

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.*



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Worship/Picnic at **Mellen Township Park**, just South of G-08!

SUMMER **WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

July 2, 9, 16, 23	9a at St.
July 30	10:30a Worship/Picnic
August 6	9a at St.
August 13	(Rain Date for Picnic, otherwise 9a at St.)
August 20, 27	9a at St.

September 3: Annual Time Swap

Worship will be at 10:30am for the next year.



5 Jane Christenson
16 Bruce Bergquist
18 Madison Bergquist
21 Alvin Etelamaki
22 John Starzynski
23 Wendy Majkrzak
24 Brianna Hess, Gary Hess



2 Wayne + Janet Salo
8 Keith + Crystal Salo
18 John + Pattie Starzynski
22 Bob + Judy Stone



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



1 Jim Francour,
Kawaunee Hofer, Tyler Sulk
2 Janet Salo
3 Lynda Keller
12 Bob Stone
13 Sharon Etelamaki
23 Patty Vandenberg



5 Paul + Kelly Francour
19 Jim + Janet Voss
27 Roy + Tammy Parrett

We continue to hold our military members in our prayers:

Jordan Baril, Jay Chapple, Ken Dams, Trish Dams, Brent Jurmu, Jared Jurmu

We continue to hold the following in prayer:

Ann Best	Anthony Hofer	Benjamin Hollister	Bill Johnson	Dan Etelamaki
Darwin Diehm	Deanna Thill	Deborah Becklund	Dennis Saari	Dick Durrow
Dorothy Roemer	Emily Christenson	Heather Brisson	James Dutkavich	Jason Leisner
Jenna Perras	Kaitlin Shelby	Karen Raether	Kevin Havelka	Kim Boldt
Logan Parrett	Louis Tauscheck	Luann Q. Kiefer	Marcia Droese	Mark Thoun
Mary Bright	Matt Koldos	Mike Lubore	Mike McCarthy	Mike Pfeiffer
Miles Sorenson	Ronnie Anderson	Ryan Derrickson	Sandy Baumler	Sarah Hess
Sharon Powell	Sophie Slight	Tammy Parrett	Terry Stage Roddy	Tim Bruce
Tracy Klatt	Warren Suchovsky	Zeke Gill		



*We extend the hope and comfort of the Resurrection to **Shirley Olson** upon the death of her brother, **+Jim Wilson+** and to **Pattie and John Starzynski** at the loss of both of Pattie's parents, **+Macy and Robert Berzsenyi+** within a month of each other.*

Fixing Road Signs on Highway 41

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald

Dear Church,

Recently, while driving up and down Highway 41, I saw a church sign with this exact wording on it: **GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO WORK FOR IT.** Well, I'll be honest: I had to really focus on *NOT* driving directly INTO that sign! **ARGH!**



I was disturbed that such a statement would be attributed to God, and by a church, no less! Let me see if I can break down my **frustration**:

WORK FOR IT: I think this is the best place to start, because it's probably the most **offensive** part of the sign. Work for it? That's a hard **NO**. I seem to recall Paul writing to the Ephesians (2:8) about how we are saved *NOT* by our works, but by the **GRACE** of God. **GRACE.** Not our efforts, not our hard work, nor our sheer determination, or even by our output. **GOD'S GRACE** and GRACE alone allows us to be showered with God's blessings.

Paul goes on to say to the people of Corinth (1 Cor 15:10) that we are **WHO** we are by the sheer **GIFT** of grace - meaning those blessings that **DO** fall upon us are just that: **gifts**. *NOT* rewards because we "worked for it." (*Argh! See my frustration!?*)

And just what kind of "**work**" must we do in order to "earn" these blessings?!? We have been commanded to love one another, so that's not work - that's **duty**. We have been commanded to care for our neighbors, so that's not work - that's **compassion**.

Another worrisome part of this sign is the **converse** of what happens to those who, for one reason or another, **DON'T** "work for it." Does that mean they lead a life *WITHOUT* God's blessings? What a horribly sad thought, and a terribly judgmental one, at that.



Instead of being frustrated at a sign I cannot change, I'm simply posting one of my own, right here: **GOD BLESSES GOD'S BELOVED CHILDREN.** NOT because of the "work" you might do - God's blessings are not a contest to be won. But rather, because we are **LOVED** by a God who created us, promises to be **WITH** us, and One who sustains and cherishes each and every one of us! **AMEN!**

Pr. Brenda

Daily Bible Readings, Year A - July

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.

Sat – July 1 Jeremiah 28:1-4 Luke 17:1-4 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Sunday July 2 – 5th Sunday after Pentecost Jer. 28:5-9 Ps. 89:1-4, 15-18 Rom. 6:12-23 Matt. 10:40-42

Prayer of the Day: O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – July 3	1 Kings 21:1-16	1 Thessalonians 4:9-12	Psalm 119:161-168
Tue – July 4	1 Kings 21:17-29	1 John 4:1-6	Psalm 119:161-168
Wed – July 5	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Matthew 11:20-24	Psalm 119:161-168
Thu – July 6	Zechariah 1:1-6	Romans 7:1-6	Psalm 145:8-14
Fri – July 7	Zechariah 2:6-13	Romans 7:7-20	Psalm 145:8-14
Sat – July 8	Zechariah 4:1-7	Luke 10:21-24	Psalm 145:8-14

Sunday July 9 – 6th Sunday after Pentecost Zech. 9:9-12 Ps. 145:8-14, Rom. 7:15-25a, Mat 11:16-19, 25-30

Prayer of the Day: You are great, O God, and greatly to be praised. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Grant that we may believe in you, call upon you, know you, and serve you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – July 10	Jeremiah 27:1-11, 16-22	Romans 1:18-25	Psalm 131
Tue – July 11	Jeremiah 28:10-17	Romans 3:1-8	Psalm 131
Wed – July 12	Jeremiah 13:1-11	John 13:1-17	Psalm 131
Thu – July 13	Isaiah 48:1-5	Romans 2:12-16	Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13
Fri – July 14	Isaiah 48:6-11	Romans 15:14-21	Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13
Sat – July 15	Isaiah 52:1-6	John 12:44-50	Psalm 65: [1-8] 9-13

Sunday July 16 – 7th Sunday after Pentecost Is. 55:10-13 Ps. 65:1-13, Rom. 8:1-11, Matt 13:1-9, 18-23

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word. By your Holy Spirit help us to receive it with joy, live according to it, and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – July 17	Leviticus 26:3-20	1 Thessalonians 4:1-8	Psalm 92
Tue – July 18	Deuteronomy 28:1-14	Ephesians 4:17-5:2	Psalm 92
Wed – July 19	Proverbs 11:23-30	Matthew 13:10-17	Psalm 92
Thu – July 20	Isaiah 41:21-29	Hebrews 2:1-9	Psalm 86:11-17
Fri – July 21	Isaiah 44:9-17	Hebrews 6:13-20	Psalm 86:11-17
Sat – July 22	Isaiah 44:18-20	Matthew 7:15-20	Psalm 86:11-17

Sunday July 23 – 8th Sunday after Pentecost Isaiah 44:6-8, Ps 86:11-17, Rom. 8:12-25, Matt 13:24-43

Prayer of the Day: Faithful God, most merciful judge, you care for your children with firmness and compassion. By your Spirit nurture us who live in your kingdom, that we may be rooted in the way of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – July 24	Nahum 1:1-13	Revelation 14:12-20	Psalm 75
Tue – July 25	Zephaniah 3:1-13	Galatians 4:21-5:1	Psalm 75
Wed – July 26	Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33	Mark 4:30-34	Psalm 119:121-128
Thu – July 27	Proverbs 10:1-5	Philippians 4:10-15	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Fri – July 28	Isaiah 51:7-23	Romans 9:6-13	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21
Sat – July 29	Isaiah 44:1-5	Matthew 7:7-11	Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Sunday July 30 – 9th Sunday after Pentecost 1 Kings 3:5-12, Ps 119, Rom 8:26-39, Mat 13:31-22, 44-52

Prayer of the Day: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – July 31	1 Kings 3:16-28	James 3:13-18	Psalms 119:121-128
Tue – Aug 1	1 Kings 4:29-34	Ephesians 6:10-18	Psalms 119:121-128
Wed – Aug 2	Proverbs 1:1-7, 20-33	Mark 4:30-34	Psalms 119:121-128
Thu – Aug 3	Proverbs 10:1-5	Philippians 4:10-15	Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21
Fri – Aug 4	Isaiah 51:17-23	Romans 9:6-13	Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21
Sat – Aug 5	Isaiah 44:1-5	Matthew 7:7-11	Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21

Sunday Aug 6 – 10th Sunday after Pentecost Is. 55:1-5 Ps. 145:8-9, 14-21, Ro. 9:1-5 Mat. 14:13-21

Prayer of the Day: Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Aug 7	Deuteronomy 8:1-10	Romans 1:8-15	Psalms 78:1-8, 17-29
Tue – Aug 8	Deuteronomy 26:1-15	Acts 2:37-47	Psalms 78:1-8, 17-29
Wed – Aug 9	Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35	Matthew 15:32-39	Psalms 78:1-8, 17-29
Thu – Aug 10	1 Kings 18:1-16	Acts 17:10-15	Psalms 85:8-13
Fri – Aug 11	1 Kings 18:17-19, 30-40	Acts 18:24-28	Psalms 85:8-13
Sat – Aug 12	1 Kings 18:41-46	Matthew 16:1-4	Psalms 85:8-13

Sunday Aug 13 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost 1 Kings 19:9-18, Ps 85:8-13, Ro. 10:5-15, Mat 14:22-33

Prayer of the Day: God our defender, storms rage around and within us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your sons and daughters from fear, and preserve us in the faith of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Aug 14	Genesis 7:11–8:5	2 Peter 2:4-10	Psalms 18:1-19
Tue – Aug 15	Genesis 19:1-29	Romans 9:14-29	Psalms 18:1-19
Wed – Aug 16	Job 36:24-33; 37:14-24	Matthew 8:23-27	Psalms 18:1-19
Thu – Aug 17	Isaiah 45:20-25	Revelation 15:1-4	Psalms 67
Fri – Aug 18	Isaiah 63:15-19	Acts 14:19-28	Psalms 67
Sat – Aug 19	Isaiah 56:1-5	Matthew 14:34-36	Psalms 67

Sunday Aug 20 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost Is. 56:1, 6-8 Psalm 67, Ro. 11:1-2a, 29-32, Mat. 15:10-28

Prayer of the Day: God of all peoples, your arms reach out to embrace all those who call upon you. Teach us as disciples of your Son to love the world with compassion and constancy, that your name may be known throughout the earth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Aug 21	2 Kings 5:1-14	Acts 15:1-21	Psalms 87
Tue – Aug 22	Isaiah 43:8-13	Romans 11:13-29	Psalms 87
Wed – Aug 23	Isaiah 66:18-23	Matthew 8:1-13	Psalms 87
Thu – Aug 24	Ezekiel 28:11-19	1 Corinthians 6:1-11	Psalms 138
Fri – Aug 25	Ezekiel 31:15-18	2 Corinthians 10:12-18	Psalms 138
Sat – Aug 26	Ezekiel 36:33-38	Matthew 16:5-12	Psalms 138

Sunday Aug 27 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost Is. 51:1-6 Psalm 138, Rom. 12:1-8, Mat 16:13-20

Prayer of the Day: O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

Mon – Aug 28	1 Samuel 7:3-13	Romans 2:1-11	Psalms 18:1-3, 20-32
Tue – Aug 29	Deut. 32:18-20, 28-39	Romans 11:33-36	Psalms 18:1-3, 20-32
Wed – Aug 30	Isaiah 28:14-22	Matthew 26:6-13	Psalms 18:1-3, 20-32
Thu – Aug 31	Jeremiah 14:13-18	Ephesians 5:1-6	Psalms 26:1-8

Synod Assembly Recap

Bishop Katherine Finegan

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod: Grace and peace to you! Just a [month ago], we gathered as a Synod at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, MI. Here is a brief recap with highlights and actions taken:

WORSHIP SERVICES

- **Thursday:** The assembly began with a Spirit-filled Opening Worship. Using the space at NMU, we used two ballrooms to accommodate a bell choir, a vocal choir, a pastor band, vested clergy, deacons, and LLM's, a children's worship play space, and many NGLS voting members and guests gathered as Church to worship. We used gluten free bread for all, compliments of baker and retired pastor, Rev. Dave Van Kley. A video of that service is available at <https://bit.ly/SA23Open>.
- **Saturday:** We began with the liturgy for Morning Prayer from the ELW. Thanks to [Pr. Brenda Greenwald](#) and Pr. Steve Gauger for leading the worship. View the service at: <https://bit.ly/SA23MornPray>



OFFERINGS

Thank you for your generosity!

- World Hunger: **\$23,165.60**
- Equipping the Saints Endowment Ministry: **\$2,344.00** (*reflects an additional designated gift*)
- Youth Gathering 2024: **\$2,244.00**

ELECTION INFORMATION



- Friday morning, I was honored to be granted a second six-year term to serve as the **Bishop** of this synod. I am sincerely grateful for your affirmation and this chance to continue this journey of being Church together.

- **Question Raised: How can I abstain?** There was some conversation about adding an "abstention" option to the electronic ballot. A reluctance was expressed that voters may not want to vote for someone they did not know. Since it is unlikely that in a synod of 20,000 people that we will all know each other, the process provides a brief description of those nominated with a paragraph offering insight into why the person accepts the nomination. It is the responsibility of voting members to review these paragraphs, included in the Pre-Assembly Report, prior to the assembly. This provides all nominees equal space for expression for voters to consider them.

- **CHAPLAINS:** Throughout the assembly, Chaplains serving in our Synod offered prayers and briefly described their area of service. We are grateful for the efforts of:
 - o Rev. David Murphy – Naval Reserve Chaplain
 - o Rev. Peter Vorhes – Michigan State Police Chaplain
 - o Rev. Keith Kolstad – Chaplain at Northland Luth. Retirement Community
 - o Deacon-elect Jen Elsenbroek - Chaplain at Great Lakes Recovery

RESOLUTIONS OF NOTE

- Given our changed financial reality and the desire for funding for Synod ministry projects, we voted to **rescind** a 2017 Resolution that established a policy that any funds in excess of \$150,000 be sent on to our Churchwide partners.



- At Synod Assembly 2023, 31.3% of the voting members were clergy. This is well within the parameters required by our constitution that at least **60%** of voting members be of the laity. However, the time may come in the future when the combined voting members of retired and serving clergy exceeds 40%. A resolution was **passed** to ensure the constitution requirement of at least 60% lay voting members at future synod assemblies. Know that for the foreseeable future, the 20 - 25 or so retired clergy who register will receive both voice and vote.
- We passed a **deficit budget**, and approved the Clergy Compensation Guidelines for **2024**.



OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

- **216** voting members registered along with **50** or so visitors.
- Our first **Seed Sower** Lunch, thanking those who have made a planned gift or who are interested.
- Display Tables w/ tons of info, Pr Doug Norquist on piano. Robust + harmonic congregational singing.
- Synod Ministry and Partnership Reports: LSS, Youth Ministry, Stewardship Committee, Lifelong Faith Formation, Candidacy, Endowment ministry, Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp, Faithful Innovations, Portico, Christ's Kaleidoscope, etc.
- Table conversations and Conference sessions! Pre-assembly workshops! Prayfaithfully Devotions!
- Friday night banquet honoring ordination and congregation anniversaries and retirements. Entertainer Troy Graham who loved that we sang along to the gospel tunes.
- To **view** the Friday and Saturday **Plenary** sessions, visit: <https://bit.ly/SA23NGLS>

UPCOMING SYNOD ASSEMBLIES



- Synod Assembly 2024 will be Conference-based hybrid. Voting members and visitors will meet at a host church in your conference and we will be connected through Zoom. In anticipation of Synod Assembly 2025, please set aside the additional funds that will be needed to support your voting members and pastoral leaders for an in-person assembly.

It was wonderful to be together! I heard over and over again that people valued being in person. The worship, the conversations, the

witness of how we are church together was both moving and meaningful. As the next six years begin, the synod council will meet for a visioning retreat in June to help clarify our goals and give direction. We pray for the Spirit's guidance as we discern next steps and future efforts.

Thank you again for privilege of serving as your bishop. We move forward in faith, together.

**Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan**





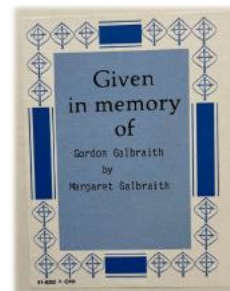
The sanctuary was abuzz on Mother's Day 2023 with a VERY, special GIFT from someone's VERY, special mother. When Jim Galbraith asked Pr Brenda if he could make a donation in his mother's name toward a ministry his mother would have loved, the answer was clear: **NEW Hymnals!** Little did we know a donation in the name of **+Margaret Galbraith+** would fund the ENTIRE ministry....and then some!!! We celebrate the woman who ADORED singing to God's Glory, by welcoming our new, **Evangelical Lutheran Worship** hymnal!



Dedicated
in
Worship
on
Mother's
Day.

Sunday,
May 14,
2023

How very fitting that the **LAST** Green Hymnbook collected contained this very special dedication from +Margaret+ to her husband, +Gordy.+ Our **new** labels honoring +Margaret+ are shown here, and found on the inside covers of all the new, worship materials.



This hymnal is
given in glory to
God, in loving
memory of

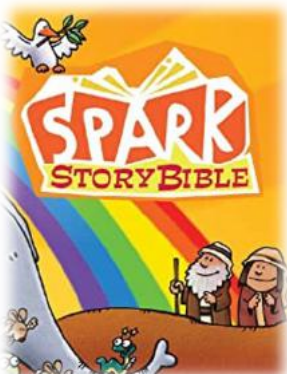


+Margaret Galbraith+
July 29, 1932 - April 6, 2023



Not only were we able to order **110**, specially imprinted, Pew Editions of the hymnal, but +Margaret's+ generous gift allowed us to **also** order:

- Worship Binders for each Season of the Church Year
- the ELW Pocket Edition for Travel/On the Road
- the Worship Leader/Ritual Edition that is used at the Altar for prayers and Holy Communion
- the 2-volume set of ELW Accompaniment for our Hymns and Liturgy
- The ELW Occasional Services Book
- and the Easy Accomp. Volume!



The donation in memory of Miss +Margaret+ also brought over TWENTY new Children's Bibles to the pews!



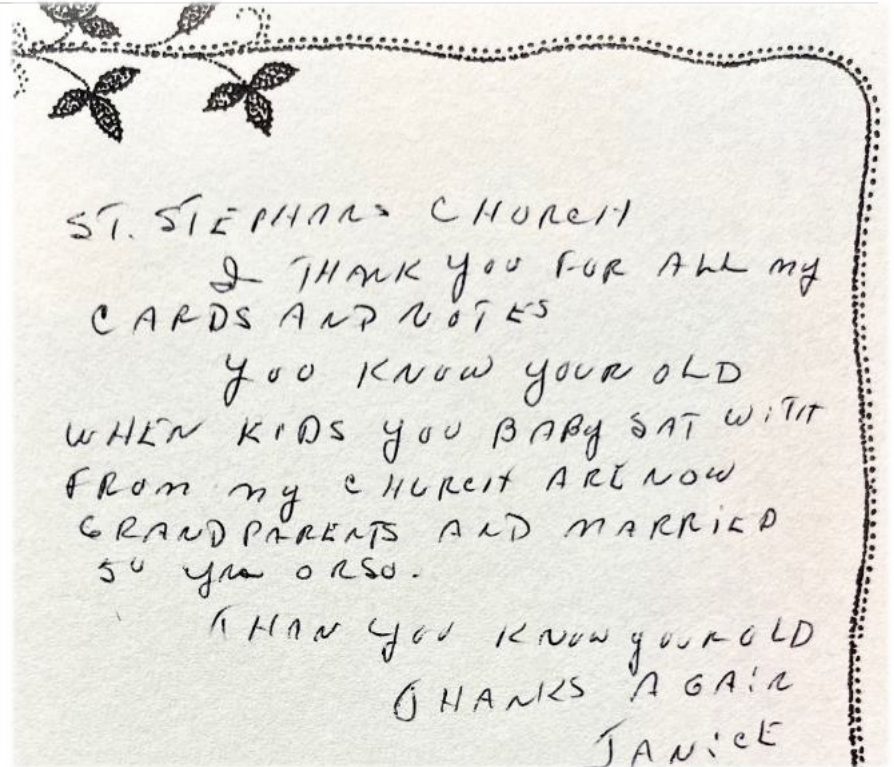
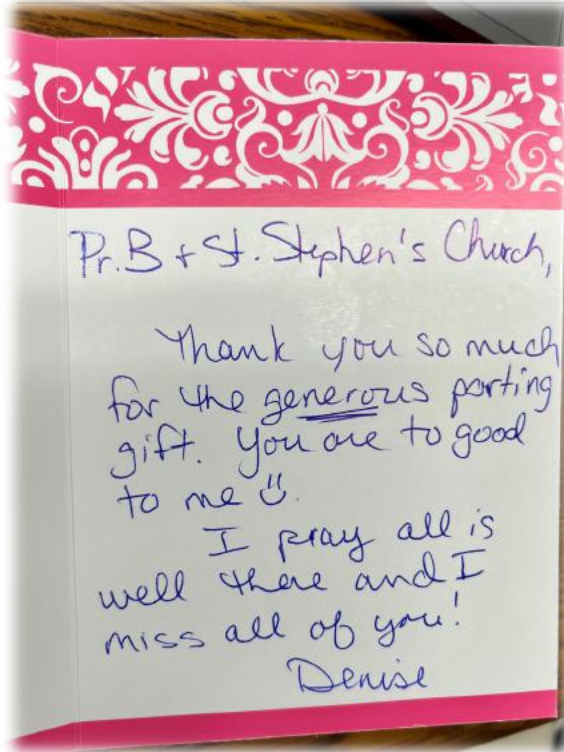
This little one helped Pastor Brenda hand out the Bibles from inside a Little Red Wagon!

**What an amazing
legacy of love!**



Workday at Bethesda Cemetery! Ken Chaney removed debris from the fence, Alvin Etelamaki chopped off renegade brush, Sandy Chaney made sure the grave decorations were properly situated, someone let Pastor Brenda play with the 4-wheeler and haul the gathered brush to the trailer, and then Keith Olson loaded everything onto his trailer and towed it home to be burned...all in time for Memorial Day. ***Great Job, Team!***





ABOVE: Notes of thanks from our former Office Manager, Denise Wangerin, and from Janice Kuharski, who thoroughly appreciated receiving so many Birthday Cards for her 95th Birthday.

BELOW: Beautiful, altar flowers from Doreen Grinsteiner (Bella Fioré) and the Baptism of little Benjamin Pierce Hollister, beloved Child of God, baptized on Sunday, June 18, 2023.





Exciting Recognition for Fortune Lake

Fortune Lake is thrilled to share that we have been included in Newsweek's list of best summer camps in America! Help us to spread the word that Fortune Lake is being recognized as one of the best places to get your summer camp experience.

According to the article, "Newsweek and Plant-A Insights Group have partnered to determine the 500 best summer camps in the U.S. 'America's Best Summer Camps 2023' recognizes the top summer camps in the United States, categorized by state, based on social media reviews and a comprehensive survey of 15,000 parents." Visit the Newsweek website at <https://bit.ly/YayFLLC> to read the article and see the full list of camps!

CURRENT NEEDS of our local FOOD PANTRY

*Located in
Stephenson, next to
the Post Office.*

*Open on Saturdays
from 9a - Noon.*

Stewed tomatoes
kidney beans
mixed vegetables
pickled beets
kidney beans dried
peaches
cream of chicken soup
pineapple
chicken noodle soup
beef broth
mixed fruit canned
mandarin orange
canned chicken
cherry pie filling
pumpkin
vanilla pudding
chocolate pudding
chocolate cake
yellow cake
white cake



MidCounty Ministerium

Food Pantry

Fighting Hunger. Giving hope.

*Drop off your donations
on Saturdays, between
9am and Noon, or Call
Pr. John at (906) 374-0753
to arrange a time.*

sweetened condensed milk
flour
sugar
baking powder
brown sugar
powdered sugar
elbow noodles
mac and cheese
pasta sauce
rice squares
corn squares
bran flakes
large oatmeal
apple pie filling
vegetable oil
salad dressings
ritz like crackers
woven wheat crackers
graham crackers
coffee



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

Bimonthly Newsletter - 2023

*Hospitalized? Welcome a visit? Contact the Office at 906.753.4932,
or reach out to Pastor Brenda directly at 720.989.8218 (call/text), and we'll make it happen!*

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