Acclamation Alleluia. The ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself, 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 — Third Sunday after Pentecost

Ezek 17:22-24, Psalm 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. Gospel Acclamation Alleluia. Welcome with meekness the implanted word. That has the power to save your souls, 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 — Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 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. Gospel Acclamation Alleluia. Now is the acceptable time; now is the day of salvation, 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 — Fifth 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. Gospel Acclamation Alleluia. Our Savior Jesus Christ has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, 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



We
the
Church



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 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. Brend



TIMBER! If a dying Spruce tree falls on Church property, does it make a sound!? Yes, yes it does! Many thanks to: Keith Olson and his chainsaw for safely bringing down that tree, Cheri Leiphart for her UP strength in chopping up that tree, Wally Majkrzak for powerfully shredding what was left of the stump, and to Nick Diehm for raking up the remnants and smoothing out the land.
God's Work, our MANY Hands!





Old Glory is proudly waving high above Bethesda Cemetery thanks to Sharon and Alvin Etelemaki, and the donation of a flag from a veteran in their family. Keith Olson made sure the new flag was ready in time for Memorial Day celebrations, and meticulously straightened out some tipped-over headstones while on the grounds.



We thank Judy Anderson for carry on +Clyde Thouné's+ legacy of beautifying the front of St. Stephen's.

*Just like nature SPRINGS to new life, so do we.
HIS mercies are new every morning.
Lamentations 3:23*



Stop on by our colorful Bulletin Board when you pass through the Narthex! Take a devotional booklet right off the board - goodness, take 2, and give one to a friend! Grab a pamphlet for Fortune Lake for that neighbor kid who just might love Summer Camp! Read the latest from the Synod, and peek at who from our congregation might have been in the news!



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



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

2021 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE

***This Monthly Newsletter covers information and happenings
for the Congregation of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church.***



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