

Gethsemane Gazette

Gethsemane Lutheran
Church
Virginia, Minnesota
www.gelc.info

Mission Statement

To draw all people
to Christ,
nurture faith, and
fulfill our calling to serve

Vision for Gethsemane

A vibrant place of
worship, learning and
service, where every
person is passionate
about their belonging and
their ministry

Marks of Discipleship

Pray daily
Study Scriptures diligently
Worship weekly
Encourage Faith in Others
Serve for the sake
of others
Give freely

Inside this issue:

Nurturing Faith	2
From the Pastor	2
Children, Youth and Family Ministry	3
Service in our Congregation	4
Service in Community and World	5
People of Gethsemane	6
Congregational Support	7
Prayer Wall	7
School Snacks for Parkview Learning Center	8

August, 2023

Volume 45, Issue 8

Join us for August Worship and Events!



Sounds of the Northwoods

August 5, 1 - 7 pm.

A day of music,
fellowship, food, and
supporting the
ministry at
Camp Hiawatha and
Camp Vermilion.



RAFFLE PRIZES 2023 (See Back Page)

First Prize - \$20,000 Lund 1400 Fury, Mercury 20hp, Bunk Trailer from Ray's Sport and Marine, Grand Rapids, MN. Stop by and take a look. It is on display at Ray's Sport and Marine, ask for Andy Arola.

Second Prize - \$1,500 Hiawatha/Vermilion Adventure Packs, two roll top Arrowhead Packs with Camp Logo Embroidery, two Accessory bags, two buffalo plaid blankets, packable cribbage board and Frost River Gift Card from Frost River in Duluth Minnesota.

Third Prize - \$500 cash

GET YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS: Raffle Tickets are \$20 each. Available at Camp Hiawatha, Camp Vermilion, Duluth office, or by calling (800) 331-5148 or in the tent on the day of the event! Raffle tickets can not be purchased with a credit card! Raffle tickets will be drawn live at **6:15pm**.



July Angels

A big Thank You to all who helped with the July Angel duties: Laurie Harvey, Bethany Harvey, Ken and Barb Alaspa, Eleanor Anshus, Debbie Poderzay, Geoffrey McNeil II, Joyce Giblin, Cindy Lustig, Char Meinzer, Darcy Norha, Joyce Bloomquist, Dana Waldron, Eila Issacson, and Bunny Varani.

We had a very fun, and busy month. We are so blessed to have so many angels in our congregation! Thanks again. Blessings to you all!

Pam Fields, July Angel Coordinator

All Women of Gethsemane

Thursday, August 24th, at 5:30 pm in the youth room. We are having a casual get together just to "hang out" with other gals, enjoy visiting, relax, and have some laughs.

We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month. No commitments, just bring yourself and your own beverage. Please come. - we'll have a fun time!

Ways to Worship

In the Sanctuary

We are worshipping in-person in our sanctuary. Please assess your own health as you consider attending worship in person. Masks are optional. We are now receiving communion at the altar using bread and wine/grape juice. Gluten free is also available.

Facebook Livestream

We will continue to livestream our worship on our Facebook page at 9 am on Sundays. The video will be available throughout the rest of the week as well.



Local Public Access TV (one week behind)

Worship is still available on TV, on Channel 5 (Mediacom).

The schedule is:

Mondays – 6:00 pm

Tuesdays – 4:00 pm

Wednesdays – 10:00 am

Fridays – 10:00 am

Sundays – 7:45 am.

From the Pastor

When Plans Change

I recently went on a continuing education trip to Arizona for the ELCA 2023 Rostered Ministers Gathering. Sheltered by the air conditioning of the Phoenix Convention Center from the 115° heat, a group of almost 700 worshiped, had small group discussions, attended workshops, and generally rejuvenate and rekindle our hearts for ministry. That gathering had been postponed 3 years from when it had originally been planned, summer 2020, and that fact was pointed out more than once during our time together as a way that God had redirected us for a short time and a good reason for the joy and camaraderie we all felt at being together.

Well, unfortunately, all that togetherness changed my own plans, as I discovered a few days after leaving that I had contracted Covid at the Gathering. I had already flown to Iowa to spend a few days at the tail end of my trip, but those few days ballooned into almost a week, as I fought the symptoms and quarantined and then my mom also came down with it. Thankfully, both of us recovered with little more than lingering fatigue, but that week definitely didn't turn out to be the time of relaxing reunion we had planned for.

Most of us hope for our plans to go off without a hitch, and we don't always give thanks when they do, but we are usually disappointed when they don't.

In Isaiah 55:8-9 the prophet wrote, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."

We do not know or understand the plans of God for us, nor should we. The plans we make and the paths we ultimately travel are a beautiful mixture of our best intentions, misguided hubris, daily choices, and God's gracious intervention.

From the Pastor

- continued-

Was Covid a part of anyone's hopes or plans for our world? No. Surely not. Did my trip go just as I had planned or hoped? Absolutely not.

But I was glad the Rostered Ministers Gathering had been postponed, because I had a chance to go. And I was thankful that my first (and hopefully only) bout of Covid happened when I was in the company of my family who love me deeply and cared for me well.

I'm not one who loves proof texting, but I'm reminded of another prophet's words that bring me comfort in those times when my own plans go to pot - *"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."* (Jer. 29:11)

Let us look toward the future with hope, making plans, but trusting that God's surely going to take our choices and chances, turn them around, and use them for His glory.

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Amy

Faith Builders

(Preschool - grade 5)

We hope you are all enjoying your summer vacation. Remember to "Save the Date" for Rally Sunday which will take place on September 10th.

With God's Blessings,
Cindy and Pam



Confirmation

Save the Date! Confirmation orientation for ALL Confirmation youth and adults will be held on Wednesday, September 13th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church Rally Sunday and 60th Anniversary - Sept. 10, 1963 - 2023

In 1963, First Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church merged together to form Gethsemane Lutheran Evangelical Church.

On Sunday, September 10th, we will celebrate with the following events:

- 9:00 am Worship Service - NE Synod Bishop Amy Odgren preaching
- 10:15 am Group Photo - gather outside church on 9th Avenue
- 10:30 am *Lunch and cake in Fellowship Hall
 *Rally Sunday School registration and children's activities outside (weather permitting)

Anniversary T-shirts will be available from Barber Graphics. Look for more information in August to order and receive them by September 10th.



Weekly Giving

A review of the first half of 2023, through the month of June, shows year to date giving has equaled our budgeted expenditures! Thank you! This total giving includes regular weekly donations, bequest income, and various long-term giving options.

I would encourage you to explore the use of long-term giving options. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD), for those at least 70-1/2 years of age, allow for contributions of pre-tax dollars. And use of a Donor Advised Fund, which is typically spread over multiple years, can allow your donations to be tax deductible. Consult with your tax advisor on how to utilize these options, and how both you and Gethsemane can benefit. Both options have been used by several Gethsemane contributors. Thank you all again. Stay well.

Bruce Kniivila, Treasurer

Rock the Block Picnic

Please join us on **Wednesday, August 23rd from 4:00-7:00 pm** as we invite our neighbors to join us and Peace United Methodist Church for a free meal and entertainment! We will be gathering in our north parking lot! In the event of rain, the festivities will moved inside to Peace United Methodist!

Entertainment provided by the Hutter Bunch and will have a bounce house, along with games for adults & kids! We will be serving FREE hot dogs, corn on the cob, chips, water and root beer floats! Help us welcome our neighbors - It's going to be great! Fun for ALL!! If you are interested in helping, please text or call Sheila Davidson at 218-248-0351.

Many helpers are needed:

1:00-3:00-setup & hauling of heavy tables & chairs

6:00-7:00-takedown of all items

Gethsemane Angel Coordinators

The Gethsemane Angel program is a way that we, as a congregation, are organizing ourselves in service to the Lord. We ask every person to volunteer to serve during one month of the year with a "Team of Angels" to provide all the help that is needed for worship services. Each month the Angel Coordinator schedules the Angels with what is needed to be done. **We are looking for 2 more Angel Coordinators for the months of April and October.** Please consider helping out for this position. We have a new system set up for Funeral Luncheons. The Angel Coordinator will no longer be responsible for the funeral luncheons. If you would like to sign-up as an Angel Coordinator, please call the church office at: 741-4961. Thank You.

Generosity Team

Welcome to our edition of "Gethsemane Gifts!" Each month we will recognize the gifts of generosity that we have experienced from our very own Gethsemane Family. We will focus on one member of our church who has experienced a time of support, love, and/or generosity from other members of our church.

***This month please welcome –
Hannah and Sam Davidson-Teff***

The generosity of Gethsemane Lutheran and the amount of love the members give is overflowing. My wife Hannah has been a member of Gethsemane her whole life, and I have been for a few years now. I always felt so welcome, and never like an outsider. The gift of welcoming arms and smiling faces is something that I have always been thankful for at Gethsemane.

Last year, my National Guard unit was deployed to Poland in support of Operation European Assure, Deter, and Reinforce. My wife Hannah and I had been married for almost three years when I left, and it was a daunting thought that laid in front of us- I have been away from her for other National Guard obligations, but this was by far the longest and farthest we were to be from each other. We knew this could happen when I joined the National Guard, but it's not something that you really expect will happen.

Right away, Hannah and I were put on the petition prayers during the Sunday service. This was very humbling, having the entire church intentionally pray for Hannah and I specifically. I didn't always watch the church service every Sunday when I was overseas, but it always made me feel so loved hearing our names being read. The gift of intentional, powerful prayer is something that I cherish about Gethsemane.



Generosity Team

- continued-

I received physical gifts from Gethsemane as well, in the form of care packages. These were a huge morale booster, because it again reminded me how much love Gethsemane has for all brothers and sisters in Christ.

Fast forward 10 months- after numerous hours on FaceTime between me and Hannah, many long nights, and countless prayers from Gethsemane, I finally was back home. Words cannot express how thankful I am for the people of Gethsemane for all the love and support while I was gone. I want to specifically thank Pam Fields, Char Meinzer, and Eleanor Anshus for the special Welcome Home Coffee 'An that they put together. That was truly heartwarming, and the gift of hospitality was very special for me.

AEOA Volunteer Drivers Needed

To transport clients to non-emergency medical appointments.

Qualifications:

Age 21 or older

Has a Valid Drivers License

Has Proof of Insurance

Has had no felony convictions

A Clean Driving record that has not had a revoked or suspended license or DWI within the past 3 years.

Volunteer drivers are reimbursed for mileage at the federal rate.

To become a Volunteer Driver, contact Randy Hokkanen at 218-735-6873 or RANDY.HOKKANEN@AEOA.ORG. Or MATTHEW.JARMAN@AEOA.ORG



A program of



ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

The Chamber Music Society of Minnesota presents



A wonderful free summer concert by the Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute (NLCMI) on Sunday, August 20 @ 7:00pm at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Virginia, Minnesota in a program of trio, quartets, quintets, sextets, octets and full string orchestra.

Please join us for an evening of beautiful chamber music performed by 33 outstanding young artists, many from our region but also this year from as far away as China, Taiwan, and nine different US states. The NLCMI is an annual summer institute where ten days of intense chamber music studies take place at Camp Vermilion on pristine Lake Vermilion outside of Cook, MN. Gifted young musicians of college and high school age, along with internationally acclaimed faculty will participate in this concert.

The NLCMI faculty are Ariana Kim, GRAMMY nominated violin professor at Cornell University, Young-Nam Kim, founding Artistic Director of the Chamber Music Society of Minnesota, Sally Chisholm, viola professor at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Daniel Kim, violist of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Anthony Arnone, cello professor at the University of Iowa

The program will consist of engrossing works by **Mozart, Schubert, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Dvorak as well as Bela Bartok, Luigi Boccherini, Leo Janacek, Reinhold Gliere, Dimitri Shostakovich, Bedrich Smetana ad Ralph Vaughan Williams.**

At the conclusion of the concert, all participants play together **in a full string orchestra.**

The Northern Lights Chamber Music Institute is the premiere educational wing of the **Chamber Music Society of Minnesota**, Young-Nam Kim and Arian Kim, Co-Artistic Directors.



Blessings to all who have a Birthday this Month:

- 1: Linda Erickson
- 2: Debra Manninen, Daniel Hilmas, Chauncey Pettinelli, Mattelyn Seppi
- 4: Sue Hiltunen
- 5: Ethie Kniivila
- 6: Tracie Birchem
- 7: Kaija Suihkonen
- 8: Landyn Skaudis
- 9: Hunter Koski, Ann Nelson
- 11: Sandy Dahl
- 12: Brittany Burke
- 15: Laney Nelson
- 16: Kara Burgess, Nancy Peterson
- 17: Nicholas Monacelli
- 18: Nathan Spiering
- 19: Pearl Fossum, Arlene Olson, Dawn Thomas
- 22: Jennifer Tiedeman, Donald Walker
- 23: Lynn Mauston
- 26: Ryan Peterson
- 27: Danielle Seppi
- 29: Marlene Kuitunen, Denise Ramfjord
- 30: Rick Kinnunen, Kevin Lehtinen

Memorial Gifts received during the month of July

In Memory of:

Shirley Mildred Aronen

From:

Carol Hagberg



Look who's celebrating their Anniversary for the Month of August, enjoy your Special Day!

- 8/6: Braden and Rebeka Roberts
- 8/6: Don and JoAnn Sipola
- 8/7: Andrea and Dan Alto
- 8/10: Barb and Ken Alaspa
- 8/15: Greg and Heather Manninen
- 8/15: Jen and Jeremy Waldron
- 8/17: Bill and Debbie McCormick
- 8/18: Marlene and Wayne Kuitunen
- 8/20: Megan Saari-Copeland and William Copeland II
- 8/25: Jeff and Jennifer Tiedeman
- 8/29: Eric and Jennifer Krause



Celebrating the Anniversary of your Baptism:

- 8/1: Marjory Wood
- 8/2: Sandy Wallin
- 8/5: Charles Eichholz, Shelby Karakas
- 8/6: Jack Manninen
- 8/7: Nelson Isaacson
- 8/8: Michaela LeDoux, Bo Seppala
- 8/10: Steven Ramfjord
- 8/13: Tyler Reid
- 8/14: Sharon Lager
- 8/17: Barbara Johnson
- 8/18: Bethany Harvey
- 8/22: Giles Friedlieb
- 8/23: Mikko Meinzer
- 8/24: Connie Christenson, Don Sipola, Andrew Wedge
- 8/25: Mikaela Christenson
- 8/26: Keegan Michalski
- 8/28: Kathleen Horvath, Mary Jo Ralston
- 8/29: Branden Gulbranson
- 8/31: Keith Nelson
- 8/?: Alex Gubrud

****If we have left you out, we need your help to know!
Call the office to update your information****

Prayer Wall

In your daily prayers, pray God's blessings for:

- ♦ Fannie Andres, Dale Pepelnjak, Mary Jo Ralston, Georgette Gallagher, Pat Sleeman, Noah Berger, David Aho, Mark Olson, Judy Bennick, Mark Andres, Ruth Koski, Kristy McCarty, and Fran Shimmin.
- ♦ All members who are homebound, in nursing homes, or assisted living.

Prayers of peace and comfort for:

- ♦ Family and friends on the death of Joan Lamma
- ♦ Family and friends on the death of Delores Erickson



Council Highlights

Hard to believe it is already past the 4th of July and almost through half our summer? Let's enjoy every day, it is always a matter of being grateful for the little or much, we are given!

Pastor Amy asked all to please have updates sent to her to help keep our Gethsemane web page current and relevant for those who visit the site.

Ministries Updates:

Children/Youth/Family (Char/Cindy):

The youth earned \$1230 at the Land of The Loon for Parking services, way to go youth of Gethsemane! Meals and snacks for the 23 children/teachers that will be attending the VLM Day Camp will be coordinated by Cindy and Donna, thank you to both! Adult volunteers are still needed for this event! As a conclusion to the VLM Day Camp, the campfire worship will be held at 3:30 pm on Wednesday, Aug. 2.

Property:

Tom reported that our beloved dishwasher has been repaired and hopefully we will not need a new one in the future...yeah, for now!

Vanco GivePlus Mobile App. Members

THE NEW VANCO APP: Vanco updated their phone and tablet APP. It is no longer "Give Plus" but is now called "Vanco Mobile." If you used it before on your phone you will need to go to your app store to download the new app and log-in with the info you used before to set up electronic giving.

Please call Vanco at: 800-675-7430 or visit us at www.vanco.com/vm to learn more about what steps you need to take.

Thank you for using Vanco. We hope this new timeline offers you the flexibility needed to inform your members and launch Vanco Mobile.

QR Code for Giving at Gethsemane:

When you are reading our monthly newsletter or the Sunday morning bulletin, you will see our QR giving code.

Simply take out your phone, scan the code, put in your password, select how much you want to give for the month, and press done. It's as easy as that and takes less than a minute!



Generosity (Sheila):

Much happening here with preparations underway for Rock the Block on Wed., Aug. 23rd, 4-7 pm. Also, plans for a celebration of Gethsemane's 60th anniversary is underway for September...wow 60 years!

Worship and Music (Pastor Amy):

Determining the music for July/August and September as well as for our 60th celebration. There will be a farewell to Geoff McNeil, our worship assistant on Sunday 7/23rd.

Fellowship (Donna):

Hosted a special Coffee 'an to honor Hannah and Sam Davidson-Teff on Sunday July 16, to celebrate their service.

New Business:

Working on creating a Welcome Team and Dan Karlin has been generous to offer his assistance with this task, so all you members gifted with friendliness please volunteer to be of service to him for new members joining/visiting our blessed church!

Blessings and warm summer wishes to all as we get outside more and enjoy the longer hours of day light and beautiful weather God has given us

Molly Pemmaraju, Council President



Gethsemane Lutheran Church

901 Fourth Street South

Virginia, MN 55792

Phone: 218-741-4961

Email: gelc@gelc.info

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am to noon

Rev. Amy Janssen

Pastor

Brenda Varani

Parish Secretary

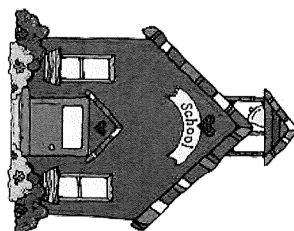
NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
VIRGINIA, MN
55792
PERMIT NO. 57

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Come and see us on the web!

www.gelc.info

SNACKS FOR SCHOOL!



Our neighbor, Parkview Learning Center,
needs healthy snacks for their students!

Please drop off any snacks – individually wrapped
granola bars, crackers, healthy cookies,
fruit snacks, popcorn, etc.

This collection will take place during August & September
in hopes of presenting to our teachers for the start
of their new school year!

