



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

Physical: S214 Willow Street, Mailing: P.O. Box 435
Stephenson, MI 49887 GSSLutheran.org

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

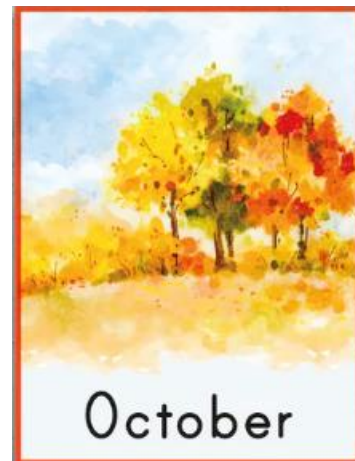
Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald

Phone/Text: 720.989.8218
E-mail: Pastor@gsslutheran.org

Sunday Worship: 10:30a (Fellowship BEFORE)

Fall

2025



Important Calendar Dates	1
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Prayers	2
Sabbatical Announcement from the Bishop	3
National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools	4
Faith and Fellowship: Joint Picnic + Worship	5
Pastoral Musings - Pr Brenda	6
Lifelong Faith Formation, Sister Noreen	7
ELCA Churchwide Assembly Highlights	8
Daily Bible Readings: September + October	9 - 10
80th Anniversary Celebration Reminder, Family Friendly Features ...	11

Important Calendar Dates

Sept 7	New Worship Times: St. 10:30a - Fellowship before. G 9a - Fellowship after
Sept 9	BINGO with Residents at Roubals. Be there by 1:45p.
Sept 11	Top the Tater (Baked Potato Dinner) - 4:30 - 6p at Gethsemane
Sept 12	Pr B out of office until 9/28. <i>Pray for her spiritual and mental reset and renewal.</i> <i>Pastoral Emergencies: Rev. Scott Ehle at (810) 881-2117, RevScott25@gmail.com</i> <i>Heather will be in the St. Stephen's office Tuesdays - Thursdays, 9a - 1p</i>
Sept 16	BINGO with Residents at Roubals. Be there by 1:45p.
Sept 23	BINGO with Residents at Roubals. Be there by 1:45p.
Sept 28	National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools (more info on pg 4)
Sept 30	BINGO and BIRTHDAY BASH with Residents at Roubals. Be there by 1:45p.
Oct 13	RSVP for 80th Anniversary meal DUE
Oct 23	Sauerkraut Dinner - 4:30 - 6p at Gethsemane
Oct 26	80th Anniversary Celebration : 10:30a worship, 11:30a program, 12p Meal. Wear RED

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Heather Esmahan
- 6 Paul Francour
- 12 Keith Olson
- 17 Carrie Bright
- 19 Crystal Salo
- 29 Dave Christenson



OCTOBER

- 4 Linda Cappaert
- 7 Cindy Roush
- 17 Eric Keyzers
- 22 Tim Leiphart

*We invite you to pray for
those serving in the military:
**Jordan Baril,
Jay Chapple, Toby Irish,
Brent Jurmu***

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Gary + Sue Hess
- 11 Gary + Tracy Klatt
- 13 Jim + Tammy Francour



OCTOBER

- 1 Sean + Carrie Bright
- 5 Bruce + Danielle Berquist
- 10 Ken + Sandy Chaney
- 14 Jamie + Callie Crawford
- 21 Harlan + Judy Anderson

We continue to hold the following in prayer:

Alicia, Jim, Julie, Tracy

***May the comfort and hope of the Resurrection
be with the friends and family of***

+Paisley Iris Aretz+

Daughter of Lexi + Alex Aretz

Little Sister of Easton Rasner

***Thank you from the family for all of the
prayers during her short time on earth.***



Thank you for holding the friends and families of our Congregants in your prayers. 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!



Sabbatical Announcement from the Bishop

Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

During the first weekend of June, our Synod Council met in retreat to be further equipped for their leadership role. During this time, I presented a proposal for a Sabbatical. I am grateful that the Council approved my proposal, and I share with you what that means for Synod leadership and staff moving forward.



- I will be on **Sabbatical** from October 15, 2025 – January 14, 2026, with the option of an additional month to be taken consecutively or at a future date.
- During that time, I will take a **pause** from social media, emails, phone calls, texts, etc. **Pastor Sharolyn Swenson** will respond to any needs or inquiries and will have the support of Synod staff and other bishops should there be questions that she cannot answer.
- For several weeks during this time, my husband and I will **travel** through Cambodia and Vietnam and then visit our former foreign exchange student in Thailand.

As I shared with your Synod Council, overall, the nature of this work is often reactionary, meaning that I am responding to the demands of the moment. There is little time or spirit left to consider the bigger picture, the longer view, or a compelling vision. Covid and the rapidly changing Church has narrowed the vision of so many to the most faithful next step. I am hopeful that stepping back from the day to day demands - of letters and emails, crisis and conflict management, deadlines and details - will give more clarity and focus to the leadership I can offer the Northern Great Lakes Synod.

My sabbatical goals include:

- To return to Synod work with new **energy**; spiritually refreshed and strengthened for the challenges ahead.
- To be **open** to learning, seeing, and doing without specific goals or expectations.
- To allow **space** for creativity, discernment, and rest.

While I am sad to miss Fall events and plans, I am grateful for this gift of time away. Be assured that Pastor Sharolyn Swenson, will be more than ready to respond as needed.

**Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan**



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

National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools

On **September 28**, native and non-native people across the United States and Canada pause to remember that from the years 1819-1969, countless **indigenous children** were taken from their homes and placed in boarding schools, operated either by the US government or as mission schools partially funded by the government, by various Christian denominations. One of the government funded mission schools was operated by the Norwegian Lutheran Church—a predecessor body to the ELCA—Bethany Indian Mission at Wittenberg, Wisconsin.

Indian children often were placed in schools far from their families and their tribes in an effort to **assimilate** them to the dominant culture. They were forced to have western haircuts, made to wear clothing unfamiliar to them, and **forbidden** to speak in their native language. They were made to learn the cultural and religious values of white settlers and were not allowed to engage in any of the ceremonial or religious practices of their elders. Unable to learn practices germane to their tribal way of life, like ricing, maple sugaring, hunting and fishing, they were instead taught how to sew, cook, clean, and work on farms, trained to be a kind of servant class in white America. The boarding school motto was “*Kill the Indian and Save the Man (sic).*” Often, boarding schools were also places of **strict discipline**. Racism was endemic. Physical and sexual **abuse** were common. Many native children tried to run away. Others died while at boarding schools. The burial sites of a large number of children still have not yet been identified.

In recent years, we’ve come to recognize that we, in the Christian church, either condoned or actively participated in operating these boarding schools, which have led to so much **suffering**. The damage inflicted on our indigenous neighbors because of the boarding schools is incalculable. Generations have struggled to regain their sense of worth and identity as native people. As they go about their healing, it is our calling as people of God to support them.

To that end, we encourage **each congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod** to observe Remembrance Day on a Sunday near September 28, by including prayers for the survivors and those who have gone missing in the worship liturgy. Orange is the color of Remembrance Day. Worshipers are to **wear orange in solidarity** with our indigenous neighbors. Any orange top or shirt is just fine, or you buy a t-shirt through the link at ELCA.org or our Facebook page are specifically designed for this national recognition and support the ongoing work of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS). “The first and only national organization whose purpose is to advocate on behalf of Native peoples impacted by U.S. Indian boarding school policies. We seek truth through education and research, justice through activism and policy advocacy, and healing through programs and traditional gatherings.

Rev. David Van Kley, Northern Great Lakes Synod



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and honor the Anishinaabeg, the original peoples, and the Menominee tribe, upon whose ancestral homelands we live and work, who have cared for and continue to care for this place and call it their home. We respect the rich history and ongoing relationship Indigenous peoples have with this land and the many contributions they have made. We continue to acknowledge the need for healing and reconciliation around the harmful legacy of colonization.

Creator, we thank You
for the creation of all living things:
the four-legged, the winged,
the land, the sea, the sky,
the vegetation, and the people.

Ever mindful of the gifts
You have provided to us all,
Creator God, we give
You thanks and praise. Amen.



Joint Picnic 8/10/25
Joint Worship 8/31/25

Faith & Fellowship



Pastoral Musings

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald



I recently returned from a quick trip to **Grand View University** in **Des Moines, Iowa**, where I participated in the kick-off of **The Jordan Project**. Two years ago, I journeyed with these gifted leaders in **The Moses Project** (that project gave rural pastors a vision of ministry that helped us thrive in congregational leadership) The Jordan Project takes that vitality a step further, and aims to launch a community-based project, and I jumped at the chance to use this instruction as my Continuing Education focus this year. **A little more about the Project's three, main goals** (and some pictures from the Des Moines Botanical Gardens):



1. Provide radical hospitality. We will love well by creating space for pastors and congregational leaders to experience God's grace anew in community, to be vulnerable in their weariness, joy, dreams, deepest callings, and pain, to bear witness to the work of God we see in each of them, and to encourage by speaking courage, hope, and audacious faith into them. For congregations to thrive, they need to be poured into.



2. Equip pastors and congregational members with opportunities to explore the congregation's history, values and mission. Remembering who they have been helps identify values and better prepare and plan for the future. Values lead vision, and when congregations have a clear sense of identity, they can adapt to changing contexts while exhibiting clarity about their values.



3. Walk alongside congregations as they innovate. After congregations reflect on their history, values, and mission, they will engage in a community-based project that reflects their congregational values and meets the needs of their community's changing social and cultural context. Throughout the project, the Jordan Project will provide guidance as congregations cultivate Christian practices as they take their next faithful steps in ministry and service."



I was delighted to see **Kathleen**, the mother of 3 of my 4 Godsons, was to be one of the Guest Preachers during our kick-off week in August, giving me a chance to see a colleague and dear friend in action (and the opportunity to give my **boys** a hug!).



Stay tuned for more developments as the Team and Project begin to take shape over the Fall months!

Pr. Brenda



Lifelong Faith Formation in our Synod

Introducing Sister Noreen Stevens, the new facilitator and staff support for Licensed Lay Ministers and Lifelong Faith Formation for Northern Great Lakes Synod. **Welcome, Sister Noreen!**



After graduating from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago in 1986, Sister Noreen Stevens' calls have moved her from institutions to congregations and on the Saint Paul Area Synod staff before beginning to serve as Directing Deaconess with the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) 2016-2024. As a deacon in the ELCA, since 1987, her ministries have focused on education, spiritual and vocational discernment, systems, leadership, as well as partnership development, and advocacy.

Her ministry experiences have provided opportunities to integrate practical and academic learning, which has created a toolbox of resources she draws from daily. She feeds her soul by exploring museums, and, with her spouse, the woods surrounding their home in Ishpeming Township, and connecting with artists as their work breaks open her heart to listen to the Spirit's stirrings.

Speaking of Lifelong Faith Formation, here's a reminder of the Fall 2025 Classes:

Caring for Creation

Wednesday Evenings for 6 weeks, September 24 - October 29, 6-7p CST

Feeding your Soul - Practicing Spiritual Practices

Monday Evenings for 7 weeks, September 15 - Oct 6, Nov 3-17, 6-7p CST

In the Beginning: The First 11 Chapters of Genesis

Thursday Evenings for 10 weeks, September 18 - November 20, 6-7p CST

Introduction to Biblical Hebrew

Sunday Evenings beginning September 21 with end date to be determined, 6-7p CST

Recognizing, Responding, and Re-Visioning Discipleship in an age of Christian Nationalism

Tuesday Evenings for 4 weeks, October 7 - 29, 6-7p CST



Visit bit.ly/FaithFormFall25 for MORE INFO and to REGISTER!



The 17th ELCA Churchwide Assembly gathered in Phoenix, AZ under the theme *“For the Life of the World.”*

Highlights included:

- **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** offered her final report and received recognition for 12 years of service as presiding bishop of the ELCA.
- History was made with the elections of **Bishop Yehiel Curry** (*Metropolitan Chicago Synod*) to the office of presiding bishop and the **Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills** (*North Carolina Synod*) to the office of the secretary. They are the first Black presiding bishop and first Black secretary of the ELCA respectively.
- Another highlight from this year’s assembly was the **Rev. Chad Rimmer**’s theological presentation on the 2025 Churchwide Assembly’s theme, “For the Life of the World,” which uplifts the Nicene Creed’s 1,700th anniversary. The rector and dean of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, N.C., Rimmer drew upon global and ecumenical traditions, calling for interdependence and inclusion, especially of marginalized voices. The presentation capped the Churchwide Assembly Bible studies series, which can all be found on the ELCA’s YouTube Channel.



The Narrative Lectionary is a set calendar of Scripture readings that can be used in worship.

In comparison to some other lectionaries, the Narrative Lectionary narrows the number of readings per Sunday (*and other festival days*) to one main “preaching” or focus text, instead of three to four passages. The Narrative Lectionary starts in **September** with a story about creation and touches on the major stories, characters, and plot points in the Hebrew Bible (*Old Testament*) until mid-December (*through the Third Sunday of Advent*). At that point, the lectionary picks up one of the four Gospels (*one Gospel each year for the four-year cycle*) and moves through many of the main stories or passages of that Gospel in order (*mostly*) through the Sunday after Easter. From the Third Sunday of Easter through Pentecost Sunday, the readings are pulled from Acts and the Letters. The readings line up with the major church festivals (*Christmas, Transfiguration Sunday, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, and Pentecost*). The main lectionary is not a full twelve months long, but approximately **9 months**, following a “typical” American school year.

God Provides Blessings

September 7 to October 11, 2025

God created humans to be in relationship with their Creator and blessed them with all they would need.

Desiring the best for us, God regularly calls us back into relationship and invites imperfect people to be part of God’s beautiful story of redemption. This relationship with God requires trust, and often challenges us to step out in this trust. Abraham, as well as Moses and the Israelites, were called to leave all they knew and trust in God’s provision. Yet, when God calls, God also provides all that is needed to live faithfully as a blessing to others.

9/7/25	Sunday	Genesis 1:1--2:4a	God's Good Creation
9/8/25	Monday	Genesis 2:7-9, 15, 18-25	Creation of Adam and Eve
9/9/25	Tuesday	Genesis 3:8-19	Sin Enters God's Creation
9/10/25	Wednesday	Genesis 12:1-9	God Calls Abram
9/11/25	Thursday	Genesis 15:1-6	God Makes a Covenant
9/12/25	Friday	Genesis 17:15-21	Abram Becomes Abraham
9/13/25	Saturday	Genesis 18:1-15	God Promises a Child
9/14/25	Sunday	Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14	Abraham and Isaac
9/15/25	Monday	Genesis 24:1-14	Abraham Seeks a Spouse for Isaac
9/16/25	Tuesday	Genesis 24:15-33	Rebekah Shows Hospitality
9/17/25	Wednesday	Genesis 24:33-51	Rebekah and Abraham's Servant
9/18/25	Thursday	Genesis 24:52-67	The Marriage of Rebekah and Isaac
9/19/25	Friday	Genesis 25:19-28	Birth of Esau and Jacob
9/20/25	Saturday	Genesis 25:29-34	Esau Sells His Birthright
9/21/25	Sunday	Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17	Jacob Steals a Blessing
9/22/25	Monday	Genesis 29:1-30	Jacob Marries Leah and Rachel
9/23/25	Tuesday	Genesis 29:31--30:24	The Twelve Tribes Are Born
9/24/25	Wednesday	Genesis 37:2-36; 39:20-23	Joseph Is Sold into Slavery
9/25/25	Thursday	Genesis 40:2-3, 5, 9-23; 41:14-45	Joseph Interprets Dreams
9/26/25	Friday	Genesis 47:1-12; 50:22-26	The Death of Joseph
9/27/25	Saturday	Exodus 1:8-14; 2:1-25	The Birth of Moses
9/28/25	Sunday	Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17	The Burning Bush
9/29/25	Monday	Exodus 5:1-13	Bricks without Straw
9/30/25	Tuesday	Exodus 7:14--8:15	The First and Second Plagues

10/1/25	Wednesday	Exodus 8:16--9:12	The 3rd through 6th Plagues
10/2/25	Thursday	Exodus 9:13--10:29	The 7th through 9th Plagues
10/3/25	Friday	Exodus 12:1-32	The Passover and 10th Plague
10/4/25	Saturday	Exodus 13:17--14:25	Crossing the Red Sea
10/5/25	Sunday	Exodus 16:1-18	Manna and Quail
10/6/25	Monday	Numbers 21:4-9	The Bronze Serpent
10/7/25	Tuesday	Deuteronomy 5:1-22; 6:1-9	The Ten Commandments
10/8/25	Wednesday	Joshua 1:1-9	God's Promises to Joshua
10/9/25	Thursday	Joshua 24:2-25	Israel's Covenant with God
10/10/25	Friday	Judges 5:1-31	Song of Deborah
10/11/25	Saturday	1 Samuel 1:20--2:11	The Birth of Samuel

Called by God

October 12 - November 2, 2025

God's call is often surprising to us, as God looks not on the outside, but at the heart. God continues to invite unlikely people to be great leaders and pillars of the faith. These imperfect leaders answer God's call, allowing God to work through them in remarkable ways, even as their faults are sometimes evident. God's presence serves as a constant source of strength and peace and equips them to serve, though challenges may abound.

10/12/25	Sunday	1 Samuel 3:1-21	God Calls Samuel
10/13/25	Monday	1 Samuel 7:3-17	Samuel's Role in Israel
10/14/25	Tuesday	1 Samuel 8:1-22	Israel Demands a King
10/15/25	Wednesday	1 Samuel 10:17-27	Saul Is Named King of Israel
10/16/25	Thursday	1 Samuel 12:1-25	Samuel's Farewell
10/17/25	Friday	1 Samuel 13:1-15	Saul's Unlawful Sacrifice
10/18/25	Saturday	1 Samuel 15:1-35	Saul Is Rejected as King
10/19/25	Sunday	1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 51:10-14	God Chooses David
10/20/25	Monday	2 Samuel 1:1-27	David Mourns Saul
10/21/25	Tuesday	2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5	David Becomes King
10/22/25	Wednesday	2 Samuel 7:1-29	God's Covenant with David
10/23/25	Thursday	2 Samuel 12:1-24	David's Sin; Birth of Solomon
10/24/25	Friday	1 Kings 1:28-40	Solomon Is Appointed King
10/25/25	Saturday	1 Kings 3:3-28	Solomon Prays for Wisdom
10/26/25	Sunday	1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13	Solomon's Temple
10/27/25	Monday	1 Kings 11:1-13	Solomon's Errors
10/28/25	Tuesday	1 Kings 11:41--12:19	The Kingdom Divides
10/29/25	Wednesday	1 Kings 16:1-28	The Situation before Ahab
10/30/25	Thursday	1 Kings 16:29-34	Ahab Marries Jezebel
10/31/25	Friday	1 Kings 17:1-24	The Widow of Zarephath



80th Anniversary Celebration Sunday, October 26, 2025

Color of
the day
is **RED!**

Our 80th Anniversary Events for Sunday, October 26 include the following:

- **10:30a** **Celebratory Worship Service** - Guest Preacher: Rev. Sharolyn Swenson,
Assistant to the Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod
- **11:30a** **Brief Anniversary Program + Remarks**
- **12:00p** **Celebratory Banquet and Open House** in the Fellowship Hall
Menu: Meatballs, Ham, German Potato Salad, Baked Beans, Bars + Cake, Coffee,
Lemonade, and Milk. *Baked, gluten-free Chicken is available upon request.



RSVP needed: Please fill out the form you received and return it to **PO Box 435** by **MONDAY, October 13**, letting us know you'll join in the celebrations! If you are unable to attend, you are invited to send your regrets to be posted on a bulletin board. We trust it will be a Spirit-led and memorable occasion for all! ~ **The 80th Anniversary Team**

Family-Friendly Features

Aren't we always saying we want **young families** in Worship? Well, then let's make sure they have what they need to feel comfortable and welcome!

Now available (located near the restrooms)

- New **high-chair** and a **booster** for a chair
- Portable **changing mat** for diaper changes
- A fully-stocked, **Baby Bin**: Kiddo **hungry** in worship? Snacks in the top drawer. Diaper didn't hold and clothes are a mess? No worries - replacement **clothing** in Drawer 2. Little guy go through more diapers than were in the **diaper bag**? Not a problem - we found samples from newborn to Size 6!

Church, let's **help** our young families feel as welcome as possible by directing them to these **resources** during worship, funerals, and community gatherings!



Bi-Monthly Newsletter - 2025

Important Dates and Information inside!

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