

# Gethsemane Gazette

February, 2022

Volume 44, Issue 2

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:

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## Join us for February Worship and Events!

### Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Sale – a Youth Fundraiser

We are bringing back this great service/fundraiser this year!

Starting now until Wednesday, February 9, you can order Sub Sandwiches for your Super Bowl Sunday meal! Two types of 10-inch sandwiches will be available for \$6 each: “Italian” with Salami & Pepperoni; and “Club” with Ham & Turkey. All sandwiches include cheese and lettuce. Pickles and onions are available on the side. Sandwiches will be ready for pick-up on February 13 from 10-12. Orders will be taken by our confirmation youth and in the church office.

The money raised will go into our Youth Fund to pay for service project supplies, snacks and supplies for weekly confirmation sessions, to help with costs for our spring Movie Night (back at an actual movie theater again this year!), AND to help our youth go to the National Youth Gathering!



## Ways to Worship

### In the Sanctuary

We are currently worshipping in-person in our sanctuary. Please assess your own health and be prepared to follow the guidelines publicized in the newsletter and bulletin as you consider attending worship indoors. Masks are strongly encouraged. If, at any time, the local schools switch back to online-only instruction, indoor in-person worship will be suspended and only the livestream & TV worship options will continue.



### 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

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 (one week behind)

## We Are Thankful

A great big thank you to the following who helped me out covering January Angel duties: Eleanor Anshus, Sheila Davidson, Karen Roberts, Laurie Harvey, Dana Waldron, Seija Copeland, Brenna Tiedeman, Sheila Vandervort, Brady Peterson, Emma Lintula, Pat Sleeman, Kathy Bogren, Barb Alaspa and my always helpful husband, Bennet.

I also wish to give my appreciation and many thanks to our invaluable church secretary, Bunny, who helped me find many of the volunteers for the five Sundays. I am very thankful to all of you for giving your time and sharing your talents!

Many blessings,  
Joyce Bloomquist  
January Angel Coordinator

## Annual Report Volunteers

A Huge Thank you to the people who helped assemble the Annual Report . Our gracious volunteers this year were: Gail Waldron, Evie Kinnunen, Wendy Krause, Kathy Bogren, and Pat Sleeman.

With all your help, we were able to get the job done in no time. Your help with our report was greatly appreciated.!



## Generosity Team

A Thrivent Thank You!

On behalf of our community and the Generosity Team we are very thankful for our most recent Thrivent member who helped us purchase hygiene kits for our school aged children and our community food pantry. Due to the very generous outpouring of donations from our church of leggings, hoodies, sweatpants, etc., our Thrivent member purchased shampoo, conditioner, razors, toothpaste, toothbrushes, laundry detergent, pads and tampons.

This member was truly "Taking Care of our Kids" and we are so blessed by our Thrivent members!



## From the Pastor

*"8 Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you." – Philippians 4:8-9*

I feel like this blessing speaks to the long, Northern Minnesota winter so deeply. In the difficulty and struggle of our lives, we need the warmth of more layers. Not just layers of clothing, but layers of love and peace and persistence and hope. More layers of what is true, honorable, just, pure, pleasing, and commendable to help us endure a world that can often seem cold and unfeeling.

May these cold February days find you bundled up in the warmth of God's love, finding peace in the midst of the blowing snow, persisting in the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in your lives because of Christ, and gaining hope with every lengthening day.

### For Winter Layers by Meta Herrick Carlson

*When it gets cold and dark in January  
the expectations change.*

*The world still requires participation  
but not much more than that.*

*My manner of attendance  
changes with the season.*

*Fashion becomes function.*

*Hearty layers honor  
the call to hibernation.*

*They follow me everywhere,  
even into the bits of public life  
I must endure.*

*Coming and going is simplified,  
bundled out of respect for the North Wind.  
I bow my head to her hymns and hum along  
into the warmth of my collar and scarf.*

**From the Pastor**

**- continued-**

*There is grace in the burst of warmth  
just inside the front door,  
the smell of dinner in the slow cooker,  
the crackle of a lazy fire,  
the children buried in a fort of blankets.*

*I join them adding more layers  
always more layers!  
trusting the days are growing longer.*

Your sister in Christ,  
Pastor Amy

**Faith Builders**

**(Preschool - grade 5)**

The Sunday School children are so happy to be back after the holiday break.

They really enjoy the Spark Lectionary Series. It is so exciting to be hearing and learning the many great bible stories. We are all excited for the New Year and hope that you are too!

Your Sunday School Leaders,  
Cindy, Pam, and Miia

**Some pictures from our Christmas Eve Services**



**Confirmation Spring 2022**

This spring, our confirmation students are learning about the Apostles' Creed, talking about what we believe about God our creator, Jesus our savior, and the power of the Holy Spirit. We are also participating in service projects and attending Lenten midweek activities.

**THANK YOU** to all of our youth who have stepped up to acolyte and greet and help with Sunday School and run our livestreaming camera this year so far! We still need you to keep signing up for these jobs through the spring. Our worship is more vibrant with you involved!

**Synod Journey to the National Youth Gathering**

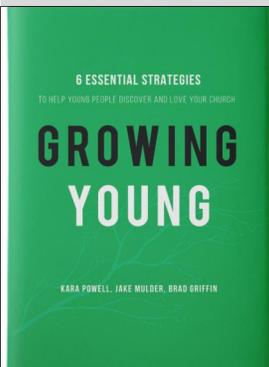
We have 3 youth from Gethsemane and 1 youth from Grace Lutheran in Ely joining together to attend this amazing event of service, learning, and worship this summer! The trip will be from July 21-28 and will include NEMN Synod youth doing service, having fun, and learning about God's Boundless Love in the Duluth/Superior area for the first 3 days and then at the National Youth Gathering experience in Minneapolis for the last 5 days! Our youth are grateful for your support through fundraisers, encouragement, and prayers as they prepare for this faith-forming event. There will be more updates on this small group's adventure in future newsletters.

**Want to Go to Bible Camp? Gethsemane will help!**

We want **all** of our kids to enjoy the unique experience of attending summer Bible camp. Bible camp is a place where God's love is evident through community and creation. To help, Gethsemane's Mission Endowment Team are giving each Gethsemane youth and a friend "camperships" to pay for one week of camp. Talk to Pastor Amy for details and go to [vlmcamps.org/summer-schedule-and-fees](http://vlmcamps.org/summer-schedule-and-fees) to find information on this summer's programs!

### Growing Young Book Study First Thursday of the month, through Spring 2022 Online, 10:30am – Noon

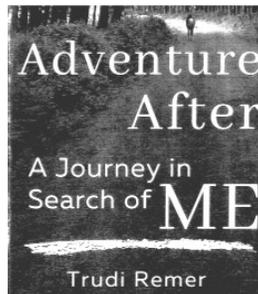
Are you interested in making Gethsemane a more vibrant, welcoming congregation for young people? Join Pastor Amy in participating in this online learning and growing opportunity! Growing Young is a research-based strategy on how congregations can create a church culture to reach young generations in a way that breathes life into the whole church. Catherine Anderson will host a monthly book study on each of the Core Commitments and how to integrate them in your ministry. This book study is free and Gethsemane will provide the book, but you must register to get the link. You do not need to attend every session to participate! (If you need help with the online component, Pastor Amy can help you get connected.)



### Library News

Two new books were donated by parishioners recently.

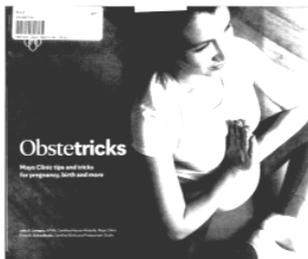
Adventure After by Trudi Remer, is a biography of her journey through the death of her brother when she was eleven years old and her parents by the time she was in her early thirties. Her book describes her transformation as she built a life for herself by following her heart. It also describes how she faced her grief through the years.



Donated by Dan Carlin

Another book which was donated is, Obstericks by Julie Lamma and Kerry Schwalbac.

It is book to learn of how to have an empowered, more joyful birth. It is a well illustrated book covering tips and tricks for pregnancy, birth and more.



Donated by Sheila Vandervort

### 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 – Brenda (Bunny) Varani**

Our church secretary, Brenda (Bunny) Varani will have worked at Gethsemane 12 years the end of February. Bunny was raised in Zim and attended school in Cherry. She’s married to Rick and they are dog parents to one big yellow lab named “Tank”. Rick and Bunny enjoy taking saunas, gardening/canning, outdoor activities such as camping, fishing, and bird hunting, specifically partridge and pheasant. Bunny was a volleyball, basketball, track, and softball player in school and enjoyed playing recreational leagues after high school.

Bunny enjoys many aspects of her job, but particularly loves helping people. She will lend an ear to anyone who needs to chat. She’s what you might say a “jack of all trades” and can answer most questions posed to her. She attends the Tuesday Women’s Bible Study, helps with the food pantry, Warm your Heart clothesline, funerals, and the Angel committee. Her most enlightening and meaningful experience was attending a Via De Cristo weekend in Duluth.

There is no doubt she’s been a great addition to the Gethsemane family. Her warm smile and inviting demeanor makes one at ease. A cup of coffee is all you need when visiting her.



### WARM YOUR HEART COMMUNITY CLOTHESLINE and FOOD PANTRY

The winter season is upon us! We are grateful that you are continuing to contribute to our Community Clothesline. Do you have extra jackets, shirts, sweat-shirts, pants, shoes, T-Shirts, etc...? Now is the time to also bring winter jackets, warm socks, mittens, gloves, hats, blankets. Any type of clothing will be helpful.

You can help your neighbors by putting each item in a plastic bag to keep it dry, labeling it (example, "child hat, size M" or "men's jacket, size XL"), and clip it anywhere on the 'clothesline' [on the fence] on the west side of the church! (Clothespins are on site). The Community Clothesline is accessible at all times (24/7) from both the north and south parking lots.

We also have a Community Food Pantry next to the clothesline for putting nonperishable food items, personal care items, and paper products.

**GIVE WHAT YOU CAN ~ TAKE WHAT YOU NEED.**  
Let's do what we can to help our friends and neighbors.

### United Way Buddy Backpack Day!

We are still looking for people to help us pack Buddy Backpacks from 4:30 to 6:00 pm Thursday, February 24th at United Way (608 East Drive, Chisholm MN) We need a total of 50 people to help, and our total so far is 20. See the poster on the back page of our newsletter.

Please call the church office at 218-741-4961 to sign up! United Way of NE MN's program feeds 1,000 + local children at-risk of hunger every week-end and holiday break of the school year. Hope to see you there!!

### Can You Buy Two?

Our food pantry has been a busy place, both by people giving & receiving food! Next time you are running into the store think -Could I buy two? Chances are the thing you are picking up for yourself would also be appreciated by someone utilizing our pantry. Maybe you are a diligent grocery store list maker so write "could I buy two" next to your note pad.

### Camp Corner

#### 2021 Annual Meeting

**Date:** February 5, 2022

**Location:** Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Duluth

**Time:** 11:00 am - 12:00 pm

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry is excited to once again gather in-person for our 2021 Annual Meeting. We invite all voting delegates to join us for a short and focused meeting to do the business of our ministry. Information will be sent to congregations with their assigned number of voting delegates. **If you are interested in being a voting delegate for your congregation, please contact your congregational leadership.**

We are currently working on a virtual option for visitors and others interested in attending.

The meeting will be run with all appropriate Covid-19 protocols in place. Everyone attending will be expected to wear a mask, and we will not have coffee or food being served. In cooperation with Gloria Dei Lutheran we will be keeping the meeting to an hours. Please plan to arrive about 15 minutes ahead in order to sign in so that we can begin the meeting promptly at 11:00 am.

Reports and other information will be shared on our website and in emails. We will also contact the congregations and delegates if changes are made to our meeting plan.

*From [www.vlmcamps.org](http://www.vlmcamps.org)*

### Snow Shoveling

Winter and snow is here! We are looking for volunteers to help shovel snow away from the entrances of the building. Snow shovels and a snow blower are available or you can bring your own. Sign up for a week, maybe two, or possibly an entire month. If you are interested in serving the church in this way, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or call the church office and we can get you signed up.

If you have any questions, please call Ken Alaspa at 218-741-0036 or his cell number 218-750-2344. Thank You!!





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

- 1: Aria Janrey, Janet Suihkonen
- 3: Katie Finc, Kaylynn Childs-Richards
- 4: Dolores Erickson, Richard Vandervort, Clayton Zeidler
- 5: Janet Burke, Eila Isaacson, Mary Sterling
- 6: Juliana Pauling
- 9: Jaleen O'Connor, Emma Robinson
- 10: Cheryl Aluni, Brennan Peterson, Carson Robinson
- 11: Alexa Ismil, William Kamnikar, Cindy Lustig, Matt Seppi
- 14: Emmi Aluni, Donald Carlson, Griffin Sundt
- 16: Samantha Church, Jason Ramfjord
- 17: Russ Wallner, Jillian Zeidler
- 19: Judith Mazzeo
- 20: Jenna Carpenter, Joyce Giblin
- 21: Delilah Jensen
- 22: Paige Maki
- 23: Murray Anderson, Michael Burke, Beth Emery, Joshua Isaacson
- 24: Georgene Tomazin
- 26: Erik Wedge
- 27: Christine Lehtinen
- 28: Tony Mazzeo
- ??: Pearl Aronen

### Memorial Gifts received during the month of January

#### In Memory of:

Quentin Bloomquist

#### From:

Eila Ivonen  
 Richard & Sheila Vandervort  
 Barry & Jean Collins  
 Marilyn Somero  
 Jackie & Arnie Williams  
 Leslie & Steven Maki  
 Lyle & Margie Vandervort  
 Barbara Baldrice  
 Wayne & Bernadine Christensen



### Celebrating your Wedding Anniversary for the Month of February, enjoy your Special Day!

- |                        |      |
|------------------------|------|
| David and Sandy Wallin | 2/2  |
| Dawn and Robert Thomas | 2/12 |



### Celebrating the Anniversary of your Baptism:

- 2/1: Kimmy Christenson, Nancy Richter
- 2/7: Thomas Autio Jr.
- 2/8: Derek Jorgenson, Joely Roberts
- 2/14: Nicholas Richards
- 2/16: Janet Burke
- 2/20: Michael Alto
- 2/21: Andrew Alto
- 2/22: Elsie Finc, Eric Krenz, Riley Krenz
- 2/23: Jeremy Waldron
- 2/26: Kristen Aronen
- 2/28: Troy Ness
- 2/29: Lance Ness
- 2/??: Seth Hauber

**\*\*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:

- ♦ Marlene Koski, Skip Bol, Mary Shaw, Barry Collins, Fran Shimmin, Mark Andres, Alyssa Newman, and Kathy Meyers.
- ♦ And all members who are homebound, in nursing homes or assisted living places.

Prayers of peace and comfort for:

- ♦ Family and friends on the death of Quentin Bloomquist

## 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!



## Giving Statements

The giving statements for 2021 are available on the table in the Narthex, next to the offering envelopes.

## Council Highlights

Happy New Year! At our January church council meeting a number of things were discussed and decided upon. Outreach to our community and to members of Gethsemane was a key part of the reports by the ministry teams. Your help is appreciated in these efforts and more help is needed! Let's continue to stretch out beyond our walls to minister to those outside our walls.

During the financial reports the final proposed budget received some "tweaks" from Bruce and is now ready to be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting which will be held immediately after the service on January 30th. Members will be needed to serve on the nominating committee. Please consider serving in this important role in our church. Maybe talk to someone you know to serve with you! The Hymn we sing is "Here I am Lord", we need people to raise their hand and say "I will!".

Thank you all for all you continue to do.

Peace, Bennet Bloomquist  
Council President

## Vanco GivePlus Mobile App. Members

If you use the Vanco GivePlus Mobile application, we want to let you know that it will be removed on January 31, 2022 and replaced with Vanco Mobile.

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.



## Weekly Giving

Looking back over the past year, for 2021, regular contributions, not including non-routine income, averaged \$3,694 per week. This was slightly above what was needed to pay our budgeted and incurred expenses. Thank you all!!

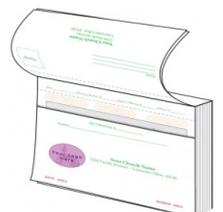
The new year has gotten off to a much slower start, however. For January thus far, the average is down to \$1,997 per week, which is barely half the amount needed to cover our expenses. Please re-visit your financial commitment to supporting Gethsemane. All contributions are welcome.

Bruce Kniivila, Treasurer

## Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for the new year 2022 are available on a table in the Narthex.

If your name is not found and you would like the church envelopes, please contact the office and we will be sure to get you a set.





## Gethsemane Lutheran Church

901 Fourth Street South  
Virginia, MN 55792  
Phone: 218-741-4961  
Email: [gelc@gelc.info](mailto:gelc@gelc.info)  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am to noon

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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



"...always strive to do what is good for each other and for everyone else."  
- 1 Thessalonians 5:15

# Help us pack Buddy Backpacks!

4:30-6 pm Thursday  
Feb. 24 at United Way  
(608 East Drive, Chisholm MN)

Call the church office at 218-741-4961 to sign up!

United Way of NE MN's program feeds 1,000+ local children at-risk of hunger every weekend and holiday break of the school year. The organization requires all volunteers for Buddy Backpacks be 18+ and requests volunteers wear comfortable shoes and face masks or shields.