



Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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Virginia, MN 55792
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Email: gelc@gelc.info
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm

Rebecca LeMenager
Pastor
Brenda "Bunny" Varani
Parish Secretary

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Come and see us on the web!
www.gelc.info

Gethsemane Gazette

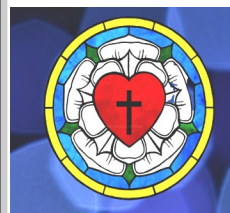
October, 2025

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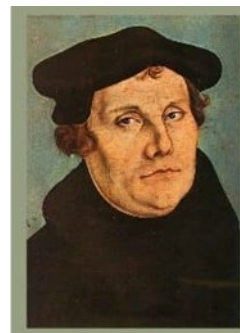
Join us for October Worship and Events!

Confirmation Sunday, October 26th during Worship

Please come and join us! During the worship service we will celebrate the public Affirmation of Baptism through the Rite of Confirmation. Our Confirmands this year are:



Ada Boe
Garrett Reid
Grant Reid
Genevieve Zeidler



is heading to the All Youth Gathering!
Saturday - Sunday November 22-23

Cragun's Resort

***Register & pay (\$30) before 10/15**

***Open to all in Grades 6-12**

***Friends are welcome**

**We will leave at Noon Saturday
and return Sunday around 5pm**



use code to access
registration form

United in Hope



Guest Speaker: Pastor Seth Perry

Pastor Seth Perry leads Elim Lutheran Church in Scandia, Minnesota, and loves helping people feel seen and understood. He shares openly from his own journey with mental health and a substance use disorder, beginning in his teenage years and continuing into young adulthood. Seth also created the Our Stigma Podcast and helps lead events that talk honestly about faith, recovery, and mental health. His big passion is making church a place where no one feels ashamed of what they're going through.

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

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*It's not October?
It's Stock-tober!*



Time to stock our pantry for the winter!

A church-wide challenge this year –
let's fill the grocery carts!!

How full can they get?
Let's create a great picture and an amazing outpouring!

Please bring in your non-perishable food items during the month of October. All donations will help our neighbors!



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 3 more Angel Coordinators for the months of March, 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

All Women of Gethsemane

Thursday, October 23rd, 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! Hope to see you there!

Ways to Worship

In the Sanctuary - 9 am, Sundays

We are worshiping 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

Pastor Rebecca Out of the Office

Pastor Rebecca will be out of the office on Friday, October 3rd, and the week of Monday, October 13th through Sunday, October 19th.



Pastor Rebecca's Installation, Sept. 7th



Prayer Wall

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

- ♦ The innocents suffering in the war in Israel/Palestine; those displaced from their homes in Gaza; those suffering in Ukraine, Lebanon, and Sudan. We pray for those in need of strength and healing: Tina Pauling, Jennifer Anshus, Judy Mazzeo, and Lillian Ferkins.

We continue to pray for;

- ♦ Judy Bennick, Ruth Koski, and Fran Shimmin.
- ♦ All members who are homebound, in nursing homes, or assisted living.

Visits to the Home Bound & in Care Facilities

Would you or a loved one appreciate a visit from the pastor? Please make sure you (or they) are on our list; we don't always know who would like a visit. Do you have a family member, friend or neighbor who is in a care facility or homebound but does not have a church family? Please let Pastor Rebecca know. Please remember that due to HIPPA regulations, the only way the church or pastor knows you are in the hospital or have moved to a care facility is if you let us know. Thank you for keeping the church updated and informed!

Council Highlights

Pastor Rebecca started our meeting with a thank you to everyone for her Installation Service and the lunch which followed. She is happy to be our new Pastor, and I think I can speak for everyone when I say, we are also so very happy and thankful to have her choose Gethsemane for her ministry. She has visited almost all of our home bound members at this time.

LIFT will have one new Confirmation student from our congregation this year and four young people will be Confirmed in October.

Pam and Donna plan to focus on "The Ten Commandments" for the Sunday School kids beginning in September.

Bennett told us it was discovered the sump pump located in the Fellowship Hall area was not working, but it has now been replaced. DBS is currently working on our other water/sump pump issues, the project should have been completed by the end of September.

The Foster Care Project organized by the Generosity Committee is creating an area in the lower level to store the items collected. These items will then be available to Foster families as needed. To create this space, they began cleaning out all the "long stored", unneeded and unwanted items from many many years. They, and with the help of others, have done a fantastic

Giving through the Vanco App

Gethsemane offers several ways to contribute to spreading God's Word. One of them is through the Vanco app called "Vanco Mobile." Download the Vanco app from your App Store on your mobile device. If you're new to Vanco, you'll need to create a free account. Once set up, logging in and making electronic donations will take only a few minutes.

For more information, please contact Vanco at 800-675-7430 or visit their website at www.vanco.com/vm.

Thank you for using Vanco. We hope this simplifies your giving. If you encounter any difficulties, please reach out to Vanco or the church office.

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!



(and much needed) job! It is planned that on Saturday, September 20th, these items will be brought to the dump. Sam Michaels and a friend of Pastor Rebecca's will be providing large trucks to do the hauling. A huge thank you to all involved!

Sunday, October 12th, will be Music Appreciation Day. It will be a day filled with music and a thank you to our "Joyful Noise Choir".

Bruce reviewed our current budget and gave information to update the 2026 Portico Insurance Plan, (Pastor Rebecca's insurance). The new plan was voted on and equates to the 2025 policy that was offered when she was hired.

Sheila stated that since we encouraged our members to prayerfully think about increasing their regular giving in the letter sent to all members in August, nine members have done that. We appreciate the needed increase and are hopeful that more of you will think about the importance of this and do the same.

Pastor Rebecca gave us information about a Synod wide workshop on Saturday, October 11th, in Grand Rapids. It is open to all and should be very interesting. See Pastor Rebecca if you're interested in attending.

Enjoy the beginning of our fall and all the wonderful colors of the season.

Peace, Mary Horan Congregation President



Blessings to all who have a Birthday this Month

- 2: Andrew Alto, Sophia Lamppa
 4: Andrea Alto, Aubri Aluni, Danyell Vesel
 7: Rhett Baty, Kade Jorgenson
 8: Jeff Tiedeman
 10: Pat Sleeman
 11: Matt Seppi Jr., Lance Lamppa
 12: Carolyn Lustig, Hallie Pauling
 13: Thomas Hiltunen, Robert Koski
 17: Jane Axelson, Michael Tuominen
 20: Naomi Ranisate
 22: Zachery Kalisch
 23: Henrick Elg
 24: Phil Carlson, Lisa Laakso
 26: Joey Kapella
 27: Christian Cochems
 28: Jennifer Hanson, Riley Krenz, David Lind, Joely Roberts
 29: Aiden Krause, Aubree Schiller
 30: Barbara Alaspa

Memorial Gifts to the Hannah Olson Memorial Library received during the month of September

In Memory of: **From:**
Arlene Olson: Richard and Sheila Vandervort, Barb and Ken Alaspa, Shirley Woodward, Deborah and Paul Staten III, Pat Sleeman, Steven and Barbara Burgess, Bunny Varani, Walter and Ellen Gower, Phyllis Torrel



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

- 10/2 Beth and William Spelts
 10/9 Donna and Rodney Flannigan
 10/14 Mandy and Mitch Brunfelt
 10/18: Bill and Jeannine Bauman
 10/18 Aubree and Lane Schiller
 10/23 Dana and Tom Hiltunen



Celebrating the Anniversary of your Baptism

- 10/3: Steve Manninen, Sandi Shoden
 10/6: Sam Michaels, Freyja Walsberg
 10/7: JoAnn Sipola
 10/9: Jeffery Hanson
 10/10: Madison Pauling
 10/11: Kade Jorgenson
 10/13: Grace Brunfelt, Char Meinzer
 10/15: John Meinzer, Scarlett Pipkin
 10/16: Beckett Cochems
 10/17: Dana Hiltunen
 10/18: Erika Bauman, Seija Copeland
 10/21: Eleanor Anshus, Tom Hiltunen, Kaija Suihkonen
 10/22: Kylo Toivari
 10/27: Kirby Fyre
 10/29: Thomas Hiltunen, Landen Krause, Lennon Hilde
 10/?: Danyell Vesel, Emily Zeidler

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

Faith Builders

(PreK - grade 6)

The children are so excited to be back again for another year of Sunday School, all kids PreK– 6th grade are welcome.

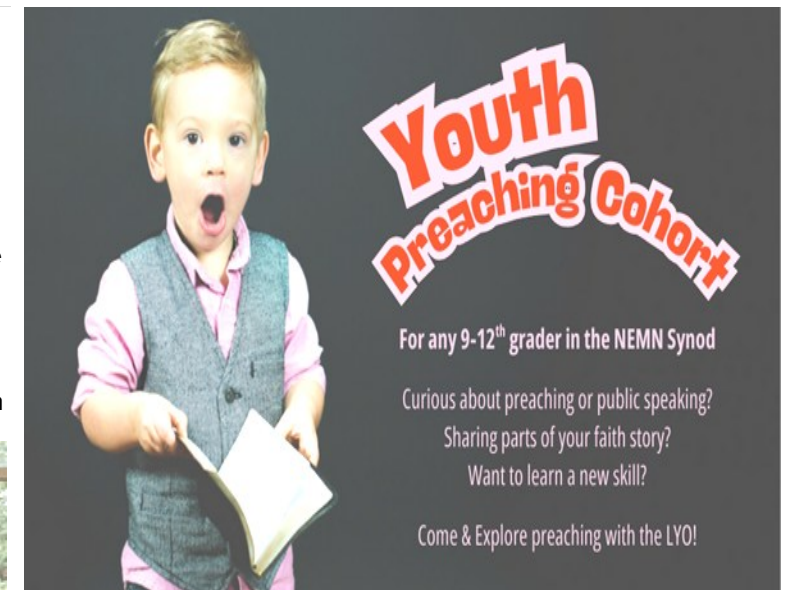
Sunday School takes place after the children's message in the service. We meet downstairs in the big Sunday School room. Our lesson for the fall season will be learning and singing about the 10 Commandments.

Thanks to everyone who helped with Rally Sunday. Everyone had a great time!

God's Blessings, Donna and Pam



Pastor Rebecca's Installation, Sept. 7th



When: Sunday, Oct 12th, 2025

Time: 2:00-5:30pm

Where: Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth

We'll meet at the church from 2-4pm for some **FUN "Preaching 101"** with Pastor Christina Johnson, followed by more **FUN!** at the Sky Zone Trampoline Park from 4-5:30pm. Cost is \$20, which covers the trampoline park & snacks.

Register on the synod website: nemnsynod.org/youth



For more information, call the Synod office (218) 724-4424 or email youth@nemnsynod.org.

For any 9th-12th graders in the NEMN Synod! The intent of this gathering is to train high school youth in the tools of preaching, writing a sermon, and gaining confidence speaking in front of others. And – hang out with other synod youth and have FUN!

How these skills can be shared:

- Youth might preach in their home congregation.
- Learn new ways of sharing their faith story in various settings.
- Be available to preach in some of the smaller congregations in our synod who welcome hearing the gospel from a young person.
- And More!

Join Us For A Spooktacular TRUNK OR TREAT

Sunday, October 26th; 4 - 6 pm
 Our Savior's Lutheran Church Parking Lot
 1111 8th St S Virginia MN

Hot Dogs, Hot Cocoa, Cotton Candy, games and prizes inside! **FREE!**

Sponsored by: Our Savior's , Gethsemane, Messiah, Peace United, and Boy Scouts Troop 4129



Sermon Notes:
Not just for Confirmands anymore!

Did you know that our confirmands are asked to complete sermon notes? But if this tool helps our youth, why aren't we making them available for everyone? Now we are! Sermon note sheets are available on the table going into worship. There is also a basket to turn in your completed sheets. The following Sunday, your sheet will be available to pick up with comments from Pastor Rebecca.

MUSIC APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Please join us on Sunday, Oct 12 for a special Sunday to celebrate music and give thanks for our wonderful choir and church musicians. On this Sunday we will have some special music, scripture readings and liturgy around music. We hope you will come and be a part of this uplifting day.

SIGN UP TO ACOLYTE!

All children and youth Grades 3-12 are asked to acolyte. The sign-up sheet is on the youth Bulletin board at the end of the hall outside the youth room. This is a wonderful way to serve your church! For our younger youth, you can still go to Sunday School! You can process in, light the candles and leave at the regular time for Sunday school. If you have questions or would like a quick overview or review of how-to acolyte, please talk with Pastor Rebecca

Weekly Giving

September giving has picked up substantially compared to the summer months, where the 3-month average was \$950 per week less than needed to meet budgeted expenses. Giving has averaged \$4,544 per week so far this month. This is \$330 per week above what is needed to meet budgeted expenses.

Bruce Kniivila, Treasurer



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 – MaryJo Ralston
Greetings Church Family!

I live in Virginia with my husband Steve Walters and our sweet black lab Lucy, and I am happy to call Gethsemane my church home. I was baptized in 1955 at First Lutheran and have been a member of Gethsemane since it was founded. Gethsemane has given me my faith foundation and nurtured the gifts of music and art that God placed in me! As a child I loved going to Sunday School and singing in the Cherub choir. Perhaps it was the sweet white robes with the big red bow! I was confirmed here in 1970 and participated in the youth group. I have been blessed to teach Sunday school music, serve on the Church Council, participate in worship as an assisting minister, sing in both the Senior Choir and Joyful Noise, and provide special music when we still had the 10:30am contemporary worship service. Each part of my faith journey at Gethsemane has brought challenges and personal growth. One of the most memorable gifts was being the assisting minister for the Festival Worship and Installation Service of Bishop Peter Strommen in 1996 at First Lutheran Church in Duluth.

My professional life spilled into my church life many years ago when I was asked to take over the job of decorating the Easter Cross. Gosh I was nervous those first few years, but what a joy and privilege that has become! Inspiration from nature and fellow professionals has pushed me to try different things, and now each year has become a mission to glorify the risen Christ in a new and beautiful way.

Thirty-one years ago, I woke up from a dream and quickly made some notes and sketches to renovate the garden. The Church Council at the time might have thought I was off my rocker, but they gave me the opportunity to see my dream fulfilled. So thankful to the group of volunteer church members that just showed up to help – what a crew! My heartfelt appreciation to those who have continued to care for the garden that gives us all so much joy.

Generosity Team - continued -

I did step away from Gethsemane for a time but am grateful to have found my way back to the support that this body of Christ so generously provides! I firmly believe in the power of prayer, and I definitely felt all of yours during my recent health struggles. Thank you, Gethsemane! I am blessed to be here with you!



WALKING TOGETHER:
October 11 9-5pm at Zion Lutheran Church
in Grand Rapids

Every year on the second Saturday in October, congregational members of the NEMN synod are invited to gather for an event called “Walking Together.” (The word “synod” literally means “walking together”) This event is a chance to gather together, share ideas with each other, and come home with resources to help our congregations grow in ministry. The day’s event are:
9:00 Check in and fellowship
9:30 Opening worship with communion
10:15 Workshop 1
11:30 Workshop 2
12:45 Lunch
1:30 Workshop 3
2:45 Workshop 4
4:00 Closing/Sending Worship

Workshops include such topics as (and many more): “Gathered to Lead: Running Faith-Filled and Effective Council Meetings!”, “Circle Keeping for Hope”, “Engaging Lay Leadership“, “Best Practices for Onboarding New Leaders and Running a Church Council Meeting”, “How to Develop a Congregational Mental Health and Wellness Team”, “Mutual Ministry: what is it? What does it look like?”

If you are interested in attending with Pastor Rebecca (or even for part of the day), please talk with Pastor Rebecca.

A CELEBRATION OF OUR RICH IRON RANGE MINING AND CULTURAL HISTORY AND FOOD TRADITIONS

ADVANCE TICKETS
<https://ironrange.com/pasty-festival>

IRON RANGE
FOOD & DRINK

2025 IRON RANGE
PASTY FESTIVAL

LIVE MUSIC GAMES:

- Pandemonium & Magic the Gathering table for tournament style play by Range TTRC MTG
- Table Top Role Playing Games: Honey Heist from Range FanCon and more!

**SATURDAY
OCT. 4 • 4-7PM**

Mt. Iron Community Center
8586 Enterprise Drive South, Mt. Iron
FARMERS MARKET OUTSIDE

Homemade pasties with all locally grown beef, pork, potatoes, carrots, onions, rutabagas, and fresh thyme

\$15 PASTY MEAL
at festival (pasty, slaw, beverage)

\$12 PASTY
(only) at festival

\$10 FROZEN PASTY
drive-thru pick up at festival

Come One and All to the Fabulously Fun
Fall Flannel Fest

At the Historic Kaleva Hall, **Saturday, Oct, 11, 2025**
Music by the Lindula Brothers
Performing Folk, Bluegrass and Finnish Music
Featuring Bobby Aro Songs too!

6 pm - 8 pm Tickets \$8 (under 10 - free)
Box Meals (Sloppy Joes, chips, water and treat)
available at 5 pm for \$6

Wear Your Best Flannels!!!
Everyone is Welcomed. 125 3rd Ave N Virginia MN.
Facebook.com/KalevaHall
Proceeds go to the Preservation and Maintenance of the Historic Kaleva Hall

WELCA Fall Festival
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
Saturday, October 18th, 9 am - 2 pm

We will be celebrating our fall season with our annual Fall Festival. Our festival will have a Gift and Décor shop, Quilt Shop, Bake and Sweet Shop, Kid’s Corner. A Soup Lunch will be provided by the Youth, Be sure to come on the 18th to celebrate fall with us and bring a friend!