



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

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 Stephenson, MI 49887 - **Heather Esmahan**, Office Manager
 (906) 753-4932 Soffice@gsslutheran.org

Spring 2025
Sunday Worship: 9:00a
 (Fellowship AFTER)

Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald
 Phone/Text: 720.989.8218
 E-mail: Pastor@gsslutheran.org



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Lenten Schedule INSIDE, Holy Week Schedule BELOW

Apr. 13 Palm Sunday Worship
Apr. 16 No Soup or Worship this night
Apr. 17 Maundy Thursday Worship
Apr. 18 Good Friday Vigils
Apr. 18 Good Friday Worship
Apr. 20 Easter Sunday Worship

9a **St** and 10:30a **G**

 6p **St. Stephen's**
 12-3p **St St** and 12-3p **Geth**
 6p **Gethsemane**
 8a Breakfast: **St. Stephen's**
 9a Worship: **St. Stephen's**
 10:30a Worship: **G**





3 Carol Sundstrom
9 Sue Hess
6 Benjamin Hollister
10 Shawn Anger
15 Danielle Bergquist
15 Todd Nehls
25 Patti Brooks
29 Karen Grundstrom



1 Kelly Francour
6 Morgan Bergquist
17 Janice Sederquist
18 Taylor Anger
21 Rich Smith
26 Tammy Parrett
30 Lily Keyzers

We invite you to pray for those serving in the military:

Jordan Baril, Jay Chapple, Brent Jurmu, Jared Jurmu

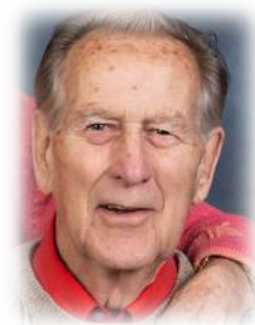
We continue to hold the following in prayer:

Bruce Campbell
Pastor DJ Rasner
Paisley Aretz
Rob Boe
Tracy Raasch

Bud Light
Erin Etelamaki
Pearl Christenson
Sharon Starr
Sue Misch

Carla Dutkavich
Jenny Numikowski
Peter Getzen
Tracy Klatt

*May the comfort and hope of the
Resurrection be with the friends and family of*
+Jim Parrish+ 1937 - 2025



*Thank you for holding the friends and families of our Congregants
in your prayers. Please contact the Office with any corrections.*

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





God of Grace, God of Glory

Bishop Katherine Finegan

***“What then shall we say to this?
If God is for us, who is against us?”***

Romans 8:31

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As I write this article, we are still in a flurry of executive orders and declarations that give rise to a host of emotions. While some are cheering campaign promises kept, others fear for those most impacted and question the constitutional integrity of actions and orders. My own heart feels heavy as funds have been paused for humanitarian aid. I know the work of Lutheran Social Services makes a compassionate difference in the world and frankly, US AID funds make America look good. (It was through USAID grants that the NGLS was able to help build Kisarawe Junior Theological Seminary in Tanzania.) As we consider our theme of Seeds Sowers and planting seeds of faith, the seeds that are now being sown by these actions are unclear. Within that space of planting and growth is the tension between border security and a compassionate immigration system that works, between excessive spending and effective stewardship of federal resources, between legal processes and getting things done. What then shall we say to this?

There is much that I disagree with, and much that provokes concern. But my understanding of the example and call of Jesus to be his disciple brings me back to what I can do, what I should do, and what lies beyond my reach (although not beyond my grief and disquiet.)

I can call my congressional representatives to work to restore funds, and in the meantime, I can encourage congregations to gather in their Synod Assembly offering for World Hunger. I can support local and global efforts to address issues of poverty. I can participate with the efforts of our synod to make a difference with the people who are in our reach and continue to educate around international issues even as we pray for peaceful resolutions and just action.



And I can remember, and remind you and myself, that the God we proclaim is one who promises new life from death. The Savior we serve is one who bids us to “go and do likewise,” not seeking to condemn but inviting us into a deeper understanding of how it is that the least are the greatest. God is for us and working through us to be the presence of Christ. What that means for us in these days, we figure out together.

I find that the words of **ELW Hymn #705** speak to me with new resonance:



***God of grace, and God of glory, On your people pour your power.
Crown your ancient church's story, Bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour.***

***Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days.***

***Cure your children's warring madness; Bend our pride to your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your Kingdom's goal.***

***Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore.***

In Christ,

Bishop Katherine Inega

2025 Lenten Schedule – Journey to the Resurrection

On **Ash Wednesday**, we will begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of **fasting** and **repentance**. Marking our foreheads with **dust**, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the **life-giving cross** indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we **journey** through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God **through Christ**. We humbly pray for God to **make our hearts clean** while we rejoice that "now is the day of salvation." Returning to our **baptismal call**, we more **intentionally** bear the fruits of **mercy** and **justice** in the world.



March 5 **Brief Ash Wednesday Worship** (Ashes, Scripture, Prayer)
Full Ash Wednesday Worship (no Meal this night)

12p at **G**
 6p at **St**

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) March 12 | 5:15p Meal, 6p Worship | at Gethsemane |
| 2) March 19 | 5:15p Meal, 6p Worship | at St. Stephen's |
| 3) March 26 | 5:15p Meal, 6p Worship | at Gethsemane |
| 4) April 2 | 5:15p Meal, 6p Worship | at St. Stephen's |
| 5) April 9 | 5:15p Meal, 6p Worship | at Gethsemane |

(No Meal or Worship on Wednesday, **April 16**, as it is Holy Week.)

**Join us each
 Wednesday
 Evening
 during LENT
 for a Meal and
 Brief Worship.**

Daily Bible Readings: March 2025

Sat – Mar 1 Deuteronomy 9:15-24 Luke 10:21-24 Psalm 99

Sun. Mar. 2 Transfiguration of Our Lord Ex 34:29-35 | Ps 99 | 2 Cor 3:12-4:2 | Lu 9:28-36
Prayer of the Day: Holy God, mighty and immortal, you are beyond our knowing, yet we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. Transform us into the likeness of your Son, who renewed our humanity so that we may share in his divinity, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen

Mon – Mar 3 Exodus 35:1-29 Acts 10:9-23a Psalm 35:11-28
 Tue – Mar 4 Ezekiel 1:1–2:1 Acts 10:23b-33 Psalm 35:11-28

Wed. Mar. 5 Ash Wednesday Joel 2:1-2 | 12-17 | Ps 51:1-17 | 2 Cor 5:20b–6:10 | Mat 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 – Mar 6	Exodus 5:10-23	Acts 7:30-34	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Fri – Mar 7	Exodus 6:1-13	Acts 7:35-42	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16
Sat – Mar 8	Ecclesiastes 3:1-8	John 12:27-36	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Sun. Mar. 9 First Sunday in Lent Deut 26:1-11 | Ps 91:1-2 | 9-16 Rom | 10:8b-13 | Lu 4:1-13

Prayer of the Day: *O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen*

Mon – Mar 10	1 Chronicles 21:1-17 1	John 2:1-6	Psalm 17
Tue – Mar 11	Zechariah 3:1-10 2	Peter 2:4-21	Psalm 17
Wed – Mar 12	Job 1:1-22	Luke 21:34—22:6	Psalm 17
Thu – Mar 13	Genesis 13:1-7, 14-18	Philippians 3:2-12	Psalm 27
Fri – Mar 14	Genesis 14:17-24	Philippians 3:17-20	Psalm 27
Sat – Mar 15	Psalm 118:26-29	Matthew 23:37-39	Psalm 27

Sun. Mar. 16 Second Sunday in Lent Gen 15:1-12 | 17-18 Ps 27 | Phil 3:17—4:1 | Lu 13:31-35

Prayer of the Day: *God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in 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 – Mar 17	Exodus 33:1-6	Romans 4:1-12	Psalm 105:1-15, 42
Tue – Mar 18	Numbers 14:10b-24	1 Corinthians 10:1-13	Psalm 105:1-15, 42
Wed – Mar 19	2 Chronicles 20:1-22	Luke 13:22-31	Psalm 105:1-15, 42
Thu – Mar 20	Daniel 3:19-30	Revelation 2:8-11	Psalm 63:1-8
Fri – Mar 21	Daniel 12:1-4	Revelation 3:1-6	Psalm 63:1-8
Sat – Mar 22	Isaiah 5:1-7	Luke 6:43-45	Psalm 63:1-8

Sun. Mar. 23 Third Sunday in Lent Isaiah 55:1-9 | Ps 63:1-8 | 1 Cor 10:1-13 | Luke 13:1-9

Prayer of the Day: *Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen*

Mon – Mar 24	Jeremiah 11:1-17	Romans 2:1-11	Psalm 39
Tue – Mar 25	Ezekiel 17:1-10	Romans 2:12-16	Psalm 39
Wed- Mar 26	Numbers 13:17-27	Luke 13:18-21	Psalm 39
Thu – Mar 27	Joshua 4:1-13	2 Corinthians 4:16—5:5	Psalm 32
Fri – Mar 28	Joshua 4:14-24	2 Corinthians 5:6-15	Psalm 32
Sat – Mar 29	Exodus 32:7-14	Luke 15:1-10	Psalm 32

Sun. Mar. 30 Fourth Sunday in Lent Josh 5:9-12 Ps 32 (11) 2 Cor 5:16-21 Lu 15:1-3, 11b-32

Prayer of the Day: *God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen*

Mon – Mar 31

Leviticus 23:26-41

Revelation 19:1-8

Psalms 53

Daily Bible Readings: April 2025

Tue – Apr 1

Leviticus 25:1-19

Revelation 19:9-10

Psalms 53

Wed – Apr 2

2 Kings 4:1-7

Luke 9:10-17

Psalms 53

Thu – Apr 3

Isaiah 43:1-7

Philippians 2:19-24

Psalms 126

Fri – Apr 4

Isaiah 43:8-15

Philippians 2:25–3:1

Psalms 126

Sat – Apr 5

Exodus 12:21-27

John 11:45-57

Psalms 126

Sun. Apr. 6 Fifth Sunday in Lent Isaiah 43:16-21 | Ps 126 | Phil 3:4b-14 | John 12:1-8

Prayer of the Day: *Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all 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 – Apr 7

Exodus 40:1-15

Hebrews 10:19-25

Psalms 20

Tue – Apr 8

Judges 9:7-15

1 John 2:18-28

Psalms 20

Wed – Apr 9

Habakkuk 3:2-15

Luke 18:31-34

Psalms 20

Thu – Apr 10

Isaiah 53:10-12

Hebrews 2:1-9

Psalms 31:9-16

Fri – Apr 11

Isaiah 54:9-10

Hebrews 2:10-18

Psalms 31:9-16

Sat – Apr 12

Leviticus 23:1-8

Luke 22:1-13

Psalms 31:9-16

Sun. Apr. 13 Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

Luke 19:28-40 | Isaiah 50:4-9a | Psalm 31:9-16 | Philippians 2:5-11 | Luke 22:14 – 23:56

Prayer of the Day: *Everlasting God, in your endless love for the human race you sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take on our nature and to suffer death on the cross. In your mercy enable us to share in his obedience to your will and in the glorious victory of his resurrection, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen*

Mon. Apr. 14

Isaiah 42:1-9

Hebrews 9:11-15

John 12:1-11

Tue. Apr. 15

Isaiah 49:1-7

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

John 12:20-36

Wed. Apr. 16

Isaiah 50:4-9a

Hebrews 12:1-3

John 13:21-32

Thu. Apr 17 Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1-14 | Psalm 116:1-19 | 1 Cor. 11:23-26 | John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Prayer of the Day: *Eternal God, in the sharing of a meal your Son established a new covenant for all people, and in the washing of feet he showed us the dignity of service. Grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit these signs of our life in faith may speak again to our hearts, feed our spirits, and refresh our bodies, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Fri. Apr. 18 Good Friday

Isaiah 52:13—53:12 | Psalm 22 | Hebrews 10:16-25 | John 18:1—19:42

Prayer of the Day: *Merciful God, your Son was lifted up on the cross to draw all people to himself. Grant that we who have been born out of his wounded side may at all times find mercy in him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

Sat. Apr. 19 Vigil of Easter

Romans 6:3-11 | John 20:1-18

Prayer of the Day: *O God, you are the creator of the world, the liberator of your people, and the wisdom of the earth. By the resurrection of your Son free us from our fears, restore us in your image, and ignite us with your light, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Creation | Genesis 1:1-2:4a, Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26 (1) |
| 2. Flood | Genesis 7:1-5, 11-18, 8:6-18, 9:8-13, Psalm 46 (7) |
| 3. Testing of Abraham: | Genesis 22:1-18, Psalm 16 (11) |
| 4. Deliverance at the Red Sea | Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21, Ex 15:1b-13, 17-18 (1) |
| 5. Salvation Freely Offered to All | Isaiah 55:1-11 Response: Is. 12:2-6 (3) |
| 6. The Wisdom of God | Pr. 8:1-8, 19-21; 9:4b-6 |
| 7. A New Heart and a New Spirit | Ez 36:24-28 Response: Psalms 42+43 |
| 8. Valley of the Dry Bones | Ezekiel 37:1-14 Response: Psalm 143 (11) |
| 9. Gathering of God's People | Zephaniah 3:14-20 Response: Psalm 98 (4) |
| 10. Call of Jonah | Jonah 1:1-2:1 Response: Jonah 2:2-3 [4-6] 7-9 (9) |
| 11. Clothed in the Garments of Salvation | Is. 61:1-4, 9-11, Deut. 32:1-4, 7, 36a, 43a (3-4) |
| 12. Deliverance from the Fiery Furnace | Dan 3:1-29, 35-65 (35) |

Sun. Apr. 20 Resurrection of Our Lord, Easter Day

Acts 10:34-43 | Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (24) | 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 | Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

Prayer of the Day: *O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.*



Mon – Apr 21	Joshua 10:16-27 1	Corinthians 5:6b-8	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Tue – Apr 22	Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a	Revelation 12:1-12	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Wed – Apr 23	2 Samuel 6:1-15	Luke 24:1-12	Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Thu – Apr 24	1 Samuel 17:1-23	Acts 5:12-16	Psalm 150
Fri – Apr 25	1 Samuel 17:19-32	Acts 5:17-26	Psalm 150
Sat – Apr 26	1 Samuel 17:32-51	Luke 24:36-40	Psalm 150

Sun. Apr. 27 Second Sunday of Easter Acts 5:27-32 | Ps118:14-29 | Rev 1:4-8 | John 20:19-31

Prayer of the Day: *Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ's blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen*

Mon – Apr 28	Esther 7:1-10	Revelation 1:9-20	Psalm 122
Tue – Apr 29	Esther 8:1-17	Revelation 2:8-11	Psalm 122
Wed – Apr 30	Esther 9:1-5, 18-23	Luke 12:4-12	Psalm 122



Church Council Minutes

January 29, 2025 - Council Meeting



Present: Cheri Leiphart, Kami Salo, John Starzynski, Pr Brenda Greenwald

Opening Devotions: Kami

Meeting CALLED TO ORDER: 2:24p

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion: JS

Second KS

FAVOR

SECRETARY'S REPORT *Dec. 2024*

Motion: CL

Second JS

FAVOR

PASTOR'S REPORT: December 19, 2024 - January 22, 2025

Pr. B

CALENDAR

Funerals	(1/7/25)	+Eunice Svinicki+	Anderson Diehm
	(1/18/25)	+LaVerne Noasconi+	Anderson Diehm
Worship	(12/24/24)	Christmas Eve: 4p - Heavily attended, 6p - Normal	
	(12/29/24)	Joint Potluck (Brunch)	
	(1/19/25)	Last Minute Joint (construction)	
	1/26/25	Annual Meet for G at 11:30a-ish	
	2/2/25	Annual Meet for St: JOINT Worship at 9a, Meeting at 10a-ish	

MOMENTS of MINISTRY

Community Concerns	Jones Death. Svinicki Funeral. Mental health. Hospice Presentation: 2/16 (to be shared verbally at meeting)
Council	SOME reports on time. SOME late. SOME incomplete.
Digital Ministry	HOLY MOSES. It's all in place at G. WOW. Just WOW!
	Next? Pr B will simplify to make it approachable and user-friendly.
Faith Formation	Confirmation to resume in March. Plenty of time for instruction.
	<i>Growing Younger Class</i> - Pr B taught "Taking Jesus's Message Seriously"
Ministerium	Food Pantry: \$12,500 grant in the works. Treasurer switch.
New Member	January 25 class: 18 invites, 5 YES, 1 MAYBE, 2 NO, 2 CAN'T. 8 no answer.
NGL Synod	HEAVY Council Meeting; Exiting Youth Council upon conclusion Assembly
Nursing Homes	Harbors: Jack Wittgren - 4 th Tuesday of each month
	Menominee Health: Worship - 4 th Tuesday of each month
	Roubal's: No worship in January (COVID)
Office Manager	Tony's last day was Dec 31, 2024. Left us software that automatically flips and sorts the weekly bulletins. VERY cool (<i>and helpful</i>). Beginning February 5....
Visits	Homes: 3 Hospital: 5 Retire. Home: 5 Office: 13
	Phone: DAILY Text: DAILY Squad Calls: 6

PASTOR'S REPORT

(continued)

- Pastor Brenda shared that as of February 1, 2025, she would now be the **Administrative Interim Pastor** at Grace Lutheran Church: Pembine, WI (*handout on file*).
- In short, it means she will: arrange for or provide pulpit supply for weekly worship, Train volunteers for home communion distribution to shut-ins/homebound as needed, Provide leadership or make arrangements for new member classes, confirmation, First Communion, weddings, funerals, baptisms, worship planning, etc., attend Church Council Meetings, keep the parish records of the congregation and provide a monthly newsletter article, provide pastoral leadership to the Congregation leadership, serve as consultant to all committees, and equip leaders so that the ministries of Grace continue during this transitional period.
- **WHAT IT DOESN'T MEAN:** that Pr Brenda is leaving Gethsemane or St. Stephen's. **NOPE!**
- **WHAT IT DOESN'T MEAN:** That Pr Brenda will be the new Pastor at Grace Lutheran. **NOPE!**
- **WHAT IT DOESN'T MEAN:** That we'll have a ton of guest pastors. **SELDOM!**

TREASURER REPORT

Motion: Pr B

Second KS

FAVOR

BRIEF MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

- Faith Formation: Confirmation resumes in March. Lily + Berkley enjoying class with Kenzi.
- Property: We'll need some dirt in Spring to finish-out the project in the back of the Church. John will meet with Pr Brenda and the owner of Northern Sound and Video to do a walk-through of St. Stephen's in preparation of upgrading our sound system.
- Social Ministry: Rainbow House picked up the Advent donations and were super appreciative!
- WELCA: Pr used WELCA funds to purchase Popcorn-themed items to welcome our New Members
- Worship/Music: Fun to see people incorporating a little movement in the pews

Motion to Accept ALL Updates: Pr B

Second KS

FAVOR

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Angel Tree Recap:** good to change-up who we care for each year. Lots in need.
2. **Support of Pastor DJ Rasner:** As Pr DJ is a son of GSS, we wanted to support him and his family as he battles a brain tumor. Council authorizes the purchase of: \$250 Walmart gift card for food and a \$250 Kwik Trip gift card for fuel.

Motion to purchase gift cards: JS

Second CL

FAVOR

3. **Annual Meeting Preparations/Plan for Sunday, February 2, 2025:** Pr B shared the final version of the Annual Report and the script the Council will use to move through the materials with ease.

NEXT STEPS

- a. **Next** St. Stephen's Council Meeting: **Sunday, February 2, 2025** following Annual Meet.
Motion to Adjourn: Pr B. **Time Adjourned: 3: 35p**
 Council concluded the meeting by saying **THE LORD'S PRAYER**
Respectfully submitted by temporary Council Secretary, Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald



Church Council Minutes

February 2, 2025 - Council Meeting



Present: Cheri Leiphart, Kami Salo, John Starzynski, Donna Tennesen, Donna Thonne,
Pr Brenda Greenwald

Opening Prayer - Pr Brenda

Meeting called to order at: 10:51a

Agenda Approval

MOTION: John

SECOND: Kami

CARRIED

Amazingly BRIEF Review of Annual Meeting

- Celebrations: So smooth! Keep the scripts - they were once again helpful in keeping us on track. Glad to be in the Fellowship Hall for the snacks!
- Areas where we could **GROW** next year: Noticed we were off in Pastor's salary. Wondered why nobody caught it. Will be rectified for official records.

NEW BUSINESS: ELECTIONS of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer(s), Fin. Sec.

- John Starzynski** was elected **President** of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Stephenson, MI 49887. *He replaces Cheryl (Cheri) Leiphart.*
- Donna Thonne** was elected **Vice-President** of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Stephenson, MI 49887. *She replaces Keith Olson.*
- Donna Tennesen** was elected **Secretary** of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Stephenson, MI 49887. *She replaces Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald.*
- Sandra (Sandy) Chaney** was elected **Treasurer** of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Stephenson, MI 49887. *She continues in this role.*
- Danielle Bergquist** was elected **Financial Secretary** of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Stephenson, MI 49887. *She continues in this role.*

MOTION to accept all elected officers: Kami **SECOND:** Donna T. **CARRIED**

Assignment of Liaison Teams for 2025

Faith Formation: Kami

Fellowship: Cheri

Living Trust: Pr Brenda

Memorial: John

Property: John

Social Ministry: Donna Th.

WELCA: Donna T

Worship / Music: Cheri

ADJOURNMENT + CLOSING + The Lord's Prayer

- NEXT St. Stephen's Council Meeting:** Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 2:15p
- Devotion for February:** Cheri.

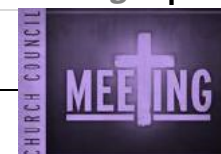
MOTION to Adjourn: Cheri

Time: 11:15a



Church Council Minutes

February 19, 2025 - Council Meeting



Present: CHERI LEIPHART, KAMI SALO, JOHN STARZYNSKI, DONNA TENNESSEN, DONNA THONNE, PR BRENDA GREENWALD

Devotions: CHERI

Meeting **CALLED TO ORDER:** 2:18p

AGENDA APPROVAL **Motion** to Accept: CHERI **Second:** KAMI **CARRIED**

ADDITION OF NEW BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. SOUP & SANDWICH SUPPER PLANS 2. ASTREA 3. 80th CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes from January 29, 2025 through February 2, 2025

Motion to Accept Minutes: DONNA TH **Second:** DONNA TE **CARRIED**

PASTOR'S REPORT: January 23 - February 19, 2025

CALENDAR

- ☐ Baptisms 3/16/25 Kody Davis St. Stephen's
- ☐ Funerals (2/14/25) +Jim Parrish+ Funeral, Gethsemane
- ☐ Dates (1/26 + 2/2) Annual Meetings - went **SPLENDIDLY!** Amen!
- 3/5/25: Lent is a'coming: Ash Wednesday. NO meal on this day.
- 12p Brief service at G
- 6p Full service at St
- 3/9/25 Clocks! Daylight Saving Time

MOMENTS of MINISTRY

- ☐ Community Lots of falls and slips. SLOW down (ha!) and step carefully.
Volunteer Coordinator for Hospice shared info during/after worship (2/16/25)
Pr DJ was VERY thankful for the support shown to his family by G and St.
- ☐ Concerns *(to be shared verbally at meeting)*
- ☐ Council Reminder that taking names off of accounts is an annual task. NOT personal.
- ☐ Digital Ministry G: Training was helpful - will launch during LENT
St: Walkthrough completed 2/5/25, John S to assist. Astrea decision to make.
- ☐ Faith Formation Confirmands were reminded to attend worship, with or without class.
January 25 New Member class was FUN and faith-forming! So grateful!
- ☐ NGL Synod Welcomed Pr Amanda Kossow to Zion - Installation Service (2/16/25)
Professional Leader's Conference: 2/23/25 in Gladstone
- ☐ Nursing Homes Harbors: Jack Wittgren - 4th Tuesday of each month
Menominee Health: Worship - 4th Tuesday of each month
Roubal's: No worship in February (COVID). BINGO on the LAST week (G)
- ☐ Office Managers TWO, functioning offices. Glory be!
- ☐ Visitors PLEASE be on the lookout. Seek them out. Welcome them. SIT with them.
- ☐ Visits Homes: 2 Hospital: 1 Retire. Home: 5 Office: 9
Phone: DAILY Text: CONSTANT Squad Calls: 0

GRACE

- ☐ People First Council Meeting, Women's Meeting - all went well.
- ☐ Preaching Sun., February 23, 2025. Deacon Lori Ward will be at G and St. *(no cost to us)*
- ☐ Prayers What to do first, how to delegate, when to step back.

TREASURER'S REPORT: JANUARY 2025

Sandy Chaney (T)

- OUR NET INCOME FOR JANUARY 2025 WAS \$17,500.00.
- THIS WAS ON TRACK COMPARABLE TO OUR 2024 BUDGET.

Motion to Accept Report: PR BRENDA **Second:** DONNA TH

CARRIED

BRIEF MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

- **BETHESDA** \$1500 CD MONEY HAS BEEN MOVED TO SAVINGS ACCOUNT
- **FELLOWSHIP** New Faces? TALK to them. INVITE to attend fellowship. HELP to feel welcome!
- **LIVING TRUST** ASTREA FOR HIGH SPEED INTERNET
- **WELCA** Will be starting up meetings - a need to talk to/encourage others to attend.
- **WORSHIP/MUSIC** PASTOR PLAYING PIANO DURING PRAYER IS VERY EFFECTIVE
A FINAL UPBEAT SONG PUTS EVERYONE IN A GOOD MOOD

Motion to Accept ALL Updates: CHERI **Second:** PR BRENDA

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

1. The Council is looking forward to hosting a Soup and Sandwich Supper on March 19, the 3rd Wednesday in Lent, prior to the 6p service. WELCA will be asked to host a similar supper on April 5.
2. ASTREA has been scheduled to place an underground, fiber-optic cable come Spring. This will be the start of our new and improved Sound and Streaming system. Many thanks to the +Nancy L. Diehm+ Living Trust for making such a gift to ministry possible.
3. We will be celebrating St. Stephen's 80th Anniversary this year! Input on how to about this is welcome from EVERYONE! Ideas: collecting photos of people + events, news events, inviting former Pastors, collecting commemorative items pertaining to St. Stephens'. Look for more info to come!

NEXT STEPS

1. Next Council Meeting: MARCH 19, 2025 at 3:30P **Devotions** for March 2025: DONNA THONNE
Motion to Adjourn: PASTOR BRENDA **Time** Adjourned: 3:31P *THE LORD'S PRAYER*

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY DONNA TENNESSEN, SECRETARY





Bi-Monthly Newsletter - 2025

Important Dates and Information inside!

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