

Gethsemane Gazette

Gethsemane Lutheran
Church
Virginia, Minnesota
www.gelc.info

Mat, 2023

Volume 45, Issue 5

Join us for May Worship and Events!

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

Teacher Appreciation Day, Sunday May 14th, 9:00 am

During worship, we will be taking time to thank our Confirmation Guides and our Sunday School Teachers for their service throughout the school year.

Our Confirmation Guides are:

Heath Boe
Jim Pauling
Andy Johnson
Cindy Lustig

Our Sunday School Teachers are:

Pam Fields
Cindy Lusting



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Senior Sunday, May 21st, 9:00 am

We will be honoring our seniors during the worship service. Come join us and wish them luck in their new adventures. There will be a special celebration for you during Coffee An' after worship in the fellowship hall.

Our Seniors for the class of 2023 are:

Kaylenn Ellen Marie Childs-Richards
Mikaela Anne Christenson
Alex David Gubrud
Tye Thomas Hiltunen
Alexa Marie Ismil
Amber Louise Rosewall
Amelia Grace Sandnas
Nathan Russell Spiering
Tyson Xavier Wilson



Blessing of the Quilts, May 21st, 9:00 am

Join us as we have a special blessing of the quilts made by our Mission Sewers. Each year the group sends out several boxes of quilts to Lutheran Relief. The quilts will be displayed on the pews of the church for everyone to see and bless with prayer during the service. Also, they will be giving a quilt to each of the High School graduates of Gethsemane.



April Angels

Thank you to the April angels: Tom & Dana Hiltunen, Sue Hiltunen, Geoffrey McNeil II, and David & Denee' Pollock who signed up to fill the positions that were needed for the month. Also a thank you to the other members of the congregation who helped but were not April angels. They are: Barb & Ken Alaspa, Donna Flannigan, Karen Roberts, Dan Gallagher, Mike Tuominen, Rick & Evie Kinnunen, Kathy Bogren, Laurie Harvey, Pam Fields, Debbie Poderzay, Darcy Norha, Naomi Ranisate, Dana Waldron, Joyce Bloomquist, Eleanor Anshus, Clarence Mattson, and Pat Sleeman.

Without a coordinator, we still managed to get the ministry work done. It is amazing what can be done when we all pitch in together!!

Blessings to you All...

All Women of Gethsemane

Thursday, May 25th, 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

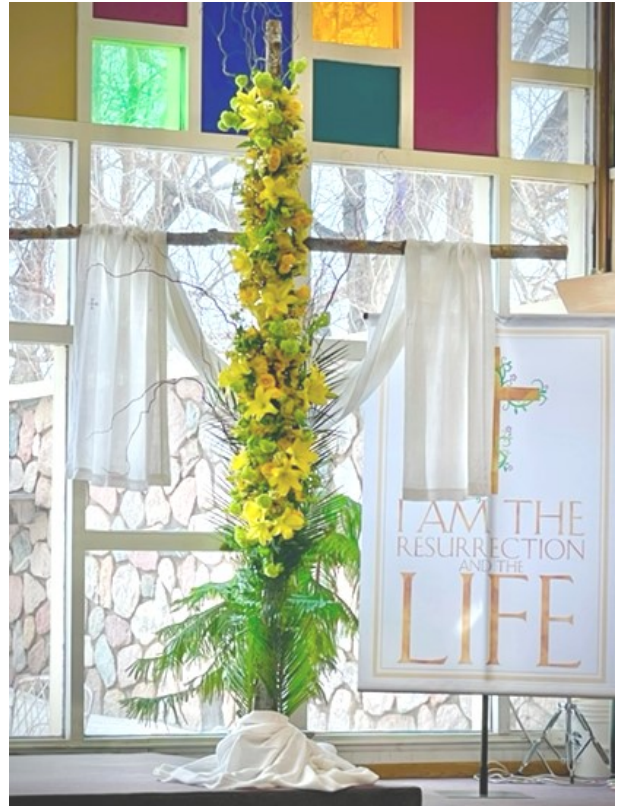
Tuesdays – 4:00 pm

Wednesdays – 10:00 am

Fridays – 10:00 am

Sundays – 7:45 am.

Easter at Gethsemane 2023



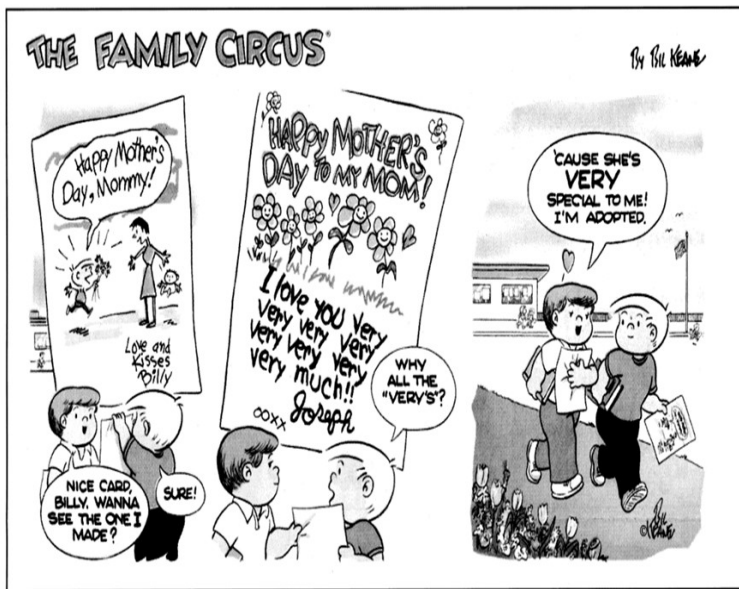
Faith Builders

(Preschool - grade 5)

The Sunday School children are now working out of the book Incredible Edible Bible Fun and making God's word memorable with easy, fun recipes the children can do. They will be singing again on Mother's Day along with greeting/ushering and helping with coffee an'. Mark your calendars for May 14th. This will also be the last day of Sunday School until the fall.

The kids are looking forward to VBS this summer by Camp Vermilion. VLM Day Camp will be held July 30 to August 3rd, from 9 am - 3 pm for K - 5th grade. We hope to see you there!!

With God's Blessings,
Cindy and Pam



from The Joyful Noiseletter Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

Generosity Team

On behalf of our continuing outreach to our neighbors and those in need, we recently made a donation of diapers and wipes to Lutheran Social Services!

Oh it feels good to give back!



Confirmation

Confirmation class has resumed after having some time off for Easter break. The last day for Confirmation will be Wednesday, May 17th.



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.



Spring Clean Up

Together with our Generosity & Fellowship Teams
we invite you to our

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY!

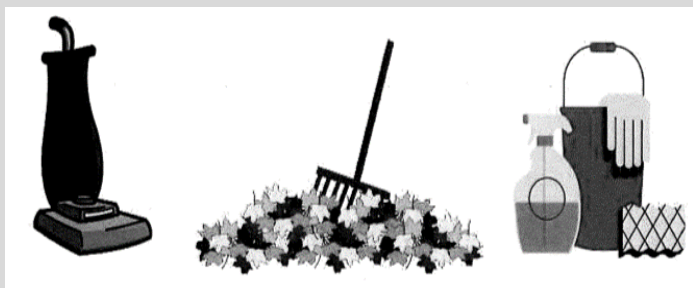
Sunday, May 7th

10:00 am - 1:00 pm

Many hands make light work!

We ask you to:

- Wear your work clothes to church
- Bring your rakes, cleaning supplies, etc.
 - Be prepared to help as you can
- Inside and outside projects are available
- If raining, please bring raincoat & rainboots
- Expect to enjoy fellowship, coffee, water & snacks!



Communion Bread Bakers

We are looking for someone to help bake bread for the month of August. The communion bread kit is located in the cabinet in the coat room.

Each bread maker will purchase the supplies on their own. You can request to be reimbursed from the church or add it to your giving statement as a donation. For either request, please save your receipt of purchase and bring it to the office with your request.

Thank you for volunteering to be in this ministry. If you have any questions, check with some of the current bakers who can be offer assistance.



Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is in need of Menards or Super one plastic bags. Please drop them off in the shopping cart at the back door or bring them into the office.

Thank you.

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 – Cally Anderson and Miia Johnson

Hi, my name is Cally Anderson. I get confirmed this year, but this is my first year at this church. So, the only memories I have here, are from this year. That's okay though because it has been a fun year. Not going to lie a lot more fun than my last church. I'm with my friends and I just love being there. I did go to the overnight trip, and I would very much recommend it. It was so fun. Honestly that's all I can say about the church. I have been in gymnastics for 10 years, this will be my 9th year competing. I love this sport and it will be my forever, even if I don't get into a college with it. Last year at regionals in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, I placed first tied on bars.

That is a big, big thing. I hope I can do it again! I am so thankful for my parents for everything they give me. Also thank you all for supporting me as well!

My name is Miia Johnson, and I have been coming to this church since I was a baby and I was baptized here too. I've always enjoyed coming to this church from Sunday school all the way up to confirmation! We've had awesome pastors too. I love all the things we do and participate in through confirmation. I have been in gymnastics for about 10-11 years and have been on a competition team for 8 years. Gymnastics has always been my favorite sport and I hope to keep going with it. I'm so lucky to have so many people supporting me, especially my family.

Thanks to this church family for being so supportive and happy for me too!



KIVA.ORG

Schokolade is now a memory of a fun and tasty evening of a chocolate buffet. Blood sugar levels are back to normal. Yet, life does not just go on day after day. The \$1400 has been invested in loans via KIVA, a worldwide non-profit that is the 'middle person' funneling loans of \$25 or more to people all over the world to begin or to enhance their businesses.

An on-going display is in the church narthex to track the loans—who we loaned to, how much, and what they will do with the money to improve their lives. The Generosity Team chose 10 women across the world to partner with. See the write ups and map in the narthex. In fact, we have had several monthly payments made already which allowed us to reinvest in an 11th person. (plant, harvest, repeat).

Ma in the Philippines borrowed \$200 for fertilizer and pesticides. 5 groups loaned \$25 each and Schokolade money loaned \$75. Repayment is over 12 months. Our first check was for \$5.90.

Faheema lives in Palestine borrowed 4000 138 lenders came together (including us for \$85) so that she could buy a new refrigerator and oven. She makes pastries and sells them at the local farmer's market.

Thank you to all who helped take an amazing evening and make it into seeds of change for 10 families around the world. Oops. Make that 11. Uhh, make that 20 by the end of this year....kind of like the feeding of the 5000....

WARM YOUR HEART COMMUNITY CLOTHESLINE and FOOD PANTRY

Spring is here and summer is just around the corner, but let's keep contributing to our Community Clothesline.

Do you have extra jackets, shirts, sweatshirts, pants, shoes, T-Shirts, etc....? I'm sure 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 (for 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.

CAMP WORKDAY – VERMILION

Saturday, May 6, 2023; 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM
Camp Vermillion 2555 Vermilion Camp Road
Cook, MN, 55723

Site: Camp Vermillion

Ages: All ages

Cost: Free

Mark Your Calendars & Rally Your Congregation
Camp Workday is a time to prepare the site for our summer camping season and we can't do that without your help!

SCHEDULE

8:00 -9:30 - Registration & breakfast

8:30 - 12:30 - The work happens!

12:30 - Lunch

1:30 - The work continues for as long as people are able to stay. *

CAMP WORKDAY –
RSVP

To RSVP call the camp
office at

[\(800\) 331-5148.](tel:800-331-5148)



Mother's Day Brunch

Sunday, May 14, 2023; 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Camp Hiawatha

36944 Camp Hiawatha , Road Deer River, MN, 56636

Cost: \$18/adult, \$9/youth

ages 6–11

(5 and under are free)

*Tickets are to be purchased
online prior to the event.*

Join us on Mother's Day at
Camp Hiawatha for a brunch
to celebrate the wonderful

women in our lives! Seating is at 11:30am. Ticket
purchasing closes on May 8th at 11:59 pm so make sure
to purchase your tickets beforehand! **Space is limited.**
Please contact the VLM office to help purchase tickets
online.



MENU:

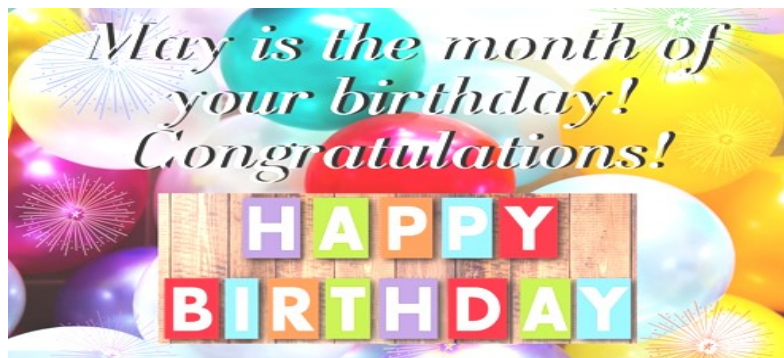
Main Dishes: Hame scrambled egg cups w/ cheese and
green onion, egg bake w/ veggies, cinnamon french toast
w/ cream cheese glaze, strawberry crepes

Meats: Bacon, Sausage links

Pastry: caramel Rolls, Raspberry white chocolate scones

Fruit: Glazed Fruit Medley, Raspberry tea soup

Beverages: tea, coffee, assorted Juices, milk



Blessings to all who have a Birthday this Month:

- 1: Marilyn Somero
- 2: Lisa Krause
- 3: Shannon Nelson, Ashlyn Randall
- 6: Graeme Harvey
- 7: Lani Laakso
- 8: Lee Laakso, Lance Ness, Scarlett Pipkin
- 11: Brant Tiedeman
- 12: Ben Harvey, Kathleen Horvath, Sydney Spelts
- 13: Orion Del Greco, Marcie Speer
- 14: Giles Friedlieb, Stanley Oleson, Marjory Wood
- 15: Jeffery Hanson
- 16: Bruce Kniivila
- 17: Leslie Gustafson, Willy Spelts
- 19: Joyce Bloomquist
- 20: Dan Gallagher
- 21: Joseph Madden
- 22: Harper Madden, Clarence Mattson, Brenda Ryberg
- 23: Dana Hiltunen
- 24: Tyler Finc, Greg Manninen
- 25: Wendy Krause
- 26: Alex Gubrud, Shelby Karakas
- 27: Lori Ismil, Evie Kinnunen, Ruth Kokko, Tom Krause
- 28: Bethany Harvey
- 30: Steven Ramfjord

Memorial Gifts received during the month of April

In Memory of:

Chuck Dahl

From:

Diane Bainter

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

- 5/3 Debra and Glenn Dall
- 5/5 Keith and Laurie Harvey
- 5/5 Cheryl and Matt Seppi
- 5/11 Christine and Kevin Lehtinen
- 5/19 Diana and Mike Hauber
- 5/21 Bruce and Ethie Kniivila
- 5/31 Evie and Rick Kinnunen



Celebrating the Anniversary of your Baptism:

- 5/1: Jennifer Krenz, Ann Nelson
- 5/2: Ray Erickson, Drew Giese
- 5/8: Matthew Koski, Paige Maki
- 5/10: Paula Hanson, Marian Holmes
- 5/12: Ronny Shoden
- 5/14: Marlene Kuitunen
- 5/15: Larry Roberts
- 5/18: Aria Jandrey, Shelley Zeidler
- 5/19: Rhett Baty
- 5/20: Bekah Davidson
- 5/21: Ian Ramfjord, Carson Robinson
- 5/23: Fran Shimmin
- 5/25: Dominic Pauling
- 5/28: Ellie Gulbranson
- 5/29: Cindy Bird, Grace Randall
- 5/30: Braden Tiedeman
- 5/?: Penny Stecker

****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:

- ♦ Noah Berger, Marilyn Somero, David Aho, Dan, Bill Copeland, Carol Pohto, Chet Fields, Mark Olson, 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 Dolores Erickson

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.



Council Highlights

In March and into April our congregation had a wonderful season of Lent joining Peace United Methodist, leading up to Holy week from Maundy Thursday, worshiping the Passion of Christ on Good Friday and finally joyous Easter to celebrate the miraculous rising of our Christ, Jesus!

March 19th the Church Council members had our "brain-storming" retreat at Gethsemane which took most of the day after church services. We were quite productive and started planning important goals for the ongoing year.

Among some of the goals were; create a welcoming team for new members, grow our outreach services to the surrounding community and increase visits to elderly who are alone and in need of connection, plan for a blood drive always appreciated by so many in need and continue to strengthen the Little Food Pantry. These were only a few of the many goals.

Also discussed at the retreat is the need to obtain bids/estimates for the needed roof repairs since snow is on the melt for better evaluation. Other property projects include getting volunteers to help clean/maintain our surrounding church grounds including the garden plots.

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!



There will be an all church, outdoor workday to get our beautiful Gethsemane church ready for spring/summer season after the long winter!

Finally, there is much excitement and talk about when/how we should proceed with a 60th Anniversary Celebration for our Church and when a new picture directory should be done.

Please stay tuned since we were bursting with ideas from our church retreat and hope all of our members will volunteer/suggest/join in these activities and keep us a vibrant congregation.

Blessings and let's get outdoors to enjoy the beautiful weather God is giving us!

Molly Pemmaraju, President

Weekly Giving

Total giving for April has been strong. Easter season giving, plus non-routine giving (Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) income) has totaled \$18,664 for April. This is \$2,208 more than the amount required to meet budgeted expenses for the month.

Bruce Kniivila, Treasurer



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Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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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

CHORALAIRES SPRING CONCERT

TWO CONCERTS:

FRIDAY, MAY 5TH
7:00 PM

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH VIRGINIA, MN

SUNDAY, MAY 7TH
2:00 PM

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH VIRGINIA, MN

Our 20 + Member Concert Choir Will Be Performing A Variety of Songs with Full Choir/Small Groups and Solos

A Free Will Offering Will Be Taken for Local Churches, Community Projects, and Music Needs

