

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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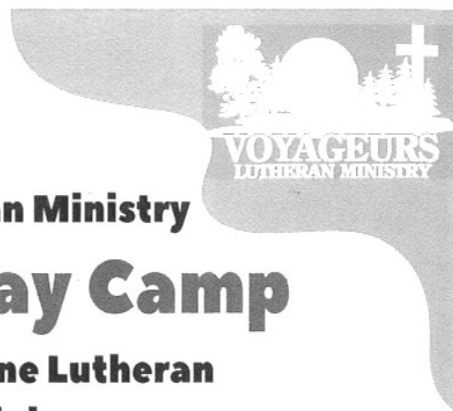
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June, 2023

Volume 45, Issue 6

Join us for June Worship and Events!



Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

Community Day Camp

Hosted by Gethsemane Lutheran
Church Virginia



JULY 31-
AUG 3

Registration
Required
no fee



Gethsemane
Lutheran Church
901 4th St S
Virginia MN 55792



EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF CAMP IN YOUR
OWN COMMUNITY!

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry Community Day Camp runs
each day from 9am-3pm Monday-Thursday, offering worship,
bible study, games, activities, new friends, music, arts, crafts
and more for grades K-5! Plus-watch for information about a
community event hosted by Gethsemane!

registration forms can be found at:
www.vlmcamps.org/community-day-camp
or by contacting Gethsemane Lutheran Church

May Angels

Greetings! Once again our May Angels have met the challenge of service for our busy month.. Thank you to Callie Anderson, Ethan Boe, Brady Peterson, and Brenna Tiedeman for re-starting our practice of the church's youth serving the first Sunday of the month.

Thank you to the Generosity and Fellowship teams for providing coffee an' on Clean Up Day. Thank you to our Sunday School children for their songs and Angel Services on Mother's Day. Kirby Carlson, Aiden and Landen Krause, Aiden Marchetti, Grace Randall, Lily Rosandich, Olivia and Owen Ruml, and Abby Tvieten you all did a wonderful job! Many thanks to Joyce Bloomquist, Deb Dall, Pam Fields, Sarah Randall, Mindy Lind Ruml, Jen Tiedeman and Dana Waldron. Also, Thank you to Brady Peterson for playing the violin on Senior and Blessing of the Quilts Day.

Thank you all for blessing my life with you presence,
Cindy

All Women of Gethsemane

Thursday, June 22nd, 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 worshipping 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

"There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good."

~1 Corinthians 12:4-7

Summer is a great mixing time. It's a time when we mix together with neighbors at outdoor festivals and music events in the park. It's a time when we mix up our schedules and routines to take vacations and long weekends, mixing with new people in new places, and mixing some new experiences into our lives.

All this mixing is good. It helps us learn new things, make new connections, and makes life interesting. So summer is also a good time to mix some new people, practices, and activities into our spiritual lives too. Try a new prayer routine, seek out a new conversation partner, read a book that brings you a new perspective. These "mix-ins" could be just for a season, or you may discover a new gift from the Holy Spirit that nourishes your faith for longer.

As the apostle Paul says in Corinthians, God gives us all different spiritual gifts through the Holy Spirit, and we are called to "mix it up" and share our spiritual gifts with one another. If we keep them to ourselves or never mix in with other Christians, we miss out on the depth and variety of God's gifts.

I encourage you to try something new this summer, whether in the community or through some of these new activities at church:

Summer Campfire Worship

On Wednesday June 14, Wednesday July 12, and the first week of August (Wednesday or Thursday), we will be hosting an outdoor campfire worship time, with Bible camp songs, s'mores, lemonade, and fellowship. Bring your own lawn chair and make circles around the fire. Gethsemane members and friends and all of our neighbors, especially our friends from Our Saviors Lutheran and Peace United Methodist, are invited to share in this time of summer worship and fellowship.

From the Pastor

- continued-

VLM Community Day Camp

Led by camp staff from Voyageurs Lutheran Ministries! On July 31 through August 3, elementary-aged kids from all churches and communities around the Virginia area can come to Gethsemane for Day Camp from 9 AM to 3 PM. (Registration is through the church offices. There is no fee to participate. Deadline is June 30!) There will be games, music, worship, Bible study, crafts, snacks, and more. Adults and teens from all churches are encouraged to help with activities, support the camp staff, and get to know other parents and friends from local churches.

All of us are given different gifts by the Spirit and we are all called to share those gifts for the common good. So, let's mix it up this summer and join together in community, sharing and showing God's love and joy!

Your sister in Christ,
Pastor Amy

Faith Builders

(Preschool - grade 5)

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



Scholarship Recipients, Congratulations to all who received a \$1,500 scholarship through the Mission Endowment Fund

New Recipients

Tye Hiltunen, University of Minnesota - Twin Cities
Alexa Ismil, MN North College - Mesabi Range
Virginia

Tyson Wilson, MN North College - Mesabi Range
Virginia

Juliana Pauling, University of Minnesota - Mankato

Returning Recipients

Allison Anderson, Bemidji State University
Hannah Anderson, Augsburg University - Minneapolis
Sarah Davidson, University of St. Thomas
Bethany Harvey, Augsburg University - Minneapolis
Seth Hauber, University of North Dakota
Brennan Peterson, MN North College - Mesabi Range
Virginia

Rollie Seppala, Florida Gulf Coast University
Braden Tiedeman, MN North College - Mesabi Range
Hibbing

Jillian Zeidler, Concordia College - Moorhead
Halee Zorman, University of Minnesota - Duluth



Scholarship Winners

Fellowship Fun

In April, while it was snowing, a Spring into Summer planting info, trivia, and take-home tomato and flower seedlings was a hit at coffee an'. Thank you to Donna Flannigan for organizing.

On Sunday, May 14, women were treated with a pampering bag of goodies.

Look for more events this summer!

Fellowship Team



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 offer assistance.



Gethsemane volunteers to help with Salvation Army meals

Gethsemane provides volunteers on the first Tuesday of each month to make meatballs and pack the meal into clam shells. Another team in the middle of the month makes 4+ large pans of lasagna as well as 3 deep pans of chicken alfredo (though no serving, just preparing).

The Generosity team is kicking it up a notch. In June we have booked in 3 times to help at the Salvation Army.

Wednesday, June 14 food preparation (no serving) from as early as 9:30 am (later for an easier meal) and working until done....by 12:30 or earlier. A kitchen/meal manager can be available to lead. We look for a simple meal—not a Thanksgiving buffet. Probably lots of chopping and slicing. Need 4 people to help. Gloves and a snack of coffee and 3-day old donuts provided to volunteers.

Thursday, June 22 serving an already prepared meal from 12:30 to 3:30. Two people to fill the clam shells with food, one volunteer to answer the door when the doorbell is rung and take out the number of clam shells requested, and one volunteer to tally meals going out the door.

Tuesday, June 27 repeat of June 22 serving times and jobs.

During the winter the number of meals distributed was 100 or less each day. When the snow cleared, the numbers were up to 130 to 170 everyday Monday through Friday. The Salvation Army is the only place in town for a free meal M-F.

Call the church office to sign up. 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 – Donna Flannigan

Howdy there. My name is Donna Flannigan, and my husband of 46 years is Rodney. I was born and raised in Postville, IA, a typical small farming town. I grew up in a large family as a dairy farmers dtr. I ventured off the farm to attend college in Rochester, MN to become a registered nurse. It was there that I met the love of my life.

Rodney grew up on the range and transplanted me here after our marriage in 1976. My brother-in-law still calls me a “packsacker”. We have 3 adult children, Kyle, Sarah, and Alex, and 4 grandchildren. We are blessed to have all of our grandchildren nearby.

I worked as a RN for 43 years in many settings. I worked in hospitals, clinics, radiation therapy, schools and, my favorite, home care. I have many great memories from my nursing career. I retired 3 years ago and have enjoyed it immensely.

Rod is a registered land surveyor and owned an engineering/ land surveying company, Benchmark Engineering, for 30 years. The company kept him very busy, but he still found time to teach his grand children how to ride horses and barrel race. He is currently working with our youngest 4-year-old grandson to race this year.

We love to travel, especially cruises of all types, spending time at Clear Lake in Britt, and hosting 4th of July parties at the lake. We are blessed to have some great friends on the lake, and are currently remodeling a year round retirement home right next door to our beautiful log cabin.

I’m not exactly sure how long we have been members of Gethsemane, but it is approximately 40 years. We taught Sunday school and confirmation for all three of our children. I am currently on church council and have enjoyed it very much. I am on the fellowship committee with amazing partners.

We have been blessed in so many ways and know God has had a hand in our happiness. Sitting by the lake or on the pontoon boat, we see his amazing work all around us. We love being a part of Gethsemane’s family and have so many great friends there.

Generosity Team

- continued-

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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.



45th Annual Land of the Loon

Saturday & Sunday, June 17-18, 2023, Olcott Park, Virginia MN. Free Admission.

Hours: Saturday 10 am- 6 pm. and Sunday 10 am -5 pm.

Parade Saturday at 9 am Downtown Virginia. Children's Area with entertainment and special programs for the kids. Ethnic Foods, Live Entertainment daily at the Bob Baldrice Bandstand. Ecumenical Service on Sunday at 11 am at the Bob Baldrice Bandstand. Souvenirs and Information Booth. Handcrafted Items displayed by skilled artisans and crafters, and ATMs on site. For more information go to: www.landoftheloonfestival.com.

Our Gethsemane Youth will be hosting parking nearby. Please support them!

Camp Corner

VOYAGEURS LUTHERAN MINISTRY

SOUNDS OF THE NORTHWOODS

A FESTIVAL & FUNDRAISER FOR CAMP

CONCERTS + FOOD + RAFFLE
LIVE & SILENT AUCTION

SPECIAL MUSICAL GUESTS

CRAZY CHESTER - SLOUGHGRASS - MORNINGBIRD
INTERMISSION SING ALONG WITH GERALD THILMANT

CAMP VERMILION
2555 VERMILION CAMP RD
COOK, MN

1PM TO 7PM

AUGUST 5 | FREE ENTRY

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

SHORTSTOP CONVENIENCE STORES
RAYS SPORT AND MARINE
SUNDELL EYE ASSOCIATES
FROST RIVER
ON THE LIMIT



Blessings to all who have a Birthday this Month:

- 1: Jennifer Rebholz
- 2: Erika Bauman
- 4: Margaret Picek
- 5: Mark Spiering
- 7: Brock Birchem, Niki Voll
- 8: Glenn Dall, Timmy Emery
- 9: Mayme Barber, Jaimie Birchem
- 11: Jack Manninen
- 12: Donna Olson
- 14: Nolan Dunn, Darren Hilmas
- 16: Abby Tveiten
- 17: Kathy Hanson, Kayla Meinzer
- 18: Andrew Wedge
- 22: Chuck Bothwell Jr.
- 23: James Stanhope
- 24: Callie Mauston
- 25: Roger Scott
- 28: Char Meinzer
- 29: Michael Alto, Chrystal Olson, Braden Roberts

Birthday Celebration

Margaret Picek's 100th birthday is on June 4!

Margaret's family wanted the congregation to know that they will be having a private family celebration in honor of her 100th birthday at a later date this summer.

The church is collecting birthday cards for her until June 4. Cards are available in the entryway by the Chapel.



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

- 6/7: Georgene and Mark Tomazin
- 6/9: Cindy and Don Bird
- 6/9: Frank and Janet Peterson
- 6/10: Ron and Winnie Lackner
- 6/13: Jaimie and Tracie Birchem
- 6/14: Lee and Lisa Laakso
- 6/15: Karen and Larry Roberts
- 6/17: Peggy and Ron Reiersen
- 6/19: Chuck and Shirley Bothwell Jr.
- 6/21: Matthew and Nicole Reed
- 6/23: Bennet and Joyce Bloomquist
- 6/23: Barry and Jean Collins
- 6/23: Betty Ann and Laurie Laakso
- 6/26: Tom and Wendy Krause
- 6/30: Clayton and Emily Zeidler
- 6/?? John and Kayla Cochems



Celebrating the Anniversary of your Baptism:

- 6/1: Jason Ramfjord
- 6/2: Lois Curry
- 6/3: Livia Jorgenson, Georgene Tomazin
- 6/4: Rahmy Johnson
- 6/9: Jeffrey Lind
- 6/13: Madison Waldron
- 6/14: Thomas Alto
- 6/15: Donna Flannigan
- 6/16: Clarence Mattson
- 6/18: Nicki Johnson
- 6/20: Lisa Krause
- 6/22: Ilze Ibrahim
- 6/27: Ruth Kokko
- 6/29: Nathan Giese, Greg Manninen
- 6/30: Kirsti Axelson

****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, 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 Patrick McKenzie
- ◆ Family and friends on the death of Joan Lamppa

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.

Weekly Giving

Total giving for the first three weeks of May has averaged \$3,667 per week. This is just \$131 per week short of what is needed to meet our budgeted expenses. Thank you. Enjoy the summer weather.

Bruce Kniivila, Treasurer

Council Highlights

Spring is in full bloom, well almost! I think the nicer weather and longer daylight hours add so much to our blessed lives and those we serve.

Our Pastor Amy has returned from a wonderful pilgrimage to the Netherlands, her family's homeland. Please ask her about this awesome experience. I, myself was so blessed to visit the Holy Land, Israel, where our Lord and Christ was born, lived, crucified, and rose for all of us! This was a historic/scenic and informative trip that I recommend to all and if possible, with a tour guide like ours, who was a Jewish Christian called, Messianic Jew. This pilgrimage puts in perspective so much of what we read in our bibles and hear on the news about this wonderful country along with the Jewish and Islamic people! Obviously, I too would love to share my trip details with anyone interested.

The council has been putting together our upcoming spring/summer events in coordination with our awesome hard-working ministry teams. First, thank you to all members who helped on church clean-up Sunday both inside and outside ...looking great. There will likely be another clean-up for the fall!

On 5/21 our graduation Sunday celebration took place. The generosity team is ending (for now) the collection of cans for recycling and working on taking care of the many we still have collected and of course will have other fund raisers in the making to replace this.

There is much talk but no final decision yet on a proposed bike trail that the city would like to create/continue around LSS

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!



and Gethsemane which would not take but add to our site/town a safe recreational area. More to come when all details have been discussed.

Summer worship was a topic in need of evaluating. The last couple of years they have had little to no attendance. The suggestion of planning summer worship around a "campfire" with songs/s'mores/fellowship was suggested and to occur once a month. Details will be forthcoming, please share with council members suggestions, thoughts on this topic!

Our financial situation update at the last meeting reflects a positive balance, so thank you to all members and please continue to keep up your thoughtful contributions so we may continue to help those in need and fulfill our mission statement to..."draw all people to Christ, nurture faith, and fulfill our calling to serve." This brings up the point that we all can serve through our gifts of financial contributions and/or time by offering to volunteer in the many needed service areas...let's continue to grow and share Christ with everyone and use our gifts we have been blessed with!

Lastly, we have decided to celebrate the 60th anniversary of our wonderful Gethsemane Lutheran Church this fall! So, stay tuned for the details of when, how, and where! Should be a big shindig for our present, past (and future) members of Gethsemane Lutheran Church who have done and continue to do so much for our church and community! Blessings for our God's glorious gifts of spring showers, warm sunshine, breathtaking plants/flowers, animals, water, and each other!

Molly Pemmaraju, Council President



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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

What an awesome turn out for our Spring Clean-Up Day! **Thank you** to the over 30 people who joined forces together to make the inside and outside of church look so spiffy - right in time for the sunshine!! So very appreciated!!!

