

# Gethsemane Gazette

Gethsemane Lutheran  
Church  
Virginia, Minnesota  
[www.gelc.info](http://www.gelc.info)

November, 2023

Volume 45, Issue 11

Join us for November Worship and Events!

**60TH ANNIVERSARY - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**

**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

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## Daylight Savings Time is Sunday, November 5th

Just a reminder so you don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour, we wouldn't want you to be late for church on Sunday.

It is also a good idea to change the batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors too!



## October Angels

October was a month of harvest and blessings! Among those many blessings counted are Dan Gallagher, Tony Mazzeo, Abigale Schiller, Joyce Bloomquist, Grant, Garrett, and Nichole Reid, Brad and Gina Anderson, Wendy and Tom Krause, Jeanine Bauman, Dana Waldron, Pam Fields, Pat Sleeman, Gail Weiman, Hallie Pauling, Sophia Lamppa, Cally Anderson, Lennon Hilde, Miia Johnson, Ethan Boe, Brady Peterson, Char and John Meinzer, Tina and Jim Pauling, Ebba Nelson, and our Sunday School children.

It warms my heart to see our youth and little ones so active in our Gethsemane Family!

God's peace and blessings to you all,  
Cindy Lustig, October Angel Coordinator

## All Women of Gethsemane

Thursday, November 30th, 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. This month we are meeting on the 30th as the 4th Thursday is Thanksgiving. No commitments, just bring yourself and your own beverage. Please come. - we'll have a fun time!

## Thanksgiving

Our office will be closed on Thursday and Friday, November 23rd and 24th to observe Thanksgiving.

Have a Great Holiday!



## From the Pastor.

Thank. Reflect. Pause. Prepare. Praise. Ponder.

This month, we begin a special time of year in the church when we thank, reflect, pause, prepare, praise, and ponder.

We begin with Thanksgiving, which is not officially part of the Christian calendar, but has become a day when we take time to give thanks to God for our blessings. We gather with family and friends to enjoy our relationships and recognize the gift of God's abundance.

Then comes Christ the King Sunday, which is the last Sunday of the church calendar. It is a day when we look back at all the seasons of the church year to reflect on what God has done and look forward in anticipation of what God will do.

And finally at the end of November we begin the new church year with the season of Advent.

This year for Advent, we will take time to Pause, Prepare, Praise, and Ponder.

**Pause** – Psalm 46; 2 Peter 3:8-15; Matthew 6:25-34

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. God asks us to "be still and know that I am God." To look forward to the new heaven and new earth, but in the meantime, to wait patiently and peacefully for the Lord. We must trust in the Lord and not worry, for God cares for us more than the birds of the air and the lilies of the field.

**Prepare** – Isaiah 40:3-9; Philippians 4:4-9; Luke 19:28-40

In the wilderness, prepare the way of the Lord! Rejoice in the Lord always and keep on doing the things you have learned - whatever is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, commendable, and worthy of praise. Prepare for Christ's coming and the ways his presence in your life will change you and your world.

**Praise** – Luke 2:1-20, Children's Christmas Program

Our children remind us of the joy and excitement of Jesus' presence with us. We hear the familiar story of Christ's coming and join in the celebration of his love!

## From the Pastor

- continued-

**Ponder** – Isaiah 40:21-31; Revelation 21:1-6; Luke 1:26-38

We enjoy the mystery and majesty of God's power and presence with us. We marvel at the world and people God has created, we join Mary in her astonishment at Gabriel's announcement to her that she will bear God's son, and we anticipate with wonder the new heaven and new earth that God will bring when Christ comes again.

As we look forward to this season of Advent, may we not skip over giving thanks for all of our blessings, and even for our difficulties and challenges. Everything we have experienced has made us who we are and the Holy Spirit has guided us through another year.

May God bless your Thanksgiving celebrations and bring us all into a new year of faithful worship together!

Your sister in Christ,  
Pastor Amy Janssen



## Faith Builders

(Preschool - grade 5)

The Sunday School children have been learning from the Spark Lectionary. The curriculum follows the same lessons as our Sunday Worship.

The kiddos are now practicing their parts for the Christmas program. They can't wait so save the date, **Sunday, December 10th at 9:00 am**. Just a reminder that there will be No Sunday School on November 26th as that is Thanksgiving Weekend.

God's Blessings, Pam & Cindy



## Confirmation

### Youth Annual Wreath Sales

Once again the Gethsemane Youth will be selling beautiful Christmas Wreaths now until November 15. The confirmation students will take your order. They are 24 inches wide and the cost is **\$24 this year**.

Wreaths will be delivered on Sunday, November 26th around 10 am in the North Parking Lot and will be available for pickup after worship. One half of the profits will be used to purchase Christmas gifts for our Range Transitional Housing Friends.

To order, contact any Gethsemane Youth, or the Church office at 218-741-4961. Please make checks out to **Gethsemane Youth**.



## November 17 - 18

### All Youth Gathering 6th -12th grades

Thirteen of our youth and three adult guides will be attending this fun overnight event at Cragun's Resort in Brainerd. They will enjoy worship, small group time, fun & games, pool time, and a delicious buffet breakfast. Please pray for them to have a fun and safe weekend!

## November 22 - No Confirmation (Thanksgiving Week)



## 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". Each month the Angel Coordinator schedules the Angels with what is needed to be done for the month. **We are looking for 2 more Angel Coordinators for the months of April and October.** Please consider helping out for this position. The Angel Coordinator is not responsible for arranging funeral luncheons. If you would like to sign-up as an Angel Coordinator, please call the church office at: 218-741-4961. Thank You.

## Ways to Worship

### In the Sanctuary - 9 am, Sundays

We are worshipping in-person in our sanctuary. Please assess your own health as you consider attending worship in person. We are now receiving communion at the altar using bread and wine/grape juice. Gluten free is also available. We practice an open table, meaning all believers are welcome to partake.

### 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:

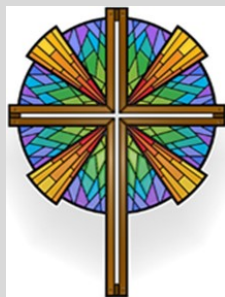
Mondays – 7:30 pm

Tuesdays – 4:00 pm

Wednesdays – 10:00 am

Fridays – 10:00 am

Sundays – 7:45 am



## Pumpkin Harvest Sunday

Pumpkin Harvest Sunday was a great success. The fellowship committee cannot thank you enough for all of your support and participation. It was such a joy to hear all the chatter and laughter. The kids enjoyed the games as well. The donated baked goods were over the moon. Watch for more upcoming events!

## 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 – Sheila and Deron Davidson***

How do we possibly quantify the many blessings received from Gethsemane?

We were both born into this church back in 1964. We were baptized, confirmed, and married in this church. (Deron and I would exchange glances during church in the younger years – the Davidsons were left-siders, and the Ahos were always right-siders.) We raised our 3 beautiful girls, Hannah, Sarah & Rebekah, in this church and were blessed beyond measure as they were baptized and confirmed in their faith. They have been known to joke that they were raised "in the second row of the church!"

Through the years we have all been a part of many different groups and teams and Bible studies. The involvement in our church kept us grounded, connected and busy! Each of our girls were a part of our amazing youth programming. Each of them attended an awesome youth National Youth Gathering – that event and everything leading up to it was life-changing and pivotal to their lives in faith.

Many of our very best friends are Gethsemane members and visitors. The feeling of togetherness, laughter and joy have always been a part of this shared friendship in faith. We would be lost without our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ.

We have been very blessed by the amazing pastors who have spent time behind the 4 walls (and leaky roof) of our church. Those men and women have each taught us something through the years – we have grown in our faith and maturity because of them.

### Generosity Team

- continued-

During this month of thankfulness, we thank all of you at Gethsemane. We will always be grateful for the blessing of friends, faith, and the family of Gethsemane.

Your brother & sister in Christ,  
Sheila & Deron Davidson



### College/Military boxes.

Fellowship will be collecting items and money to send out Care Packages to military, students and young adults on their own. If you have someone in mind to receive a package, please give the name and address to Bunny. If they received a package last year they can still get another box this year! We sent 16 boxes last year. Maybe even more this year! We are looking for single serve peanut butter, granola bars, power drink packets, \$8-10 gift cards from caribou coffee, post it notes, fun pens, tissues, cough drops, games, bath salts etc. the list can be endless. There will be lists posted on the bulletin boards as well. Please help us show Gethsemane's love!



### A Mid-Week Advent Experience Wednesdays from 5:30 – 7 Our Savior's Fellowship Hall November 29, December 6, 13, 20 Led by Pastor Liz and Kristi Ongalo

You are invited to be a part of this Advent experience to help you become more deeply aware of waiting time and help you express for yourself (or publicly) what you are longing for (waiting for) in your spiritual life.

Each Wednesday will begin with dinner and fellowship together. Soup and bread will be served each week and will be provided to all participants at no charge as it is part of the "experience". There will be time to explore scripture, reflect on questions, and dig deeper each evening with an intentional experience around art, poetry, music or other media as well. Bring a friend. Bring a neighbor. Bring yourself!

Week One (11/29): We acknowledge our weariness.  
Week Two (12/6): We find joy in connection.  
Week Three (12/13): We allow ourselves to be amazed.  
Week Four (12/20): We sing stories of hope.

An Advent Devotional will be provided to each participant as well as additional resources as used for Visio and Lectio Divina. How does a weary world rejoice is a resource purchased for use from sanctifiedart.org

### Camp Corner

***The Great Minnesota Give Together is just around the corner!***

Join us on November 16th to support Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry's continued work of providing opportunities for Christ-centered spiritual growth, leadership development, and Outreach in God's Great Northwoods. More Information Coming soon!



Donations can be made any time November 1-16. To make a donation, send a check in the mail with a memo for Give to the Max, so we can count it towards our goal. Questions? call the office at [\(800\) 331-5148](tel:8003315148).



### Blessings to all who have a Birthday this Month:

- 5: David Koski
- 6: Seth Hauber
- 7: Kathy Bogren, Diana Hauber, Emma Rosewall, Madison Walters
- 10: Heather Manninen
- 13: Cally Anderson, Betty Laakso, Cheryl Seppi
- 14: Faye Roche
- 15: Danee' Haenke, Tyler Krenz
- 16: Kade Baty-Denzel, Mailee Peterson
- 17: Jim Haenke, Max Lamppa, Jerry Saisa
- 19: Valerie Florey, Myla Meinzer
- 20: Lois Curry, Deron Davidson, Sarah Davidson, Alyvia Fields, Sue Swanson
- 21: David Torkkola
- 23: Tyson Wilson
- 24: Matthew Meinzer
- 25: Heather Gulbranson
- 27: Mitch Brunfelt, Nancy Eichholz
- 28: Dale Erickson, Tye Hiltunen, Jon Jacobson
- 29: Ellie Gulbranson, Shirley Jarvela



### Look who's celebrating their Anniversary for November, enjoy your Special Day!

- 11/2 Judy and Tony Mazzeo
- 11/10 Barbara and Jeffrey Johnson
- 11/28 Deron and Sheila Davidson

### Celebrate your Baptismal Anniversary!

"Remember and rejoice,  
Renewed by floods of grace.  
We bear the sign of Jesus Christ,  
That time cannot erase."  
(ELW 454)



### Celebrating the Anniversary of your Baptism:

- 11/1: Denise Ramfjord
- 11/2: Casey Aluni, Sheryl Kochevar, Danielle Seppi
- 11/7: Ashlyn Randall
- 11/8: Kathy Bogren, Dorothy Garland, Andrew Meinzer
- 11/10: Nancy Maki, Tori Wallner
- 11/11: Ronald Picek
- 11/12: Megan Saari-Copeland, Glenn Dall
- 11/14: Zachery Kalisch, Jaynee Peterson
- 11/15: Margaret Picek
- 11/16: Amanda Rosandich
- 11/21: Nolan Dunn
- 11/23: Dana Waldron
- 11/25: Mattelyn Seppi
- 11/26: Jane Axelson, Amy Dagon, Hunter Koski, Delilah Jensen
- 11/28: Brent Marchetti, Aaron Spiering
- 11/?: Brennan Peterson

**\*\*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:**

- ♦ The innocents suffering in the war in the Holy Land, Amanda Rosandich, Brooke Johnston, Dale Pepelnjak, Mary Jo Ralston, David Aho, and Mark Olson.

**We continue to pray for;**

- ♦ Fannie Andres, Judy Bennick, Ruth Koski, Mark Andres, 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 Donald Carlson
- ♦ Family and friends on the death of Timothy Dahl

**Prayers of thanksgiving for:**

- ♦ Kylo Lee Toivari, who received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism on October 22nd.



## Council Highlights

Happy Halloween to all....we continue to see God's beautiful color/weather changes...cozy/hygge times!!

**Ministry teams reports:**

**Property:** Tom Lee reported that we replaced one of our church toilets. We now have a bid/estimate for our leaking roof and will need to proceed, but must wait until Spring due to timing.

**Generosity:** Thank you for your donations to Stock-tober and your loose change/cash for the medical debt relief donation!

Stay tuned as we will have our church's 60th anniversary photo made available in one form or another to all...working on the details. By the way everyone looked "mahvelous"!

Must add a huge kudos and gratitude to Debbie Poderzay and Joyce Bloomquist who have been working hard to keep the historical church archive data organized.

Blessings to all and don't eat too much candy this month...can there be too much?!

Molly Pemmaraju, Council President

## 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](http://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!



## Weekly Giving

October giving has increased substantially from September and summer-time giving. Contributions so far in October have averaged \$5,500 per week, which includes a generous Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). Thank you for continuing to support the ministry of Gethsemane. Take care.

Bruce Kniivila, Treasurer





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## Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am to noon

**Rev. Amy Janssen**  
*Pastor*  
**Brenda Varani**  
*Parish Secretary*

Come and see us on the web!  
[www.gelc.info](http://www.gelc.info)

## LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER

Everyone is invited to a LUTEFISK & MEATBALL DINNER on **Tuesday, December 5, 2023, from 3:00 – 7:00 pm** at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

Come and enjoy a delicious dinner of Lutefisk with drawn butter and cream sauce, handcrafted meatballs with potatoes and gravy, vegetables and beet pickles, lefse and bread, and cupcakes with coffee and milk.

Take outs are available. Pre-orders are encouraged. Tickets are on sale at the door: Adults \$20.00, Children 6-12 \$8.00, and Children 5 & under free!

For more information, call Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Virginia at 218-741-4961.

