



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.**

Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald

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Monthly Newsletter

May 2022

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3 Wally Majkrzak	20 Ryan Baumler
5 Al Raether	21 Lyle Revall
6 Nancy Diehm	22 Doreen Grinsteiner
11 Kami Salo	24 Katherine Majkrzak
12 Shirley Olson	26 Judy Anderson
15 Logan Parrett	26 Samuel Salo
15 Karen Raether	29 Janet Voss

20 Roger and Doreen Grinsteiner
22 Wally and Wendy Majkrzak



Jordan Baril
Jay Chapple
Trish Dams
Brent Jurmu
Jared Jurmu

We continue to hold in prayer:

Comfort and hope of the Resurrection for Wayne & Deanna Thill's niece + Michelle Bouchard +

Bruce Christenson	Caitlin Christophersen	Dan Etelamaki	Darwin Diehm
Deanna Thill	Dennis Kaczmarczyk	Dennis Paul	Emily Christenson
George Hensley	Jim Gill	Joan Hofer	Karen Raether
Keith Thoun	Kenny Kline	Kevin Havelka	Logan Parrett
Luann Q. Kiefer	Macy Berszenyi	Marcia Droese	Matt Koldos
Mike Lubore	Mike McCarthy	Mike Pfeiffer	Miles Sorenson
Rob Boe	Robert Berszenyi	Ronnie Anderson	Sandy Baumler
Sarah Hess	Shannon Bickel	Shirley Gulbis	Sue Skowronski
Tammy Parrett	Terry Stage Roddy	Tom Wenger	Tracy Klatt
Vernon Paul	Wendy Gravelle	Wendy Majkrzak	Zeke Gill

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

“Dying Well: Gift, Choice, Funeral, Grief”



Adult Faith Formation Class: Join Pastor Brenda this **May** as we explore the unique aspects of both living and dying well.

Sessions are open to **Members and Friends** of St. Stephen's and Gethsemane Lutheran Churches, and will meet on **FRIDAYS** at **St. Stephen's** from **10:10 – 11:11am**. *Feel free to come to as many sessions as you can.*

Session 1

The Gift of Life

Friday, May 6

Explore the fascinating and restorative world of Organ and Tissue Donation. Pr. Brenda's time as a hospital Chaplain revealed how powerful these donations can be to people waiting for this unique expression of hope, and the comfort of being able to gift such a donation.

Session 2

The Gift of Choices

Friday, May 13

Making end-of-life decisions during a time of illness or grief can be stressful and confusing. Do my loved ones know my wishes? Is this what Mom would have wanted? Let us name our fears and express our concerns together, as we face this God-given mystery of death, all the while remembering the confident hope in the Gospel's promise of eternal life.

Session 3

Crafting a Funeral

Friday, May 20

We'll spend some time understanding the marks of a Christian funeral, a service that is an occasion for thanksgiving and the proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. While the ministry of the funeral is for those who are yet living, we will explore certain components that can personalize the experience to reflect your life as a whole.

Session 4

Essential Touchstones of Grief

Friday, May 27

The journey of grief is both normal and necessary, yet it can also be quite complex. The work of Dr. Alan Wolfelt will guide our final session, as we understand both our grief, and how to find hope in healing our hearts.

Daily Bible Readings - Year C

Year C focuses on the Gospel of Luke. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings are of prophetic proclamation chosen in chronological order and highlighting Jeremiah. The second, New Testament, readings are chosen mainly from Colossians 1 and 2 Timothy and 2 Thessalonians.

Sun. May 1 — Third Sunday of Easter Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] Psalm 30 (11) Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19

Prayer of the Day: *Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Mon – May 2	Ezekiel 1:1-25	Acts 9:19b-31	Psalm 121
Tue – May 3	Ezekiel 1:26—2:1	Acts 26:1-18	Psalm 121
Wed – May 4	Isaiah 6:1-8	Luke 5:1-11	Psalm 121
Thu – May 5	Ezekiel 11:1-25	Revelation 5:1-10	Psalm 23
Fri – May 6	Ezekiel 20:39-44	Revelation 6:1—7:4	Psalm 23
Sat – May 7	Ezekiel 28:25-26	Luke 12:29-32	Psalm 23

Sun. May 8 — Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 9:36-43 Psalm 23 (1) Revelation 7:9-17 John 10:22-30

Prayer of the Day: *O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Mon – May 9	Ezekiel 37:15-28	Revelation 15:1-4	Psalm 100
Tue – May 10	Ezekiel 45:1-9	Acts 9:32-35	Psalm 100
Wed – May 11	Jeremiah 50:17-20	John 10:31-42	Psalm 100
Thu – May 12	Ezekiel 2:8—3:11	Revelation 10:1-11	Psalm 148
Fri – May 13	Daniel 7:13-14	Revelation 11:15	Psalm 148
Sat – May 14	Daniel 7:27	Revelation 11:16-19	Psalm 148



Sun. May 15 — Fifth Sunday of Easter Acts 11:1-18 Psalm 148 (13) Revelation 21:1-6 John 13:31-35

Prayer of the Day: *O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Mon – May 16 1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42 Acts 11:19-26 Psalm 133

Tue – May 17 2 Samuel 1:4-27 Acts 11:27-30 Psalm 133

Wed – May 18 Leviticus 19:9-18 Luke 10:25-28 Psalm 133

Thu – May 19 Proverbs 2:1-5 Acts 15:36-41 Psalm 67

Fri – May 20 Proverbs 2:6-8 Acts 16:1-8 Psalm 67

Sat – May 21 Proverbs 2:9-15 Luke 19:1-10 Psalm 67

Sun. May 22 — Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67 (4) Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5 John 14:23-29

Prayer of the Day: *Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Mon – May 23 1 Chronicles 12:16-22 Revelation 21:5-14 Psalm 93

Tue – May 24 2 Chronicles 15:1-15 Revelation 21:15-22 Psalm 93

Wed – May 25 2 Chronicles 34:20-33 Luke 2:25-38 Psalm 93

Thu. May 26 — Ascension of Our Lord Acts 1:1-11 Psalm 47 (5) Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Fri – May 27 Exodus 33:12-17 Revelation 22:6-9 Psalm 97

Sat – May 28 Exodus 33:18-23 John 1:14-18 Psalm 97

Sun. May 29 — Seventh Sunday of Easter Acts 16:16-34 Ps 97 (12) Rev 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21 John 17:20-26

Prayer of the Day: *O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

Mon – May 30 Exodus 40:16-38 Acts 16:35-40 Psalm 29

Tue – May 31 2 Chronicles 5:2-14 Acts 26:19-29 Psalm 29



The Northern Great Lakes Synod “SOCKS & UNDERWEAR” Challenge for Lent 2022!

The challenge was to collect **40 pairs** of socks and underwear for the homeless during the **40 days of Lent**. These two necessities are the most requested item at homeless shelters.

Well, **GREAT JOB, St. Stephen's**, because you collected 96 pairs of socks and 71 pairs of underwear...FAR-surpassing our original goal! Together with Gethsemane, we brought **237** pairs of socks, **172** pairs of underwear, **9** t-shirts, and **32** laundry baskets to Abundant Life Mission in Menominee, MI! **WOW!**



Spring Cleaning Day and Potluck Brunch

Sunday, May 7, 2022



Join us as we work to give the Church and the grounds a good pick-me-up. After all the hard work is done there will be a Potluck Brunch served.

Synod Assembly Workshops

Live workshops will be presented online in conjunction with the 2022 Assembly of the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Monday, May 9 - Thursday, May 12

The interactive programs are 50 minutes long, with time for questions and comments. Zoom links will be posted on the Synod Assembly website prior to each workshop. Promotional videos will also be available. Advance registration is not required, and all are welcome!



My Bias, My Privilege: How Do We Continue the Conversation of Racial Equity? with Rev. Jared Howard, Faith, Calumet

Monday, May 9 at 5 pm ET / 4 pm CT & Wednesday, May 11 at 11 am ET / 10 am CT

As the topics of race and racism continue to be points of hurt for our siblings of color, we are called to confront those pieces of ourselves that participate, known and unknown, in systems and scenarios that continue to harm our neighbor. Using resources from the Wisconsin Council of Churches and the United Church of Christ, we will continue to have difficult conversations about race. Together we hope to identify some of our own biases in an effort to actively address racial disparities in ourselves and our own communities.

All Creation Sings

with Lucas Wickstrom and Dave Dagenais

Monday, May 9 at 6 pm ET / 5 pm CT

An introduction to the newest worship supplement from Augsburg Fortress. Hand in hand with Evangelical Lutheran Worship, this supplement invites us to expand our prayer and song, joining our voices with the praise and sighs of the whole creation God so marvelously made. We will explore briefly:

- Two new liturgies of Holy Communion with new musical settings.
- A Service of Word and Prayer designed especially for contemplative worship.
- More than seventy-five new prayers and liturgical forms for diverse occasions and circumstances.
- Approximately 200 hymns and songs, many of them newly created over the last fifteen years, supporting the church year and a wide range of topics.

Youth Ministry in the Northern Great Lakes Synod

with Stefanie Ehle, NGLS Youth Ministry Coordinator and Amanda Rasner, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp Director

Monday, May 9 at 7 pm ET / 6 pm CT & Thursday, May 12 at 10 am ET / 9 am CT

Join Stefanie Ehle and Amanda Rasner for an update on youth ministry in our Synod. There will be time to learn about upcoming faith formation opportunities for youth, share ideas about what is working in your congregation, and hear what we can all do to “Grow Younger.”

Nurturing Hope: Building a Lay Visitation Team

with Rev. Micah Cavaleri, Grace, South Range

Tuesday, May 10 at 6 pm ET / 5 pm CT & Thursday, May 12 at 4 pm ET / 3 pm CT

Lynne Baab's book *Nurturing Hope: Pastoral Care in the Twenty-First Century* challenges us to reimagine how we care for one another in the Church. "Pastoral care" isn't just for the pastor anymore. As Christians, we are all called to care for one another. Using *Nurturing Hope* as a framework, we will look at Grace Lutheran Church's experiment in building a Lay Visitation team.

Creating, Maintaining and Crossing Bridges

with Sister Noreen Stevens, Minister of Word and Service

Tuesday, May 10 at 7 pm ET / 6 pm CT & Wednesday, May 11 at 4 pm ET / 3 pm CT

Called to serve at the intersection of church and society, ELCA Deacons create, maintain and cross bridges in their ministry. Explore the diversity of their ministries grounded in diakonia and consider the bridges needing attention or needing to be constructed in God's beautiful, broken world.

One Size Fits Nobody: A Tiered Approach to Stewardship

with Rev. Mike Markwell, Immanuel, Escanaba

Wednesday, May 11 at 1 pm ET / 12 noon CT & Thursday, May 12 at 7 pm ET / 6 pm CT

Does your congregation send out one stewardship letter to all your members? Does a recent college graduate receive the same materials and messaging as a top tier donor in their 90s? In this workshop we will look at how a tiered approach to stewardship will better meet the needs and resources of the members in our congregations and encourage generosity.

Taco, Cat, Goat, Bible, Pizza: Interpreting the Word as a Lutheran Today

with Rev. Sarah Semmler Smith, Campus Pastor, Finlandia University

Wednesday, May 11 at 7 pm ET / 6 pm CT

When two people look at a frog, they both can agree it is a frog. But one might see an amphibian in the web of life, where the other sees only the potential for warts, and still another, a possible prince. When two Christians from different backgrounds look at the Bible, they can both agree it is sacred scripture. But how? To what end, and what authority? How can two people look at the exact same passage, and come to vastly different understandings of what it means? In this workshop, we'll explore how ELCA Lutherans approach the Bible, and participants will walk away with a stronger sense of how to apply the Word to their daily life and values.

Pastoral Musings

Dear Church, *Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!* Greetings in the name of the One who was victorious over death, and offers that same resurrection hope to us all.



As many of you know, I recently returned from a Quilting Trip to Branson, MO. Aside from taking in the AMAZING sights and sounds of the Quilting World (*there are over 23,000 Swarovski Crystals on the quilt pictured here!*), I also had the opportunity VISIT the Sights and Sound Theater, and witness their production of “Jesus: Live on Stage”.

Now, aside from the title itself making me chuckle (*“What!? Live on stage!? Who needs the Bible...He’s in Branson!”*), we were treated to an incredible night of, well, sights and sounds! **LIVE** animals were scattered throughout the evening, including **CAMELS**. No, not two people dressed-up in one of those ridiculous “*You be the front bump I’ll be the back bump*” kind of costumes, but REAL, LIVE, TALL camels. Dogs, pigs, chickens, horses – all of these animals made an appearance on the stages. Yes, stages – plural! Aside from the massive, **MAIN** stage in front of us, there were **two** additional stages on either side of the audience. (*The show runs through October 2022...take a road trip and treat yourself to the experience!*)



One particular **scene** has continued to resonate with me: it’s the scene that is known as the **descent from the cross**. Famous artists have represented this moment after Jesus’ death throughout history (*Rembrandt, being one*), but nothing prepared me for depiction of **lowering a dead body back to the ground**. What was especially touching – and what has stuck with me from that scene – was the Disciple’s use of the cloth placed **under** each of Jesus’s arms to carefully and

tenderly lower him to the ground. They laid their Friend and Rabbi on the ground, and then pulled the cloth back up **into the position we see** in the picture included here.

We’re **USED** to seeing the cloth hung in this way, so nicely draped over each arm of the cross...but I can’t unsee it being used to lower the **body** of Jesus. Perhaps we need moments like this to remind us of the horrors of the cross...and the **POWER of God**. We dress up an instrument of DEATH...but God turned it into a symbol of **LIFE**. We wear a tool of torture around our necks....but Jesus is the One who **saved** ALL of our necks. We’ll continue to drape our crosses in celebratory fashion, but we do so remembering and honoring the God who came to Earth for EACH and EVERY one of US! Thanks be to GOD...AMEN!

Standing beneath the cross of Christ with you, Pr. Brenda

Pr. Brenda



Good Friday

1 Peter 3:18

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit.



Easter Sunday

1 Corinthians 15:20-21

²⁰ But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. ²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man.

Easter Breakfast

Romans 12:5

So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.



MAY 8, 2022
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking+
faith
home

Jesus is our shepherd.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep
Monday	Acts 9:36-43	Peter brings Dorcas back to life
Tuesday	Revelation 7:9-17	The multitude from every nation
Wednesday	Hebrews 13:20-22	Final prayers
Thursday	Isaiah 40:6-11	Encourage God's people
Friday	1 Peter 5:1-7	Helping Christian leaders
Saturday	Psalms 23	The Lord is my shepherd
Sunday	John 13:31-35	Love one another

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me."

John 10:27 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Almighty God, give us faith to trust Jesus, our good shepherd, and to faithfully follow him into the world and do your will. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God, we thank you for preparing this table and food before us that we may be strengthened in faith and in service to others through Christ Jesus, our shepherd. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May Jesus the Good Shepherd hold you in eternal care.



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MAY 1, 2022
THIRD SUNDAY
OF EASTER

taking+
faith
home

In Jesus the Lamb, we praise what the world rejected.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 21:1-19	Jesus appears to the disciples
Monday	Acts 9:1-20	Conversion of Saul
Tuesday	Revelation 5:11-14	Heavenly vision
Wednesday	John 1:29-34	Lamb of God
Thursday	Revelation 4:6b-11	Song of praise to the Creator
Friday	Isaiah 53:1-12	What God's servant did for us
Saturday	Psalms 30	God turns mourning into dancing
Sunday	John 10:22-30	Jesus promises life to his sheep

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" Revelation 5:13 (NRSV)

PRAYERS AND BLESSING

A Prayer for the Week:

Dear God, like the disciples by the Sea of Galilee, give us courage and faith to be sent out to follow you and tell the good news of Jesus and his resurrection. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

God of all things, bless us and strengthen us with this food to go out and shepherd others in love through Christ our Lord, the Lamb who was slain. Alleluia. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lamb who was slain and begins his reign bless you with joy.



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Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org



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

May

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