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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.**



January & February 2023

Table of Contents, IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES	1
Birthdays and Prayers	2
Pastoral Musings	3-4
Daily Bible Readings for January + February.....	5-8
Council Highlights from December / Next Adult Ed Class	9
News from Fortune Lake + Current Food Pantry Needs	10
Candid Photos of Church Happenings	11

IMPORTANT DATES For Your Calendar

January 1, 8, 15: Worship at St (9a), Worship at G (10:30a)

January 22: SPECIAL Joint Worship at St. Stephen's at 9am

(St. St. Annual Meeting follows.)

January 29: 5th SUNDAY Joint Worship at Gethsemane at 10:30a.

February 2: Red Cross **Blood Drive** at Gethsemane: 10a - 3p

February 5: Worship at St (9a), Worship at G (10:30a)

(G Annual Meeting after worship)

February 12: Worship at St (9a), Worship at G (10:30a)

February 22: Ash Wednesday: Brief Worship at G (Noon)

Full Worship at St (6p)

February 26: Worship at St (9a), Worship at G (10:30a)





5 Everit Porter
6 Elmer Mullard
18 Sarah Krzych
20 Shelby Hoof
22 Jeff Peretto
28 Juanita Kraus



2 Kari Diffenderfer, Kristi Panske
4 Katrina Kruhmin
5 Doug Hofer, Sharon Peretto
8 Cassandra Kruhmin
10 Jim Koldos, John Koldos
16 Pr. Brenda Greenwald
25 Sandy Gill
27 Sara Havelka



We continue to hold our military members in our prayers:

Jordan Baril, Jay Chapple, Trish Dam, Brent Jurmu, Jared Jurmu

Feb 16 Jack & Karron Wittgren

Feb 20 Doug & Carol Klein

We extend the comfort and hope of the resurrection to:

Pat Kaczmarczyk and family upon the death of her son, +Dennis Kaczmarczyk

Mary Dombrowski, upon the death of her grandson, + Jeremy Becklund+

Sandy Chaney upon the death of her brother-in-law, +Gene Thoney+

The family of +Janet Danielson+, wife of Ron Danielson, former members of St. Stephen's



We continue to hold the following in prayer:

Betty Harring	Bruce Christenson	Dan Etelamaki	Darwin Diehm
Deanna Thill	Dennis Paul	Dennis Saari	Dick Durrow
Dorothy Roemer	Emily Christenson	George Hensley	Heather Brisson
Jenna Perras	Karen Raether	Kevin Havelka	Logan Parrett
LuAnn Q. Kiefer	Macy Berszenyi	Marcia Droese	Matt Koldos
Mike Lubore	Mike McCarthy	Mike Pfeiffer	Miles Sorenson
Robert Berszenyi	Ronnie Anderson	Rosemary Kautzer	Ryan Derrickson
Sandy Baumler	Sarah Hess	Sheena Thoun	Tammy Parrett
Terry Stage Roddy	Thomas Dutvavich, III	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.

Pastoral Musings

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald



(For those of you who were unable to join us Christmas Eve, I give you "A Very, MARY Christmas")

Merry Christmas! Oh, *YOU* thought I was EXCLAMING "Merry Christmas" as in **M - E - R - R - Y** Christmas. No, no, no. I was exclaiming **MARY** Christmas, as in M - A - R - Y, as in Mary, the mother of our Lord.

The *YOUNG* woman, who conceived by the Holy Spirit, and gave birth to the Christ Child this night. *THAT* Mary. You see, here at the joint congregations of St. Stephen's and Gethsemane, well, we seem to have a perpetual issue...problem...predicament with our Mary.

The *FIRST* year I was Pastor, prior to any sort of pandemic, well, Mary was a little worse for the wear, as seen in this **THIS photo!** Yes, sadly, the mother of Baby Jesus, was sporting a rather large HOLE atop her head. Now, we tried our very best to REPAIR that hole, to PATCH that hole, heavens, to COVER UP that hole.



In the end?! It *REALLY* just made us stop and realize that **the HOLE - INESS of Mary** was not to be dismissed. Indeed, this young bride of Joseph carried with her this holiness, across the countryside, upon a bouncing donkey (at 9 months pregnant!) She carried this holiness to Bethlehem and back throughout Jesus's young years, as He grew in wisdom in strength.

We, too, get to walk alongside the Child as His wisdom strengthens in US. Through prayer, through worship, through sorrow and joy, our strength comes from God, who came to us as a baby. Mary carried this holiness with her, as she watched her little boy grow into a MAN, and gain QUITE the following. A following that **WE** are now a part of: a following gathered here on this holy eve, celebrating the story from thousands of years ago.

A story where there is **ROOM for YOU**, whether you warm a pew each week, whether this is your first time here, or whether you were nudged by Grandma to "Get in the car, we're going to church." Mary carried this holiness with her at the wedding party, where Jesus turned simple water into delicious wine. Imagine her awe at watching the same kid that once spit up over her shoulder, dazzle the wedding crowd with his *FIRST* Sign as he provided MORE than what was needed. WE receive more than WE need, each day, by a God who humbled God's self...and came down from the heavens, to dwell amongst us.

Now, mind you, the hole-y Mary from 2019 was only the **first** time I knew of Mary's troubles...

The **NEXT** time I encountered the Mother of our Lord,
well, as you can see, she was surrounded by **CHAOS!**

The men who surrounded her had completely fallen down on the job, not unlike what they did at the foot of the Cross. THEY had run away. while Mary stood her ground. THEY had gone into hiding while Mary was front and center, standing at the foot of the cross, beneath her son, to the very end. The SAME son whom we welcome this night. In a night where understanding the mysteries of God seems to be **ungraspable**, we're given a helpless, little human baby...that **we . can . grasp.**



From the moment the Angel Gabriel had visited Mary, she was holding the WORLD upon her shoulders, (although, if you look closely enough in the photo, she's really holding the WORLD upon her HEAD!)

Eventually, our outdoor manger was repaired, and the structure was re-built to sustain hurricane force winds and the shepherds and Joseph (and whichever Wise Men made it that year) were put back in their places, and the Nativity Scene was complete once again. But not without helping us ALL remember **Mary's resilience** when the storms of life really kick in.

Now, I'll be honest: I thought that's where the story would end. (Not, Jesus's Story - his is just beginning.) But rather, The story of "Mary's Miseries and Mishaps." But, alas, twas NOT to be! You see, I headed into work this past week, and imagine my dismay upon greeting the nativity Scene and seeing **THIS!!** The CROSS was still there, the STABLE was there. Even JOSEPH was still there....but, where, oh **WHERE, was the Mother Mary?**



Could we still have CHRISTMAS without Jesus's Mother being present? Was this a new poem?!? We all know about "Footprints in the Sand" poem...could this be a new version about "Footprints in the SNOW?"!



Well, "**Fear not,**" said the angel, and "**FEAR NOT**", says your Pastor:

"When, what to my wondering eyes should appear...."
but Mary, in a pick-up truck, parked near the rear! (of the church)

For there the girl sat, inside that ole Ford,
the One who birthed Jesus, the One who's adored.

Her presence was jarring, hilarious - true.....
but WHAT does this mean now, for me, and for YOU?

Perhaps **SHE'S** the pick-up, the LIFTER of LOVE: she brought us the Savior, come down from Above.

Or maybe she's showing us **shelter** is found,
inside of a faith that is shared all around.

Or....maybe, when trees and all presents are gone,
she hopes that to **JESUS** we STILL will be drawn.

The story, long-told, of a babe in the hay,
still matters to **EACH** one of **US** here today.

For **Mary**? She pondered these things in her heart,
For **US**? Well, the manger's a good place to start. **Amen!**

Meet you at the manger, dear Church,

Pr. Brenda



Daily Bible Readings - Year A

Year A focuses on the Gospel of Matthew. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings focus on major Genesis narratives, the covenant with Moses, and the establishment of Israel in the Promised Land. The second, New Testament, readings are from Romans, Philippians and 1 Thessalonians.

Sunday Jan 1, 2023 – First Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:13-23

Prayer of the Day: *O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, Now and forever.*

Mon – Jan 2	Genesis 12:1-7	Hebrews 11:1-12	Psalm 72
Tue – Jan 3	Genesis 28:10-22	Hebrews 11:13-22	Psalm 72
Wed – Jan 4	Exodus 3:1-5	Hebrews 11:23-31	Psalm 72
Thu – Jan 5	Joshua 1:1-9	Hebrews 11:32–12:2	Psalm 72
Thu – Jan 6	Isaiah 60:1-6	Matthew 2:1-12	Psalm 72
Sat – Jan 7	1 Kings 10:1-13	Ephesians 3:14-21	Psalm 72

Sunday Jan 8 – Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29 (3), Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

Prayer of the Day: *O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be our daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*



Mon – Jan 9	Genesis 35:1-15	Acts 10:44-48	Psalm 89: 5-37
Tue – Jan 10	Jeremiah 1:4-10	Acts 8:4-13	Psalm 89: 5-37
Wed – Jan 11	Isaiah 51:1-16	Matthew 12:15-21	Psalm 89: 5-37
Thu – Jan 12	Isaiah 22:15-25	Galatians 1:6-12	Psalm 40:1-11
Fri – Jan 13	Genesis 27:30-38	Acts 1:1-5	Psalm 40:1-11
Sat – Jan 14	1 Kings 19:19-21	Luke 5:1-11	Psalm 40:1-11

Sunday Jan 15 – Baptism of our Lord

Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11 (8), 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

Prayer of the Day: *Holy God, our strength and our redeemer, by your Spirit hold us forever, that through your grace we may worship you and faithfully serve you, follow you and joyfully find you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*



Mon – Jan 16	Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28	Acts 8:26-40	Psalm 40:6-17
Tue – Jan 17	Isaiah 53:1-12	Hebrews 10:1-4	Psalm 40:6-17
Wed – Jan 18	Isaiah 48:12-21	Matthew 9:14-17	Psalm 40:6-17
Thu – Jan 19	1 Samuel 1:1-20	Galatians 1:11-24	Psalm 27:1-6
Fri – Jan 20	1 Samuel 9:27 – 10:8	Galatians 2:1-10	Psalm 27:1-6
Sat – Jan 21	1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13	Luke 5:27-32	Psalm 27:1-6

Sunday Jan 22 - Third Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1, 4-9 (1), 1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

Prayer of the Day: *Lord God, your loving kindness always goes before us and follows after us. Summon us into your light, and direct our steps in the ways of goodness that come through the cross of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – Jan 23	Judges 6:11-24	Ephesians 5:6-14	Psalm 27:7-14
Tue – Jan 24	Judges 7:12-22	Philippians 2:12-18	Psalm 27:7-14
Wed – Jan 25	Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26	Luke 1:67-79	Psalm 27:7-14
Thu – Jan 26	Deuteronomy 16:18-20	1 Peter 3:8-12	Psalm 15
Fri – Jan 27	Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4	1 Timothy 5:17-24	Psalm 15
Sat – Jan 28	Micah 3:1-4	John 13:31-35	Psalm 15

Sunday Jan 29 – Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Micah 6:1-8, Psalm 15 (1), 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, Matthew 5:1-12

Prayer of the Day: *Holy God, you confound the world's wisdom in giving your kingdom to the lowly and the pure in heart. Give us such a hunger and thirst for justice, and perseverance in striving for peace, that in our words and deeds the world may see the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – Jan 30	Ruth 1:1-18	Philemon 1-25	Psalms 37:1-17
Tue – Jan 31	Ruth 2:1-16	James 5:1-6	Psalms 37:1-17
Wed – Feb 1	Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22	Luke 6:17-26	Psalms 37:1-17
Thu – Feb 2	Deuteronomy 4:1-14	1 John 5:1-5	Psalms 112:1-9[10]
Fri – Feb 3	Isaiah 29:1-12	James 3:13-18	Psalms 112:1-9[10]
Sat – Feb 4	Isaiah 29:13-16	Mark 7:1-8	Psalms 112:1-9[10]

Sunday Feb 5 – Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12], Psalm 112:1-9 [10] (4), 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16], Matthew 5:13-20

Prayer of the Day: *Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – Feb 6	2 Kings 22:3-20	Romans 11:2-10	Psalms 119:105-112
Tue – Feb 7	2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25	2 Corinthians 4:1-12	Psalms 119:105-112
Wed – Feb 8	Proverbs 6:6-23	John 8:12-30	Psalms 119:105-112
Thu – Feb 9	Genesis 26:1-5	James 1:12-16	Psalms 119:1-8
Fri – Feb 10	Leviticus 26:34-46	1 John 2:7-17	Psalms 119:1-8
Sat – Feb 11	Deuteronomy 30:1-9a	Matthew 15:1-9	Psalms 119:1-8

Sunday Feb 12 – Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 119:1-8 (1), 1 Corinthians 3:1-9, Matthew 5:21-37

Prayer of the Day: *O God, strength of all who hope in you, because we are weak mortals we accomplish nothing good without you. Help us to see and understand the things we ought to do, and give us grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – Feb 13	Exodus 20:1-21	James 1:2-8	Psalms 119:9-16
Tue – Feb 14	Deut. 23:21–24:4, 10-15	James 2:1-13	Psalms 119:9-16
Wed – Feb 15	Proverbs 2:1-15	Matthew 19:1-12	Psalms 119:9-16
Thu – Feb 16	Exodus 6:2-9	Hebrews 8:1-7	Psalms 2
Fri – Feb 17	Exodus 19:9b-25	Hebrews 11:23-28	Psalms 2
Sat – Feb 18	1 Kings 21:20-29	Mark 9:9-13	Psalms 2

Sunday Feb 19 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

Exodus 24:12-18, Psalm 2 (7) or Psalm 99 (9), 2 Peter 1:16-21, Matthew 17:1-9

Prayer of the Day: *O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon – Feb 20	Exodus 33:7-23	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55	Acts 7:30-34
Tue – Feb 21	1 Kings 19:9-18	Romans 11:1-6	Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55

Wednesday Feb 22 – Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17, Psalm 51:1-17, 2 Cor. 5:20b–6:10, Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*



Thu – Feb 23	Jonah 3:1-10	Romans 1:1-7	Psalm 51
Fri – Feb 24	Jonah 4:1-11	Romans 1:8-17	Psalm 51
Sat – Feb 25	Isaiah 58:1-12	Matthew 18:1-7	Psalm 51

Sunday Feb. 26 - First Sunday in Lent

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Psalm 32 (10), Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11

Prayer of the Day: *Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Mon – Feb 27	1 Kings 19:1-8	Hebrews 2:10-18	Psalm 32
Tue – Feb 28	Genesis 4:1-16	Hebrews 4:14–5:10	Psalm 32



Church Council Highlights

Thursday, December 15, 2022 - 6pm



- The Gethsemane Council accepted the 2023 Budget Proposal of \$76,273.00 to be presented to the Congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, February 5, 2023 following the 10:30am service.
- Names of Congregants were prayerfully suggested for possible nominations to various ministry positions for the coming year.
- Council approved donating the Thrivent funds totaling \$217.05 from this year to the Mid-County Ministerium Food Pantry.
- Pastor Brenda informed the Council that she has begun once-a-month Worship Services for the nursing home residents at Menominee Health Services. Tuesdays at 9:30a.

The Faith Formation series *"Experiencing God's Presence"* has concluded and a new class will begin in February, meeting at St. Stephen's.

- A total of 29 Volunteer Sheets were collected (yay!) and a new schedule for 2023 will be compiled.



Adult Faith Formation Class

Fridays in February 10:10 - 11:11am at St. Stephen's

This unit of study considers the third set of major characters in the Bible: Ruth, Samuel, David, and Elijah. The point of studying these stories isn't to peek under the dusty sandals of some people who died more than 3,000 years ago. **The point is to meet the living GOD!**

Enjoy this chance to walk with **Ruth** as she clings to Naomi and become a great-grandma to a king, and with **Samuel** as God makes a surprising choice, and with **David** as he rises in power and then takes a mighty fall, and with **Elijah** as he goes from magnificent victory to total burn-out. Through it all, we will listen for God's words of invitation and claim on us: ***"I am the Lord your God."***





FORTUNE LAKE

A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI

January & February 2023 ~ Page | 10



The final total for CoVantage Cares is in!

*After all the gifts have been counted, and a portion matched by the CoVantage Cares Foundation, the total is **\$219,026.64!***

THANK YOU to all who contributed, volunteered, and invited others! We are overwhelmed by your generosity!

*We'll be heading into **2023** ready to make some lasting improvements at Fortune Lake!*

CURRENT NEEDS of our local FOOD PANTRY

Located in Stephenson, next to the Post Office.

Open on Saturdays from 9a - Noon.

Greetings community, these are the items we could use at the food pantry. We will be updating this list every 2 weeks. Thank you for your donations and support.

Cream corn
Tomato paste
Canned potatoes
Mandarin oranges
Pancake mix
Cherry pie filling
Ketchup
Ritz crackers
salad dressings
chocolate pudding
baking soda
evaporated milk



MidCounty Ministerium

Food Pantry

Fighting Hunger. Giving hope.

Diced tomatoes
Pineapple chunks
Cranberry sauce
Cornmeal
Apple pie filling
Fruit juice
Miracle whip
Popcorn
yellow cake mix
vanilla pudding
sweetened condensed milk

Curious Dax and Pastor Brenda during the Sneak Peek (Children's Sermon).



**They're holly and jolly and festive, you see.
The Church came together to decorate our tree!**
(Special thanks to Sandy G and Jim K for this year's tree!)



**Children of all ages gathered to
hear the Word on Christmas Eve.**





Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

2023 Newsletter

Important Calendar Dates Inside!

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