



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 435 - Stephenson, MI 49887

Office Manager: Denise Wangerin

Office Phone: (906) 753-4932

E-mail: Soffice@gsslutheran.org



Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald

Phone/Text: 720.989.8218

E-mail: Pastor@gsslutheran.org

***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



Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayers	2
An Update from Fortune Lake	3
2022 Churchwide Assembly Summary of Actions	4-5
Adult Faith Formation + Baked Potato Buffet	6
Daily Bible Readings	7-8
A Letter from Bishop Katherine	9
Faith Formation Classes through the Synod	10
September BINGO and Candid Pics from Summer	11



Our Worship Times (until September 3, 2023)

9a St. Stephen's, 10:30a Gethsemane



SEPTEMBER

5 Jordan Crawford
 6 Paul Francour
 8 Paul Larmour, Lindsay Baumler
 12 Keith Olson
 17 Tracy Klatt, Carrie Bright
 19 Crystal Salo
 21 Pat Heiden
 26 Don Machalk III
 29 Dave Christenson

Happy Anniversary

SEPTEMBER

2 Chuck & Rosalie Wade
 4 Gary & Sue Hess
 9 Frank & Kathy Lesjack



Jordan Baril
 Jay Chapple
 Trish Dams
 Brent Jurmu
 Jared Jurmu

***We continue to hold
 the following in prayer:***



Bruce Christenson	Dan Etelamaki	Darwin Diehm	Deanna Thill
Dennis Kaczmarek	Dennis Paul	Dick Durrow	Dorothy Roemer
Emily Christenson	George Hensley	Jenna Perras	Karen Raether
Kenny Kline	Kevin Havelka	Logan Parrett	LuAnn Q. Kiefer
Macy Berszenyi	Marcia Droese	Matt Koldos	Mike Lubore
Mike McCarthy	Mike Pfeiffer	Miles Sorenson	Paul Larmour
Rob Boe	Robert Berszenyi	Ronnie Anderson	Rose Klatt
Rosemary Kautzer	Sandy Baumler	Sarah Hess	Shirley Gulbis
Tammy Parrett	Terry Stage Roddy	Tim Bruce	Tracy Klatt
Warren Suchovksy	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.*



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.

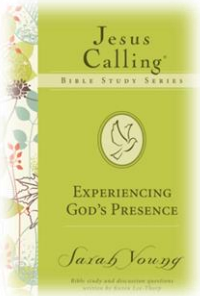


- Approved or ratified **amendments** to the Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions of the ELCA, most of which were related to general clarifications and updates; inclusive language; synod-authorized ministry; designation of advisory members by the Church Council; boards of the separately 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.)



You are invited...

Baked Potato Buffet

Sept. 15, 2022 from **4:30–6:30p**

at Gethsemane

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.*

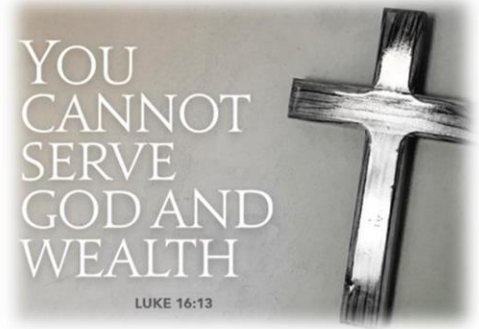
Mon – Sep 12	Amos 7:1-6	1 Timothy 1:18-20	Psalms 73
Tue – Sep 13	Jonah 3:1-10	2 Peter 3:8-13	Psalms 73
Wed – Sep 14	Job 40:6-14; 42:1-6	Luke 22:31-33, 54-62	Psalms 73

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.

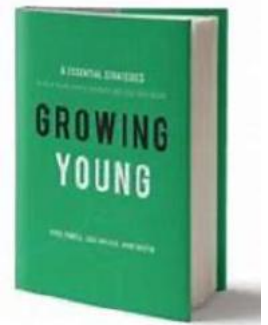
Registration Deadline is September 12, 2022.

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.



Join the ladies of WELCA each Tuesday in the month of September to help the residents play **BINGO**! Check-in at 1:15p with a quick health screen (temp. check only) and be ready to play at 1:30p. Looking for 5-6 regulars to commit to the FUN during September!



Children's Sermon with Lily



*Camp blessing for Duelly,
VBS blessing for Sara*



*Tie Dye Fun at
Fortune Lake!*



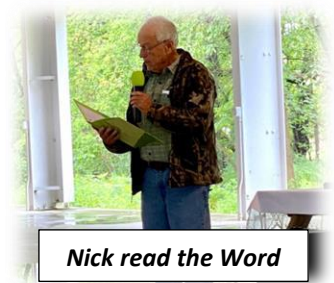
Let's eat!



Come! Now is the time to Worship!

**Church Worship + Picnic at
the Erickson Pavilion
in Stephenson, MI**

Sunday, August 7th, 2022



Nick read the Word

September



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



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

2022 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
PO Box 435 - Stephenson, MI 49887
Office Phone: (906) 753-4932
E-mail: Softice@gsslutheran.org

