

November

2023

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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Sunday

Worship

9a

(Fellowship

AFTER)



Birthdays, Anniversaries, Prayers, Remembrances	2
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All Saints' Day



During Worship on **All Saints' Sunday**, November 5, 2023, we will say aloud the names of your loved ones who have died in the past year. ***May those who we remember rest in peace and rise in glory.***



MidCounty Ministerium

Food Pantry

MANY thanks to those who have dropped off food items, mailed in money, or spent time at the **Food Pantry** over the last month. **EVERY** moment, **EVERY** dollar helps our community! **Keep it up!**

Birthday Blessings

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- 1 Brian Panske
- 9 Gma Dot turns 95!
- 16 Cindy Moore
- 23 Sandy Beardsley
- 30 David Kraus



7 Jim & Tena Roubal
Bob & Diana Jarnutowski



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

*Jordan Baril, Jay Chapple, Ken Dams,
Trish Dams, Brent Jurmu, Jared Jurmu*



We continue to hold the following in prayer:

Callan Johnson

Karen Raether

Madelyn Mack

Priscilla Salo

Rob Boe

Ronnie Anderson

Tammy Parrett

Tony Hofer

Zeke Gill

We offer the **comfort** and **hope** of the **resurrection** to the family and friends of

+Tim Bruce+ (cousin of Mary Jo Mahaffy - G)

+Cindy Gochis+ (Daughter of Norma Elmer - St.)

+Kenny Turek+ (Cousin of Doug Klein, Friend of the Community)



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!

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

We Do!

Rev. Brenda L. Greenwald

Dear Church,

On Sunday, **October 8, 2023**, at Gethsemane Lutheran Church, we celebrated the double baptism of **+Lena** Alexis and **+Neva** Evalynn Stage, twin daughters of Alicia Stage, and little sisters of big brother, **Everit**.

We all watched as their mama **promised** to live into the Christian responsibilities of a parent: to **live** with the girls among God's faithful people, to **bring** the girls to the word of God and the holy supper, to **teach** them the Lord's Prayer, Creeds, and 10 Commandments, to **place** in their tiny, little hands the holy scriptures, and to **nurture** them in **faith** and **prayer**.



She promised to nurture **Lena** and **Neva** (as she did with *Everit* when he was a baby) in the Christian faith as **empowered** by God's Spirit, and to **help** them live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church. Then, **WE**, as the gathered **People of God**, made promises to support both **Lena** and **Neva** and **pray** for them in their lives in Christ.



Then, just **ONE** week later, these **SAME** promises were spoken over **Dorothy Davis** at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church on Sunday, **October 15, 2023**. In the span of just 7 days, **three** daughters of God were washed in God's holy waters! *Glory, hallelujah!*

These are **POWERFUL** promises, Church! A **sacrament** isn't just a fancy process we do, just so folks can say they've been baptized, and then move on with life. Baptism **isn't** just one of those things you check-off your list of things to **do** – Baptism is one of those things you get to **BE**. We get to **BE** a part of the greater story of life and death and life again in Christ. We get to **BE** sealed by the Holy Spirit. We get to **BE** part of the Family of God, and we get to **BE** washed in the cleansing water of God's love.

We get to join parents and sponsors – and even adults – when we say a hearty **"WE DO"** when asked if we will actively help the baptized **LIVE INTO** their life in Christ. These include **LOFTY** instructions, **HEAVY** responsibilities...and (most importantly) absolutely, **BEAUTIFUL** assurances! These three, daughters of God get to **BE** blessed by your ongoing support and prayers, Church. Let the **"WE DO!"** you proclaimed so heartily during worship translate into a continued relationship with these daughters in Christ.

Washed in the promises,

Fr. Brenda



**Blessed are
the PIECE-
makers!**

The Boxcar Bunch
50 congregations in the
UP and WI make quilts/kits
for this cause each year!

71 quilts
60 backpacks
12 fabric kits

**ALL sent to Lutheran
World Relief!**



Couldn't have
been a **success**
without the
willingness of
so many
volunteers!



Janet Mullard, Judi Freis, Ann Rasner, Pastor Brenda, Carol Klein, Carol Lindner, Sue Skowronski, Cindy Moore.

Not pictured: Vicky Klein, Gail Schmidt...and whomever sneaks in to assist!

Quilters meet on the first Wednesday and Thursday of the month from 9a-12p.
If you can use a scissors, come on by and join the fun!

Got Hope?

Pr Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission

Several years ago, a very wise, incompetent person said to me, "Hope is not a strategy. "The context was not about church matters, but about a significant project involving lots of money and many, many action steps. Barriers to the goal were multitude, yet the vision of the project remained. The key people on the project were not wanting or willing to give up. I think really what he meant to say was that "wishful thinking "or "magical thinking "is not a strategy to help us move forward to achieve the outcome we want.

The Bible says a lot about HOPE. Probably the most famous passage about HOPE is from Jeremiah 29:11: **"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare, and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."** (NRSV) Romans 8:25 is helpful: **"But if we hope for what we do, do not see, we wait for it with patience."** (NRSV)



Pastor Eugene Petersen, author of the message version of the Bible, wrote the following in his book, **A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society**:

Hope defined, hoping does not mean doing nothing... It means going about our assigned tasks, confident that God will provide the meaning and the conclusions. It is not compelled to work away at keeping up appearances with a bogus spirituality. It is the opposite of desperate and panicky, manipulations, of scurrying and worrying. And hoping is not dreaming. It is not spinning and illusion, or fantasy to protect us from our boredom or our pain. It means a confident, alert, expectation that God will do what he said he will do. It is imagination put in the harness of faith. It is a willingness to let God do it his way, and in his time. It is the opposite of making plans that we demand that God put into effect, telling him both how and when to do it."

I really like what Petersen says about **HOPE**. There's a lot of solid wisdom, and perspective contained in those words above. I'm glad we have many churches with HOPE in their name. Here in Marquette, we have HOPE – a shared ministry of four Methodist ministries. I've never run across a church named, "No Hope Here."

There are a lot of things and institutions that we have lost hope in. Most people have no hope that Congress can run efficiently. I still don't want to give up. Hope in that matter because we need good leadership and decision-making in Congress. I will try to stay informed. I will vote. Most importantly, I will pray for our nation's leaders, no matter my personal feelings about them.

I don't have hope that I will get back to my weight at age 17. But, I'm still trying to lose some weight and exercise. I don't have hope that I will become an astronaut. That was my dream as a young boy, but I will keep looking up at the stars, and stand in amazement of it all. I don't have hope that all our churches will see a grand influx of youth, coming back to our churches, or all our adults, engaging in Bible Study, or all our budget projections being perfectly met, or all of our pastors/LLM's and council leaders always agreeing with each other, and never experiencing challenges and conflicts. But I have HOPE in the power of God to look at the "dry bones "of our lives and church institutions, and declare to us, "you are my beloved. I can still breathe my spirit in you. I'm not going to abandon you, even though you may have abandoned me. "

I have hope not, because I have a crystal ball for the future, but because I have seen and felt God and God's people come through many a storm in the past. I also read throughout the scriptures that God is a God of hope. Without a sense of hope, we can lapse into nihilistic, chaotic, self-fulfilling, doom, and gloom. I don't want to live like that. I don't want to see the people and the world around me like that.

I will continue to cling to (NRSV), not as a magical dream, but as my faith in a God, who loves this world. And I sure hope that God will help me and you live out the vision of God's loving and just purposes for all. God gave us **HOPE!**

Dwelling in the Word

November 2023: Luke 16:1-13 – “The Dishonest Steward”

¹6 Then Jesus said to the disciples, “There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, ‘What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management because you cannot be my manager any longer.’



³Then the manager said to himself, ‘What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.’ ⁵So, summoning his master’s debtors one by one, he asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’ ⁶He answered, ‘A hundred jugs of olive oil.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.’ ⁷Then he asked another, ‘And how much do you owe?’ He replied, ‘A hundred containers of wheat.’ He said to him, ‘Take your bill and make it eighty.’

⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly, for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

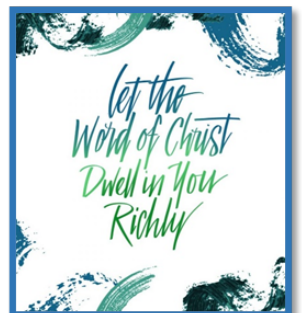
¹⁰“Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much, and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If, then, you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters, for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.”

1. What catches your attention?
2. What questions does this passage raise for you?
3. Where might God’s Spirit be nudging you in this passage?

Join the whole Northern Great Lakes Synod in Dwelling in the Word.

Visit <https://bit.ly/DwellNGLS> for monthly Scripture passages that you can use to begin your meetings: Council, quilting, Faith Formation, Women's Group - whatever meeting you have, begin with this brief devotion and Dwell in the same Word together.

Also, you are invited to join the **Synod Council** (*Pastor Brenda will be there*), via **Zoom**, to Dwell in that monthly Word the first **Thursday** of every month. The Zoom link will be on the Synod website.



May our Synod be blessed as we listen to God through Dwelling in the Word!

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Daily Bible Readings, Year A

*Year A focuses on the Gospel of **Matthew**. The semi-continuous Old Testament readings focus on major Genesis narratives, the covenant with Moses, and the establishment of Israel in the Promised Land. The second, New Testament, readings are from Romans, Philippians and 1 Thessalonians.*

Wed – Nov 1	Proverbs 16:1-20	Matthew 19:16-22	Psalms 119:41-48
Thu – Nov 2	1 Samuel 2:27-36	Romans 2:17-29	Psalms 43
Fri – Nov 3	Ezekiel 13:1-16	2 Peter 2:1-3	Psalms 43
Sat – Nov 4	Malachi 1:6-2:9	Matthew 23:13-28	Psalms 43

Sunday Nov 5 – Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Micah 3:5-12 | Psalms 43 (3) | 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 | Matthew 23:1-12

Prayer of the Day: *O God, generous and supreme, your loving Son lived among us, instructing us in the ways of humility and justice. Continue to ease our burdens, and lead us to serve alongside of him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – Nov 6	Jeremiah 5:18-31	1 Thessalonians 2:13-20	Psalms 5
Tue – Nov 7	Lamentations 2:13-17	Acts 13:1-12	Psalms 5
Wed – Nov 8	Proverbs 16:21-33	Matthew 15:1-9	Psalms 5
Thu – Nov 9	Amos 1:1-2:5	Revelation 8:6-9:12	Psalms 70
Fri – Nov 10	Amos 3:1-12	Revelation 9:13-21	Psalms 70
Sat – Nov 11	Amos 4:6-13	Matthew 24:1-14	Psalms 70

Sunday Nov 12 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Amos 5:18-24 | Psalms 70 (5) | 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | Matthew 25:1-13

Prayer of the Day: *O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – Nov 13	Amos 8:7-14	1 Corinthians 14:20-25	Psalms 63
Tue – Nov 14	Joel 1:1-14	1 Thessalonians 3:6-13	Psalms 63
Wed – Nov 15	Joel 3:9-21	Matt 24:29-35	Psalms 63
Thu – Nov 16	Ez 6:1-14	Rev. 16:1-7	Ps 90:1-12
Fri – Nov 17	Ez 7:1-9	Rev 16:8-21	Ps 90:1-12
Sat – Nov 18	Ez 7:10-27	Matt 12:43-45	Ps 90:1-12

**UPDATING
OUR WEBSITE**

Please be patient with us as we work out all the bugs!

For Questions call 906-228-2300 or email ngls@nglsynod.org



Sunday Nov 19 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 | Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 (12) | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 | Matthew 25:14-30

Prayer of the Day: *Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.*

Mon – Nov 20	Zechariah 1:7-17	Romans 2:1-11	Psalm 9:1-14
Tue – Nov 21	Zechariah 2:1-5, 5:1-4	1 Thessalonians 5:12-18	Psalm 9:1-14
Wed – Nov 22	Job 16:1-21	Matthew 24:45-51	Psalm 9:1-14
Thu – Nov 23	1 Kings 22:13-23	Revelation 14:1-11	Psalm 85:1-7a
Fri – Nov 24	1 Chronicles 17:1-15	Revelation 22:1-9	Psalm 95:1-7a
Sat – Nov 25	Isaiah 44:21-28	Matthew 12:46-50	Psalm 95:1-7a

Sunday Nov 26 – Christ the King Sunday

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 | Psalm 95:1-7a (7) | Ephesians 1:15-23 | Matthew 25:31-46

Prayer of the Day: *O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve 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 – Nov 27	Esther 2:1-18	2 Timothy 2:8-13	Psalm 7
Tue – Nov 28	Esther 8:3-17	Revelation 19:1-9	Psalm 7
Wed – Nov 29	Ezekiel 33:7-20	John 5:19-40	Psalm 7
Thu – Nov 30	Zechariah 13:1-9	Revelation 14:6-13	Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

*Thanks for stopping by the **Chili Supper** over at St. Stephen's! Over **75** people gathered throughout the night, enjoying fellowship and **delicious** chilis!*



thank you



*The numbers for our **Sauerkraut Dinner** were not yet available when we went to print, but from the way things are coming together, it's going to be a **great night!***



Church Council Minutes

October 18, 2023 - Council Meeting



MEMBERS PRESENT: Judi Freis, Wendy Hanson, Carol Klein, Sue Skowronski, Pastor Brenda Greenwald
DEVOTIONS: Wendy **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:** 9:15a

AGENDA APPROVAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Motion to Accept: Sue
Motion to Accept: Judi

SECOND: Judi
SECOND: Sue

CARRIED
CARRIED

PASTOR'S REPORT: September + October 2023

Pr. Brenda Greenwald

CALENDAR ITEMS

- ☐ **Baptisms**
 - + Lena Alexis Stage (10/8/23) at G
 - +Neva Evalynn Stage (10/8/23) at G
 - +Dorothy Davis (10/15/23) at St.
- ☐ **Funerals**
 - +Diane (and Wicket) Cross+ (9/5-6/23) Funeral + Burial (Bethesda)
 - +Deanna Thill+ (9/10-11/23) Funeral + Burial (Bethesda)
 - +Nancy Diehm+ (9/17-18/23) Funeral + Burial (Stephenson)
 - +Dennis Kaczmarczyk+ (10/3/23) Burial (Stephenson)
- ☐ **Events**
 - God's Work, Our Hands (9/10/23) at G
 - Top the Tater (9/14/23) at G
 - Blessing of the Animals (10/1/23) - 8 dogs, 1 horse, 1 pony, 1 cow!
 - Boxcar Loading (10/14/23) - almost cancelled! Whew!
- ☐ **Wedding**
 - Cassie Vetort/Jordan Kinney (9/16/23) at Bethel for Pr Scott

MINISTRY MOMENTS

- ☐ **Concerns** (to be shared verbally at meeting)
- ☐ **Confirmation** Active roles at Animal Blessing, Roubals; classwork continues
- ☐ **Digital Ministry** High-Speed Internet in place! Microphone/iPad/camera TBP
- ☐ **Food Pantry** Memorial donations have made a huge impact!
- ☐ **Fortune Lake** Over \$23K raised!
- ☐ **Health & Hospice** UP Home Health and Hospice - amazing resource
- ☐ **Menominee Health** Worship (9/26/23)
- ☐ **Membership** 3 New Members (St.), 1 New Member (Soon - G)
- ☐ **NGL Synod** Council: Planning in Ishpeming (9/8-9/23), Dwelling Zooms
- ☐ **Office Manager** Heather (St) - a welcome addition!
- ☐ **Rescue Squad** Memorial donations have made a huge impact!
- ☐ **Roubal's** Worship (10/15/23)
- ☐ **Vacation** Needed. Barely decompressed. Traumatic month(s).
- ☐ **Visitors** Be extra alert/welcoming when special events are happening.
- ☐ **Visits** Home: 10 Hospital: 1 Retirement: 1 Office: 8

TREASURER'S REPORT/FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT (printed reports for August and September)

Motion to accept ALL financial reports was made by Judi. **SECOND: Sue CARRIED**

MINISTRY TEAM LIAISONS

- **Property:** HVAC Fund is now up to 20%! A billing was received (and paid) from Eickmeyer for parsonage furnace repairs which were necessary shortly after having it serviced for the season. Following a phone call to Eickmeyers, the check was returned!
- **Fellowship:** Activities included "Top the Tater" - a huge success; and providing cupcakes for the baptism of Lena and Neva.
- **WELCA:** Thrivent donation cards have been received and used for supplies/advertising for both Top the Tater and Sauerkraut Suppers; Our ladies have prepared and boxed **71 quilts, 60 backpacks and 12 fabric kits** which were brought to the Lutheran World Relief boxcar on 10/14/23! Baptismal Banners were made for the baptism of Lena and Neva Stage.

Motion to accept the Ministry Team reports made by Carol. **SECOND: Sue CARRIED**

OLD/ONGOING BUSINESS

1. Motion to move submitted names from **ACTIVE** to **INACTIVE** status. *Pastor Brenda submitted a list of names of members who are no longer actively involved in congregational worship/activities. Approving this action will **not** remove anyone from actual membership, as this is simply a housekeeping move to ensure we have accurate and up-to-date congregational records, as required by the ELCA.*

Motion to accept this action was made by Judi. **SECOND: Sue CARRIED**

2. **Top the Tater Recap:** We served over 140 people and almost \$1400 was taken in for our **Eagle's Wings** fund! Wendy commented on the awesome group of people who pitch in and help! AND, it was noted that it probably wouldn't have run as smoothly as it did w/o Wendy's organizing skills!
3. **Snow-plowing:** Only quote received was from Bart Tickler:

4" or less \$215.00	Anything over 4" \$250.00	Shoveling \$ 60.00
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Motion to accept the quote (minus shoveling) made by Sue. **SECOND: Carol CARRIED**

Motion by Pr B to pay a member(s) to shovel at Church. **SECOND: Carol CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Carols, Cookies, & Cocoa:** Pastor B said she would be a willing participant and Council was all in favor of hosting a community Christmas sing-along 12/10/23 at 2 pm!!
2. **Handicap Parking Space Markings:** tabled until November.

NEXT STEPS

- **Next Gethsemane Council Meeting:** November 15, 2023 1pm.
- **Devotions:** Sue

Motion to adjourn was made by Pr Brenda; time adjourned 10:41am



Meeting closed with the **Lord's Prayer**. **Respectfully submitted, Carol Klein Secretary**



FORTUNE LAKE

A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI



Senior Day is a wonderful way to reconnect with old friends and make a few new ones along the way. Come and join us for a day of conversation, delicious food, and fun!

Each **Senior Day** begins at **10a CT** and wraps up by **2p CT**.
The program varies, but generally includes the following:

- **10a** Arrival and check-in, coffee, fellowship
- **10:15a** Devotion & announcements
- **10:30a** Presentation morning session
- **12p** Lunch
- **1p** Presentation afternoon session

Monday, Nov. 13: Thanksgiving

Monday, Jan. 15: Program TBD

Monday, Mar. 11: Program TBD

Monday, May 13: Program TBD

***\$10 donation/participant** is requested. **RSVP** by the **Friday before** to 906.214.2267 or hospitality@fortunelake.org*

Lily, Sara and
Kool-Aid the Cow



Darrell
and
Ollie



Ang+Daisy
Eric+Burt

Blessing of the Animals

In honor of St. Francis, patron saint of animals, we held our annual Blessing of the Animals in the backyard of the parsonage! Confirmands helped with the mini-service, and leashes were a lifesaver!



Sue and Jim with Curly Sue and Holly



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

November



Northern Great
Lakes Synod
www.nglsynod.org

Monthly Newsletter - 2023

Important DATES and Information inside!

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Gethsemane Lutheran Church