



Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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Summer 2026 **Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald**
July at St, 10a. August at G, 10a (Fellowship Before)

Questions? Corrections? Contact Heather at St. St.



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IMPORTANT DATES For Your Calendar

July 5, 12, 18 ... One Worship at St. Stephen's at 10a. Fellowship before the service.

July 26. Annual Church Picnic + Potluck at **Erickson Park** in Stephenson at 10a. We will also be **blessing** Pastor Brenda as she departs on her 3-month sabbatical. Bring a **dish** to share for our **Potluck** lunch!

Aug 2, 9, 16, 23 . One Worship at Gethsemane at 10a. Fellowship before the service.

August 30 Join us for a Special Fellowship Time **before** worship at Gethsemane as we celebrate **Rev. David Christenson's** 50th Anniversary of Ordination!

September 6 ... We return to **worship** at **BOTH** locations.

Remember our Annual Worship Time Swap:

9a at St. Stephen's Fellowship **after**
10:30a at Gethsemane Fellowship **after**



July

5 Jackson Hafeman
18 Dennis Anderson
22 Jim Gill
23 Howie Klein
30 Tom Geltz



August

17 Jenny Hanson
18 Khloe Parker
22 Stephanie Klein
24 Lisha Stage
25 Mike Caylor
27 Debbie Hanson
28 Sue Skowronski



July

30 Kaylyn + Jordan Parker

Happy Anniversary

August

26 Cindy + Harvey Moore
29 Cindy + Vernon Paul



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

Jordan Baril
Jay Chapple
Brent Jurmu



We continue to hold the following in prayer:

Amber, Dave, Jim G, Jim K, Jim R, Richie

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



A Note from Pastor Brenda: *The time has come, dear Church, to take my Sabbatical leave. The Councils and I have compiled a few FAQs to provide info and to quell any anxiety:*

What IS a Sabbatical? The term Sabbatical comes from the Hebrew concept of Sabbath, or **rest**. Genesis notes that God rested from the work of creation and the Ten Commandments instruct us to honor the Sabbath and keep it holy, by worship, and reflecting on the blessings of God. Deuteronomy and Leviticus describe Sabbatical periods **where the balance of life is restored**. Sabbatical leave is a carefully planned period of time in which a Pastor is granted leave away from their normal, ministerial responsibilities in order to spend an extended period of time in study, renewal, and reflection.

S A B B A T I C A L

What a Sabbatical is NOT: It is **NOT** a vacation: a Sabbatical is more than a simple holiday; it's a period of spiritual renewal and rest from the demands of ministry. It is **NOT** a job search: it is not a time for a Pastor to look for a different job or explore other career opportunities, nor is a Sabbatical a punishment or an imposed leave of absence for negative actions. Finally, it is **NOT** a substitute for normal rest: it is distinct from the regular, weekly rest or shorter vacations, and is meant to provide a deeper level of renewal.

WHEN is this Sabbatical? Pastor Brenda will be gone during **August, September, and October**. Her send-off/blessing/final Sunday will be July 26 at the Annual Church Picnic (10a at Erickson Park in Stephenson). She will return to the Office on Wednesday, October 28, and return to Worship on All Saints' Sunday, November 1, 2026.

AUG SEP OCT

WHO's going to PREACH + PRESIDE + CARE for our congregations? Pastoral Coverage has been arranged for **EVERY** Sunday! Meaning, a Pastor will be present to lead each worship service, including being able to offer Confession + Forgiveness, and to lead you through the sacrament of **Holy Communion** **EVERY** Sunday. Local Pastors **Keith Kolstad** (retired), **Scott Ehle** (Bethel), **Christine Olson** (Emmanuel), and **Amanda Kossov** (Zion) will be **on call** for Pastoral emergencies, hospital visits, and funerals. Your Council Members are dedicated to helping lead during this time, too.



How is this Sabbatical being PAID for? First, the regular expenses of the Church will continue to be paid by the **faithful members** who place their **Offerings** in the Offering Plate (or by electronic means). Your continued support (and attendance) as the **Church** will contribute to the success of this Sabbatical. Per Synod Guidelines, Pastor Brenda will receive her normal compensation and benefits while on Sabbatical. Gethsemane and St. Stephen's have also established a **Joint Sabbatical Reserve Fund**. Annual deposits into this Fund will ensure financial security, well-ahead of the next Pastoral Sabbatical.

Second, specific Sabbatical expenses are being entirely covered by the generous heart and spirit of the late **+Nancy Diehm+** and the **Living Trust** she left to our churches. This Trust will cover the payment of the Visiting Pastors who lead worship, their travel, Pastor Brenda's Sabbatical education and travel, and any emergency coverage Visiting Pastors might incur when assisting our members. While +Nancy+ was a member of St. Stephen's, the Living Trust established in her name was given in the spirit of supporting the **Pastor**, whether that Pastor is solely serving St. Stephen's, or that Pastor is serving both St. Stephen's and their yoked partner in Christ, Gethsemane. **Thanks be to God!**



May I CALL or VISIT or TEXT Pastor Brenda during her Sabbatical? **Nope...**but you can **PRAY** for her each and every day. The name + phone number of the **Pastor on Call** will be printed in the bulletin each Sunday. Calling the St. Stephen's Office at 906.753.4932 will also let you leave a message for Heather, who works 9a – 1p on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.



What do I do if I run into Pastor Brenda at Gary's or Menards? Well, **say hello!** You'll probably even get a hug – but don't be surprised if she doesn't launch into the business of the Church. While she will be away at times, she's not travelling during her *ENTIRE* Sabbatical, so you'll see her about town, in her backyard, at stores, etc. Being in her home will provide a place of sabbath rest, too.

Is Pastor Brenda discerning a new call to a different Church? **Not. At. All.** She dearly loves these congregations and wants to continue serving in this place. She has several friends in our Synod and around the country who were able to remain in their calls *even longer* because of the new energy gained during their Sabbaticals.



I thank you in advance for your faithful prayers and your commitment to worship and to one another. My rest will come easy knowing that you are capable and caring congregations who will tend to one another's needs, and I already look forward to returning to you with renewed energy and joy. May God bless you all. Love,

Pr. Brenda

Additional Info from our Northern Great Lakes Synod's Compensation Guide:

Sabbatical leave is a planned period of time in which a Pastor is granted leave away from their normal, ministerial responsibilities. They receive the opportunity to spend an extended period of time in study, renewal, and reflection. This time away from the congregation is to renew a Pastor's energies and vision. It is an excellent investment in the congregation's future. In a Sabbatical, the congregation gets many of the benefits of a fresh start without the additional expenses of a new call process and lost momentum frequently experienced in calling a new Pastor. It also provides the benefits of a longer-term Pastorate in the parish, since studies show that a Sabbatical often extends a Pastor's stay within a parish. Usually, this time away is after a Pastor has been in the parish for four years or longer.

During a Sabbatical leave, the congregation pays full salary and benefits to the Pastor on Sabbatical, plus the expense of Pastoral supply during the period. You may not realize it, but the Sabbatical is a powerful symbol of love and respect for a Pastor. It is also a powerful symbol of health and vitality for a congregation. Both congregation and Pastor benefit by the use of renewal and recreation time.

A Sabbatical leave of up to 3 months is recommended every 5-7 years to support renewal and professional growth. The Pastor would be expected to return to the present call for at least one year following the Sabbatical. Support for rest and renewal is part of the rhythm of healthy ministry. Covering professional expenses helps Pastors stay connected, equipped, and involved in the wider church. These aren't extras. They're essential acts of care—for the ones we've entrusted to lead, and for the church we're building together.

Burnout, discouragement, and depletion of spiritual and emotional resources threaten the effectiveness of Pastoral ministry and threaten to shorten Pastorates. Periodic, Sabbatical leaves may foster a ministry that is longer, more energized, and more fruitful. People are drawn to interesting, vitalized Pastors who reflect what they preach, and what we preach is a way of life. A vitalized Pastor at the center of their congregation's life is essential. The Pastor is called to model ways of emotional and physical wholeness, along with enthusiasm for proclaiming the gospel and caring about people. A Sabbatical provides the opportunity to drink deeply from Biblical and classical sources of wisdom so that the Pastor may return to the congregation with renewed vitality in all areas of ministry.



SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2026



Northern Great
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SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2026 CONTINUED



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Pentecost Sunday

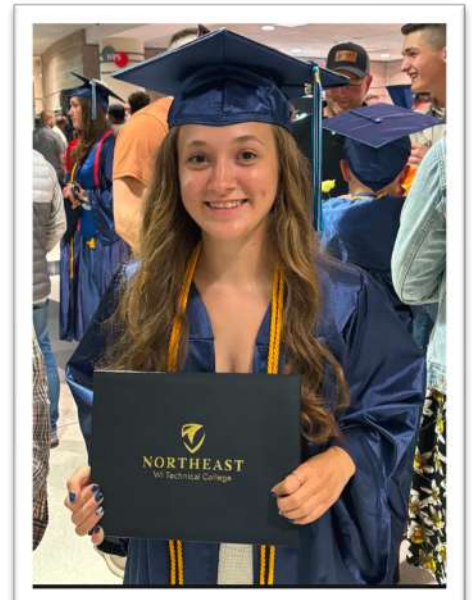
PENTECOST 2026



GRADUATION 2026



class of
2026



Daily Bible Readings: July 2026

Wed, Jul 01	Haman Plans Mordecai's Death	Esther 5:9-14
Thu, Jul 02	Mordecai Discovers a Plot	Esther 2:19-23
Fri, Jul 03	One Whom the King Honors	Esther 6:1-9
Sat, Jul 04	Mordecai Is Honored	Esther 6:10-14
Sun, Jul 05	Esther Saves the Jews	Esther 7:1-10, 9:1-2, 20-22, 29-32
Mon, Jul 06	Mordecai Given Haman's Position	Esther 8:1-8
Tues, Jul 07	Letters to the Jews	Esther 8:9-14
Wed, Jul 08	The Jews Rejoice	Esther 8:15-17
Thurs, Jul 09	The Jews Fight Back	Esther 9:1-17
Fri, Jul 10	The Festival of Purim	Esther 9:18-23
Sat, Jul 11	Why It Is Called Purim	Esther 9:24-32
Sun, Jul 12	Grateful to Jesus	1 Timothy 1:12-17
Mon, Jul 13	Greetings to Timothy	1 Timothy 1:1-7
Tues, Jul 14	Instructions about Prayer	1 Timothy 2:1-7
Wed, Jul 15	Mystery of Our Religion	1 Timothy 3:14-16
Thu, Jul 16	God Created Everything Good	1 Timothy 4:1-5
Fri, Jul 17	Good Servant of Jesus	1 Timothy 4:6-16
Sat, Jul 18	Parable of the Lost Sheep	Luke 15:1-7
Sun, Jul 19	True Riches	1 Timothy 6:6-19
Mon, Jul 20	The Rich Man and Lazarus	Luke 16:19-26
Tue, Jul 21	They Should Listen to Moses	Luke 16:27-30
Wed, Jul 22	Saul Persecutes the Church	Acts 8:1-3
Thu, Jul 23	Saul Encounters Jesus	Acts 9:1-19a
Fri, Jul 24	Saul Begins to Preach	Acts 9:19b-24
Sat, Jul 25	Saul Comes to Jerusalem	Acts 9:26-31
Sun, Jul 26	Rekindle the Gift	2 Timothy 1:1-14
Mon, Jul 27	Proclaiming Jesus in Antioch	Acts 11:19-26
Tue, Jul 28	Barnabas and Saul Are Commissioned	Acts 13:1-12
Wed, Jul 29	The Council of Jerusalem	Acts 15:1-21
Thu, Jul 30	Timothy Joins Paul	Acts 15:36-16:4
Fri, Jul 31	Paul's Mission Heads West	Acts 16:1-10

Daily Bible Readings: August 2026

Sat, Aug 01	Conversion of Lydia	Acts 16:11-15
Sun, Aug 02	God's Word Is Not Chained	2 Timothy 2:8-15
Mon, Aug 03	Paul and Silas in Prison	Acts 16:16-34
Tue, Aug 04	Paul Released from Jail	Acts 16:35-40
Wed, Aug 05	Paul Goes to Thessalonica	Acts 17:1-9
Thu, Aug 06	Paul Goes to Beroea	Acts 17:10-15
Fri, Aug 07	Paul in Athens	Acts 17:16-31
Sat, Aug 08	The Conversion of Dionysius	Acts 17:32-34
Sun, Aug 09	Scripture Is Inspired	2 Timothy 3:14—4:8, 16-18
Mon, Aug 10	The Church at Corinth	Acts 18:1-17
Tue, Aug 11	Paul Leaves Corinth	Acts 18:18-23
Wed, Aug 12	The Church at Ephesus	Acts 19:1-10
Thu, Aug 13	Paul Leaves Ephesus	Acts 19:21-22; 20:17-28
Fri, Aug 14	Paul Tells His Story	Acts 22:1-11
Sat, Aug 15	Paul Continues His Story	Acts 22:12-21
Sun, Aug 16	The First Commandments	Exodus 19:1-6; 20:1-2
Mon, Aug 17	Moses Summons the People	Exodus 19:7-15
Tue, Aug 18	The People Are Consecrated	Exodus 19:16-25
Wed, Aug 19	Hear, O Israel	Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Thu, Aug 20	Trust in the Lord	Deuteronomy 6:10-19
Fri, Aug 21	The Purpose of the Commandments	Deuteronomy 6:20-25
Sat, Aug 22	God's Promises	Deuteronomy 7:1-6
Sun, Aug 23	The Ten Commandments, Continued	Exodus 20:3-11
Mon, Aug 24	God's Promises, Continued	Deuteronomy 7:7-11
Tues, Aug 25	Pay Attention to the Laws and Commandments	Deuteronomy 7:12-16
Wed, Aug 26	God Will Defend Israel	Deuteronomy 7:17-22
Thu, Aug 27	God Will Deliver Israel	Deuteronomy 7:23-26
Fri, Aug 28	Do Not Forget the Lord	Deuteronomy 8:1-5
Sat, Aug 29	Observe God's Commandments	Deuteronomy 8:6-10
Sun, Aug 30	The Ten Commandments, Continued	Exodus 20:12-16
Mon, Aug 31	Remember the Lord at Mealtimes	Deuteronomy 8:11-18





Church Council Minutes

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

May 7, 2026



Members present: Wendy Hanson, Gail Schmidt, Cindy Moore, Carol Klein, Pastor Brenda Greenwald

Absent: Rose Klatt

Meeting Called to Order: 1:39pm

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion was made by Pastor Brenda to approve the Agenda as printed;

Motion was seconded by Gail.

Carried.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion was made by Pastor Brenda to approve the Minutes from the March/April Council meeting; motion seconded by Gail.

Carried.

TREASURER'S/FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORTS

Motion was made by Carol to accept the April financial reports and the January expense report;

Motion was seconded by Gail.

Carried.

ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Blood Drive Update: We had 32 sign-ins which included 8 walk-ins. Of those 32, 25 were able to donate. Next drive is 8/25.
2. Lawn Mowing: Two quotes were received - Vivid Lawn Care from Daggett and Buscher Lawn and Landscape, Menominee. (Sarah Krzych did not choose to submit a quote)
After reviewing the quotes, a motion was made by Carol to accept the bid from VIVID at the cost of \$180.00 per mow to be paid from the respective maintenance fund;
Motion was seconded by Cindy.
Pastor Brenda will contact and arrange an acceptable mowing schedule.

Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Thrivent Choice Dollars: It was noted that we currently have \$436.11 available. Motion was made by Carol that those dollars be given to WELCA to be used for the purchase of quilt batting. Motion seconded by Cindy.
Carried.
2. Fundraiser Dates: Council discussed moving the day of our fundraising meals from Thursday to Wednesday so as not to compete with the American Legion meals held every Thursday. The decision was made to make the switch to Wednesdays.
3. Brat Fry: Wednesday, June 24 was chosen as the date for this year's Brat Fry! An expense limit of \$600 was set to come from the Social Ministry Fund. Proceeds will again go to the HVAC Fund.
4. Top the Tater: Date for this meal was set for Wednesday, September 9. Again, an expense limit of \$600 was set, to come from the Social Ministry Fund (although most expenses are usually covered by Thrivent Gift Card and Donations). Our large sign has been damaged. Options: repair with Duct Tape or replacing for \$110 - it was decided to replace. Proceeds from this meal will go to our Eagles Wings fund.

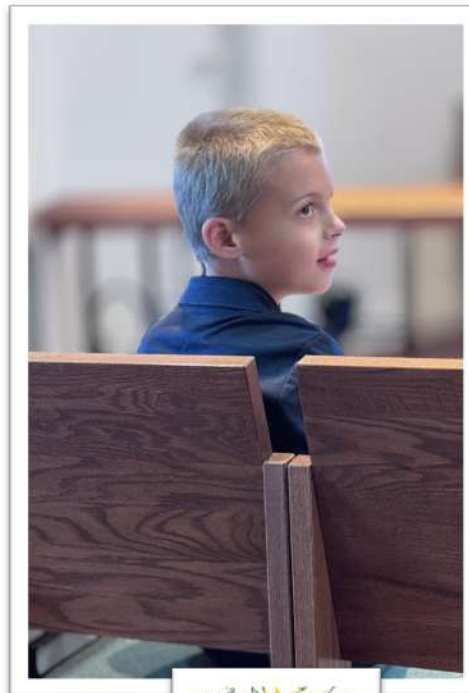
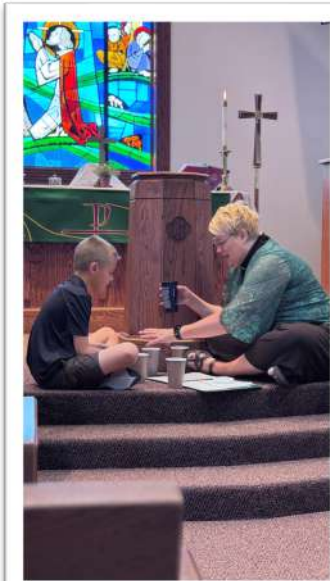
5. Sauerkraut Supper: This year's supper will be Wednesday, October 21 and expenses are funded by WELCA. Proceeds go towards church and community needs, to be decided after the meal. Motion was made by Pastor Brenda to authorize the funding of the meals. Motion seconded by Carol. **Carried.**
6. Blacktopping of the Parsonage Driveway: Peshtigo Asphalt has agreed to honor the quote that was prepared for us last year totaling \$5,947.00. Motion was made by Cindy to move forward and present the project and quoted amount to the congregation for approval. Motion was seconded by Carol. **Carried.** Congregational meeting will be called for May 24 prior to the beginning of the morning worship service.
7. Regular Council Meetings suspended until: September

NEXT STEPS

- a. Next Gethsemane Council Meeting: September 17 10:00a
- b. Devotions: Wendy

Motion to adjourn was made by Pastor Brenda; Meeting adjourned at 3:01p
Meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Klein, Council Secretary





Bi-Monthly Newsletter - 2026

Important Dates and Information inside!

Cethsemane Lutheran Church
PO Box 98
Wallace, MI 49893

