

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am to 4 pm

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Rebecca LeMenager
Pastor
Brenda "Bunny" Varani
Parish Secretary

Come and see us on the web!
www.gelc.info



Gethsemane Gazette

October, 2026 Volume 48, Issue 10

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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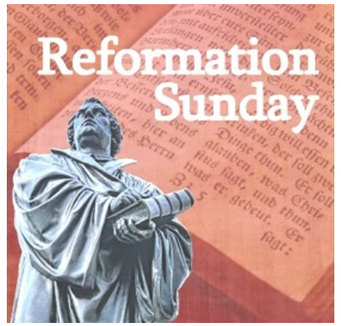
Join us for September Worship and Events!

Confirmation Sunday, October 25th at 9:00 am during Worship

Please come and join us as we celebrate the public Affirmation of Baptism through the Rite of Confirmation during the worship service.
Our Confirmands this year are:

Kirby Carlson
Christian Cochems
Sawyer Leslie
Aiden Marchetti
Abigale Schiller





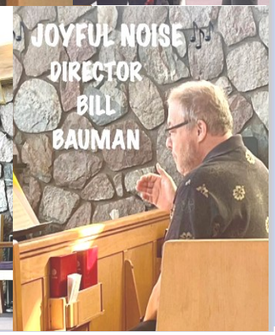
RALLY SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2026











August Noisy Offering

Thank you for the donations of coin and currency for the August "5th Sunday" Noisy Offering. A total of $164.38 was collected that will provide lots of healthy snacks for our local teachers and students. All of you are amazing! Thank you very much.

September Angels

Thank you September Angels (Wendy Kalish, Chris Ismil family, Mary Horan, Andy/Nicki Johnson family, Chad and Kathy Seppala, Debbie Poderzay, Tony Mazzeo, Mike Tuominen, Molly Pemmaraju, Dana Waldron, and Joyce Bloomquist) for responding promptly and volunteering to read, usher/greet, run the camera and serve coffee an'. It makes a coordinators job so much easier. The congregation and I appreciate you and are so thankful.

Pam Burgess, September Angel Coordinator

Gethsemane Men's Group

We will resume our Men's Group meetings in October. We will continue to use the book "How God Makes Men" by Patrick Morley. The book can be purchased on Amazon. The ***next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 7th at 6:30 pm*** in the Library.

All Women of Gethsemane

Thursday, October 22nd, at 5:00 pm in the Youth Room. 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! Hope to see you there!

THIS MONTH'S STAR WORD QUESTION:

(Please discuss this question with someone and/or journal and reflect on it)

Just as seasons change, our lives change too.

What changes might your star word be trying to guide you towards?



From the Pastor

I love Fall. Fall is my favorite season. I don't know if its because I have a hoodie addiction, love all things apple or because I finally stop sweating and having to water the outdoor plants that I thought I wanted at the beginning of the summer but a couple of months in I'm ready for them to die.

I love Fall because Fall is always an exciting time at church. I miss seeing people who are gone during the summer due to family vacations and time at the cabin. I love preparing children's time. And having the kids back in worship brings energy and new life. (Parents of little ones, never worry about your kids being loud in worship. That is the sound of a living and not a dying church! We love having you—wails, fidgets and all). I love when programming resumes, even when it means busier schedules.

I love Fall because it also has my favorite church days: Reformation Sunday when our youth affirm their baptism and All Saints Day. I believe these are two of the most important and overlooked Sundays in the life of the Church.

Confirmation is a day that we celebrate as a church that we have kept our Baptismal promises to love and nurture the children in our midst. It is a day when we give thanks for parents who with packed schedules and demands on time have ensured that their child knows God, knows Christ, knows that they are wonderfully and fearfully made in Christ's image. And it is a day when a young person takes on those baptismal promises for themselves and chooses to become a follower of Christ. Through the promises they make that day, through that beginning (for that is what confirmation is—a beginning and not an end), our faith is made new.

All Saints Day in many ways is the opposite. It is an ending. A time when we take stock of those in our lives who go before us, whose work on earth is done and who (in the words of a former pastor of mine) have joined the Church Universal and Triumphant. But it is more than that. As those names are listed, we remember all the "saints in light" in our lives over the years who have passed on the faith. We give thanks for the saints still here with us—examples of how to be a servant of Christ. And hopefully, we consider how we too might be for someone else a reflection of Christ's love.

There is so much happening this Fall at Gethsemane. I hope you will get involved!

Blessings,
Pastor Rebecca

Prayer Wall

In your daily prayers, pray God's blessings for:

- The innocents suffering in the war in Israel/Palestine; those displaced from their homes in Gaza; those suffering in Ukraine, Lebanon, and Sudan. We pray for those in need of strength and healing: Mary Ann Mattson, Tom Hiltunen, Pastor Ellen Taube, Dan Gallagher, Dave Hanson, Nikki Hauff, Jane Erickson, and Lillian Ferkins.

We continue to pray for;

- All members who are homebound, in nursing homes, or assisted living.

New Office Hours On Fridays

The Church Office will be closed on Friday afternoons.

If you need to reach us, please call 218-741-4961 and leave a message.

We will get back to you on the next Business Day.



Council Highlights

Happy Fall everyone! At the September council meeting, we began with updates from various committees regarding current happenings at Gethsemane. This was followed by the financial reports. Planning for the 2027 budget has started. The need for giving to increase was discussed. At current levels, at some point, cut backs may be needed. The only area we can really look at reducing is staffing levels. Hopefully this can be avoided by increased financial support for our church. Job description updates and reviews were discussed.

A meeting was scheduled between Gethsemane, Our Saviors, and Messiah Pastors and Council Presidents to talk about Pastoral coverage after Pastor Laura leaves her call at Messiah.

A lot going on, LIFT has begun for the year, fall is in full swing! Hope to see you in church!

Grace and Peace, Bennet
Council President



Giving through the Vanco App

Gethsemane offers several ways to contribute to spreading God's Word. One of them is through the Vanco app called "Vanco Mobile." Download the Vanco app from your App Store on your mobile device. If you're new to Vanco, you'll need to create a free account. Once set up, logging in and making electronic donations will take only a few minutes.

For more information, please contact Vanco at 800-675-7430 or visit their website at www.vanco.com/vm.

Thank you for using Vanco. We hope this simplifies your giving. If you encounter any difficulties, please reach out to Vanco or the church office.

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!

Weekly Giving

Giving update: 2026

Month	Actual Income	Budgeted Expenses	Shortfall or Surplus
JAN - JUN	140,397	126,510	13,887
JUL	10,965	21,085	**-10,120**
AUG	25,219	21,085	4,134
Y-T-D	176,582	168,680	7,902

Bruce Kniivila,
Treasurer





Blessings to all who have a Birthday this Month:

2: Andrew Alto, Sophia Lamppa
4: Andrea Alto, Aubri Aluni, Danyell Vesel
7: Rhett Baty, Kade Jorgenson
8: Jeff Tiedeman
10: Pat Sleeman
11: Matt Seppi Jr., Lance Lamppa
12: Carolyn Lustig, Hallie Pauling
13: Thomas Hiltunen, Robert Koski
17: Jane Axelson, Michael Tuominen
20: Naomi Ranisate
21: Milee Gianlorenzi, Amanda Peterson
22: Zachery Kalisch
23: Henrick Elg
24: Phil Carlson, Lisa Laakso
27: Christian Cochems
28: Kim Bothwell, Jennifer Hanson, Riley Krenz, David Lind, Joely Roberts
29: Aiden Krause, Aubree Schiller
30: Barbara Alaspa

Ways to Worship

In the Sanctuary - 9 am, Sundays

We are worshiping 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 red wine/white 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



Congratulations on your October Anniversary, enjoy your Special Day!

10/2: Beth and William Spelts
10/9: Donna and Rodney Flannigan
10/14: Mandy and Mitch Brunfelt
10/18: Bill and Jeannine Bauman
10/18: Aubree and Lane Schiller
10/23: Dana and Tom Hiltunen



Celebrating the Anniversary of your Baptism

10/3: Steve Manninen, Sandi Shoden
10/6: Sam Michaels, Freyja Walsberg
10/7: JoAnn Sipola
10/9: Jeffery Hanson
10/10: Madison Pauling
10/11: Kade Jorgenson
10/13: Grace Brunfelt, Char Meinzer
10/15: John Meinzer, Scarlett Pipkin
10/16: Beckett Cochems
10/17: Dana Hiltunen
10/18: Erika Bauman, Seija Copeland
10/21: Eleanor Anshus, Tom Hiltunen, Kaija Suihkonen
10/22: Kylo Toivari
10/29: Thomas Hiltunen, Landen Krause, Lennon Hilde
10/??: Danyell Vesel, Emily Zeidler

*****If we have left you out, we need your help to know! Call the office to update your information*****



L.I.F.T. Program, Wednesdays, 6 - 8 pm

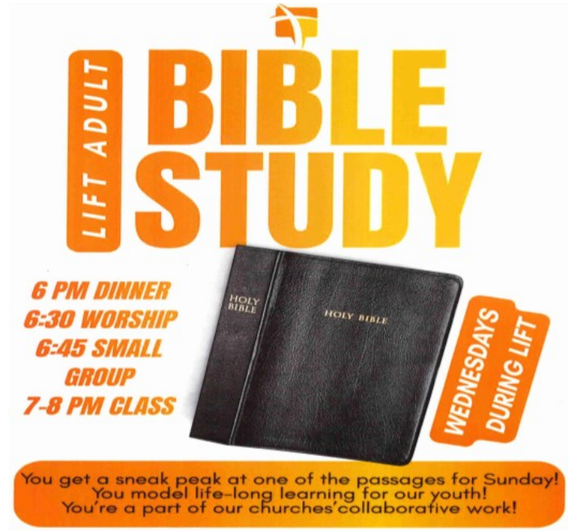
Here is the Nightly Schedule:

6 - 6:30 Dinner
6:30 - 6:45 Worship
6:45 - 7:05 Small Groups for all
7:05 - 7:55 Learning Groups

Youth Group - Grades 3-6. Confirmation. Sr. High Youth Group - Confirmed-12. Adult Bible Study.

Unit 1 @ Gethsemane: 9/30, 10/7, 10/21
Unit 2 @ Our Savior's: 10/28, 11/4, 11/11, 11/18
Unit 3: 12/2-Messiah, 12/9-Our Savior's, 12/16-Gethsemane

LIFT Adult Bible Study During LIFT



1. Yes you can come to the Bible study portion without attending any of the other parts of the night. (But why would you? A free meal? Fellowship? A chance to get to know our amazing kids and youth? You'd be missing out!)

2. The Bible study is lay led. You don't have to worry about looking stupid in front of your pastor (Did you know your pastor often worries about looking stupid in front of you?) And it follows the Revised Common Lectionary, so you get a sneak peak at one of the passages for Sunday. It also looks at how this scripture passage relates to your life.

3. It starts Wednesday, Sept 30. It meets when LIFT meets and just like LIFT rotates location. Whichever church LIFT is meeting at, that's where Bible Study is at.

4. No you don't have to attend every week. Each session is self contained. It's not like a book study that builds on the previous week. Come when you can; know YOU are missed when you're not there.

Lyle Dorn is our facilitator and looking for 1-2 (maybe even from the other churches) to consider working with him and facilitating in the future or when he is unavailable.

Second Sunday with Sunday School

I want to start building deeper relationships with our Sunday Schoolers. This is difficult since the kids meet during worship. On the second Sunday, starting in October, I will be leaving worship after communion. Our assisting minister will do the communion blessing and prayer, announcements, benediction and sending so I can slip out to be with the Sunday schoolers for the last part of their class on those Sundays. So if you see me leaving, I'm not making a run for the hills, I'm just spending some time with the kids! Thank you for allowing me this time to minister to this part of our church family and to get to know our children and young families in a deeper way.

TeamReach App

Knowing that not everyone is on facebook, we are seeing if the TeamReach App might be a way to help keep members informed! Office closed due to snow? A notice will go out on TeamReach! Bible study canceled? Which Sunday are the Sunday Schoolers singing? Those sort of notices will go out on TeachReach. To know the latest information about the church, download the free TeamReach app to your phone. Here's how to do it:

1. Go to your app store (google play store for android users, applestore for iphones).
2. Download the free app (skip the payment question).
3. Group name: Gethsemane Virginia
   Group Code: l0v3mychurch (l-zero-v-three-m-y-c-h-u-r-c-h).

If you have questions, please contact the church office.

Generosity Team Favor of the Month



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 – Mindy Lind-Rumpl

Hello Gethsemane!

Mindy Lind Rumpl here and I am grateful for all of you and your amazing generosity not only to the participants of my treatment court that I coordinate, but to me and my family as well! A lot of you watched me grown up in this church, from baptism to Sunday school, to confirmation, to having Pastor Lisa perform our wedding ceremony and baptizing both Owen and Olivia! Gethsemane has been there for us! I moved to Michigan in my early 20's, finishing college there and lived there for several years, where I met my husband, Jerry. We have two children, Owen (13) and Olivia (9). I did go to a few churches while living in Michigan, but never finding that belonging feeling that Gethsemane has given me. I even had the kids attend a Christian daycare/pre-school while living there before moving back to the Range. Shortly after moving back to the Range and getting settled back home, I decided it was time to bring the kiddos to church and grow up the way I did at Gethsemane! Everyone was so welcoming and I felt so comfortable and right at home. Owen & Olivia started attending Sunday school and loved it, participating in many Christmas programs and Sunday School sings along the way. Now you all will get to watch Owen and Olivia grow up in our church, from Owen having his first communion, being an acolyte and he will be starting confirmation this year. Olivia will do her first communion this year and you will continue to see her in the Christmas programs and Sunday school sings! You will even see Jerry join us from time to time on special occasions and holidays! Thank you Gethsemane for supporting our family and watching us grow in faith with you all!



Quilt, Connect, and Create in the Northwoods! VLM Quilting Retreat Wednesday, Oct. 21 - Sunday, Oct. 25

Imagine spending a few beautiful fall days surrounded by colorful autumn trees, good food, quilting projects, and great company. Come join us for a **Quilting Retreat at the Lodge at Camp Vermilion**, nestled in the beautiful Northwoods of Minnesota! Whether you're coming with longtime quilting friends or looking forward to meeting new ones, this retreat is a wonderful opportunity to **slow down, sew, share ideas, laugh together, and simply enjoy some time away.**

Choose the schedule that works for you! Full Retreat - $400 (Stay Wednesday through Sunday and enjoy lodging and meals for the entire retreat.) **Shorter Stay - $120 per night** (Perfect is you can only join us for part of the retreat or need to leave early.) **Day Guest - $70 per day** (Come for the day and enjoy the quilting, fellowship, and meals.)

The first meal will be **Wednesday supper**, and the retreat concludes with **Sunday brunch**. Two meals will be served each day, brunch and dinner, with a light afternoon snack. **Come for the quilting. Stay for the friendships. Enjoy the Northwoods.** Bring a friend or come ready to make new ones!

For more information or to register, contact:
Barb Murray
barbjmurray@gmail.com
(218) 244-0287

AARP Smart Driver Classroom Course Safer Driving May Save You Money

Monday October 26, 2026
9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Gethsemane Lutheran Church
901 4th St South, Virginia MN 55792

Take the AARP Smart Driver classroom course and you could save on you car insurance!

*Refresh your driving skills and knowledge of the rules of the road.

*Learn techniques for handling left turns, right-of-way and roundabouts.

*Discover proven driving methods to help keep you and your loved ones safe on the road.

To Register: *aarp.org/findacourse or 218-780-7446*
Cost: *$20 AARP members, $25 for non-members*

Bobby & Casey Aro Tribute

Thursday October 22nd 7 pm
Kaleva Hall, 125 3rd St N, Virginia MN
Suggested Donation $10
Kahvi and Refreshments.
Lindula Bros. and Ranch Aros Tribute Band.

WELCA Fall Craft Sale

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Saturday, October 24th, 9 am - 2 pm





Trunk or Treat

Sunday, October 25th, 4:00 - 6:00 pm
Parking Lot of Our Savior's
1111 8th St S. Virginia

Sponsored by:
Area churches, Boy and Cub Scouts Troop #4129