

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, 2024

Volume 46, Issue 2

Join us for February Worship and Events!



SCHOKOLADE

A "FAT TUESDAY" AND "VALENTINE'S DAY"
CHOCOLATE BUFFET

Tuesday, February 13, 2024
5:00 PM to 7:00 PM

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

\$12 Tickets for In-Person Dining
\$12 Take-Out

Pre-selected items in a 10 x 10 box. Pick up 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.
(Limited number of Tickets and Take-outs, Order Early)

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



January Angels

Many, many thanks for all the volunteers who gave their time for the January Angel duties.

These wonderful helpers include: the National Youth Group members who are now assisting every first Sunday of the month, the Ranisate Family (Naomi, Paul, Steven & Trevor), Dana Waldron, Dan Gallagher, Tony Mazzeo, Pam Fields, Brenda Varani (we all know and love her as Bunny), Bennet Bloomquist and the Church Council members. Thankful for all of you,

Joyce Bloomquist, January Angel Coordinator

All Women of Gethsemane Get Together

Thursday, February 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 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!

Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for the new year 2024 are available on a table in the narthex.

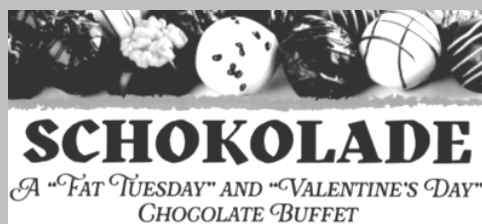
If your name is not found and you would like our church envelopes, please contact the office and we will be sure to get you a set.



Tickets for Shokolade are on sale now for only \$12 (Cash Only)

Tickets are limited so be sure to buy yours now. The profits will be used to establish a food program for those in need in our community.

The deadline to purchase your tickets is **February 8th.**



From the Pastor

As I say farewell to you, dear Gethsemane, I hold you in my heart, give thanks for the ministry we have done together, and pray for your continued ministry to one another and this community.

I pray that your joys and your struggles, your worship and your prayers, your meetings and discussions and decisions, will all be accompanied and guided by the leading of the Holy Spirit and that you will be mindful of her presence with you every step of the way.

I pray that you will be gracious and kind to one another, as you have always been. And that the vibrant energy and love of God will flow through you as you seek to follow and serve.

The path ahead may seem dim, but God's word and Spirit will guide you and send you who and what you need to fulfill God's purposes for this church. As a parting word, may you accept this blessing:

Moving into the Unknown

*You can see only dimly,
squinting and straining,
seeking beyond the foreground
you built to feel more certain
about how this works.*

*You have been tempted
to hold onto the stuff right here
because you have developed
an allergy to the unknown
and unknowable, things off track.*

*But God never asked for certainty,
and you may never find it.
So instead this blessing offers
clarity about a few things
and holy curiosity for the rest.*

*You do not need to know
in order to move forward.
the pillar of cloud and fire
will find you out there,
stumbling around and discovering.*

~Meta Herrick Carlson

May the Lord bless you and keep you, this day and always,

Pastor Amy Janssen

Faith Builders

Preschool - grade 5

The Sunday School children are so excited to be back after our winter break.

We continue working with the Spark Lectionary curriculum. The lessons focus on the same Bible stories as our Sunday worship.

The children look forward to singing for you on March 24th. Happy New Year.

Pam and Cindy



Camp Corner

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 10, 2024

11:00 am, Messiah Lutheran Church

8590 Enterprise Dr. S. Mountain Iron, MN

Please join us for Important Updates on Future Plans, Board Elections, Fellowship, and More.

For More Information on these Events:

(800) 331-5148 or www.vlmcamps.org

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry

Camp Hiawatha, Camp Vermilion

UPCOMING EVENTS

Register Now for Summer Camp

Registration for both Camp Hiawatha and Vermilion is open for Summer 2024.! Register now to take advantage of our Early Bird Discount!

Apply Now for Summer Staff

A summer at camp can prove to be the hardest job you will ever have, but also one of the most rewarding experiences you will ever have. Apply today!

Spring Quilting Retreat, March 7 -10

Spring is a beautiful time of the year to be in God's great Northwoods, and VLM's Quilting Retreat offers a chance to tackle some of your big projects.

High School Youth

Youth Super Bowl Sub Sandwich Sale

Order today! We will take orders through February 4. Two types of sub sandwiches will be available and the subs are \$7.00. Ask the youth in the Narthex for your choices. All sandwiches include cheese and lettuce. Pickles and Onions are available on the side.

Pick up your orders on Sunday, February 11th from 9:30 am to 11:00 am. Please make checks payable to

"Gethsemane Youth."

The profits help fund our trip to New Orleans this summer!



Confirmation Schedule

Feb.7 — 6:30 pm, youth room

Feb. 14 — Ash Wednesday

Please attend the evening service with your Family

Feb 21 - Mar. 20 — Please attend Wednesday evening Soup Supper & Worship as a family!



Wouldn't it be nice if life were like a DVD...
And you could *fast-forward* through crummy times.

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 2 more Angel Coordinators for the months of 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.

Schokolade Bakers

Our chocolate buffet is set for February 13, 2024 (known 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 your uncut chocolate items to the church and we will cut/slice into sample food 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 pop, ice cream cone cupcakes, dipping chocolate covered items... which adds to the choices for 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 & sanitize the counter/work space. Keep pets in another room.
 - Wash your hands with warm water & 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 the church.

Stop by the office to pick up the Home Baker's Schokolade Buffet Form. (One form for each recipe. Attach form to the finished goods.). Thank you!!

The Generosity Team and Schokolade Event folks.

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 – Laurie and Keith Harvey

A city girl in a small town!

I never imagined living in Northern Minnesota on the Iron Range.

Growing up Lutheran in St. Paul, I attended church, Sunday School, VBS, and Confirmation with my three siblings and parents. I also grew up with a modge-podge group of teens at my friend's Presbyterian church in the neighborhood along with Catholics and other protestants, plus one Jewish girl. Everyone was accepted. The youth pastor and his friendly wife were wonderful mentors to all of us. Our group even came up to summer camp at Camp Sigel in rural Gilbert (I had no idea this was near Virginia, MN). My faith grew, and I'm so grateful for having God in my life every single day!

In April, 1992, my husband, Keith, and I moved up to Virginia (a cold, snowy day!). Keith grew up here. We met in 1986 playing softball, he taught me the winter sport, curling, and we married in 1990. Little did I know, along with the move, starting a new secretary job with the State of MN Mn/DOT, and adjusting to life in a new town, I was pregnant with our first daughter. Many life changes were happening.

It didn't take long to find a church home (Keith suggested Gethsemane). But, it took a few years to get to know members. I started to get involved with youth activities, women's bible study, and now I'm serving on the church council.

Working at the State of MN helped meet new people, and curling (our favorite winter sport) which makes those long, cold winter days fun. We enjoy cross country skiing, and, of course, lake life at the cabin (sauna, anyone?). I love to kayak, pickleball, read books, watch good movies and sports, music and concerts, craft projects, and cooking.

Now 32 years later, three grown kids, church fellowship, and a friendly community, I am truly blessed to call Gethsemane my home. And, I can't imagine living anywhere else but in God's Great Northwoods! By the way, I sure don't miss the city traffic!

Generosity Team

- continued-

Each week, I try to practice random acts of kindness, greeting people with a smile and a friendly "hello" on walks with our Springer dog, Barney, text or call someone I'm thinking of, and send handmade greeting cards.

Be the "light" for God and shine His Love on someone today!

Laurie Harvey



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 & neighbors.

2024 86th Annual Laskiainen

Thursday, February 1, 6:00 pm,
Queen Coronation, at the Loon
Lake Community Center

Saturday February 3 and
Sunday February 4
Finnish Sliding Festival, Loon
Lake Community Center
Palo MN



Monroe Crossing Sunday Feb. 4th Only! at 1:00 pm.

Tickets.— Adults \$10.00. Students \$5.00.

Some of the fun events are Sliding Both Days, Sleigh/ Carriage Rides and Dog Sled Rides. There are so many things happening both days that they all can't fit. Please check our bulletin board for all the information for this wonderful event.

You are invited to

 *Building the Future*
with Habitat



**KEYS
FOR HOPE**



North St. Louis County Habitat for Humanity's
annual dinner and silent auction fundraiser

Thursday, February 29, 2024

Mountain Iron Community Center | 8586 Enterprise Dr. S.

Join us for an evening of live music, dinner, and silent auction
Keynote speaker: A homeowner shares their experience with Habitat

Social hour at 5 p.m.

Hors d'oeuvres will be served

Dinner served at 6 p.m.

Tender roast beef prepared by Chef Phyllis Rayton
Baby red potatoes | Bourbon glazed carrots
Apple walnut salad | Assorted dinner rolls
Dessert

RSVP by February 16, 2024

**\$50 per individual
This event will sell out!**

All guests must reserve or purchase seats in advance.
RSVP by returning the enclosed form, scanning the provided QR code,
or by visiting www.nslchfh.org.



Blessings to all who have a Birthday this Month:

- 1: Aria Janrey, Janet Suihkonen
- 4: Richard Vandervort, Clayton Zeidler
- 5: Eila Isaacson, Mary Sterling
- 6: Juliana Pauling
- 9: Jaleen O'Connor
- 10: Brennan Peterson
- 11: Alexa Ismil, William Kamnikar, Cindy Lustig, Matt Seppi
- 13: Brad Anderson
- 14: Emmi Aluni
- 16: Jason Ramfjord
- 17: Russ Wallner, Jillian Zeidler
- 19: Judith Mazzeo
- 20: Joyce Giblin
- 21: Delilah Jensen, Olivia Rumpf
- 23: Beth Emery
- 24: Georgene Tomazin
- 25: Lennon Hilde
- 26: Erik Wedge
- 27: Christine Lehtinen
- 28: Tony Mazzeo



Look who's celebrating their Anniversary for February, enjoy your Special Day!

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



Celebrating the Anniversary of your Baptism:

- 2/1: Kimmy Christenson, Nancy Richter
- 2/8: Derek Jorgenson, Joely Roberts
- 2/14: Nicholas Richards
- 2/20: Michael Alto
- 2/21: Andrew Alto
- 2/22: Eric Krenz, Riley Krenz
- 2/23: Jeremy Waldron
- 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:

- ♦ The innocents suffering in the war in Israel/Palestine Lillian Ferkins, Brianna Sauer, Margaret Karlin, Amanda Rosandich, Dale Pepelnjak, and Mary Jo Ralston.

We continue to pray for;

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

Prayers of peace and comfort for:

- ♦ Family and friends on the death of Dan Karlin
- ♦ Family and friends on the death of Nate Jaus
- ♦ Family and friends on the death of Bonnie Shroff



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.

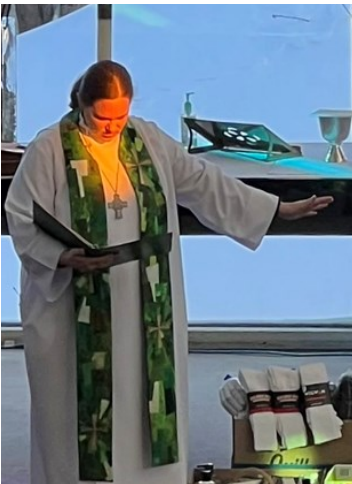
Simply take out your phone, scan the code, put in your password, select how much you want to give for the month, and press done. It's as easy as that and takes less than a minute!



Good-bye Pastor Amy!

In honor of our beloved Pastor Amy, a farewell coffee an' will be held on Sunday, February 11, her last Sunday at Gethsemane.

Please join us as we thank Pastor Amy for her 3 1/2 years of being our pastor. Cake and coffee will be served in the fellowship hall after worship.



Weekly Giving

Giving has dropped off somewhat for January after the holiday season. As noted previously, Christmas giving was quite generous and will help cover expenses for awhile. However, January giving is averaging \$2,919 per week. This is \$879 per week less than our budgeted expenses.

Stay well and stay warm!

Bruce Kniivila, Treasurer





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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

Ways to Worship

In the Sanctuary - 9 am, Sundays

We are worshipping 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

