



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 - July 2021



Indoor Worship Continues

Masks Optional/Available

9:00am each Sunday

(until September 12, 2021)

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2	Tyler Crawford	22	John Starzynski
5	Jane Christenson	23	Wendy Majkrzak
14	Alayna Klatt	24	Brianna Hess
16	Bruce Bergquist	26	Gary Hess
18	Madison Bergquist	29	Margaret Galbraith
21	Alvin Etelamaki	29	Wayne Salo
21	Judy Stone		



2	Wayne & Janet Salo
8	Keith & Crystal Salo
18	John & Pattie Starzynski
22	Robert & Judy Stone



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

We continue to hold in prayer:

Art Kaliszewski	Bethany Gearheart	Brian Raether	Caitlin Christophersen
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	Michelle Beauchard
Mike Lubore	Mike McCarthy	Penny Nehls	Rob Boe
Robert Berszenyi	Sandy Baumler	Sarah Hess	Sheila Konkel
Shirley Wangerin	Stephanie Wallgren	Sue Skowronski	Tammy Parrett
Tom Wenger	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 the Church Office. Thanks!*

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – COUNCIL MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021

PRESENT: Harlan Anderson (*President*), Keith Olson, Al Raether, Kami Salo (*Secretary*), John Starzynski, Pr. Brenda Greenwald. **By phone:** Cheri Leiphart (*Vice-President*)

Devotions: John Starzynski → Passed off to Harlan

- Meeting called to order: 5:57pm

Agenda Approval: Motion to Accept: JOHN Seconded: AL CARRIED

Secretary's Report Motion to Accept: JOHN Seconded: KEITH CARRIED

Pastor's Report: Pr. Brenda - 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: KAMI Seconded: AL CARRIED

Ministry Team	Liaison(s)	Updates to share with the Council
Bethesda Cemetery	Keith	Light installed to illuminate the flag. Key to Cemetery gate to be copied and left at St. St.
Faith Formation	Kami	
Fellowship/Social Ministry	Kami	
Finance Team	Al, Harlan, John	
Memorial Fund	John	John agreed to be this Team Liaison
Property Team	Al, Cheri, Harlan, John, Keith	Keith fixed landscape timbers outside.
Stewardship Team	Cheri	
WELCA	Harlan	
Worship/Music	Keith	
Motion to Accept: AL	Seconded: KEITH	CARRIED

OLD Business

- Donation of \$50 to be sent to *Our Daily Bread*
- Interest in rental of church basement: Al mentioned that Jason Niemi (karate) expressed interest. He will attend July meeting and share information / hopes. Rental fee of \$100/month discussed.

NEW Business

- Flags in Worship space discussion: No flag is to compete with the cross of Christ (Pr. Brenda) Motion made to have all flags placed back into Sanctuary (Harlan). Motion did not pass following vote by the 6 Council members (Pr has no official vote).
- Discussion of possible central air conditioning for church and offices. Property Team to get quote.
- Return of coffee hour discussion: Council voted to wait until Fall to begin official Fellowship Hour.
- Next Council meeting: July 21, 2021. 6pm.
- Conversation regarding Location of Altar Cross.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to Accept: JOHN Seconded: KEITH Time: 6:38pm

Church Council closed the meeting with *The Lord's Prayer*.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Kami Salo

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.*

Thu — July 1	Jeremiah 7:1-15 1	Corinthians 4:8-13	Psalms 123
Fri — July 2	Jeremiah 7:16-26 2	Corinthians 10:7-11	Psalms 123
Sat — July 3	Jeremiah 7:27-34	Matthew 8:18-22	Psalms 123

Sun. July 4 — Sixth Sunday after Pentecost Ezek 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.*

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

Sun. July 11 — Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Amos 7:7-15, Psalm 85:8-13, Eph 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.*

Mon — July 12	Amos 5:1-9	Acts 21:27-39	Psalm 142
Tue — July 13	Amos 9:1-4	Acts 23:12-35	Psalm 142
Wed — July 14	Amos 9:11-15	Luke 7:31-35	Psalm 142
Thu — July 15	Jeremiah 10:1-16	Colossians 1:15-23	Psalm 23
Fri — July 16	Jeremiah 10:17-25	Acts 17:16-31	Psalm 23
Sat — July 17	Jeremiah 12:1-13	Luke 18:35-43	Psalm 23

Sun. July 18 — Eighth 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.*

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

Sun. July 25 — Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Kings 4:42-44, Psalm 145:10-1,8 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.*

Mon — July 26	Genesis 18:1-15	Philippians 4:10-20	Psalm 111
Tue — July 27	Exodus 24:1-11	Romans 15:22-33	Psalm 111
Wed — July 28	Isaiah 25:6-10a	Mark 6:35-44	Psalm 111
Thu — July 29	Exodus 12:33-42	1 Corinthians 11:17-22	Psalm 78:23-29
Fri — July 30	Exodus 12:43—13:2	1 Corinthians 11:27-34	Psalm 78:23-29
Sat — July 31	Exodus 13:3-10	Matthew 16:5-12	Psalm 78:23-29



The roof has been fixed and new gutters have been installed.



The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land.
Song of Solomon 2:12



After a rather rainy weekend, it looks like the repairs to the roof and the new gutters have taken care of our leaking problem just inside the sanctuary doors! Thank you, Harlan, for taking the time to give the wall an AWESOME scrub where the water stains had ran down.

PASTORAL MUSINGS FROM PR. BRENDA

Dear, dear Church:

This past **Memorial Day**, I was asked to share a brief message at both Bethesda and Stephenson Cemeteries. As a member of a military family, I was honored by the chance to remember the fallen, and pray over such hallowed ground.

No sooner had I concluded those public services, than the **question** was raised: *why are the **flags** no longer displayed in the Sanctuaries of our churches?*

Never one to shy away from a chance to converse and/or teach, I wanted to share with you the respectful reasoning and theological undergirding that contributed to such a position. **First**, I share with you my commentary from those Memorial Day Services, and **then**, a bit about the theological understanding regarding our sacred, worship space.

2021 MEMORIAL DAY HOMILY Bethesda and Stephenson Cemeteries

Good morning. I am the Rev. Brenda Greenwald, pastor of both Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Wallace and St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, here in Stephenson. As I so often do when presiding at funerals, I want to THANK YOU for coming today, because a community that **grieves** together, **heals** together. The same can be said for this Memorial Day 2021: a community that **REMEMBERS** together, **heals** together, and so I **thank you** for your presence here today.

I'm sure it's not lost on ANY of us what a joy it is to truly be **TOGETHER** today: after MONTHS of seclusion, after MONTHS of isolation, this coming together to remember is important for our spirits, for our souls.

I stand before you today as part of a military family myself. I'm the **proud, big sister** of one Bradley John Greenwald who served as a Corporal in the United States Marine Corps - **OOH-RAH!** and a Staff Sergeant in the United States Army. **HOO-AH!** To me? He's just Brad: that little brother who went from **PLAYING** with toy soldiers to **SERVING** his God and country **AS** one.

While I am MOST thankful to be able to still **VISIT** and **THANK** my veteran, we gather here in this cemetery today, as we remember the "Brads" in YOUR life: your brothers and sisters in arms: those who are no longer with us in **BODY**, but always present in **SPIRIT**.

In the **Lutheran** tradition, we celebrate the reality of living in a **BOTH / AND** world: We know we're **BOTH** saints...AND sinners. We follow **BOTH** the law **AND** the Gospel. It's not an **EITHER / OR** kind of existence, but rather one that invites the tension of reality. Sometimes, we have to live with **BOTH** this **AND** that.

Sending scrawny little 18-year old Brad off to 29 Palms instilled **BOTH** a sense of incredible **PRIDE**...AND an overwhelming feeling of **FEAR**. If **YOU** have had to send-off a loved one to serve in combat, you, too, have lived through the **BOTH / AND** reality of these emotions. Some of us, have watched our soldiers **deploy** not once, not twice, but **NUMEROUS** times. These **multiple** deployments take a toll on **BOTH** our soldiers, **AND** on you, their families. And the price is especially steep when these soldiers, those whom we remember **today**, have paid the ultimate price of **SERVICE**...with their **LIVES**.

A mere 15 days before he was to return home with his Unit, Army Specialist **David Emanuel Hickman**, a twenty-three year old young man, was killed in Baghdad by a roadside bomb that ripped through his armored truck on Nov. 14, 2011. Had that IED exploded but **ONE** tank further **BACK**? I would be laying flowers on Brad's grave.



For **Brad**, EVERY day is Memorial Day, as it is for so many of **YOU** who have **SERVED**, either as a **solider** yourself or as the **FAMILY MEMBER** of one who has served. Brad wears the names of **David** and other fallen brothers etched into a now beat-up and scratched, **metal bracelet** around his wrist. For him, it's a tangible way to remember the fallen: it gives him the **PURPOSE** and **DRIVE** he wants to hang on to, as he continues to serve his God, his family, his country.

It helps him remember that those brave souls have **BOTH** died **AND** will not be forgotten. It reminds him, as it reminds **US** that **death** does NOT have the final word, and the hallowed ground upon which our soldiers lie, does indeed give them the **HOLY** rest they so dearly deserve, as they now reside **safely** in the arms of their Creator.

I invite you to grab your **OWN** wrist for a moment: as **WE** remember those gone before:

Let us pray: *God of LIFE, You have seen generations who have died through sacrifice, war, courage and folly. You have comforted generations who mourned and grieved, sang solemn songs, and laid flowers on graves. Gather us in your embrace and cradle us with your **compassion**. As we remember those who have died in past wars and conflicts, help us to remember that **YOU** were there when the mountains were formed. You were there to soothe our grief and breathe hope into the hopeless, and You are with us still. We give you thanks for **LIFE** in Jesus and pray that our lives may be reflections of **GOD'S** love, **Amen**.*

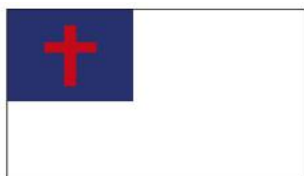
I share my remarks from **Memorial Day** so that you know where I am coming from: I am **BOTH** a member of a deeply-patriotic family, who viscerally understands the sacrifices of those in our military **AND** I am a called and ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA, and I have taken vows to serve with active, courageous faith, to offer the hope of the sacraments, and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in various ministry settings. The absence of flags in our Sanctuaries **is not** a new practice, as I've noticed that the flags had been displayed throughout the years in the Fellowship Hall or Narthex, as noted in archival photos. Perhaps, though, we just need to chat about **WHY**. I share with you my findings:

A LITTLE BIT OF BACKGROUND

The **American Flag** was often placed in the Sanctuaries of churches where the members were **immigrants** from other countries. For example, German Americans who worshipped in German-speaking congregations wanted to declare their allegiance to their **new** country, especially following the second World War. The flag was an easy way to show those who entered the worship space that, while the language spoken during worship might differ from the familiar English, they were on American soil and would support American ways. It was a way to show unwavering **loyalty** to their new country. Same goes for Swedish American, Finnish Americans, Norwegian Americans, etc.



The often called **"Christian Flag"** was another flag once displayed in Sanctuaries. Truth be told, there **IS no** official, Christian Flag - the one we remember from our youth was simply a flag associated with the International Sunday School movement in the '50s. It is not identified with any particular church body, Lutheran or otherwise.



WHAT WE BELIEVE

SYMBOLS

We have a vast array of powerful, visual **symbols** that carry deep meaning inside our worship space: the bread and wine of Holy Communion (being fed at Christ's Table), the waters of the Baptismal Font (reminding us of our baptism into Christ), the Word of God inside our Bible (guiding and forming us), and most importantly: the CHURCH itself, that is, the gathered, people of Christ (those who embody the mission and body of Christ). I spent lots of time reading *"Principles for Worship,"* a guide to the practices of word and sacraments, in addition to principles and supporting materials addressing language, music, preaching, and the worship space. **THESE** symbols, and not a flag of any nation, draw us to Christ and enrich our worship as a community and as individuals.



CROSS of CHRIST

I also engaged in rich conversation with Chaplain Lieutenant David Murphy of the Navy Reserve (Green Bay), our Conference President, and current pastor of Good Shepherd in Peshtigo, WI regarding the topic of flags in the worship space. Being a member of the military, he's guided many congregations through this conversation and was quick to point out a few things: *"We worship CHRIST alone - we*

do not worship a flag. Those serving in the military did not take an oath to the FLAG, nor the president. Rather, they took an oath to support and defend the Constitution. We have the freedom to practice said religion because of being in this country, but we do not worship the flag, American or otherwise. Honoring the flag is a personal choice on one's PERSONAL property, not inside the worship space. NO other images are to compete with the Cross of Christ or the symbols of Christian worship."



MARTIN LUTHER

Even Martin Luther, in his commentary on the First Commandment as found in *The Book of Concord*, noted that, *"We are to fear, love, and trust God **above all things.**"* Honoring the flag of our country certainly has its place, yet in worship, we are focused on the eternal presence of Christ that extends **beyond** tribe and nation. The Reformation sought to return the church to the tried and true, Christian teachings: the lessons and love of Jesus.



Out of this movement, *The Five Solas* or belief statements emerged (sola/solus/soli means ALONE) and as Lutherans, we believe:

1. Sola Scriptura (**Scripture alone**): The Bible alone is our highest authority.
2. Sola Fide (**faith alone**): We are saved through faith alone in Jesus Christ.
3. Sola Gratia (**grace alone**): We are saved by the grace of God alone.
4. Solus Christus (**Christ alone**): Jesus Christ alone is our Lord, Savior, and King.
5. Soli Deo Gloria (**to the glory of God alone**): We live for the glory of God alone.

In summary, I pray that it is realized that this was by no means a subject I tackled lightly. Emotions run high on both sides of this issue, and, while I am fully aware that the flag carries poignant meaning for our veterans and their families, I sincerely hope that you can understand why my deepest prayer as your Pastor and Shepherd is **to lead you to Christ from the foot of the cross.**



To God be the glory,
Pr. Brenda



*"The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you."*

YOU! Yes, YOU!

Join Pastor Brenda for a preparation class on taking your First Communion.

First Communion Instruction

Saturday, August 7 from 9:30am – 12:00pm
at Gethsemane Lutheran Church

Youth from **both** Gethsemane & St. Stephen's
(ages 5+) are invited to attend!

- **LEARN** all about how Holy Communion came to be
- **PRACTICE** the many ways the Holy Meal is served
- **BAKE** Holy Communion Bread
- **EAT** our freshly baked bread!



THEN, you're invited to partake in
your very **First Communion on Sunday, August 8th**
at 9am (St. Stephen's) or at 10:30am (Gethsemane)

Please RSVP to Pastor@gsslutheran.org by July 20th
so we can prepare materials and send a follow-up e-mail with details.

There is a place for YOU!

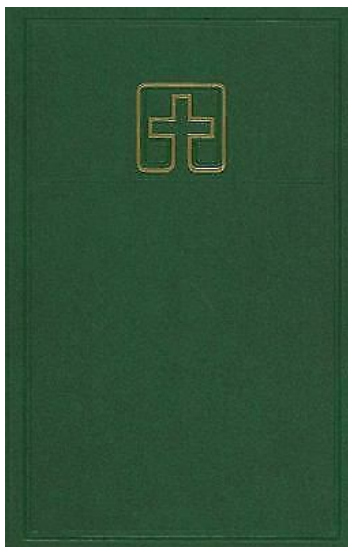


*Wish we could sing “**Hark the Herald Angels Sing**” in July?*

*Really love that one Hymn
Grandma used to sing?*

Well, here's your chance! During the Summer Months of 2021, Pastor Brenda will be picking **2-3 Hymns** out of a Hat during worship for a mini Sing-along.

Simply place your suggestion(s)
into the **Hymn Hat**,
and a-singing we will go!



Want to put in 1 suggestion? ***Great!***

Have 25 hymn suggestions? ***Great!***

Want to take the hymn book home
to peruse some choices? ***Great!***



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

2021 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

J U L Y



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