



Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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Spring 2026

Sunday Worship: 9:00a
(Fellowship AFTER)

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald

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Pastor@gsslutheran.org



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**Holy Week Schedule BELOW,
Lenten Schedule INSIDE**

Mar. 29 JOINT Palm Sunday Worship + Potluck 9a Gethsemane

Bring a **dish to share** as we trace Jesus' path into Jerusalem!

Apr. 1 No Soup or Worship this night, as this is Holy Week.

Apr. 3 Good Friday Worship 12p Worship: St. Stephen's

Apr. 5 Easter Sunday Worship 9a Worship: Gethsemane

9a Breakfast: St. Stephen's

10:30a Worship: St. Stephen's



We continue to hold the following in prayer:

Amber, Donna, Gary, Jim G, Jim R, Richie, Rob, Roger, Sue M

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



2 Al Lindner
6 Diana Jarnutowski
8 Debbie Panske
9 Ann Rasner
20 Levi Paris
22 Lena Stage, Neva Stage
23 Ruth Thouné
26 Nate Klein
27 Vernon Paul
28 Karen Parrish
28 Nicole Wilczynski
31 Judi Freis



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



17 John Hoof
21 Harvey Moore
22 Lexi Rasner
27 Wendy Christophersen

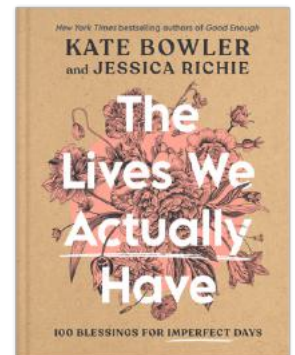


Apr.25 Sue + Jim Skowronski

Wednesday Gatherings During Lent 2026

Our 2026 Lenten blessings and homilies come from **"The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days"** written by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. As they say: *"Lent is our annual rehearsal of the cosmic moment when Jesus' suffering and death and resurrection will change how we experience death. Death will not be the defining truth about us. Someday we will be freed from the gorgeous and horrible limitations of our human lives and we will live forever with God."*

But first Jesus suffers and dies. We walk with him. And he walks with us. Jesus will walk with us through whatever kind of Lenten day you are having. The lovely one. The garbage one. The one that barely seems like it counted at all. As we toggle through every kind of emotion - boredom, devastation, happiness, irritation - we want to say: bless this Lent."



Join us as we journey through the season of Lent. Each Wednesday, we will share a simple Meal and Worship together. We'll rotate between our 2 locations throughout the season, so be sure to note where we'll be.

**WEDNESDAY
NIGHTS**

March 4	5:15p Meal, 6p Worship	Gethsemane
March 11	5:15p Meal, 6p Worship	St. Stephen's
March 18	5:15p Meal, 6p Worship	Gethsemane
March 25	5:15p Meal, 6p Worship	St. Stephen's

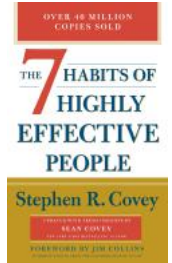
(No Meal or Worship on Wednesday, April 1, as it is Holy Week.)

Seek First to Understand...

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald

Dear Church,

Back in 2002, I had the absolute joy of being part of a Planning Team for a brand, new Elementary School in Castle Rock, Colorado. To quickly and thoughtfully get our Team on the same page, our Principal introduced us to the book "**7 Habits of Highly Effective People**" by Stephen Covey. She purchased a hard-copy of the book, and LITERALLY tore the book into pieces, giving each one of us a Habit. Mine was "**Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then To Be Understood.**" Basically, it's the principle of intentional respect and listening before we speak. *Little did my Principal know, she was preparing me for a life in **ministry**!*



Ah, the age old wisdom of **LISTENING** before we speak. **King Solomon** wrote about this LONG ago in the book of Proverbs 18:13. Here are 3 of my favorite translations:

He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him. (KJV)

To answer before listening - that is folly and shame. (NIV)

Answering before listening is both stupid and rude. (MSG)

Think about it: we spend **YEARS** encouraging our children how to **SPEAK**: it's one of the first questions we ask new parents upon seeing the babbling baby: "*Are they talking yet? What was their first word?!*" Then, we send those kiddos to school, and spend **MORE** time teaching them how to express those words: learning the alphabet so they can write, penmanship so they write things legibly, reading so they can share what words they read.

WHEN, however, were we taught to **LISTEN?!** Which subject in school taught us how to **PAUSE** our brains when another is speaking, and truly **absorb** what they are saying? Truth be told, we weren't taught! We rarely take the time to **SEEK** what the other person is saying - we usually skip the part where we "*heareth*" and jump right to the part where we "*answereth*". And what does that gain us? A **frustrating** interaction that turns into **dueling dialogues**, when it could have been a real conversation.

It goes **DEEPER** than that, though: Habit 5 doesn't just ask us to listen, it asks us to **understand**. Empathize. Relate. It *doesn't* ask us to immediately jump in with how **WE** might have experienced the



same thing. We pause to **LISTEN** so that we can **UNDERSTAND** the other person's feelings - their words, their tone, perhaps even how their spirit is doing that day. **THAT's** where relationships begin: when we seek to understand the person with whom we are relating, **NOT** by trying to force OUR story upon them.

I sat for **YEARS** at a lunch table with a colleague who was only interested in being understood. She in no way sought to listen (*much less understand*) ANY of the people seated at our table. As **SOON** as we had shared something about ourselves (*between quick bites during our 20-minutes lunches*), she would immediately jump in with a story about herself. She had already **filtered** the story through her OWN perspective, and turned our story into hers. It's not that we didn't want to hear about **HER** experiences in life, it's just that she never took the time to understand **OURS**.

King Solomon was on to something when he penned those wise proverbs back in the day: when we listen with the intent to relate - to **understand** - we get to create this precious space where others can share their story and their perspective and their emotions. **THAT** is how we get to **understand** one another, and **THAT** is how we build upon our relationships and connections as friends and as disciples.

Seeking with you, dear Church,

Brenda



Daily Bible Readings: March 2026

Sun, Mar. 1	Jesus Serves	John 13:1-17
Mon, Mar. 2	Judas' Betrayal Foretold	John 13:21-30
Tues, Mar. 3	Peter Will Deny Jesus	John 13:31-38
Wed, Mar. 4	Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled	John 14:1-7
Thurs, Mar. 5	Jesus Is the True Vine	John 15:1-7
Fri, Mar. 6	The Hour Has Come	John 17:1-5
Sat, Mar. 7	Jesus Is Arrested	John 18:1-11
Sun, Mar. 8	Peter Denies Jesus	John 18:12-27
Mon, Mar. 9	My Enemies Will Fall	Psalms 27:1-14
Tues, Mar. 10	God Does Not Speak in Secret	Isaiah 45:14-19
Wed, Mar. 11	Jesus Is Going to the Father	John 14:8-12
Thurs, Mar. 12	Jesus Will Send an Advocate	John 14:13-17
Fri, Mar. 13	Not Left Orphaned	John 14:18-21
Sat, Mar. 14	The Advocate Will Teach Them	John 14:23-29
Sun, Mar. 15	Jesus before Pilate	John 18:28-40
Mon, Mar. 16	Abide in Jesus' Love	John 15:8-11
Tues, Mar. 17	Love One Another	John 15:12-17
Wed, Mar. 18	You Will Be Persecuted	John 15:18-21
Thurs, Mar. 19	You Will Testify	John 15:22-27
Fri, Mar. 20	Keep You from Stumbling	John 16:1-4a
Sat, Mar. 21	Jesus Is Going Away	John 16:4b-7
Sun, Mar. 22	Jesus Is Sentenced	John 19:1-16a
Mon, Mar. 23	The Spirit Will Teach	John 16:8-12
Tues, Mar. 24	The Spirit Will Guide You to Truth	John 16:13-16
Wed, Mar. 25	The Disciples Will See Jesus Again	John 16:17-22
Thurs, Mar. 26	Ask and You Shall Receive	John 16:23-28
Fri, Mar. 27	The Disciples Will Be Scattered	John 16:29-33
Sat, Mar. 28	Jesus Prays to God	John 17:6-9
Sun, Mar. 29	A Different Kind of King	John 19:16b-22
Mon, Mar. 30	Not One Is Lost	John 17:10-13
Tues, Mar. 31	Protect Them from Evil	John 17:14-19

Daily Bible Readings: April 2026

Wed, Apr. 1	Why Have You Forsaken Me?	Psalm 22:1-5
Thurs, Apr. 2	The Crucifixion	John 19:23-30
Fri, Apr. 3	Jesus Is Buried	John 19:31-42
Sat, Apr. 4	People Mock Me	Psalm 22:6-11
Sun, Apr. 5	Good News in the Garden	John 20:1-18
Mon, Apr. 6	Lament Turned to Praise	Psalm 22:19-22
Tues, Apr. 7	Lament turned to Praise	Psalm 22:23-26
Wed, Apr. 8	Lament turned to Praise	Psalm 22:27-31
Thurs, Apr. 9	God Calls the People to Be Witnesses	Isaiah 44:6-8
Fri, Apr. 10	The Song of the Suffering Servant	Isaiah 53:1-6
Sat, Apr. 11	Like a Lamb Led to Slaughter	Isaiah 53:7-12
Sun, Apr. 12	The Disciples Believe the Good News	John 20:19-31
Mon, Apr. 13	Jesus on the Seashore	John 21:1-14
Tues, Apr. 14	Care for My Sheep	John 21:15-19
Wed, Apr. 15	Jesus' Ascension	Acts 1:6-11
Thurs, Apr. 16	Peter's Sermon about Jesus	Acts 2:22-36
Fri, Apr. 17	Life in the First Church	Acts 2:37-47
Sat, Apr. 18	Saul Persecutes the Church	Acts 8:1b-3
Sun, Apr. 19	Saul Discovers the Good News	Acts 9:1-19a
Mon, Apr. 20	Saul Begins to Preach	Acts 9:19b-25
Tues, Apr. 21	Saul Comes to Jerusalem	Acts 9:26-31
Wed, Apr. 22	Barnabas and Saul Commissioned	Acts 13:1-12
Thurs, Apr. 23	Council of Jerusalem	Acts 15:1-21
Fri, Apr. 24	Timothy Joins Paul	Acts 15:36--16:5
Sat, Apr. 25	Conversion of Lydia	Acts 16:11-15
Sun, Apr. 26	Rejoicing in the Good News	Acts 16:16-34
Mon, Apr. 27	Paul Released from Jail	Acts 16:35-40
Tues, Apr. 28	Conversion of Cornelius, Pt 1	Acts 10:1-23
Wed, Apr. 29	Conversion of Cornelius, Pt 2	Acts 10:24-33
Thurs, Apr. 30	Conversion of Cornelius, Pt 3	Acts 10:34-48

Bi-Monthly Newsletter 2026

Meeting held on **Sunday, February 8, 2026**, following the Annual Meeting

Important Dates and Information inside!

Members present: Wendy Hanson, Rose Klatt, Carol Klein

Cindy Moore, Gail Schmidt, Rev. Brenda Greenwald

Opening Prayer: Pastor Brenda

Meeting Called to Order: 10:39a

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion was made by Wendy to approve the Agenda.

Second: Gail.

Carried

BRIEF REVIEW OF ANNUAL MEETING

- Celebrations:** It worked really well holding the meeting in the Fellowship Hall; a lot of folks stayed after worship for the meeting;
- Areas for **growth** next year: Ask more questions - encouraging folks to participate more; and begin to seek nominations prior to the meeting!

NEW BUSINESS: ELECTION OF 2026 OFFICERS

- President: Wendy Hanson
- Vice-President: Gail Schmidt
- Secretary: Carol Klein
- Treasurers: Ruth Thoune, Vicky Kline
- Financial Secretary: Ann Rasner



Motion was made by Cindy to accept all nominated officers. **Second:** Rose.

Carried

ASSIGNMENT OF LIAISON TEAMS for 2026

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Faith Formation: Rose | • Fellowship: Cindy |
| • Living Trust: Gail | • Memorial Fund: Cindy |
| • Property: Carol | • Social Min: Wendy |
| • WELCA: Gail | • Worship/Music: Wendy |

NEXT STEPS

- Motion** to adjourn was made by Wendy at **11:02a**
- NEXT** Gethsemane Council meeting: Thurs, March 12 at 10a **Devotions:** Cindy
- Meeting was closed with the **Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted, Carol Klein, Council Secretary



Find us on YouTube:
youtube.com/@GSSMichigan
Watch LIVE or Watch LATER!



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