



Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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Reverend Brenda L. Greenwald

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Sunday Worship: 9a. Fellowship After

<i>Important 2025 Calendar Dates.</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Birthdays, Anniversaries, Prayer, Deaths</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Encouragement from Bishop Katherine</i>	<i>3 - 4</i>
<i>Candid Photos: Meals + Memories, Hanging of the Greens</i>	<i>5 - 6</i>
<i>Advent Service Project: Rainbow House</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Daily Bible Readings: November + December</i>	<i>8 - 9</i>
<i>Council Minutes - September Meeting</i>	<i>10- 12</i>

Wrapping Up the Calendar Year



Nov. 10-29	Contact Pr Linda Forray at 906.374.0159 for any Pastoral Emergencies during this time, as Pastor Brenda is out of town .
November 16	9a Sunday Worship led by Deacon Lori Ward
November 23	9a Sunday Worship led by the people of Gethsemane
November 30	1 st Sunday in Advent: Joint Worship at St. 10:30a. Fellowship before.
December 7	SPECIAL Joint Worship at G. 9a (so installation can finish-up). Snacks after.
December 13	Decorating the Christmas Tree . 11a. Potluck lunch to follow!
December 14	3 rd Sunday in Advent: 9a Worship, Fellowship after.
December 21	4 th Sunday in Advent: 9a Worship, Fellowship after.
December 24	Christmas Eve Worship: 4p at St and 5:30p at G (No Fellowship)
December 28	NO in-person worship this day. Tune-in online at bit.ly/Dec28Worship or WLUC-TV 6 for a Special Synod-led, Christmas Worship Service .



1 Brandon Bebo
1 Brian Panske
16 Gina Mistark
16 Cindy Moore
23 Marilyn Pfister
24 Sandy Beardsley
30 David Kraus



8 Lynda Caylor
17 Jordan Parker
21 Lori Kirt
23 Karson Parker
24 Kaylyn Parker
28 Darrell Havelka
29 Easton Rasner

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

**Jordan Baril
Jay Chapple
Toby Irish
Brent Jurmu**



November 7 Tena + Jim Roubal
November 27 Andrea + Tom Geltz

We continue to hold the following in prayer:

David Carlson **Jim** Roubal **Julie** Greenwald **Kawaunee** Hofer **Rob** Boe **Tracy** Klatt



We offer the **comfort** and **hope** of the **resurrection**
to the family and friends of **+Pat Kaczmarczyk+**
December 11, 1937 - October 9, 2025
Mother of 2, Grandmother of 5,
Great-Grandmother of 8, Great-Great Grandmother of 1

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 **906.788.4234**,
or reach out to
Pr Brenda directly
at **720.989.8218**
(call/text), and we'll
make it happen!



Dear People of the Northern Great Lakes Synod,

As I make final preparations to leave on sabbatical, I feel it keenly that even if my desk will be clear, there is much in the world that remains messy. As people of faith, we are being challenged in new ways that we may feel ill-equipped to handle.

I see, and feel with increasing pressure, the world trying to divide us and tear us apart. I encourage you to make your community of faith, that is, the body of Christ which you help to animate, your priority. Political divisions are real, but the demonization of those who disagree with you has been brought to a new level. Do not lump people together and join the bandwagon that would declare them to be "of the devil." As we look at our world through the lens of the open tomb, we cannot look at another and not see someone for whom Jesus died. This includes MAGA, the immigrant, the liberal, the refugee, the transgender individual, those on the other side of the political aisle, your neighbor, and those who get their news from only one source. In times of disaster or civil unrest, you will need your neighbor and your community of faith to meet the challenges.

AS WE LOOK
AT OUR WORLD
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NOW IS NOT THE
TIME TO BE BURNING
BRIDGES, EVEN AS
WE, EACH OF US,
ARE CALLED TO
WORK AND ADVOCATE
FOR JUSTICE.

Remember the flooding in the Copper Country not so long ago? And how the larger community rallied to provide water and supplies to those impacted? Or the ice storm that knocked out power to so many for too long? With winter around the corner, you may well need the help of the neighbor you disagree with to plow your driveway. With troubles always around the corner, you may well need the pastor whose sermon and leadership you criticized to proclaim a word of hope and hold your hand in comfort. Now is not the time to be burning bridges, even as we, each of us, are called to work and advocate for justice.

Write your congressional representative *and* extend grace to your disagreeable neighbor. Carry signs in protest *and* forgive those you consider misinformed. Be generous in your giving to those organizations that are on the ground, feeding the hungry, advocating for the immigrant, welcoming the stranger. Try not to be quick to criticize, to judge, to respond in anger or indignation. These are emotionally provoking times which make people vulnerable to manipulation and impulsive actions. Keeping a level head allows for creative solutions and conversations that deepen understanding, even as common ground may still be elusive.

As I write this, common ground regarding immigration policies continues to elude all of us. By the time you read this, our own Pastor Rita Chirala and her son will have left her congregation, and the country, despite our best efforts. Even as immigrants seek to follow good law and order, the system is designed to fail them. And more than a few U.S. citizens have been swept up unlawfully. Even if our own Pastor Rita were to be able to fulfill all righteousness per a system that is stacked against her, I have no confidence, given a Supreme Court's decision that allows for racial profiling, that she and her son would be safe, even if citizenship were secured.

I call out this gross injustice. It is indefensible that people of color should be afraid every day of being arrested on suspicion of being an illegal immigrant, that they should have to carry a copy of their passport to prove citizenship should the arresting agent even take the time to check. Or that immigrants who are striving to "follow the rules" and show up for their scheduled court date are summarily deported, and not necessarily to their country of origin.

I am grateful to our Canadian partners that a call has been secured for Pastor Rita so that she has a livelihood, and I continue to pray that the Canadian immigration lawyer will be able to secure the necessary visa in time. The work of providing comfort and support to Faith, Sault and to Pastor Rita's colleagues and friends continues as they have suffered this abrupt separation even as it was necessary to keep Pastor Rita and her son safe. I do not believe extending grace to people with whom we disagree means acquiescing to systems that are unjust. I pray for affection that transcends political division, for unified mission and purpose that binds us together in the face of all that tries to divide us, and for local community interdependence that is more reliable, generous, and available than government support.

**I DO NOT BELIEVE
EXTENDING GRACE
TO PEOPLE WITH
WHOM WE DISAGREE
MEANS ACQUIESCING
TO SYSTEMS
THAT ARE UNJUST.**

I leave you, for now, with this blessing

(ELW, *Service of the Word*, p. 221)

*The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony
with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, **Amen***

*The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, **Amen***

*The God of all grace + bless you now and forever, **Amen.***

Yours in Christ, Bishop Katherine Finegan



**God's Work,
Our Hands**

Top the Tater

**The Meal that
Shall Not
be Named
(Sauerkraut
Dinner)**





Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:7

In late September, the Church Council returned from Summer break. As we reviewed the **Financial reports** for May, June, July, and August, we were **amazed** at how this congregation consistently keeps giving their first fruits back to God. This is not a new trend. The council has been observing and discussing your devotion to your tithes for many months, and it's time to **celebrate** it!

For many churches, the summer months historically mean drops in monthly giving. Summer brings out of town graduations, weddings, vacations, and weekend jaunts to see friends/family. Quite often, when congregants are not in worship, an offering is not made. **That is not the case here at Gethsemane!** You lovingly keep your private commitment to God and give back your first fruits every month! Your monthly offerings **ensure** that we can meet our monthly **expenses** and continue the business side of running our church without interruption.

You generously support our community events so that we have little to no expense incurred. You all donate as you are able. We would be remiss if we don't also **commend** all of you who donate **time** and **talent** to your church. On behalf of the Council, we are so proud of each and every one of you. You are all examples of **CHEERFUL GIVERS!**

- Wendy Hanson, Council President



Advent Service Project: ALL of December



Rainbow House

Empowerment Beyond Abuse



A little Rainbow House history: In 1978, a group of women concerned with the increase of domestic violence came together and formed a Task Force to pursue the development of a program. The organization operated as an information and referral service for many years prior to acquiring a shelter facility in 1982. Rainbow House provided education and information on stopping the cycle of domestic violence. They've been in their current location, serving survivors since 1984. They established as an independent non-profit in 1993, and continue to serve victims today, through providing prevention, education, and information to communities, families, and schools.

Alarm clocks
Aluminum Foil
Band-Aids
Bathroom Cleanser
Body Wash
Brooms w/ Dust Pans
Buckets
Can Openers
Cash Donations
Deodorant (men + women)
Diapers: Size 4 + 5
Dish Soap
Fabric Softener
Floor Cleaners
Garbage Bags 13 + 30 Gallon
Garbage Cans
Gift Card: Aldis
Gift Card: Amazon
Gift Card: Fuel
Gift Card: Jacks
Gift Card: Walmart
Hair gel/mousse
Ice Cube Trays
Kitchen Cleaner

Rainbow House
serves victims
and children of
domestic
violence in
Oconto and
Marinette
Counties, WI
and Menominee
County, MI.

All items go
DIRECTLY to
those affected.

AVAILABLE AT:
Amazon
Walmart

(look for Rainbow House on Registry)

Kleenex
Laundry Pods
Laundry Soap (S or Med)
Mop Buckets
Mops
Pails
Paper Towels
Pizza Pans
Plastic Dish Sets (4, new)
Postage Stamps
Printer Paper
Razors (men + women)
Saran Wrap
Shaving cream (men + women)
Shower Curtains
Shower Curtain Rings
SOS Pads
Toasters (new)
Toilet Cleanser
Toilet Paper: 1 ply
Vacuum Cleaner (new)
Windex
Ziplock Bags: Freezer, Gallon
Ziplock Bags: Regular, Gallon

**Look for ornaments
with these items
once we put up
our Angel Tree!**

**Helping is as
easy as 1-2-3**

- 1. Take an ornament**
- 2. Purchase the item**
- 3. Bring the item
to church and
place it under
the Angel Tree!**

Daily Bible Readings: November 2025

Sat, Nov. 1	Elijah and the Prophets of Baal	1 Kings 18:20-46
Sun, Nov. 2	God Visits Elijah	1 Kings 19:1-18
Mon, Nov. 3	Naboth's Vineyard	1 Kings 21:1-29
Tues, Nov. 4	Elijah Is Taken Up to Heaven	2 Kings 2:1-12
Wed, Nov. 5	Elisha Is Chosen to Succeed Elijah	2 Kings 2:13-25
Thurs, Nov. 6	Miracles of Elisha	2 Kings 4:1-44
Fri, Nov. 7	The Reign of Jeroboam II	2 Kings 14:23-29
Sat, Nov. 8	The Reign of Azariah (Uzziah)	2 Kings 15:1-7
Sun, Nov. 9	Let Justice Roll Down	Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24
Mon, Nov. 10	Micah's Warning and Promise	Micah 2:1-13
Tues, Nov. 11	A Savior from Bethlehem	Micah 5:2-5
Wed, Nov. 12	Hosea's Assurance of Forgiveness	Hosea 1:1; 14:1-9
Thurs, Nov. 13	The Call of Isaiah	Isaiah 6:1-13
Fri, Nov. 14	Hezekiah Consults Isaiah	2 Kings 19:1-7
Sat, Nov. 15	Isaiah's Prophecy to Hezekiah	2 Kings 19:14-28
Sun, Nov. 16	A Light in the Darkness	Isaiah 9:1-7
Mon, Nov. 17	The Lord's Judgment	Isaiah 9:8-21
Tues, Nov. 18	Vision for a Peaceful Kingdom	Isaiah 11:1-9
Wed, Nov. 19	Jeremiah's Call	Jeremiah 1:4-19
Thurs, Nov. 20	Jeremiah Prophesies Exile	Jeremiah 25:1-14
Fri, Nov. 21	Jeremiah Prophesies Exile Again	Jeremiah 27:1-22
Sat, Nov. 22	Judah Is Taken into Exile	2 Kings 25:1-21
Sun, Nov. 23	Hope for the Future	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14
Mon, Nov. 24	Prophecy of Exile	Jeremiah 29:15-23
Tues, Nov. 25	Prophecy of Return from Exile	Jeremiah 30:1-11
Wed, Nov. 26	Prophecy of Abundance	Jeremiah 31:1-14
Thurs, Nov. 27	A New Covenant	Jeremiah 31:31-40
Fri, Nov. 28	Daniel Comes to Babylon	Daniel 1:1-21
Sat, Nov. 29	Nebuchadnezzar's Dream	Daniel 2:1-6, 24-30, 45b-49
Sun, Nov. 30	The Fiery Furnace	Daniel 3:1, [2-7] 8-30

Daily Bible Readings: December 2025

Mon, Dec 1	Daniel Called to Interpret	Daniel 5:1-12
Tues, Dec 2	Daniel Helps the King	Daniel 5:13-30
Weds, Dec 3	Daniel Thrown in the Lions' Den	Daniel 6:1-18
Thurs, Dec 4	The King Commands Loyalty to God	Daniel 6:19-28
Fri, Dec 5	Ezekiel's Call	Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:1-10
Sat, Dec 6	Called to Be a Prophet	Ezekiel 3:1-11
Sun, Dec 7	Valley of the Dry Bones	Ezekiel 37:1-14
Mon, Dec 8	Prophecy of Israel's Restoration	Ezekiel 39:25-29
Tues, Dec 9	The End of the Exile	Ezra 1:1-11
Weds, Dec 10	Worship Begins in Jerusalem	Ezra 3:1-7
Thurs, Dec 11	Rebuilding the Temple	Ezra 3:8-13
Fri, Dec 12	God's Restoration of Israel	Isaiah 52:3-10
Sat, Dec 13	God's Covenant of Peace	Isaiah 54:1-10
Sun, Dec 14	Seek the Lord	Isaiah 55:1-13
Mon, Dec 15	Wisdom in Creation	Proverbs 8:1; 22-26
Tues, Dec 16	Wisdom at Creation	Proverbs 8:27-31
Weds, Dec 17	A Psalm of Creation	Psalms 8:1-9
Thurs, Dec 18	Prophecy of the Messiah	Isaiah 11:1-9
Fri, Dec 19	The Annunciation	Luke 1:26-38
Sat, Dec 20	The Magnificat	Luke 1:46-55
Sun, Dec 21	The Word Became Flesh	John 1:1-18
Mon, Dec 22	John the Baptist's Birth Is Foretold	Luke 1:5-25
Tues, Dec 23	John the Baptist Is Born	Luke 1:57-66
Weds, Dec 24	Zechariah's Song	Luke 1:67-80
Thurs, Dec 25	The Savior Is Born	Luke 2:1-20
Fri, Dec 26	Jesus Is Dedicated and Named	Luke 2:21-38
Sat, Dec 27	Boy Jesus at the Temple	Luke 2:41-52
Sun, Dec 28	The Lamb of God	John 1:19-34
Mon, Dec 29	Description of Elijah	2 Kings 1:7-8
Tues, Dec 30	God Will Send Elijah	Malachi 4:5-6
Weds, Dec 31	John the Baptist Preaches	Luke 3:1-18



Gethsemane Lutheran Church Council Minutes

September 25, 2025



Members present: Wendy Hanson, Gail Schmidt, Carol Klein, Pastor Brenda Greenwald
Members absent: Cindy Moore, Rose Klatt
Opening Devotions: Gail **Meeting called to order:** 6:07p

AGENDA APPROVAL	Wendy asked to have Bug Blaster added under Old Business	Motion: Pr Brenda	Second: Gail	Carried
SECRETARY'S REPORT - May Minutes 2025		Motion: Pr Brenda	Second: Gail	Carried

PASTOR'S REPORT: Summer 2025

CALENDAR ITEMS	☐ Baptisms	6/15/25	+Eli Beardsley	Gethsemane
	☐ Funerals/Deaths	6/7/25	+Gary Klatt, Jr+	Burial, Mellen
		8/23/25	+Paisley Iris Aretz+	Morning Prayer, Recovery
		8/29/25	+Paisley Iris Aretz+	Funeral, Anderson Diehm
	☐ Wedding	7/26/25	Lexy Hornick + Austin Berger	Gethsemane
	☐ Worship	5/29/25	Recorded Summer Communion MP3s with Stephanie K	
		6/1/25	Special Joint Worship at St. St. at 9:00a (<i>Parking lot closed at G</i>)	
		7/10/25	Guest Soloist Jack Felch - G	
		6/15-8/31/25	Summer Sermon Series: Jeremiah + Revelation	
		8/31/25	Joint Worship at G at 10:30a	

MINISTRY MOMENTS

☐ Bethesda	5/26/25 - Memorial Day speech. 7/22/25 - Cemetery GPS coordinated 6/24/25 and 7/31/25 - Record Consolidation with Wally (<i>Sexton</i>)
☐ Community	Mentoring young adult from ELCA congregation, Homemakers at St ICE raids in Stephenson, the power of cleaning one's home, Blood Drive (<i>to be shared verbally at meeting</i>)
☐ Concerns	
☐ Digital Ministry	Streaming issues - G. (<i>Consulted with Peace Lutheran in Pulaski</i>) 6/22/25 - St project blessed, 9/11/25 - St Fast Internet! Equipment soon - St.
☐ Faith Formation	Confirmation: Serious questions about continuing
☐ Fortune Lake	6/1/25 - Light the Fire (<i>Zion</i>), 6/18/25 - Congregational Day Visit
☐ Jordan Project	Accepted into year-long, Continuing Education project: GSS Website
☐ Ministerium	Discontinued as a non-profit by the IRS. Status restored. Treasurer resigned.
☐ NGL Synod	9/10/25 - Conference Meeting at Bethel. Bishop Katherine --> Sabbatical
☐ Nursing Homes	Harbors: Jack Wittgren - 4 th Tuesday of each month Luther Home: Prs Keith and Linda retired, Karen Anne needs more help Menominee Health: Worship - 4 th Tuesday of each month Rennes Visit: 7/9/25 Roubal's: 5/25/25 Worship, Called-in for visits with new residents

MOMENTS

- ☐ **Random** New Parking Lot at Gethsemane, New Paint at St, New OPG rep (*Frank*)
- ☐ **Rescue Squad** Train accident, worship collapse, highway accident, home death
- ☐ **Safety** 6/4/25 Safety Response Team at G (*ST in Fall*)
- ☐ **Visits** Homes: **11** Hospital: **7** Retire. Home: **10** Office: **LOTS**
Phone: **DAILY** Text: **CONSTANT** Squad Calls: **6**

TREASURER/FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORTS

May - August 2025

- It was suggested that appreciation should be extended to everyone for their consistent, faithful giving. Because of this our financial situation is very good!! It was decided to note this in the newsletter and as a temple talk (Gail will present)

MINISTRY TEAM UPDATES

- **Faith Formation:** Stephanie Klein has again volunteered to offer a Sunday morning lesson for our little ones - thank you, Steph! Pastor B noted that she needs to meet with confirmands and parents as to commitment and attendance.
- **Fellowship:** Fellowship activities this summer included the FFLC Visit, the Brat Fry and Top the Tater Dinners, joint picnic and potlucks, 2 Blood Drives, as well as our regular Sunday Morning Coffee Hours!
- **Living Trust:** One applicant was assisted with a gas card.
- **Property Team:** Seal coating of the parking lot was begun on 5/30 and completed on 6/2! Two storm doors were installed at the parsonage thanks to Harvey Moore! Bug Blaster was hired to spray and treat for bugs and rodents at the parsonage and the church; trees were donated and planted in front of the parsonage by Dennis Davis of SS; a Blackstone grill has been donated to the church by Harvey Krass and is currently being stored on Pastor B's deck; seasonal furnace checks at the church and parsonage have been scheduled; and, last but not least, Rebecca Bebo has now taken over the custodial duties at Gethsemane!
- **Social Ministry:** Activities supported by Social Ministry since May include: 2 Blood Drives, Top the Tater Dinner, and God's Work our Hands projects. We have also supported the Food Pantry with our 5th Sunday Worship food donations!
- **WELCA:** The ladies provided "red" treats for Coffee Hour on Pentecost Sunday; they continue with their quilting, and collected items for the School Kits that were packed on "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday. There will be a record number of quilts and kits to be brought to the boxcar on Oct. 11!!
- **Worship/Music:** Special Worship notes for the summer include the baptism of Eli Beardsley, the wedding of Lexy Hornick and Austin Berger, special music provided by Stephanie Klein (prerecorded communion hymns), Judi Freis (Hymn Hat selection), Jack Felch (guest soloist), and Carla Dutkavich (a musical offering in American Sign Language), and 3 joint worship services including Worship in the Park (picnic).

Motion to accept all Ministry Team Reports was made by Gail;

Seconded by Carol.

Carried

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. **Brat Fry** - 140 guests were served - \$1500 was raised for the HVAC Fund! Any expenses were covered from the Social Ministry account.
2. **Bug Blaster** - rodent traps had been put in place but when recently checked, no activity had been detected. It was decided to have Bug Blaster discontinue check-ups.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Top the Tater Review:** Although the number served was down from last year, we still raised \$1325 for our Eagle's Wings ministry. There were no expenses as all needed food and supplies were covered either by member donations or Thrivent \$'s!
2. **Blood Drive Reviews:** We met our quota for both blood drives - May (24 units) + August (26 units)
3. **Snow Removal Services** (Parsonage/Church): Wendy had received a quote from DDT CONSTRUCTION which is the same as we were paying last year - 4" or less - \$225, anything over 4" - \$265, sanding or salting if requested - \$150. **Motion** was made by Pastor B to approve and accept the quote from DDT. **Seconded** by Gail. **Carried.**
4. **EXIT Signs:** John Starzynski noticed while he was at our Top the Tater dinner that our EXIT signs are only partially lit or not lit at all. He has volunteered to purchase the needed lights and change them out! Pastor B made a **motion** to have John proceed with the project. **Seconded** by Carol. **Carried.**
5. **Seals on the Doors:** Tom Geltz has located a repairman in Menominee to fix the seals and gaps on our exterior doors. The charge to come out is \$250 plus parts and labor.
Pastor B made a motion to have the doors repaired so that no more "evil creatures" (or non-evil) can again enter our building; motion was seconded by Gail. **Carried.**

NEXT STEPS

- a. Next Gethsemane Council Meeting: **October 16 6:00 p**
- b. Devotions: **Wendy**

Motion to Adjourn: PB

Time adjourned: 7:24p

The meeting was closed with the **Lord's Prayer.**

Respectfully submitted, Carol Klein, Council Secretary

