



*I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. God will not let your foot be moved; God who keeps you will not slumber. God who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; the Lord is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will uphold you during all evil and God will keep your life. The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.*

*-Psalm 121*

Grace and peace be unto you from God our parent, and our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Amen. As many of you warned me, being a new parent is full of many joys and struggles. Our little Zephyr is getting cuter and more joyous to hold every day, and I'm grateful for your flexibility with me as I'm going through the gamut of new parent sleeplessness and schedule fluctuation. But even when baby is at her crankiest, and when even when I'm at my crankiest to match her, I find myself unmoving in my love for her. I take comfort in this psalm that my help comes from the Lord. God will not let my foothold on love and life be moved, and God will watch over my going out and my going in to the land of sleep. God keeps me and restores me and baby and my wife each day for new joys and new challenges. I find that the continuing threat of the Delta COVID variant and the fresh bout of cancellations and restrictions coming back in place can also make cranky each of us even if we're currently getting a full night's sleep and our diaper's aren't nearly as full. That is to say, I can see that this is a cranky time for most people, and if you aren't cranky you are exhausted. It doesn't take a screaming baby during this pandemic for us to be worn out, frazzled, and fed up. As I myself am at a low for energy and wakefulness, I am struggling to find words to say to my colleagues in ministry who are also tired and worn thin. And when I run out of things to say, it is often that I return to the book of psalms for inspiration. So I found myself praying Psalm 121 to myself every day this week. This psalm makes us a promise, and that promise is that God will not shy away from us when we are cranky and fed up. God will never tire being there for God's people no matter how difficult the times, and no matter if we are going out of restrictions or entering into them. Our help comes from the Lord. I don't remember exactly where I learned this from Martin Luther, but one thing I always like to tell people when times are wearisome or difficult, is that it is perfectly okay to rub God's ears in God's promises. One of the best prayers I know is: look God, you promised to be here for me in my distress, now you have to show up! Do it God, be here for your faithful. Watch over us and provide us with the shade, comfort, and rest and restoration that we need. So if you feel God is far away, take that right back to God, and like Ezekiel whose face was like a diamond, harder than stone set to bring God's message to Israel (3:9), so set your face on God and do not let up in prayer. And if you do not have even the strength for that, you can blame God as well for not giving it to you. As here in this psalm God has promised to be our strength and our help and now God needs to do it. For where else could our help come from? Or as we read a few weekends ago as our Gospel text: Lord to whom shall we Go? You have the words of eternal life. (And I would add:) Now speak

them to us, as you have promised, for our ears so badly need to hear the Good News.  
Amen

**JOIN US!!** For Parking Lot worship with Holy Communion on Saturday evenings, 5:00pm (tune your radio to 100.1 FM) and for Sunday morning worship with Holy Communion in person or by ZOOM at 10:30am.

**Join us for Bible Study**

The Monday night Bible study group will be and 4th Mondays, starting Sept. 13th. Pr. study on the Gospel of John. We will meet in person in Augustana Hall. If you have any questions about this opportunity for study, please contact the office.



meeting at 6:30, every 2nd Tommy will be leading our

**Kelly Whaley** has finished painting the ceiling in the church. The recessed part of the ceiling in the sanctuary was painted and is a beautiful compliment to the painting that was done by the altar two years ago.

**The Evangelism Committee** would like to thank all who helped with the church picnic by bringing salads, bars or cookies. Thanks to all who helped set up, clean up, and to our grillers Larry Peterson and Joey. Thank you to all who came to enjoy our picnic and for the donation of \$700.00 to help stop world hunger.

Ruth Jones

Evangelism Committee

**Reminder:** God's Work/Our Hands will be cleaning headstones at Lakeview Cemetery on September 11, 2021. We will meet at the church at 10:00am. **All are welcome** and if you have brushes, pails, or a power washer, please bring them. For more information you can call Donna Mott at 341-6414.

*welcome*  
to our church family

We would like to Welcome to Our Church Family:

Gayle & Chris Cartland

Fred & Laurie Nauman

Ken & Bonnie Groh

We will be receiving our new members on October 31, 2021.

### Circle News

The Circles will be able to start their monthly meetings on September 14th. If you are not a member of a circle and would be interested in joining one, please contact any one of the following ladies for more information:

Sarah Circle—Liz Macklem

Joy Circle—

Ruth Circle—

Hope Circle—Sheila Clark

The **Sarah Circle** meets on Mondays at 1:00pm

The **Joy Circle** meets on the second Thursday at 10:00am.

The **Ruth Circle** meets on the third Wednesday at 11:30am.

The **Hope Circle** meets on the third Thursday at 6:00pm.

Be sure to check with your Circle Leader to find out if and where your circle will be meeting.

### **Quilting**

On Monday, September 13th at 9:15 am, humming with the sound of sewing conversation. The quilters will be back



making quilts for people in need around the world. If you have fabric to donate it will be much appreciated. If you are interested in joining the group but don't sew, don't let that stop you. There are other things you can do.

Augustana Hall will be machines and lively doing what they love,

They will be looking for someone who would be able to take the boxes of quilts and kits to First Lutheran in Gladstone tentatively on October 9th. If you would be willing to help, please contact the church office at 341-5427.

*Gifts to our congregation have been given in memory of*

Norma McIntyre

Lois Bentley—Roofing Fund  
Dan Christensen  
Coleen Christensen—Memorial

## Upcoming Scripture Readings

**September 5** —Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 35:4-7a, Psalm 146, James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17,  
Mark 7:24-37

**September 12**—Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 116:1-9, James 3:1-12, Mark 8:27-38

**September 19**—Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 11:18-20, Psalm 54, James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a,  
Mark 9:30-37

**September 26**—Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29, Psalm 19:7-14, James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50



Thank you to all who have shared their musical talents with us this summer: Darrell Dixon, Elise Calhoun, Bonnie Moody, Rebecca Peterson, Lois Bentley, Ruth Jones, Rodger Chard and Maurita Holland and Heidi Troyer. Your music has added so much to our worship.

Choir Practice has been suspended until  
Also the Choir is looking for new members.  
how to sing or read music, just come the help



September 22, 2021.  
You don't have to know  
us make a joyful noise!!



Word has been received of the death of George Mwaikambo, (on the right) a member of Magomeni Lutheran Church in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. George was one of the visitors to our congregation in 2013. Our prayers are with his family and the

entire Magomeni congregation. *Well done, good and faithful servant!*

### **Church Council Highlights – August**

+The Council is looking for a Sunday School coordinator. Please talk with Pastor Tommy!

+ Can you share your time and talents as a member of a committee? All the Council committees are looking for new members. The committees include: Property, Finance and Stewardship, Worship and Music, Christian Education and Youth, and Evangelism and Membership. Please talk to council president Rick Pink to become a member of a committee.

+The church picnic was a success! Approximately thirty people attended. Jim Weber provided entertainment playing the accordion. \$700 was raised for World Hunger.

- +The property committee has been working with Manistique Upholstery to begin work on replacing the pew cushions. The material has been ordered, but the foam is not available due to a nationwide shortage and prices that have doubled this year.
- +Estimates are being sought to upgrade the men's restroom so it will be handicapped accessible.
- +Kelly Whaley has completed the ceiling painting in the sanctuary. This was the final project of the Nordic Grant that we received four years ago.
- +The Zion Choir has started practicing once again. The choir is seeking additional members. Practice is on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:00 p.m.

**We are looking for people** who can help with gardening at church. Bushes need to be trimmed, plants cut back in preparation for winter and weeds pulled from everywhere! No need to sign up, just pick a spot and clean it up! Thanks!

**Thank you to Jo-Nell Berger, Kathy Peterson, Laurie Nauman and Linda Levin** for packing and handing out food bags for the Backpack Buddies program in August. Thanks, too, to the Zion congregation for their continuing support of this important ministry.

During these uncertain times of COVID, worship continues to be offered weekly. Saturday worship continues each week at 5:00 p.m. in the parking lot. Sunday morning worship is available on Zoom as well as worshipping in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m. Join us every week for worship in the way you find the safest.

### **Those Who Serve In September**

Readers: 9/5 Karen Klaus  
9/12 Donna Mott  
9/19 Rick Pink  
9/26 Bonnie Groh

Altar Flowers: 9/5 Jim & Ellie Russey  
Bulletin/Bread & Wine: 9/26 Bonnie Moody

## **Church Attendance Report**

	Saturday	Sunday	Zoom
June 5/6, 2021	19	26	15
June 12/13, 2021	19	25	15
June 19/20, 2021	19	21	14
June 26/27, 2021	15	24	11
July 3/4, 2021	15	23	6
July 10/11, 2021	15	23	10
July 17/18, 2021	18	25	12
July 24/25, 2021	12	31	12
July 31, 2021	14		
August 1, 2021		30	4
August 7/8, 2021	15	23	12
August 14/15, 2021	18	37	14
August 21/22, 2021	12	32	4
August 28/29, 2021	20	34	7

*“Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” ~Romans 5:1-5*

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

I wish it weren’t so, but here we are again. Covid case numbers are rising and now that we’ve had a taste of going maskless, it is all the more difficult to pull back. And yet, our own disappointment does not change the reality of our challenges. As scientists and epidemiologists learn new things about this virus, we would be wise to pay attention to their findings.

1. The vaccine is effective in reducing the risk of hospitalization and death.
2. The Delta variant is more contagious than the original COVID-19 strain.
3. Masks are effective in reducing the risk of transmission. The better quality the mask, the greater the protection offered.
4. Distancing and being outside are still helpful in reducing virus spread. As always, what is true of one county or community in our synod may not be true for another. This puts the burden of decision making where it has been this whole pandemic, on congregational leadership; pastoral leaders and their councils, to decide when and how to pivot.

My recommendations are the following:

1. Pay attention to what is happening in your community. Make the effort to consult with local health care professionals. Find out what’s happening in your local hospital. Be aware of the health of your congregation members and the vaccination/Covid case rate in your



community.

2. Consider requiring masks again for in person gatherings

3. Continue to distance. Gather outside if possible.

4. Get vaccinated, if possible. Wear a mask around children and grandchildren who are too young to be vaccinated.

People of God, we can do this! I know we are weary and wish this would all go away. I encourage you to take a deep breath and strengthen your resolve for more of the same. We are still in the wilderness. We had a nice oasis break, but now we are back in the desert, relying on the Spirit of Christ to guide us, discern our next steps, and when the time is right, bring us out of the wilderness to the place that God will show us. And I encourage you to do your best to give witness to the fruits of the Spirit that are in you: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self control.

Yours in Christ,  
Bishop Katherine Finegan

**From the Northern Great Lakes Synod**

Lifelong Faith Formation: Synod Offers Online Classes Beginning in September visit [www.nglsynod/lifelongfaithformation](http://www.nglsynod/lifelongfaithformation) for details Registration is now open for the fall 2021 schedule of Lifelong Faith Formation, a program of the Northern Great Lakes Synod. The classes provide fun and interesting opportunities for people from across the synod to connect with each other online, via Zoom, during these uncertain times. The fall schedule includes these offerings beginning in September and October: -

**Biblemania! Reading Through Some of the 66 Books of Food for the Soul**

**Ezekiel Bible Study**

**Intermediate Biblical Greek**

**Walking Together: Companionship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania**

**An Introduction to Family Systems Thinking**

**Book Study of Friedman's Fables (by Rabbi Ed Friedman): "Metaphors for Family Systems Thinking"**

**Holy Communion Post-Pandemic: What, When, Where, Who, and Why**

For more information, visit [www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation](http://www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation) or contact Deacon Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or [lori.ward@nglsynod.org](mailto:lori.ward@nglsynod.org). Northern Great Lakes Synod Classes Begin Online in September-October 2021. Registration deadline is September 13, 2021

## **Greetings from Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp!**

As you gear up for the fall and all that that means for your communities and congregations, you are in our prayers. We know that this remains a challenging time to do ministry in the midst of a pandemic, yet we trust that God walks with us through it all.

After a wonderful summer where we served nearly 400 campers, we aren't slowing our pace, but we are mindful of the continued risk of Covid, and we remain committed to providing meaningful faith experiences while working to keep people safe. Thus, we will continue to adhere to best practices as indicated by the CDC, and we have adjusted our calendar in the following ways. Please share this information with your congregations and communities:

- **September 13, November 15, January 10, March 14, and May 9: Senior Days, 10am to 2pm CT.** Presentations and topics vary. Follow us on Facebook for updates and details.
- **October 2: Fall Fest at Fortune Lake.** This year we will have a hybrid model including the following:

- In-Person event including continental breakfast, draffle (drawing-raffle), country store and bake sale all begin at 9:30am CT. Live auction of 30 quilts begins promptly at 11am CT. Masking will be expected while indoors.
- Virtual auction including 60+ beautiful hand-crafted quilts beginning Wednesday, September 22 and running through October 2.
- Visit <https://fortunelake.org/make-an-impact/annual-fall-fest/> for more information on both the in-person event and the virtual auction. The virtual auction link will go live by September 22nd. Printed flyers will be sent to congregations by the end of this week.
- **October 8-10: Deeply Rooted Wellness Retreat** for all people ages 21+. More details and registration information (open now through Sept. 24) at <https://fortunelake.org/event/deeply-rooted/>
- **October 15-16: Fall Fun Weekend for youth grades 3-6 POSTPONED** until Covid vaccination is available to this age group, see below.
- **January 14-16: Winter Wonderland Retreat** to all ages
- **February 4-5: Jr./Sr. High Retreat** for grades 7-12
- **February 18-20: Young Adult Retreat** with an emphasis on self care for people ages 18-26
- **February 25-26: Youth Retreat** for grades 3-6 (rescheduled from October)

As these dates approach, additional information will be shared, and appropriate Covid mitigation steps will be taken.

Please note that we remain open and available for rent by individuals and small groups. Perhaps 2021-22 is the year when you finally host that confirmation event, take a private retreat, and gather as a family for a reunion? We are happy to partner with you to support your ministry and sabbath time in any way we can. Our new Guest Services Coordinator, Charlotte Strom, is ready to talk with you about creative ways to safely gather in this place of grace. She can be reached at [hospitality@fortunelake.org](mailto:hospitality@fortunelake.org) or 906-214-2267.

Grace & Peace,

Amanda Rasner  
 Camp Director  
 she/her/hers  
 Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp  
 Crystal Falls, MI  
 906.214.2267  
[www.fortunelake.org](http://www.fortunelake.org)



The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Michigan is sharing this information with us for anyone who would be interested in coming for *Blessing of the Monarchs* as they make their way to Mexico.

**CONTACT US:**

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906-341-5427

[www.zionlutheran-manistique.org](http://www.zionlutheran-manistique.org) or find us on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)

**Rev. Tommy Richter, Pastor**

Office: 906- 341-5427, Home:286-4383

**Secretary:** Shirley Leitgeb

[shirley.leitgeb@zionmanistique.org](mailto:shirley.leitgeb@zionmanistique.org)

**Musician:** Linda Levin

**Choir Director:** Rebecca Peterson

**Custodian:** Pat Toennessen

**Congregation Council:**

Rick Pink, President  
Cathy Knudson, Vice President  
Kay MacGregor, Secretary  
Marie Bellville, Treasurer  
Cyndee Miske, Financial Secretary  
Jo-Nell Berger  
Naomi Fletcher  
Ruth Jones  
Janet Krueger  
Peter Mattson

Kathy McDonough  
Teddy Nelson  
Cindy Olli  
Rebecca Peterson



A congregation of the Northern Great Lakes Synod  
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.