



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

Physical: S214 Willow Street / Mailing: PO Box 435

St. Stephen's, MI 49887 (906) 753-4932

GSSLutheran.org / SOffice@gsslutheran.org

Spring 2025

Sunday Worship: 9a
(Fellowship AFTER)

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald

Phone/Text: 720.989.8218

Pastor@gsslutheran.org



Birthdays, Anniversaries, and Prayers for May + June . . .	2
Important Dates in May + June	3
Benefit for Baby Paisley	4
<i>Nobody Told Me</i> by Pastor Brenda	5-7
Synod Assembly Workshops	8
Daily Bible Readings for May, June	9 - 11
Council Minutes from March + April 2025	12 - 15

Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly: May 15-17, 2025

Check out the Synod YouTube channel at: bit.ly/NGLS2025Assembly

As the synod gathers, we invite you to consider how your church, your congregation, and the Synod together, nurtures seeds of faith. *1 Corinthians 3:6, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth"*, speaks to an arc of growth where the Apostle Paul planted seeds of faith and that is all. It was Apollos who watered them, nurtured those seeds, and witnessed some growth, and of course,



he only witnessed the growth, he did not cause the growth. That is the work of the Holy Spirit. We invite you to find ways to nurture and provide opportunities, space, and encouragement for faith to grow.



May 	3	Wally Majkrzak	June 	5	Bill Grundstrom	June 
	5	Al Raether		6	Roger Grinsteiner	
	10	Kenzie Bright		7	Janice Kuharski	
	11	Brady Norton		13	Elaine Haban	
	11	Kami Salo		15	Angela Keyzers	
	12	Shirley Olson		18	Bob Berglin	
	15	Karen Raether		21	Harlan Anderson	
	22	Doreen Grinsteiner		22	Jennifer Wagner	
	26	Judy Anderson				
	26	Sam Salo				
27	James Dutkavich					
29	Janet Voss					

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY

Anniversary



20	Doreen + Roger Grinsteiner
22	Wendy + Wally Majkrzak
25	Jenni + Jonathan Wagner
5	Jane + Pr Dave Christenson
6	Cheri + Tim Leiphart
11	Dot + Dennis Davis
11	Al + Karen Raether
16	Penny + Todd Nehls
30	Angela + Eric Keyzers

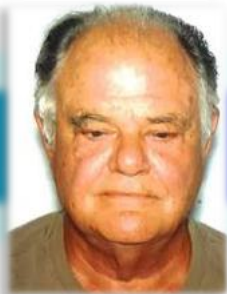
We invite you to pray for those serving in the military:

Jordan Baril, Jay Chapple, Brent Jurmu, Jared Jurmu

We continue to hold the following in prayer:

Bud Light, Jenny Numikowski, Lynne Luster, Paisley Aretz, Pearl Christenson, Peter Getzen, Rick Luster, Rob Boe, Tracy Klatt

May the comfort and hope of the Resurrection be with the friends and families of



+Jim Pfister+
Gethsemane
Husband of Marilyn



+Sandy Baumler+
St. Stephen's
Daughter of Pat Kaczmarczyk



+Bruce Campbell+
St. Stephen's
Fiancée of Cindy Roush



+Peannie Parrett+
Gethsemane
Husband of Faye

Thank you for holding the family and friends of these Congregants in your prayers. Please contact the Office with any corrections.

Important Dates in **MAY** and **JUNE**

- May 6 – Tuesday** **Blood Drive** at Gethsemane
10a – 3p and our goal is 25 units! All donors will receive a **\$20** e-gift card & chance to win USA trip of choice! *Sign-up at RedCross.org TODAY!*
- May 10 - Saturday** **Benefit for Paisley**, The Youngest Member of our Sister Church, Gethsemane. *(See page 4 for all the details)*
- May 15 – 17** **Synod Assembly**: Reps: Sharon + Al Etelamaki + Pr Brenda
Northern Michigan University - Marquette, Michigan -
- June 1 – Sunday** **Light the Fire Campfire for FLLC**: You are invited to Light the Fire for Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp on Sunday, June 1 at 6p at Zion Lutheran Church (2714 James St., Marinette). Join us for songs, stories, skits, and s'mores around a campfire. Bring your own blanket or lawn chair to sit on. There is no cost to participate, but donations for FLLC are welcome.
- June 18 - Wed.** **Day Visit to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp**. Facilitated by the camp staff, participants can expect to enjoy interactive Bible study, beach time, group games, and arts-and-crafts. A picnic lunch and an afternoon snack will be provided. Join us again this year - last year was a BLAST!
- June 29 - Sunday** **5th Sunday Joint Worship**: 9a at **St. St.** Potluck **Brunch!**

...and looking WAAAAAY ahead...



Worship/Picnic at **Mellen Park**, just South of Gethsemane

PLEASE JOIN US
FOR A BENEFIT TO SUPPORT
Paisley Aretz



SATURDAY, MAY 10 • 1-7PM

PULLMAN HOUSE
N2190 US 41 • Menominee, MI 49858

Bucket Raffles • Food • Games • Cash Bar

Brats, Burgers, Chips & Dessert donated by Gary's Quality Foods

\$10 adult • \$5 kids 12-5 years old • free under 5 years old



Baby Paisley with Mom (Lexi), Dad (Alex), her big brother (Easton), and with Pr B on her baptismal day.



Paisley Aretz was born on February 24, 2025 to Lexi & Alex Aretz. Unfortunately, she was immediately flown to Madison with several cardiac issues. She has endured several procedures already with more to come. The future is uncertain with a long road ahead for this beautiful family. We are collecting donations to help with costs of hotels, food, personal needs etc while Lexi, Alex & family stay in Madison. All proceeds will go directly to Lexi & Alex.

Thank you & please keep Paisley, her big brother Easton, Lexi & Alex in your thoughts.

*All donations can be directed to: Katie Hannon 906-290-3699,
Cheyenne Lane 906-280-8237 or Nicole Wilczynski 906-290-3827*



"Nobody Told Me..."

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald

Shared with the Lenten Luncheon Crowd at Holy Family Parish in April 2025

Greetings! I'm Pastor Brenda Greenwald, and my **default mode** - the **fruit** of **MY** spirit, **has** been, and will **forever** be **JOY**. Yes...**JOY**. I'm sure it **doesn't** take too long to realize that my **smile** IS **sincere**, that my **laughter** IS **genuine**, that the **light** in my **eyes** is indeed a **glint** of **mischief**. And so, when I was told of the **Lenten Series** **here** at Holy Family, and ALL of the **options** were placed before me: **Finding Jesus** in Ordinary Places, in Community, in Serving Others, in Busy Family Life, well, the **OBVIOUS** choice for this girl of **JOY** was Finding Jesus in Times of..... **SORROW**.

Yes....**sorrow**. Because I **ALSO** come to you **today**, as the **totality** of all whom **God** crafted **me** to be: the **baby** born with only one eye, the **young adult** who found herself **alone** in the world, the **woman** unable to birth children of her own, AND the **funeral**-laden **Pastor** who stands before you now. It has taken me **YEARS** to **process** all the **STUFF** I just mentioned to you, **YEARS** to sort through my **emotions**, to find the **strength** to go on **YEARS** to balance the **weight** of it all. **TRULY**. I **had** my pick of topics...and I guess I just **wanted** to **share** with you that **Jesus** does **indeed** accompany us during times of **SORROW**.

Now, **before** you're officially **ordained** as a Pastor, they **throw** you into this really, **heavy** program called Clinical Pastoral Education, during one of your **summers**. That's a **fancy** title for **"You're Gonna Be Working at a Hospital. Good luck."** It's a **requirement** for **all** seminary students, and includes direct instruction, small-group time, conferencing, counseling, de-briefing, **AND**.....a **TON** of time with **REAL** patients in **REAL** situations on **REALLY** awful days in their lives. While I might have been **practicing** this new call of **Pastor**, the people I **met** that summer were **experiencing** their lives **changing**...in front of their eyes. It was **NOT** a practice or dress rehearsal for **them**, it was their **REAL LIFE**, and as a **Chaplain**, I had a front-row seat to **ALL** of the drama, the pain, SOME of the joy, and certainly, to all of the **emotion**.



*Now, among the **millions** of things I **learned** that summer, there are a few things that **nobody told me**:*

Nobody told me...what it would **feel** like when someone's actual **heart** stopped beating, or that I'd find myself assisting real EMTs at a **motorcycle** crash on a busy highway.

Nobody told me...what the faces of the **ER** staff would look like when they were unable to save a patient. or just how tiny a **miscarried** baby would be.

When those **hearts** stopped beating, and those **faces** crumbled, when those **babies** could no longer grow, when those **motorcyclists** lost hope... **JESUS was already there**.

Jesus was **on** the side of the **highway**, helping me recall what **VERY** little high school Spanish I could remember, and calmed me enough to make a bi-lingual **phone call** to the wife of the injured.

Jesus was absolutely in the **still** and small **quiet** of the **ER** as the **machines** were unplugged, and those **beeps** came to a merciful **stop**.

Jesus was RIGHT THERE, in the **pre-op room**, as I held hands in **prayer** with the parents to be...who no longer would.

We FIND Jesus in times of sorrow.



Nobody told me...that good **sleep** was such an ungraspable commodity, or how incredibly unhelpful all those fancy, EXPENSIVE, printed **books** and resources would be when it came time to **actually** offering **comfort**.

Nobody told me...that **burying** multiple **church** friends would only add to my heartache, or that when everyone else walks out of a room, a **Chaplain** walks in.

When I found myself without the **energy** to move, or at a total loss for **words**, when I watched **church lady** after church lady be lowered into the ground, or I entered yet another **room** of grief.... **JESUS** was **already there**.

Jesus was right there at 2a, hearing my pleas for **respite**, gifting me with **moments** (if not full nights) of **restful re-charge**.

Jesus didn't need no stinkin' fancy-pants books in the **ICU**: **Jesus** put the **words** on my **heart** and my **lips** when it came time to **speak**. (He also **ZIPPED** my lips when this talker was supposed to be quiet..!)

Jesus surrounded me with **women of faith** - those **alive** and those **gone ahead** - **ALL** summer-long, giving me **shoulders** to cry on, and **hugs** to be shared.

And there **wasn't** a room that I entered, a **threshold** that I didn't cross, where **Jesus** wasn't **already** with me: "Come, Holy Spirit."

We FIND Jesus in times of sorrow.

Nobody told me...what **courage** it would take to press **SEND** on the **phone** when calling a family member to **notify** them that their loved one had just **died**, or the stamina (and stomach) one **needs** when walking into the **ER** and greeting a **patient...and** their gruesome **injury**.



Nobody told me...just how cold and cramped a **morgue** really is, or how much **food** a family needs while waiting for their loved one to **die**.

When that person was **awakened** in the middle of the night by **my** call, or my stomach **turned** knowing that man would **lose** his hand; when I **shivered** inside that morgue or **replenished** the Comfort Cart of food for those families... **Jesus was already there**.

Jesus helped me **calmly** talk the shocked families through those calls, **staying** on the line with us until they **safely** arrived at the hospital.

Jesus was the one directing me to the person's **EYES**, not their injury, and helped words of **encouragement** come out of my mouth.

Jesus was with me as I **knelt** down in that cold morgue, having the **honor** of placing his **Rosary** beads inside that man's **lifeless** hands.

And we **KNOW** Jesus to be with us in the breaking of the **bread**, or, as it so often is in hospital **waiting** rooms, the breaking of the **chips**.

We FIND Jesus in times of sorrow.

Nobody told me...how my **heart** would literally skip a **beat** seeing a family member on the **ambulance stretcher** or what it would **feel** like to **hold** a **mother** as **her** child **died**.

Nobody told me...about the **wounding** and **breaking** of my **own** heart when the tiny, abandoned infant, whom we had cared for so deeply, would **DIE** in our arms at only 45 days old, or that, as **Chaplains**, we literally **deliver** the **remains** of the **miscarried** babies to the local **mortuary**, where they lay those sweet and deeply loved babies to **rest**.

When the **panic** set in, and the **wailing** ensued, when she took her last **breaths**, and the little **babes** took away **mine...** **Jesus was already there**.

Jesus gave me thoughtful **colleagues** to carry my **shifts**, when I had to change **hats** from Chaplain to **family**.



Jesus stood ready to welcome the dying **man** into **His** arms, as I **held** the sobbing mother in mine.

Jesus brought a **baby girl** into our **hearts**, to **love** and to **treasure**, even if her life here on earth was so **short**.

Jesus was with **ME**, helping **MY** heart understand, that **perhaps THIS** was how I was meant to **carry** children, at least in this **moment**, and in this **space**.

We FIND Jesus in times of sorrow.

Nobody told me...that I would literally live out the '**pray unceasingly**' part of Scripture...**EVERY MINUTE.** or that even **Atheists** want Chaplains to **stay** in their rooms and listen to their **story**.

Nobody told me...that the **sound** of a helicopter or an ambulance will forever make me **PAUSE** or that I'd be **coaching** people out of **completing** suicide. **Often.**

When it felt like the **prayers** would never end, or when the **LAST** thing someone **wanted** was prayer; when the **rotor blades** could be heard in the distance, or I had to quell the **panic** of not pushing someone past the **brink...** **Jesus was already there.**

Jesus was the one listening to EVERY. SINGLE. **PRAYER**, even if I didn't have the **energy** to say the words. **Jesus** constantly reminded there **isn't** a person alive whom **God** didn't love, **even** if the person said **they** didn't love God.

Jesus was the one guiding those **helicopter** pilots **safely** to the ground.

Jesus was the one **guiding** every hope-filled **word** that escaped my lips.



We FIND Jesus in times of sorrow.

Mind, you - that summer wasn't **ALL** sorrow. There **were** times that were equally **reverent** AND **RIDICULOUS**, and **Jesus** was in the middle of it all.

Like the fact that **Chaplains** often double as **bouncers** when it comes to unruly or unwanted **visitors** or family **members**: *Give me the strength, **Jesus**, not to DECK this guy!*

Like that one night when a **drunk** uncle pulled an **8-inch hunting knife** on me, demanding to be let into the hospital? HA! **Jesus** gave my brain the **wherewithal** to kick-in to FULL ON TEACHER MODE: "Uh-uh. You give me that knife. Right now. Let's go" Proud to say that the knife was immediately and safely **confiscated**, *(and I didn't even **FREAK OUT....until** I was in the elevator, much later!)*



Who knew that teaching **piano** lessons on weekends would be a welcome **escape**!?

Thank you, **Jesus**, for budding musicians!

Truly. **Jesus** was all over that summer. This was a **Trauma 1** hospital in Littleton, **Colorado**, so, those **Rocky Mountains**? Incredibly healing. Those **sunrises** and **sunsets**?

Balm for my soul.

My former **students** would come for lunch, my **friends** would bring their giggling **babies**, the **lobby** always had a **kid** on the loose.

The Face of Jesus SURROUNDED me that summer.

So, what nobody told me...was that even **someone** with **this** much energy **has** the **capacity** to quietly and compassionately **minister** to those in need.

Nobody told me...just how splashed with **grace** I would be by the patients who kindly received me - into their **rooms**, into their **lives**, into their **stories**.

Nobody told me...how the **Holy Spirit** would **dance** amongst **ALL** of the **workers** at a hospital, and what **holy** ground I'd be walking upon.

Nobody told me...that *that* was the **summer** I would **FIND Jesus in times of sorrow**. **AMEN.**



Pr. Brenda

Synod Assembly Workshops: May 15-17

Synod Assembly

ROOTED and WATERED

Workshop Offerings for connection and hope



at Northern Michigan University Campus



These workshops were held during the in-person, Synod Assembly.

The WORD of God: Rooted in Language

Pr. Nicole Hanson-Lynn

Enrich and enliven your study of the Bible, in learning more about the root languages, translations, and the intrinsic tensions, and themes found in scripture, so that we may reflect critically and share more faithfully God's story.

The Word grows into action: Evolution of a Social Statement

Chuck Thomas, Synod Vice President

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has long responded to shared societal experiences through scriptural and theological reflection, community dialogue, and time, so that our church may share Christ's way toward community, justice, and love.

Truth and Healing: Indian Boarding Schools

Rich Reitz

The terrible legacy of Indian boarding schools lingers in the bodies and minds of direct survivors and their descendants. Learn more about the local history, the deep wounds, and the movement within the ELCA toward truth and healing.

Christian Nationalism and it's Impact for Neighbors Around the Globe

Pr. David Van Kley

Learn more about the history and harmful direction of a growing pattern of Christian Nationalism, and how it is expressed around the world. From the balcony view, connect the consequences for our global neighbors, particularly between Palestine and Israel.

Spiritual Practices: Rooted in the Art of Wonder

Pr. Sharolyn Swenson

Explore three spiritual practices: Godly Play, Dwelling in the Word, and *lectio visio* as pathways to deeper connection with God and community. Discover how wonder can counter our impulse toward quick answers, and enrich our community life.

The Spirituality of Dying

Pastor Elizabeth Daniels

As an Easter people, we trust in the new life brought through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Explore with Pastor Elizabeth how the rhythm of life can be celebrated as we attend to those rhythm of beginnings becoming endings that become beginnings anew, and caring for one another in the journey.

Caring for Creation: Spirit, Sea and Shore Around the Great Lakes

Lanni Lantto and leaders of UPwild

Discover how UPwild is connecting with God, community and creation through spiritual practices, community connections, and healing for creation and creatures across the Upper Peninsula and northern Wisconsin.

Safeguarding Innocence: A Workshop on Child Protection in the Church

Rev. Kari Vadis

Jesus, The Church and the Protection of Children. Through Scripture, Personal Story and Experience with both sex offenders and survivors of child sexual abuse, Kari Vadis explores a Theology of Child Protection.

Daily Bible Readings: May 2025

Thu – May 1	Isaiah 5:11-17	Revelation 3:14-22	Psalms 30
Fri – May 2	Isaiah 6:1-4	Revelation 4:1-11	Psalms 30
Sat – May 3	Genesis 18:1-8	Luke 14:12-14	Psalms 30

Sun. May 4 Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:1-6 | Ps 30 | Rev 5:11-14 | John 21:1-19

Prayer of the Day: *Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen*

Mon – May 5	Ezekiel 1:1-25	Acts 9:19b-31	Psalms 121
Tue – May 6	Ezekiel 1:26–2:1	Acts 26:1-18	Psalms 121
Wed – May 7	Isaiah 6:1-8	Luke 5:1-11	Psalms 121
Thu – May 8	Ezekiel 11:1-25	Revelation 5:1-10	Psalms 23
Fri – May 9	Ezekiel 20:39-44	Revelation 6:1–7:4	Psalms 23
Sat – May 10	Ezekiel 28:25-26	Luke 12:29-32	Psalms 23

Sun. May 11 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 9:36-43 | Ps 23 | Rev 7:9-17 | Jn 10:22-30

Prayer of the Day: *O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen*



Mon – May 12	Ezekiel 37:15-28	Revelation 15:1-4	Psalms 100
Tue – May 13	Ezekiel 45:1-9	Acts 9:32-35	Psalms 100
Wed – May 14	Jeremiah 50:17-20	John 10:31-42	Psalms 100
Thu – May 15	Ezekiel 2:8–3:11	Revelation 10:1-11	Psalms 148
Fri – May 16	Daniel 7:13-14	Revelation 11:15	Psalms 148
Sat – May 17	Daniel 7:27	Revelation 11:16-19	Psalms 148

Sun. May 18 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 11:1-18 | Ps 148 | Rev 21:1-6 | Jn 13:31-35

Prayer of the Day: *O Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, 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 – May 19	1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42	Acts 11:19-26	Psalms 133
Tue – May 20	2 Samuel 1:4-27	Acts 11:27-30	Psalms 133
Wed – May 21	Leviticus 19:9-18	Luke 10:25-28	Psalms 133
Thu – May 22	Proverbs 2:1-5	Acts 15:36-41	Psalms 67
Fri – May 23	Proverbs 2:6-8	Acts 16:1-8	Psalms 67
Sat – May 24	Proverbs 2:9-15	Luke 19:1-10	Psalms 67



Sun. May 25 Sixth Sunday of Easter Acts 16:9-15 | Ps 67 | Rev 21:10, 22—22:5 | John 14:23-29

Prayer of the Day: Bountiful God, you gather your people into your realm, and you promise us food from your tree of life. Nourish us with your word, that empowered by your Spirit we may love one another and the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever Amen

Mon – May 26	1 Chronicles 12:16-22	Revelation 21:5-14	Psalms 93
Tue – May 27	2 Chronicles 15:1-15	Revelation 21:15-22	Psalms 93
Wed – May 28	2 Chronicles 34:20-33	Luke 2:25-38	Psalms 93
Thu – May 29	Acts 1:1-11	Psalms 47	Luke 24:44-53
Fri – May 30	Exodus 33:12-17	Revelation 22:6-9	Psalms 97
Sat – May 31	Exodus 33:18-23	John 1:14-18	Psalms 97

Daily Bible Readings: June 2025

Sun. Jun 1 Seventh Sunday of Easter Acts 16:16-34 | Ps 97 | Rev 22:12-21 | Joh 17:20-26

Prayer of the Day: O God, form the minds of your faithful people into your one will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen

Mon – Jun 2	Exodus 40:16-38	Acts 16:35-40	Psalms 29
Tue – Jun 3	Chronicles 5:2-14	Acts 26:19-29	Psalms 29
Wed – Jun 4	Ezekiel 3:12-21	Luke 9:18-27	Psalms 29
Thu – Jun 5	Isaiah 32:11-17	Galatians 5:16-25	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b
Fri – Jun 6	Isaiah 44:1-4	Galatians 6:7-10	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b
Sat – Jun 7	2 Kings 2:1-15a	Luke 1:5-17	Psalms 104:24-34, 35b



Sun. June 8 Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 | Ps 104:24-34, 35b | Romans 8:14-17 | John 14:8-17

Prayer of the Day: God our creator, the resurrection of your Son offers life to all the peoples of earth. By your Holy Spirit, kindle in us the fire of your love, empowering our lives for service and our tongues for praise, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen

Mon – Jun 9	Joel 2:18-29	1 Cor 2:1-11	Psalms 48
Tue – Jun 10	Ezekiel 11:14-25	1 Cor 2:12-16	Psalms 48
Wed – Jun 11	Numbers 24:1-14	Luke 1:26-38	Psalms 48
Thu – Jun 12	Proverbs 3:13-18	Ephesians 1:17-19	Psalms 8
Fri – Jun 13	Proverbs 3:19-26	Ephesians 4:1-6	Psalms 8
Sat – Jun 14	Proverbs 4:1-9	Luke 2:41-52	Psalms 8

Sun. June 15 The Holy Trinity

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 | Ps 8 | Romans 5:1-5 | John 16:12-15

Prayer of the Day: Almighty Creator and ever-living God: we worship your glory, eternal Three-in-One, and we praise your power, majestic One-in-Three. Keep us steadfast in this faith, defend us in all adversity, and bring us at last into your presence, where you live in endless joy and love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. or God of heaven and earth, before the foundation of the universe and the beginning of time you are the triune God: Author of creation, eternal Word of salvation, life-giving Spirit of wisdom. Guide us to all truth by your Spirit, that we may proclaim all that Christ has revealed and rejoice in the glory he shares with us. Glory and praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever, Amen

Mon – Jun 16	Proverbs 7:1-4	Ephesians 4:7-16	Psalms 124
Tue – Jun 17	Proverbs 8:4-21	Ephesians 5:15-20	Psalms 124
Wed – Jun 18	Daniel 1:1-21	Luke 1:46b-55	Psalms 124
Thu – Jun 19	Isaiah 56:9-12	Romans 2:17-29	Psalms 22:19-28
Fri – June 20	Isaiah 57:1-13	Galatians 3:15-22	Psalms 22:19-28
Sat – June 21	Isaiah 59:1-8	Matthew 9:27-34	Psalms 22:19-28

Sun. June 22 Second Sunday after Pentecost

Is 65:1-9 | Ps 22:19-28 | Gal. 3:23-29 | Lk 8:26-39

Prayer of the Day: O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen

Mon – Jun 23	Job 18:1-21	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Psalms 64
Tue – Jun 24	Job 19:1-22	Ephesians 2:11-22	Psalms 64
Wed – Jun 25	Ezekiel 32:1-10	Luke 9:37-43a	Psalms 64
Thu – Jun 26	Leviticus 9:22–10:11	2 Corinthians 13:5-10	Psalms 16
Fri – Jun 27	2 Kings 1:1-16	Galatians 4:8-20	Psalms 16
Sat – Jun 28	Deuteronomy 32:15-27, 39-43	Luke 9:21-27	Psalms 16

Sun. June 29 Third Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kg 19:15-21 | Ps 16 | Gal 5:1, 13-25 | Lk 9:51-62

Prayer of the Day: Sovereign God, ruler of all hearts, you call us to obey you, and you favor us with true freedom. Keep us faithful to the ways of your Son, that, leaving behind all that hinders us, we may steadfastly follow your paths, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen

Mon – Jun 30	Genesis 24:34-41, 50-67	1 John 2:7-11	Psalms 140
--------------	-------------------------	---------------	------------





Church Council Minutes

March 27, 2025 - Council Meeting



Present: Cheri Leiphart, Kami Salo, John Starzynski, Donna Tennessen, Donna Thonne, Pr Brenda
Devotions: Donna Th Meeting **CALLED TO ORDER:** 4:04p

AGENDA APPROVAL Motion to Accept Agenda: Kami **Second:** Cheri **CARRIED**

SECRETARY'S REPORT Motion to accept 2/19/25 Minutes: Donna Th **Second:** Kami **CARRIED**

PASTORAL REPORT February 20 - March 26, 2025 **Pr Brenda**

Calendar Items	☐ Baptisms	(3/1/25)	+Paisley Aretz	Madison Children's Hospital
		(3/16/25)	+Kody Davis	St. Stephen's
		6/16/25	Eli Beardsley	Gethsemane
	☐ Funerals/Deaths	3/7/25	+Jeanette Kelly+	Menominee Health / Thielen
		3/23/25	+Bruce Campbell+	St. Stephen's
		3/16/25	+Chuck McCormick+	Grace, Pembine
		3/27/25	+Pauline Lass+	Grace, Pembine
		3/28/25	+Sandy Baumler+	Anderson Diehm Funeral
		4/5/25	+Jim Voss+	St. Stephen's
	☐ Dates	3/30/25	Joint Worship Service	At Gethsemane
Ministry Moments		4/17/25	Maundy Thursday	6p at St.
		4/18/25	Good Friday	12-3p Vigils (both), 6p at G
		4/20/25	Easter Sunday	8a Breakfast (St)
				9a Worship St, 10:30a Worship G
	☐ Weddings	7/26/25	Lexy Hornick + Austin Berger	Gethsemane
	☐ Community	Andrea/Pr B planning AED refresher; lots of non-member convos		
	☐ Concerns	(to be shared verbally at meeting)		
	☐ Digital Ministry	Streaming at G launches on March 30, 2025, Christian K = ASSET!		
	☐ Faith Formation	Confirm: low interest in Congregational life, yet good conversations		
	☐ NGL Synod	Prof. Leader's Conf: (2/23/25) in Gladstone - PD thankful for support		
Grace	Nursing Homes	Harbors: Jack Wittgren - 4 th Tuesday of each month		
		Menominee Health: Worship - 4 th Tuesday of each month		
		Roubal's: Calls for End of Life moments.		
	Office Managers	BOTH Offices trained to send Mass Messages via SimpleChurch		
	Visits	Homes: 5	Hospital: 4	Retire. Home: 2
		Office: 14	Phone: DAILY	Text: CONSTANT
				Squad Calls: 2
	☐ People	Trained folks for in-home communion. Assigned folks.		
	☐ Prayers	How to thoughtfully report on happenings		

TREASURER'S REPORT: February 2025 **Sandy Chaney (T)**

- Discrepancies/duplications were found on the first page. John will confer with Sandy.

Motion to Accept Report: Cheri **Second:** Pr B **CARRIED**

BRIEF MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

- **BETHESDA** Keith Olson is on the hunt for photos of the Cemetery so Bethesda can have a pictorial representation inside the Fellowship Hall of St. Stephen's.
 - **FAITH FORM** Baptism of +Kody Davis, Confirmation classes, and Faith Form during worship
 - **FELLOWSHIP** We all agree that SNOW STINKS, as it's keeping us from Fellowship times!
 - **LIVING TRUST** John will be up on high ladders to ready our Sanctuary for the new wiring
 - **WELCA** Provided cake for the recent baptism, will sponsor the Lenten Supper on 4/2
- Motion** to Accept ALL Updates: Kami **Second:** Cheri **CARRIED**

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. **80th Anniversary Celebration:** We will launch these efforts in **MAY** of **2025**, and will be looking for lots and lots of St. Stephen's folks who will want to join the fun of planning for the big event on Sunday, October 26, 2025! Photos, decorating, invitations - *and so much more!*
2. **Synod Assembly Delegates:** Sharon + Alvin Etelamaki will be registered to attend this week.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Spring Clean-up:** Saturday, May 3. 9-11:30a-ish. Potluck. Bring Your Own Rake/Gloves/Cleanser!
2. **Easter Breakfast:** Backing up the time to 7:30a so folks can clean-up AND worship.
3. **Joint April Meeting:** April 30 at Gethsemane.
9:15a = St. Council, 10:15a = JOINT Council, 11:15a = Lunch 12:15p = G Council

NEXT STEPS

- Next Council Meeting: April 30 at Gethsemane. 9:15a Devotions for April: Pr Brenda
- **Motion** to Adjourn: Pr Brenda **Time** Adjourned: 5:04p *THE LORD'S PRAYER*
Respectfully Submitted by Rev. Brenda Greenwald



A Full house at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp for their Annual Meeting on April 27, and future camper, Kody Daniel-Alexander Davis, who was baptized on March 16 (pictured with Mom and Dad, Megan and Bryan).





Church Council Minutes

April 30, 2025 - Council Meeting



Present: Cheri Leiphart, John Starzynski, Donna Tennessen, Donna Thonne, Pr B
Excused: Kami Salo

Opening Devotions: Donna Th

Meeting CALLED TO ORDER: 9:15a

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion to Accept: Cheri

Second: Donna Th

FAVOR

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion to Accept: John

Second: Cheri

FAVOR

PASTOR'S REPORT

March 27 - April 29, 2025

Pr. B

CALENDAR	☐ Baptisms	6/16/25	Eli Beardsley	Gethsemane
	☐ Funerals/Deaths	(3/27/25)	+Pauline Lass+	Grace, Pembine
		(3/28/25)	+Sandy Baumler+	Anderson Diehm Funeral Home
		(3/29/25)	+Jim Pfister+	Home
MOMENTS OF MINISTRY		(4/5/25)	+Jim Voss+	St. Stephen's
		(4/22/25)	+Peannie Parrett+	Anderson Diehm Funeral Home
		(4/23/25)	+Peannie Parrett+	Burial - Mellen
		(4/25/25)	+Jim Parrish+	Burial - Mellen
		5/5/25	+Al Roberts+	Burial - Mellen
	☐ Weddings	7/26/25	Lexy Hornick + Austin Berger	Gethsemane
	☐ Community	Catholic Luncheon (4/9/25), Homemakers, Paisley Benefit 5/10/25		
GRACE	☐ Concerns	(to be shared verbally at meeting)		
	☐ Digital Ministry	Works! Doesn't! Works! WHAT THE WHAT?!		
	☐ Faith Formation	Low interest in Congregational life, yet good conversations		
	☐ Fortune Lake	Annual Meeting, Congregational Day Visit (June)		
	☐ Members	In-depth conversations with potential members		
	☐ NGL Synod	Preparing for Synod Assembly Worship and Meetings		
	☐ Nursing Homes	Harbors: Jack Wittgren - 4 th Tuesday of each month		
		Menominee Health: Worship - 4 th Tuesday of each month		
		Roubal's: Prayers for those who work there		
	☐ Visits	Homes: 4	Hospital: 3	Retire. Home: 2 Office: 10
		Phone: DAILY	Text: CONSTANT	Squad Calls: 4
	☐ Prayers	Spring Luncheon (4/26/25), final message to Congo. Concludes TODAY		

TREASURER'S REPORT: April 2025

Sandy Chaney (T)

- Thanks to John and Sandy, who worked together to make sure that our reports only contain Funds managed by our Treasurer. This means, WELCA and Bethesda are no longer part of the monthly reports (but will be included/checked during the annual audit process.)

Motion to Accept: Cheri Second: Donna Ten FAVOR

BRIEF MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

- **Bethesda:** Annual meeting was held April 29, 2025
- **Faith Formation:** Confirmation classes and Faith Formation Classes continue.
- **Fellowship:** Fellowship has been very well-attended. Church attendance has been rising!
- **Living Trust:** John S, Nick D, and Dennis D have been busy installing new electrical outlets, took out an old speaker, and removed an old pew.
- **Memorials:** Multiple memorials have been received in honor of +Jim Voss+.
- **Property:** There was a recent problem in the Boiler room with water and sewage back-up. It may have been caused by clogged siphon. Spring clean-up scheduled for Saturday May 3, 2025
- **Social Ministry:** Checks have been written to U.P. Foster Closet, ELCA Good Gifts and the Stephenson Food Pantry thanks to Easter donations.
- **WELCA:** Hosted a well-attended Soup & Sandwich supper (April 2). Provided a funeral luncheon for+ Jim Voss+ on April 5 (94 people attended)
- **Worship/Music:** Everyone enjoys the diverse music during the church service, especially a lively sending song.

Motion to Accept ALL Updates: Pr B Second: Donna Ten. FAVOR

ON GOING BUSINESS

1. **Spring Clean-Up:** Scheduled for May 3rd: Cleaning will take place inside and outside the church. Pastor Brenda will be cleaning In the basement deciding what to throw out and what to keep. A new wall or floor model electric heater is being considered for the children's room In the basement
2. **Easter Breakfast:** 65 people attended the Easter breakfast. 200 sausages, 10 dozen eggs (scrambled) cheesy potatoes, juice and bars were served. Next year a meeting should be held a couple weeks before the breakfast, More eggs may be needed and less bars and sweets.

NEW BUSINESS

- Need to organize meetings about our 80th. anniversary celebration.

NEXT STEPS

- **Next Council Meeting:** Wednesday, May 21, 2:15p **Devotions** For May: **Pr Brenda**
- **Motion to Adjourn:** **Pr Brenda__Time Adjourned: 10:15a**
- **Concluded with THE LORD'S PRAYER** *Submitted by Donna Tennesen*



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

May + June



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

Dual-Month Newsletter - 2025

Important Dates and Information inside!

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
PO Box 435 - Stephenson, MI 49887
Office Phone: (906) 753-9432
E-Mail: Office@gssslutheran.org

