

Gethsemane Gazette

Gethsemane Lutheran
Church
Virginia, Minnesota
www.gelc.info

April, 2023

Volume 45, Issue 4

Join us for April Worship and Events!

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SERVICES

Maundy Thursday — April 6

7:00 pm - Worship with First Communion

Good Friday — April 7

7:00 pm - Tenebrae

Easter Sunday — April 9

Celebration of the Resurrection & Holy Communion

9:00 am
(in-person & live streamed)

****Coffee An' will be served between services****

11:00 am
(in-person only)



HOLY WEEK

Another Easter Worship Option:

Easter Worship with our neighbors at Peace United Methodist - 10:30 am

Inside this issue:

Nurturing Faith	2
Children, Youth and Family Ministry	3
Camp Corner	3
Service in our Congregation	4
Service in Community and World	5
People of Gethsemane	6
Congregational Support	7
Prayer Wall	7
Schokolade	8



April Worship Schedule

16th = Guest Preacher: Trisha Peterson, *Camp Hiawatha*
Service of the Word, No Communion

23rd = Guest Preacher: Pastor Rob Kopp, *Peace UMC*
Service of Holy Communion

30th = Synod Assembly Worship,
Sermon by Bishop Amy Odgren
Service of the Word, No Communion

Note: Pastor Amy will be on Vacation from April 10 –25.

**For Pastoral Care Emergencies while Pastor Amy is away,
call Pastor Rob Kopp at Peace United Methodist next door,
218-741-7738.**



March Angels

Spring has sprung....right??
Gethsemane's Angels were springing forward in March! A HUGE basket of thanks to everyone who served during this month including: Debra and Steve Manninen, Larry Roberts, Bunny Varani, Sheila and Richard Vandervort, Joyce Bloomquist, Donna Flannigan, Pat Sleeman, Pam Fields, Laurie Harvey, Mayme Barber, Julie Spiering, Evie and Rick Kinnunen, and also to those who wish to be anonymous but are always ready to step up and help-you know who you are :), and you are all greatly appreciated.

Karen Roberts, March Angel Coordinator

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.

All Women of Gethsemane

Thursday, April 27th, 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!

Ways to Worship

In the Sanctuary

We are worshiping 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

Dear Friends in Christ,

As April begins with Holy Week and Easter, I am reminded that Easter is not just one day. Yes, the church's biggest celebration of the year is the Sunday of the Resurrection, but the season of Easter lasts for a whole 50 days! It is a time when we hear the stories of the disciples' many encounters with the resurrected Christ, as he walked the earth again before he ascended into heaven. The disciples heard the promises of new life and salvation that Jesus enacted through his triumph over death and were reassured of God's presence with them, which spurred them on to spread the Good News and start the Christian church.

We are called to live as "Easter People" – because we are blessed with the knowledge that our Redeemer lives and dwells with us even now through the power of the Holy Spirit –demonstrating the love of Christ every day through our words and deeds. When we act like we are risen from the death of sin into a life that proclaims the gospel with boldness and joy, we affirm the truth that Jesus Lives!

This is a poem by Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson in praise of the Season of Easter. May it remind you of the stories of the Risen Jesus, who was and is and will be forever. Amen.

Hallelujah! Christ Lives and so shall we! ~Pastor Amy

The Easter Season

Fifty days for impossible,
unlikely encounters,
signs of new life,
creative resilience,
and speechless joy.

Fifty days for scars shown,
real human bodies
alive, telling stories
about what was hurt
and been made whole.

Fifty days for peace enfleshed,
moving through locked doors,
down dirt roads,
and on the beach
smoking fish to eat for breakfast.

From the Pastor

- continued-

Fifty days for Spirit breathed,
forgiveness unleashed,
presence that's pure,
courage that finds us
together for good.

Fifty days for jubilee,
debts fully repaid,
broken life restored,
people rejoicing
and raised from the dead!

Faith Builders

(Preschool - grade 5)

The Sunday School children are still enjoying and learning so much from the Spark series. They are very excited to be singing for you on Palm Sunday.

There will be **No Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 9th**. We wish you all a very Happy Easter and hope you enjoy time with your family. We look forward to meeting again on April 16th!

Your Sunday School
Leaders,
Cindy and Pam



Thank you from the Kids!

During our March "Favor of the Month" Taking Care of our Kids, we collected boys clothes & underwear (85 of them!) and girls clothes & underwear (90 of them!) In addition, we collected almost 600 personal hygiene products!

Our congregation continues to donate and give regardless! And we couldn't do it without all of you pitching in! On behalf of the kids at our schools - Thank you!

Generosity Team



Confirmation

The Confirmation kids are on Easter break, and enjoying our time off for April 5 & 12. Confirmation will resume on Wednesday, April 19 at 6:30 pm in the Youth Room.

College Scholarships

Once again scholarships will be offered through the Mission Endowment Fund to all GELC members who are high school seniors and those who will be post-secondary students in the 2023-2024 school year. The amount of each scholarship is between \$1,500 to \$2,000. Letters have been sent to our seniors and those who received scholarships last year.

The deadline for returning the scholarship form to the church office is Friday, April 21.



We WANT our youth to go to camp! so...

You pay the deposit - Gethsemane will pay the rest!

Gethsemane's Mission Endowment Team has approved a plan to fully cover the cost of our youth (and one friend) attending Bible Camp with Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (VLM) out of the Roy Carlson Youth Ministry Fund.

Early Bird
Registration ended
April 1st, but regular
registration
continues!
Sign up for camp
today! Visit
www.vlmcamps.org.



Updates from Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

VLM IS STILL LOOKING FOR SUMMER STAFF!

We are still in need of finding male counselors and canoe guides.

You all know that VLM is recruiting staff for this summer! But did you know that you also know all the best people? Please introduce us! The high standard of work that we are called to do requires that we have the highest quality summer staff. We count on you and your partnership to help deliver high quality program.

Please contact Director of Program Katie Maurer at katie@vlmcamps.org with any leads or for more information.

Weekly Giving

Total giving for the month of March thus far is \$15,771. The amount budgeted for expenses for 2023 is \$16,456 per month. So, giving is only \$685 short for the month of March.

The slightly increased contributions for March are helping to bring us back closer to a balanced budget. Thank you all.



Bruce Kniivila, Treasurer

Library

Spring is just around the corner! As we all look forward to warm weather and planting flowers and gardens, come check out the Church library where we have books with information and tips on how to nurture and care for what we plant. These books are displayed in the window. We have also added several new books that may be of interest to you.

Come check out a book and please help yourself to a packet of seeds.



EASTER FLOWERS

Please help us build our Easter Garden!

If you would like to donate a plant to help decorate the altar for Easter morning; please drop off your plant (with your name on the bottom) to the church office by noon on Good Friday.

You can pick up your plant following the Easter morning services.



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 – Molly Pemmaraju

Greetings, my name is Malati (Molly) Pemmaraju and my husband is William (Bill) Norton.

I was born in India and moved to the Midwest when I was a wee 3 years old and raised in the Midwest (Illinois/WI/MN). In the last 30 years I have lived in Gilbert, Britt, Virginia, Duluth, Mountain Iron then back to Britt...lots of moving...phew! I was born into the Hindu religion and became a Christian about 20 years ago...and that is for another article/story someday.

Bill was born and raised in Proctor, MN and lived in the Twin Cities for much of his 20's/30's/early 40's before moving up to Duluth to be closer to his aging, but still very active parents that are now starting to slow down in their late 80's/early 90's!! Some good genetics.

Somehow (God's plan), we met nearly 15 years ago and married in 2015 after 5 years of courtship at none other than our Gethsemane Lutheran Church by Pastor Nathan Sager.

We have two grown children...our son, his wife and 8-month-old (first!!) grandchild live in Austin, MN and our daughter (recently engaged) lives in beautiful Boulder, CO.

I have been attending Gethsemane for about 12 years and presently serving my first year as your church council president. I have been working as an anesthesiologist with East Range Clinics which became SMDC and is now Essentia Health for nearly 30 years. Time really does go by way too fast...

Bill works with Vermillion Land Office as a realtor/appraiser and loves all things outdoors.

Our interests include traveling, cross-country skiing, golfing, walking/hiking, biking, reading, spending time with family/friends and just enjoying God's beautiful nature and blessings year-round! We are looking forward to our trip in April to Israel!!!

Thank you and hope to serve you all well over the next three years on the council and as a fellow member at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

With gratitude, your sister and brother in Christ,
Molly and Bill



Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia - a learning opportunity with the Alzheimer's Association Sunday, April 23, 10:15 - 11:15 am in the Fellowship Hall

On Sunday, April 23, our very own Bekah Davidson will be giving an educational talk about Alzheimer's in the Fellowship Hall during coffee an'. Come to learn about these conditions that affect many of our families and friends. Knowing more about Alzheimer's disease and Dementia can help us be compassionate neighbors to one another. All are encouraged to attend!

ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

RANGE OF VOICES



HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING?

Director: Jonathan Cleghorn
Accompanist: Dawn Thompson

Friday, April 14, 2023 7:00 P.M. Chisholm Baptist Church Chisholm, MN	Sunday April 16, 2023 2:00 P.M. Gethsemane Lutheran Church Virginia, MN
--	--

**Admission \$5 at the door
Coffee an' after the concert**

EARTH Fest
IRON RANGE 2023
FOR THE children,
FOR US ALL

SATURDAY, APRIL 22 • 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
IRON TRAIL MOTORS EVENT CENTER

FREE ADMISSION

- Children's Activities
- Local Marketplace & Silent Auction
- Demos, Exhibits and Speakers
- Local Lunch - by Go Figur's
- Music by MorningBird, and Josh Palmi & Trapper

Hear Danielle Hefferan with Climate Generation on "How to talk with children about Climate Change"

CLIMATE GENERATION

CRITICAL MINERALS from recycled E-WASTE
A new industry for the Iron Range?

FREE electronics recycling outside throughout the event: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Accepting: ONLY computers (laptop and desktop), monitors, and TVs under 19".

The Pipes are Calling Again! Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 3:00 pm Hope Community Presbyterian Church 212 South 5th Avenue, Virginia MN

Join us on Sunday, April 23, at 3 pm for an organ concert celebrating our sanctuary's centennial and our 1923 Bennett Pipe Organ.

Vicki Gornick, a world-renowned organist from Chisholm, MN and Amy Szumal, organist for United in Christ Lutheran Church of Eveleth, will play some of their favorite organ pieces.

A free will offering will be taken to support our Little Free Food Pantry.

Please, mark your calendars now and join us for an afternoon of magnificent music!





Blessings to all who have a Birthday this Month:

- 2: Eleanor Anshus
- 3: Halee Zorman
- 4: Dominic Pauling
- 5: Mikaela Christenson, Tomina Koop, Mark Olson
- 6: Matthew Koski
- 7: Kirsti Axelson, Martin Hudson, Sandra Komula, Matthew Reid
- 9: Ronald Lackner
- 10: Nicki Johnson
- 13: Chad Seppala
- 14: Miia Johnson, Madison Waldron
- 15: Ken Alaspa, Kristen Aronen
- 16: Benjamin Muck
- 17: Gavin Prosen, Kristy Suihkonen
- 18: Mark Andres Sr.
- 19: Carter Sandnas, Abigale Schiller
- 20: Brent Marchetti
- 21: Penny Stecker
- 22: Paula Hanson, Sara Madden
- 23: Wayne Kuitunen
- 24: Barbara Johnson
- 25: Susan Kamnikar, Aaron Spiering
- 27: Landen Krause, Winnie Lackner
- 28: Alexxandra Burke, Donna Flannigan
- 29: Parker Breedon, Jillian Ofstad
- 30: Lisa Harvey

Memorial Gifts received during the month of March

In Memory of:

Skip Bol
Carol Nevala
Chuck Dahl

From:

Dean Weber
David & Renee Pollock
Sharlyn Dahl, Russell & Susan Kreager, Donald & Dorothy Hilligoss, John & Debra Jokinen, Robert & Linda Strukel, David & Renee Pollock, Ben & Kathy Gentilini, Tim & JoAnn Martinson, Brian & Katherine Birk, Judith & R.P. Anderson, Robert & Colleen Fingeroos, Edward Williams, Janice Jeffery



Celebrating the Anniversary of your Baptism:

- 4/4: Kaylynn Childs-Richards, Evie Kinnunen, Jillian Zeidler
- 4/6: Jaleen O'Connor
- 4/7: Barry Collins
- 4/9: Ben Brunfelt
- 4/10: Murray Anderson, Larry Sandnas, Matt Seppi, Sheila Vandervort
- 4/13: Dale Erickson, Carolyn Lustig
- 4/15: Cindy Lustig, Lillian Rosandich, Sydney Spelts
- 4/16: Hannah Davidson-Teff, Jayne Scott
- 4/17: Debra Dall
- 4/18: Alyvia Fields, Valerie Florey, Joey Kapella, Abby Toivari
- 4/19: Gladys Boril, Tyler Norha
- 4/22: Jennifer Hanson, Gabriella Sandnas
- 4/23: Katie Finc
- 4/26: Sheila Davidson
- 4/27: Aiden Krause, Juliana Pauling, Elijah Wedge
- 4/28: Matthew Mahonen
- 4/29: Myla Meinzer
- 4/??: Michael Burke

*****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:

- ♦ Carol Pohto, Chet Fields, Mark Olson, Dale Pepelnjak, Judy Bennick, Mark Andres, Ruth Koski, Kristy McCarty, Fran Shimmin, and Alyssa Newman.
- ♦ All members who are homebound, in nursing homes, or assisted living.

Prayers of peace and comfort for:

- ♦ Family and friends on the death of Carol 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.

Noisy Barnyard Offering - April 30

April 30 is the 5th Sunday, so bring your loose change to support our Favor of the Month, God's Global Barnyard! Feel free to take a Piggy Bank home to gather



your coins and then turn it in at the end of the month! Let's gather some honeybees, baby chicks, pigs, and goats to fill God's Barnyard! For more information or to give online, go to goodgifts.elca.org/gods-global-barnyard

Council Highlights

The ongoing Lenten worship season brings us into fellowship with Peace United Methodist Church on alternating Wednesdays via the soup, bread, and worship services. This is good. We stay together as Christ followers in our community and reach out to all those we can by being inclusive, welcoming and most importantly loving.

Update on council actions — Recently, we have purchased a new freezer after the old one was in need of retirement! Other areas in need of attention include the repair/replacement of exterior doors and areas of the roof. Due diligence is occurring as we are getting bids for these issues. Such is the woe of aging building parts; too bad we can't replace our aging (body) parts as easily! Of course, everything comes with a cost so your council members are doing the time-consuming research before money is spent on these repairs/replacements that will only become more expensive if not addressed. Church membership rolls are being updated to know what we as members can do to help those who would like to be more active but might be hesitant or unclear what that could mean.

Finally, the Church Council Retreat was held at Gethsemane on Sunday 3/19 after the service.

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!



This retreat allowed the council members to discuss all things important for our church's health/membership/community in a longer time format than we are able to at our monthly council meetings! Please don't hesitate to reach out with input/questions to any of your council members.

Wishing you a grace-filled Lent & Easter.

Molly Pemmaraju
Council President

Fellowship Team

Spring is here!! Join the fellowship team on Sunday, April 16 for some garden goodies!

Come for fellowship and go home with a prize, after service in the fellowship hall!

We could all use a little plant pick me up, right?





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Come and see us on the web!

www.gelc.info

Schokolade.....Thank You!

The chocolate buffet was just the beginning of an awesome night. Thank you to the Generosity Committee for sponsoring this event. Each month as plans became more detailed, the group continued to expand the ideas. Why not merge the chocolate with Mardi Gras/Fat Tuesday and with balloons and decorations? Yeah! And a photo booth? Table games for groups to play! Over 30 different chocolate desserts made by members as well as donations from Pep's, Canelakes, Village Inn, Sugar Shack, and Kunnari's. Amazing buffet. Absolutely amazing. Most of our guests were not just in and then out a few minutes later. Most stayed for over an hour enjoying the food, the company, the atmosphere.

Can it get better? Oh, yeah. The team who put the event together and worked it was outstanding. No egos to soothe. All focused. And....15 minutes into the evening talk began of what to do next year. In fact, Mardi Gras falls on Feb. 13, 2024. What could go wrong with THAT trifecta?

We have tweaking to do for next year and are ready for the challenge. And profits? Yes. \$1460 to be invested in business opportunities all over the world; 80% women led, raising their standard of living. Funds are paid back and we reinvest again. We will continually update the congregation on this global ministry. One night's buffet will positively change the lives of many around the world.

Thank you. (or would that be 'Danke'?)

Dan Karlin

