

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

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February, 2023

Volume 45, Issue 2

Join us for February Worship and Events!

**Ash Wednesday and Mid-Week Lenten Services,
Wednesday evenings (February 22nd - March 29th.)
with Peace United Methodist Church
See Pastor Amy's article for more information**

Ash Wednesday:

Peace UMC Service - 3:30 pm
Community Table Soup Supper (PUMC) - 5:00 pm
Gethsemane LC Service - 6:30 pm

Weekly Wednesday schedule:

Community Table Soup Supper - 5:00 pm
Lenten Devotional Prayer Service - 6:30 pm
Mar. 1 - Supper @ Gethsemane, Service @ Peace
Mar. 8 - Supper @ Peace, Service @ Gethsemane
Mar. 15 - Supper @ Gethsemane, Service @ Peace
Mar. 22 - Supper @ Peace, Service @ Gethsemane
Mar. 29 - Supper @ Gethsemane, Service @ Peace

ELCA World Hunger's

40
Days
OF
GIVING

ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving

We invite you to study, pray, be challenged and give with us throughout Lent during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving — toward a just world for our families, our neighbors and communities around the world.

40 Days of Giving begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023.

January Angels

I want to send out many thanks to those who answered my requests to help with the Angel duties for the month of January.

My appreciation and thanks goes to Clarence Mattson, Naomi, Steven, Paul and Trevor Ranisate, Aiden Marchetti, Geof McNiel, Donna Flannigan, Evie Kinnunen, Pat Sleeman, Kathy Bogren, Barb Alaspa and Bennet Bloomquist.

I also want to thank the Church Council members who covered all of the duties for Sunday, January 29th, with it also being our Annual Meeting. This was a great way to highlight those who have been serving on our council this past year: Bennet Bloomquist, Mary Horan, Bruce Kniivila, Sheila Davidson, Deb Poderzay, Ken Alaspa, Tom Lee, Char Meinzer, Nancy Rosewall, and Donna Flannigan. Please remember to express your appreciation to them for all of the time and energy they give.

Peace!

Joyce Bloomquist

Mark your calendars, help celebrate Fran Shimmin's 91st Birthday, Sunday March 5, 2023!!

Please join us for cake and coffee after the service in the fellowship hall on Sunday, March 5th to help celebrate with Fran. All are welcome!

All Women of Gethsemane

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

Help Needed to Water Plants at Church

Due to recovering from surgery, Dawn Thomas will not be able to water the plants at the church. We are looking for someone to temporarily fill in for her during the month of April. If this is something you would like to do, please call the church office. Thank you.

Annual Report Volunteers

Thank you So Much to the people who once again helped assemble the Annual Report. Our kind volunteers this year were: Donna Flannigan, Sheila Vandervort, Evie Kinnunen, Wendy Krause, Laurie Harvey, Pat Sleeman, and Dan Karlin.

From the Pastor

At the end of this month, with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd, we will begin the season of Lent.

Lent is one of those church seasons that people have strong opinions about. Some say it is too gloomy, too much focused on our sinfulness, too long a time to "prepare" for the joy of Easter. Others enjoy it as a time to refocus on God in their lives, give up harmful habits, or take on new practices that will help them grow personally or spiritually. Both opinions are valid and faithful.

As a professional church nerd, I find Lent to be an energizing time that provides more opportunities to participate in the faithful disciplines of self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love, guided by God's Word, Jesus's example, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

This year, Gethsemane will be partnering with our neighbors across the street at Peace United Methodist Church to focus in on the last two disciplines – sacrificial giving and works of love – using the theme "Justice, Peace, and Wondrous Things: A Journey Through the Psalms with ELCA World Hunger," from their 40 Days of Giving program.

Here is how ELCA World Hunger describes the theme:

In the Psalms we will find the pleas of a people — our spiritual ancestors — for renewal and transformation, for justice and peace, and for hope and comfort.

We will read the psalmist's lament for the old Kingdom of David, which was reduced to rubble. We will read the yearning for safety and rest after the Israelites' experience of war and exile. We will read earnest prayers for a world where peace and justice reign and all are satisfied. And we will read outbursts of thankful praise for God, who restores the people, feeds all who hunger and "keeps faith forever" (Psalm 146:6).

As we gather on Wednesdays, we will be serving a soup and bread dinner, as we have done in past years, but this time it will be a Community Table meal, open and advertised to our whole neighborhood. We want to show the love of God to our neighbors through a hot meal and a warm welcome – no strings attached. After the meal at one church, everyone will be invited across the street for a service of prayer and reflection at the other church.

From the Pastor

- continued-

Sharing the work and the joy of serving one another between the two churches, our hope is to provide a meal and fellowship to feed the hunger of one another's bodies and hearts, and the Word to feed the hunger in all of our souls.

There will be devotional books available, along with a daily calendar to enrich our Lenten journey. Pastor Rob and I will be trading off leading the devotional services on Wednesdays at each of our churches, and we hope that you will join in participating, serving, and giving throughout the season.

In a world where suffering is always present, it's important to acknowledge that all of us, at one time or another, cry out for justice and peace, hope and comfort. As people of God, we are called to seek how we can be a part of God's response to those cries right here in our own neighborhood and all around the world.

May the Lenten season be a blessing to us, as we seek to be a blessing to others.

Your co-worker in Christ,
Pastor Amy

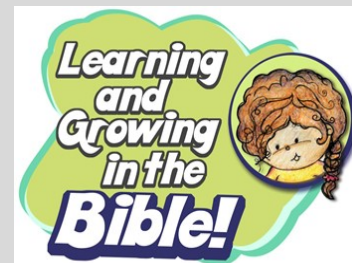
Faith Builders

(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 and Pam



Confirmation

Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Fundraiser

Order today! Leave the Super Bowl Food Prep to Us! Last day to place your order is Sunday, February 5th.

Two types of sub sandwiches will be available for \$7.50 each. They are Salami/Pepperoni;

and Ham/Turkey. All sandwiches include cheese and lettuce.

Pickles and Onions are available on the side.

Pick up your orders on Sunday, February 12th from 9:30 am - 11:00 am.

Please make checks payable to "Gethsemane Youth."

The profits will go into our Youth Fund to pay for service projects, snacks, and supplies for weekly confirmation, as well as supporting our youth to attend Synod events.



"God gave me another opportunity that I don't intend to waste. ..."

[Mennonite Social Action Commission (CASM), partners of ELCA World Hunger] have been a light in the midst of the darkness, and I am more than grateful, because they have given me back the hope that I can go on."
—Norma Ramirez

Each session of the Advent and Lent study guides features a story from someone who benefits from the work of ELCA World Hunger around the world. **Read Norma's story in session 4 of the Advent study guide!**

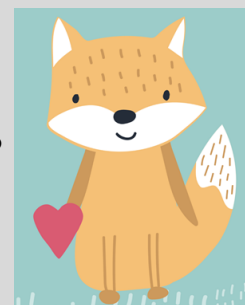
Fellowship Team

We are excited to invite you to a bake sale!

Think Super Bowl Sunday? Buying subs for the game? You can pick up some wonderful desserts and treats to compliment your subs! Join us February 12 during and after church!

Proceeds will be used for future Fellowship Events.

You won't be disappointed!



Schokolade Bakers

Our chocolate buffet is set for February 21, 2023 (known also as “Fat Tuesday” --- the day before Ash Wednesday.) We are asking food businesses in the area to donate chocolate items AND “home” bakers to share their specialties that have chocolate in the recipe(s). Bring uncut to church where we will cut/slice into sample sized pieces. We look forward to our patrons sampling as many different items as they wish.

Some “home” bakers may create layer cakes, fancy cupcakes, mini cream pies, etc. Many of us may work in teams creating cake pops, ice cream cone cupcakes, dipping chocolate covered items.....which adds to the choices of our patrons. Consider some of your own favorites...or explore on Pinterest.

We do ask several things of you to help us:

- 1) Let us know if you are using tree nuts or peanuts in your recipe.
- 2) The health department will allow home bakers for this event only if you pledge to
 - * Wash and sanitize the counter/work space. Keep pets in another room.
 - * Wash your hands with warm water and soap before you handle ingredients/finished product.
 - * When your hands are dry, wear food handler gloves (we have free gloves available in various sizes.)
 - * Any items made with cream cheese cannot be made at home, though could be made at church.

What if 5 people each brings brownies? Love it!!! Each recipe has something special to it. And, thinking special ingredients... do you need something that you don't usually purchase—like Black cocoa? We may have this or can get it for you. Let us know. Can you bake something several weeks before the event and freeze it? Yes.

Thank you
The Generosity Committee.....and the Schokolade Event folks

Home Baker's Schokolade Chocolate Buffet Form

---one form for each recipe. **Attach to finished goods.**

Baker's Name

Name of donated item

Phone _____

Circle allergens in the product: **Peanuts** **Tree Nuts**

Items can be brought to Gethsemane's Kitchen any time the building is open from Sunday morning February 19 through Tuesday, February 21 at 1:00 p.m. Make sure your donation label is on the item, place items that should be refrigerated in the kitchen refrigerator. Other wrapped items can be left on a table marked 'Schokolade' outside the serving window of the kitchen.

Thank you for your help

Generosity Team

KIVA is a top US charity that connects loan money at 0% to applicants around the world and even in the USA. Many do not have access to 'traditional' sources of funding. People and groups apply for a loan to improve their life--- agricultural supplies, food to stock a small store, animals to sell, etc. They repay the loan. Repeat the process. Kiva does all the details. People provide the funds in \$25 increments. Borrowers' lives are improved. More info is available at KIVA.org. The KIVA administrative expenses are covered by grants, donations and a small fee added to each loan made. Over 2 million people have joined KIVA and provided almost 2 billion dollars in loans. The repayment rate is over 96% (currency exchange rates account for part of this.)

I am a KIVA member and just about to make choices for relending \$150. I have helped Norah in Kenya to purchase seeds and fertilizer, the Benkadi Group in Mali to purchase livestock for resale to other farmers, and a group in Senegal to establish a fish selling business, and others. My wife and I believe very strongly in social justice as a part of our religious beliefs. We do a lot to help locally and regionally. Kiva opens the door to helping others around the world.

The Generosity Team at Gethsemane has opted to do one event to help internationally with that choice being KIVA. The fund raiser is a chocolate dessert buffet. We call it Schokolade (German for “chocolate”). Sample pies, cakes, cheesecakes, cookies, make-your-own brownie sundaes, waffles, novelties, ice cream and a whole lot more. Drink coffee or hot chocolate as you have 2 hours to chat with friends and relax as you sample. Can't stay? Boxed sets of desserts will also be available. Tuesday, Feb. 21 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. is also the date of Mardi Gras, or “Fat Tuesday.” All profits will be invested in KIVA projects. You will be kept informed of what we do with the funds, who received funding, and how we reinvest year after year. We will share the projects of people helped by the Schokolade buffet event.

How can you help? Come to the event, bring friends, consider volunteering for an hour or two, and even possibly baking/making chocolate items. More information will be in our upcoming Sunday bulletins.

Dan Karlin
Generosity Team Member

Ticket Sales for Schokolade will begin on Sunday, January 29th for only \$12. Tickets are limited so be sure to buy yours quickly to help support Kiva.org and enjoy some awesome chocolate treats on Fat Tuesday, February 21st. This is a joint effort of our wonderful Generosity Team and Fellowship Team!

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.

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 this would be helpful next to your note pad. Maybe you just like to see what the grocery store wants you to have; stick this card in your wallet or purse as a reminder!



Camp Corner

VLM ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, February 11, 2023

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

501 E 23rd St, Hibbing, MN. 55746.

Please RSVP if you will be attending. Can't attend in person? We'll be live-streaming the meeting, Go to our website: www.vlmcamps.org/annual report to RSVP or live-stream the meeting.

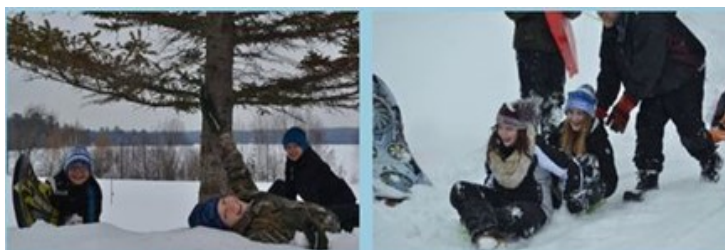
Please note, you must attend in person to cast your vote for delegates. If you would like to be a voting delegate, please register through your congregation.

Summer Staff Applications are Live!

Are you or do you know a young adult that would love to work in God's Great Northwoods? We are hiring a diverse team that will gain skills, build lifelong friendships, and share God's love in creation this summer! Head to vlmcamps.org/employment to learn more about the many job opportunities at VLM-Camp Vermilion and Camp Hiawatha.

Summer 2023 Registration is Open!

Registration is open for Summer 2023! To register go to: www.vlmcamps.org/registration, email vlm@vlmcamps.org or call our Duluth office at our **new number** 218-481-9080.



VLM WINTER REJUVES

JOIN US FOR 23 HOURS OF CAMP FUN!

JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH REJUVE

GRADES 7-12 AT CAMP VERMILION

JANUARY 20-21, 2023

ELEMENTARY REJUVE

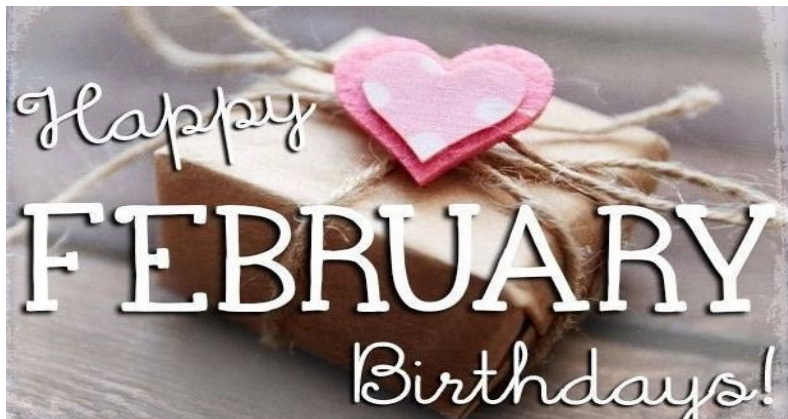
GRADES 3-6 AT CAMP HIAWATHA

FEBRUARY 24-25, 2023

\$65 PER PERSON | \$20 PER PERSON DEPOSIT DUE WITH REGISTRATION | ONE ADULT FREE WITH EVERY 6 PARTICIPANTS WHEN REGISTERING AS A GROUP

Sign up today at <https://www.vlmcamps.org/event-registration> or by calling the VLM Main Office at 800-331-5148

Camper Rejuves are a great way to get back to camp during the school year, or to check out camp for the upcoming summer! You'll get your camp fix on this 23 hour overnight - games, campfire, songs, sledding, winter activities, friends, learning, and of course, great camp food. Space for these retreats is limited so we encourage you to register early. Registration begins at 7:00 PM on Friday and the program ends following supper on Saturday (about 6:00 PM). More information will be sent to all registered campers.



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: 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

Memorial Gifts received during the month of January

In Memory of:

Alyssa Nevala

From:

Anonymous donation



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

- 2/2 David and Sandy Wallin
- 2/12 Dawn and Robert Thomas
- 2/14 Sue and Tom Hiltunen



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:

- ◆ Dale Pepelnjak, Carol Nevala, Judy Bennick, Mark Andres, Chuck Bothwell, Ruth Koski, Bella Paulson, Kristy McCarty, Fran Shimmin, and Alyssa Newman.
- ◆ And all members who are homebound, in nursing homes, or assisted living.

Prayers of peace and comfort for:

- ◆ Family and friends on the death of Claire Seppi
- ◆ Family and friends on the death of Alyssa Nevala

Special Prayers for Sam and Hannah Davidson-Teff as Sam is deployed to Poland through the Army National Guard and all others who are in the military service.

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!



Council Highlights

It has been great serving as your council president. Here is one of the things I will be doing with my free time.



Grace,
Bennett Bloomquist, Presiding 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 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

January giving is starting off the new year reasonably well. Weekly giving has averaged \$3,480 thus far, which is just \$87 per week less than what is needed to meet our budgeted expenses.

As we enter the income tax season, you may want to discuss with your tax advisor the possible income tax benefits that may be available to you by making a donation to Gethsemane by a Qualified Charitable Distribution. Happy New Year.

Bruce Kniivila, Treasurer

I...THINK OF YOU
and GIVE
THANKS.

EPHESIANS 1:16
The Message





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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Amy Janssen

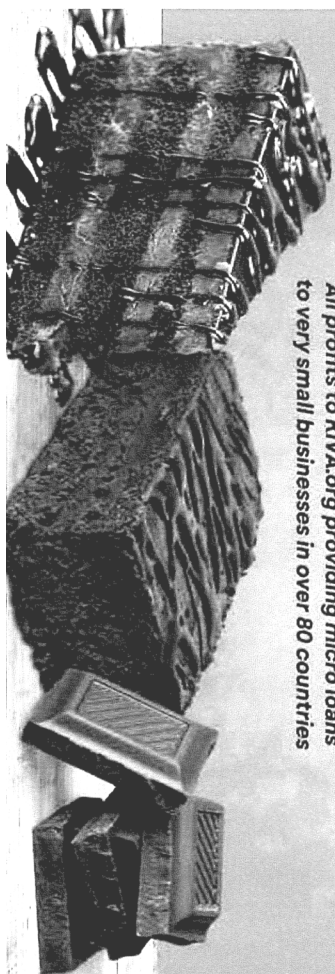
Pastor

Brenda Varani

Parish Secretary

Come and see us on the web!

www.gelc.info



All profits to KIVA.org providing micro loans
to very small businesses in over 80 countries

Gethsemane Lutheran
901 4th St. S Virginia, MN
218-741-4961 gelc.info

Buffet sampling of layer cakes, pies, bars,
cheesecakes, novelties, ice cream, cookies and more.

\$12 In-person dining

\$10 Take out preselected assortment box

Advance tickets recommended.

**Tuesday, February 21, 2023
5:30PM to 7:30PM**

SCHOKOLADE
A "Fat Tuesday" Chocolate Buffet

