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Gethsemane Lutheran Church

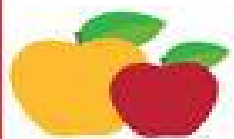
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**Our Shared Mission: We are saved by grace through faith
 to share the good news of the Gospel with all people
 and live God's love by our words and actions.**



September 2022



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Our Worship Times (until September 3, 2023)
9a St. Stephen's, 10:30a Gethsemane



SEPTEMBER

1 Lita Gill
4 Jessica Schultz
9 Jack Wittgren
12 Cindy Paul



Jordan Baril
Jay Chapple
Trish Dams
Brent Jurmu
Jared Jurmu



SEPTEMBER

4 Mike & Sharon Burie

We continue to hold the following in prayer:

Bruce Christenson
Dennis Kaczmarek
Emily Christenson
Kenny Kline
Macy Berszenyi
Mike MCarthy
Rob Boe
Rosemary Kautzer
Tammy Parrett
Warren Suchovksy

Dan Etelamaki
Dennis Paul
George Hensley
Kevin Havelka
Marcia Droese
Mike Pfeiffer
Robert Berszenyi
Sandy Baumler
Terry Stage Roddy
Wendy Gravelle

Darwin Diehm
Dick Durrow
Jenna Perras
Logan Parrett
Matt Koldos
Miles Sorenson
Ronnie Anderson
Sarah Hess
Tim Bruce
Wendy Majkrzak

Deanna Thill
Dorothy Roemer
Karen Raether
LuAnn Q. Kiefer
Mike Lubore
Paul Larmour
Rose Klatt
Shirley Gulbis
Tracy Klatt
Zeke Gill



Special thanks to our Door Dudes (*Tony C and Jim K*) for physically shaving-off the bottom part of one of our Sanctuary doors! It had been causing continual drag on the carpet in the Fellowship Hall.

Now? Swings open like a dream! Thanks, guys!

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



FORTUNE LAKE

A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI



Greetings from Fortune Lake!

Our summer camp programs have come to a close. What an



outstanding opportunity we had watching the youth, the families, and the young adult staff demonstrate **God's love and kindness** on a daily basis! It's bittersweet to see our summer staff leave this place, but we know God has used them in mighty ways, and will continue to do so in their future.

Please keep our departing staff in your prayers as they forge ahead to face new opportunities.

Our **Annual Fall Fest** is fast approaching! We will be offering a **virtual** venue as well as an **on-site** venue on **Saturday, October 1, 2022**. We are so grateful for the many people who have given their time and talents each year for our annual fundraiser. This event would not be possible without them!



Our 2022 Annual Fall Fest includes...

- A live, in-person auction of a small lot of carefully selected handmade quilts
- A Country Store featuring smaller hand-made items to be purchased on-site
- A draffle (drawing-raffle) for opportunities to win unique prizes + gifts
- A silent virtual auction featuring a large selection of homemade quilts and other hand-crafted items, which will begin mid-Sept, conclude Oct. 1, and is open to anyone, the world over!

2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly Summary of Actions



The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly met Aug. 8-12, 2022 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio. Gathering under the theme "Embody the Word," the assembly worshiped together in services of eucharist and lament, experienced a liturgy rooted in Indigenous traditions, and heard a public apology in a non-legislative session to Iglesia Luterana Santa María Peregrina for harm experienced from actions taken by the Sierra Pacific Synod and this church.

The following key actions were taken by the Assembly:

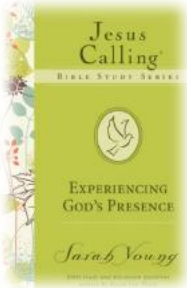
- Elected Imran Siddiqui of the Southeastern Synod as **vice president** of the ELCA.
- Directed the ELCA Church Council to establish a **Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church** to reconsider the statements of purpose for each expression of this church, the principles of organizational structure and our shared commitment to dismantle racism, with findings to be reported to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly in preparation for a possible reconstituting convention. Directed an external audit of the governing documents of the ELCA to consider diversity, equity, inclusion and accessibility, with findings resulting in recommended changes to the governing documents.
 - Authorized **revisions** to the social statement Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust; approved exploration of reconsideration of the four stated positions of "bound conscience."
 - Encouraged members, congregations and synods of this church to educate themselves about **Indigenous peoples**, calling on the churchwide organization to work with synods and Indigenous partners to identify sources of funding for ministries for Indigenous peoples, and encouraging restorative justice that could include the return of land to the appropriate Native nations.
- Referred a proposed study of **pay gaps** for rostered ministers to the Church Council.
- Mandated a **review process** of the roster manual and policies related to specialized ministries, on leave from call status, and protocols for removal from the rosters; encouraged bishops and synod councils to use sparingly the process of removal from the roster for non-disciplinary reasons.

- Approved the **budget proposal** for the triennium, including a spending authorization of \$68,814,000 for 2023 for the current fund, along with a spending authorization of \$22,869,000 for ELCA World Hunger.
- Affirmed **limits** on the use of nondisclosure agreements by the churchwide organization; urged synods, congregations and other ministries to apply the same limits.
- Reaffirmed the commitment of this church to the **reduction of greenhouse gas** emissions, directing the churchwide organization to set a goal of a 50% reduction of net greenhouse gas pollution by 2030, with a long-range goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Called for a review of the nomination and elections **processes** used by synods and the churchwide organization.
- Responded to **memorials** on diversity; nuclear weapons; voting rights and Washington, D.C., statehood; strategies for fortifying urban ministries; a Black migrant strategy; the right to boycott; gun violence; LGBTQIA+ welcome; substance abuse; Roe v. Wade; remembrance of Armenian, Assyrian and Greek genocide; parental and medical family leave; a process for pre-identification of nominees for the Office of the Presiding Bishop; revisions to the mission development process; consideration of communion practices related to remote worship; affirmation of the task force created by the Church Council to review the discipline process; and a social message on child abuse and protection.



- Approved or ratified **amendments** to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, most of which were related to general clarifications and updates; inclusive language; synod-authorized ministry; designation of advisory members by the Church Council; boards of the separately incorporated ministries; and election procedures for officers and the Churchwide Assembly.
 - **Elected** members of the Church Council, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline, Nominating Committee and boards of the separately incorporated ministries.
-

ADULT Faith Formation Class



Jesus Calling: Experiencing God's Presence

by Sarah Young, Karen Lee-Thorp

8 Sessions - FOR ANYONE

Life has a way of taking the life out of us. In *Experiencing God's Presence*, author Sarah Young encourages you to lay down your cares just spend time each day with your heavenly Father. As you follow the Lord's instruction to "be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10), you will encounter God's peace, be filled with God's strength, gain a new perspective on your situation, and experience the full life that only God can provide.

We will meet **Friday** Mornings at **Gethsemane**. Cost: **\$6** /person (for the Book)
We'll meet **10:10 - 11:11a** on **Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9.**

(Class was scheduled in late fall to allow for 8, consecutive weeks of study.)



Gethsemane's 3rd Annual Baked Potato Buffet

Sept. 15, 2022 from 4:30–6:30p

Menu: Baked Potatoes, Toppings, Veggies, Beverage, & Dessert
Toppings: Beef Stroganoff, Taco, Beef Tips, Pulled Pork, Cheesy Broccoli, Sloppy Joe, Sour Cream, Cheeses and Bacon Bits

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

*All Proceeds to support Gethsemane's **Catastrophic Needs Ministry***



Dine-in Or Carry-Out! Bring a Friend!



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.

Thu – Sep 1	Genesis 39:1-23	Philippians 2:25-30	Psalms 1
Fri – Sep 2	Deut. 7:12-26	Colossians 4:7-17	Psalms 1
Sat – Sep 3	Deut. 29:2-20	Matthew 10:34-42	Psalms 1

Sun. Sep. 4 — Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1 (3), Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33

Prayer of the Day: *Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – Sep 5	2 Kings 17:24-41	1 Timothy 3:14 — 4:5	Psalms 101
Tue – Sep 6	2 Kings 18:9-18	1 Timothy 4:6-16	Psalms 101
Wed – Sep 7	2 Kings 18:19-25; 19:1-7	Luke 18:18-30	Psalms 101
Thu – Sep 8	Genesis 6:1-6	1 Timothy 1:1-11	Psalms 51:1-10
Fri – Sep 9	Genesis 7:6-10; 8:1-5	2 Peter 2:1-10a	Psalms 51:1-10
Sat – Sep 10	Genesis 8:20—9:7	John 10:11-21	Psalms 51:1-10

Sun. Sep. 11 — Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 32:7-14, Psalm 51:1-10 (1), 1 Timothy 1:12-17, Luke 15:1-10

Prayer of the Day: *O God, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

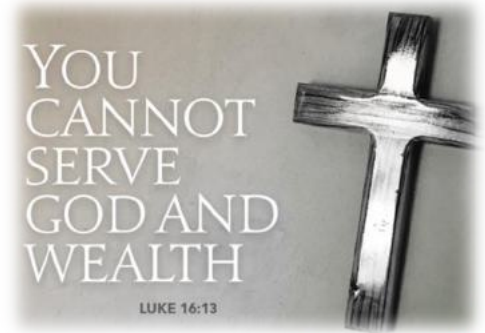
Mon – Sep 12	Amos 7:1-6	1 Timothy 1:18-20	Psalms 73
Tue – Sep 13	Jonah 3:1-10	2 Peter 3:8-13	Psalms 73
Wed – Sep 14	Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6	Luke 22:31-33, 54-62	Psalms 73

Thu – Sep 15	Exodus 23:1-9	Romans 3:1-8	Psalms 113
Fri – Sep 16	Ezekiel 22:17-31	Romans 8:31-39	Psalms 113
Sat – Sep 17	Isaiah 5:8-23	Mark 12:41-44	Psalms 113

Sun. Sep. 18 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113 (7), 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

Prayer of the Day: *God among us, we gather in the name of your Son to learn love for one another. Keep our feet from evil paths. Turn our minds to your wisdom and our hearts to the grace revealed in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*



Mon – Sep 19	Proverbs 14:12-31	Acts 4:1-12	Psalms 12
Tue – Sep 20	Proverbs 17:1-5	1 Corinthians 9:19-23	Psalms 12
Wed – Sep 21	Proverbs 21:10-16	Luke 20:45–21:4	Psalms 12
Thu – Sep 22	Proverbs 22:2-16	2 Corinthians 8:8-15	Psalms 146
Fri – Sep. 23	Proverbs 28:3-10	Ephesians 2:1-10	Psalms 146
Sat – Sep. 24	Proverbs 28:11-28	Luke 9:43b-48	Psalms 146

Sun. Sep. 25 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 6:1a 4-7, Psalm 146 (7), 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

Prayer of the Day: *O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – Sep 26	Amos 6:8-14	Revelation 3:14-22	Psalms 62
Tue – Sep 27	Hosea 10:9-15	James 5:1-6	Psalms 62
Wed – Sep 28	Hosea 12:2-14	Matthew 19:16-22	Psalms 62
Thu – Sep 29	2 Kings 18:1-8, 28-36	Revelation 2:8-11	Psalms 37:1-9
Fri – Sep 30	2 Kings 19:8-20, 35-37	Revelation 2:12-29	Psalms 37:1-9



A Letter from Bishop Katherine

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

11 Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. ~Psalm 51:10-12

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

For two and a half years, my husband and I successfully avoided contracting COVID-19. We wore masks, stayed away from gatherings, quarantined after a suspected exposure, and basically did what we were supposed to do to avoid getting the virus. And we were successful...until this month. It started with a tickle in the throat, then came the fever and chills, then the difficult decision of whether to nap on the couch or sit in the chair or just go to bed. As of this writing, we have emerged from our COVID cave and are now back amongst the living...sort of. We are still moving slow. Processing thought or coming up with complete sentences is still a challenge. As many people who have had COVID-19 will tell you, a kind of fog settles in, like a congestion of the brain.

But enough of that. I write to share with you some wonderings about COVID-19 and the Church. It is no secret that people are tired, but until I contracted COVID, I hadn't really considered its physical toll and its impact on ministry. I believe we have all witnessed how COVID-19 has impacted our spirits, our emotions, our sense of community, and a certain heightened anxiety about what all this means. But physically...no wonder volunteerism is at an historic low! When even brushing one's teeth or making supper expends all energy reserves, I can see why there's not much strength left to lead Vacation Bible School, take a turn for the Altar Guild, or sing in the choir. Such extra activity, at least for a time, is truly beyond one's physical capacity.

And yet, this too shall pass. Energy will return. Creativity and strength and the resolve to contribute will slowly but surely gain momentum in my body and spirit. And not just for me, but for us, and our efforts together as congregations and as a synod together. It seems to me that we are collectively in this space of healing, waiting for restoration and renewal. Whether or not you have had to deal with the physical impact of COVID-19, I think we are all painfully aware of a certain dis-ease. People continue to be polarized concerning social and political issues. Some notice that in-person worship attendance or giving has not returned to pre-pandemic levels and we wonder what that means for the future of our church. We talk about wanting to move forward and yet long to be back where we were, which if we are honest, was still a place of decline and anxiety.

So where does that leave us? In truth, I believe we are still where we have always been, invited to participate in what God is doing in the world. I remind you and myself of what intellectually we already know, but perhaps emotionally and spiritually are challenged to own, that our Church, and your church, belong to God. And the body of Christ that you are a part of lives and breathes because God would have it be so. We rely on God to put in us a new and right spirit. We rely on the Holy Spirit to show us the way, to energize our efforts, and focus our mission to further the work of Christ.

In these days of healing and discernment, as we wait for renewal and even joy, I know that momentum is building. Congregations are considering their next steps, new plans for ministry are being made, people are emerging from isolation hungry for community and meaningful spiritual connection. As the Body of Christ in the world, we have something of value to offer. Whether your congregation provides an opportunity for deeper engagement or simply gives permission to be still and receive a word of hope and healing, the Church, your church, is meant to be a blessing.

May God bless you with the joy of salvation and sustain you with a willing spirit.

Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan





Fun and Interesting Classes for Adults

Begin via Zoom in September + October 2022

REGISTER AT: nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation

The Northern Great Lakes Synod presents a diverse schedule of classes for people who want to grow in spirituality, faith, and knowledge of the Bible and Lutheran traditions.

Registration Deadline is September 12, 2022.

Join conversations about our life together as a church through an interesting variety of classes which begin in September and October. This fall, our synod's Lifelong Faith Formation program will focus on our understanding of the Bible, Lutheran traditions, youth ministry, and more.

Here's the Class line-up:

- *The Big Picture Bible Study*
- *Growing Younger*
- *Introduction to Biblical Hebrew*
- *Living Together as Church: Lutheran Structure and Function*
- *Romans: The Gospel According to Lutherans*
- *Taco, Cat, Goat, Bible, Pizza – Interpreting the Word as a Lutheran Today*
- *Why Do We Do That? A Background on Liturgical Practices of Feast Days and Seasons*

*Pr. B is helping out
with the Growing
Younger Class. Join us!*



Registration is quick and easy! Go to the synod website for more information on the classes and materials needed. Sign-up for one for one or more classes by September 12.

All of the courses will be presented **online**, with an added in-person option for “*Living Together as Church: Lutheran Structure and Function.*”

While the offerings are free of charge, some classes recommend or require the purchase of materials. Instructors will provide links to the online Zoom discussions.

**If you have questions or concerns, contact Deacon Lori Ward
at lori.ward@nglsynod.org or at 615-519 1969.**

Council Highlights - July 2022

(A special summer meeting was called to act on several business items.)

- The stake has been put in place and an **anchor** for the utility pole on church property will be put in place.
- The Blood Drive held at Gethsemane was a great success, and our next one will be held on **Wed. February 1, 2023.**
- An estimate of **\$1,125.00** was received from Mark's Septic Tank Service to pull up and replace concrete (*yup, the cover is partially under the sidewalk to the bell tower!*), pump the tank and install a riser. It was decided not to replace the concrete but to move ahead with the septic pumping.
- **Baked Potato Dinner** was set for Thursday, September 15th, 4:30-6:30 pm.
- **Sauerkraut Dinner** will be Thursday, October 27th, 4:30-6:30 pm.
- Pr Brenda presented the Council with the news that Gethsemane has been named as the recipient of **\$232,279.17** as part of a Living Trust from an anonymous donor, a family from Gethsemane. As this person has now passed, the funds have been deposited into the Gethsemane accounts! These dollars are to be used to sustain and establish both Digital and Social Ministries. ***What an absolutely wonderful and generous gift!!***
- Council will meet for their next regular meeting on **September 22, 2022.**



Pastoral Musings

...from Pr Brenda

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways, submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6

Well, I don't know if the path ahead is STRAIGHT, or filled with WILD curves, but I DO know that the path ahead is filled with **JOY!** Church, I am THRILLED to announce the acceptance of a generous and faith-filled **LIVING TRUST!** A Family from Gethsemane had established this Living Trust as a part their WILL, that, upon their death, certain funds would be given directly to Gethsemane.

This has been in the works for **QUITE** some time now, with many, MANY conversations with lawyers, accountants, tax specialists, and bank managers, along with conversations with our Council President, Financial Secretary, and Co-Treasurers, and I am DELIGHTED to say that the money is indeed INSIDE the Gethsemane accounts.

Not only did this Family realize they had **MORE** than enough in their lives, they realized they had MORE than enough to SHARE. It is out of ABUNDANCE that this generous gift comes to us, not only to *ESTABLISH* specific ministries here at Gethsemane, but then to SUSTAIN them. GROW them. NURTURE them!

While the Family wishes to remain **anonymous**, we know them as **CHILDREN of GOD**. Hear the **letter** they sent to us:

Dear Gethsemane,

*It is with great joy that our family's Living Trust named **Gethsemane Lutheran Church**, Wallace, MI as an heir. We are prayerful that this gift of **\$232,279.17** will allow you to finish what COVID-19 began...fully launch and sustain your digital ministries to share the Good News to those beyond the physical walls of the building. It is also our hope this gift will fund and allow you to begin your financial assistance ministry, as well as support any local social ministry projects to feed the hungry, protect the vulnerable, and serve the elderly with generosity, charity, and gentleness. May your leadership steward this gift in ways that are pleasing to the Lord.*

~ Yours in Christ, A Family of Faith

This designated gift, made with **DIGITAL** and **SOCIAL** ministries in mind, will move our congregation from a Church of **MAINTENANCE**, where our visions may have stalled or complacency might have crept in, to a Church of **TRANSFORMATION**, as we explore how to thoughtfully and intentionally re-envision Worship and Discipleship: a Church that worships **onSITE** and **online**, one that engages disciples, one that teaches the Gospel, and one that reaches OUT to our greater community and beyond!

What the Living Trust WON'T be Used for:

- Won't pay the electric bill or be sent to the Synod or give anyone a RAISE
- Won't fix the Septic tank or furnace or roof or resurface the parking lot

This Living Trust - this OVER \$232,000 Living Trust - WILL be Used for:

- Upgrade our Connectivity: Beef up our WIFI System so that we can stream smoothly and without network interruptions
- Purchase Video Equipment: small, unobtrusive, yet powerful cameras to live-stream services and events, connecting families worldwide
- Enhancing the Sound System: obtaining microphones that pick-up the sounds of the Sanctuary (baptismal coo)
- Local Social and Financial Assistance Ministry Projects: Walking in the footsteps of Jesus as we tend to those on the margins.

This Living Trust is just that: **LIVING!** It's **ALIVE** and **MOVING**, and WE have been entrusted to **steward** it wisely.



Let us pray: *Loving Lord, as we express our gratitude to you in prayer, may it be a pleasing, joyful sound to you. Thank you, Lord, for your love. It brings us acceptance and significance. Thank you, Lord, for your truth. It brings us guidance and direction. Thank you, Lord, for your mercy. It brings us help and comfort. Thank you, Lord, for your faithfulness. It brings us stability and strength. And thank you, Lord, for this generous Family. They bring us new life and new energy, in ways that give glory to YOU. **AMEN!***

Walking this transformative path with you, Pr Brenda

Pr. Brenda

September



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.



**Northern Great
Lakes Synod**
www.nglsynod.org

2022 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
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