

Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3rd, 2026



Gethsemane Lutheran Church

3600 Hampton - St. Louis, MO 63109

Worship God, welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.

Welcome to worship! We're delighted you are here!



Gethsemane Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**



We ask all members, guests, and visitors to please fill out the **attendance slip** in your worship folder and place it in the offering plate.



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the worship service. Sharing that you're at Gethsemane on social media is encouraged! "Check in" using hashtag: #glcstlCheckIn.



The presence, energy, and noise of **children** are always welcome in worship at Gethsemane. The sound of a child in worship is music to our ears. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. Additional space to move and Wiggle Bags are located in the narthex entry area.



Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



Holy Communion is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church wishes to **acknowledge** and **honor** the Osage, Quapaw, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo peoples upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place—this land—and call it their home.

CHURCH STAFF

Minister: Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
Connections Coordinator: Gretchen Jenson
Office Manager: Eve Cooney
Minister of Music: Amy Crousore
Council President: Cayce Morice, 314-574-0850

pastor@gethsemanestl.org
connect@gethsemanestl.org
office@gethsemanestl.org
organist@gethsemanestl.com
cayce.morice@yahoo.com

Office Hours: Vary, but include Tues-Thurs, 10 am – 3 pm.

Outside of these hours, please call before coming to the church to ensure someone will be here to let you in.

Church Office – (314) 352-8050

office@gethsemanestl.org

www.gethsemanestl.org

Holy Communion, Now the Feast and Celebration

As we continue to celebrate the fifty days of Easter, today's gospel includes Jesus' promise that he goes to prepare a place for his followers in his Father's house. Our baptism commissions us to share Jesus' mission in the world. In words and deeds we bear witness to the risen Christ—our way, our truth, our life.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Voluntary No. 5 in G Major, I: Grave*

William Walond

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!*

See next page

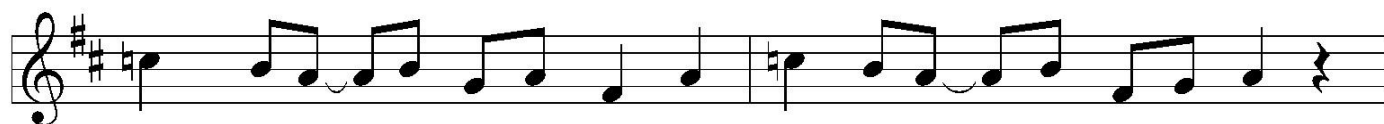
Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!



1 Christ is ris - en! Shout ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days!
2 Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of de - spair.
3 Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der: all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion. Not a ser - vant, but a friend,
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic chor - us: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.
God the first and last is with us. Sing ho - san - na, ev - 'ry - one!

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936

Music: JACKSON NEW, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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GREETING:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

Cantor: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Refrain



Cantor: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Refrain

Cantor: For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Refrain

Cantor: Help, save, and defend us, O God.



CANTICLE OF PRAISE: *Now the Feast and Celebration*

HYMN# 167

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray. Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us grace to love one another, to follow in the way of his commandments, and to share his risen life with all the world, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The congregation is seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: PROVERBS 4:10-18

The way of wisdom is your life.

¹⁰ Hear, my child, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. ¹¹ I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. ¹² When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble. ¹³ Keep hold of instruction; do not let go; guard her, for she is your life. ¹⁴ Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evildoers. ¹⁵ Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on. ¹⁶ For they cannot sleep unless they have done wrong; they are robbed of sleep unless they have made someone stumble. ¹⁷ For they eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence. ¹⁸ But the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 119:25-32

A cantor will lead the singing of the Psalm with the congregation singing the bolded lines.

- ²⁵ My soul cleaves | to the dust;
give me life according | to your word.
- ²⁶ **I have recounted my ways, and you | answered me;**
instruct me | in your statutes.
- ²⁷ Make me understand the way of | your commandments,
that I may meditate on your | marvelous works.
- ²⁸ **My soul melts a- | way from sorrow;**
sustain me according | to your word.
- ²⁹ Take from me the | way of lying;
let me find grace | through your teaching.
- ³⁰ **I have chosen the | way of faithfulness;**
I have set your judg- | ments before me.
- ³¹ I hold fast to | your decrees;
O LORD, do not put | me to shame.
- ³² **I will run the way of | your commandments,**
for you increase my | heart's capacity.

SECOND READING: ACTS 7:55-60

Today's Stephen was one of the seven men chosen by the apostles to serve tables so that the apostles could be free to serve the word (Acts 6:1-6). Stephen does more than distribute food, however. For his preaching of God's word, he becomes the first martyr of the faith.

⁵⁵ Filled with the Holy Spirit, [Stephen] gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord.

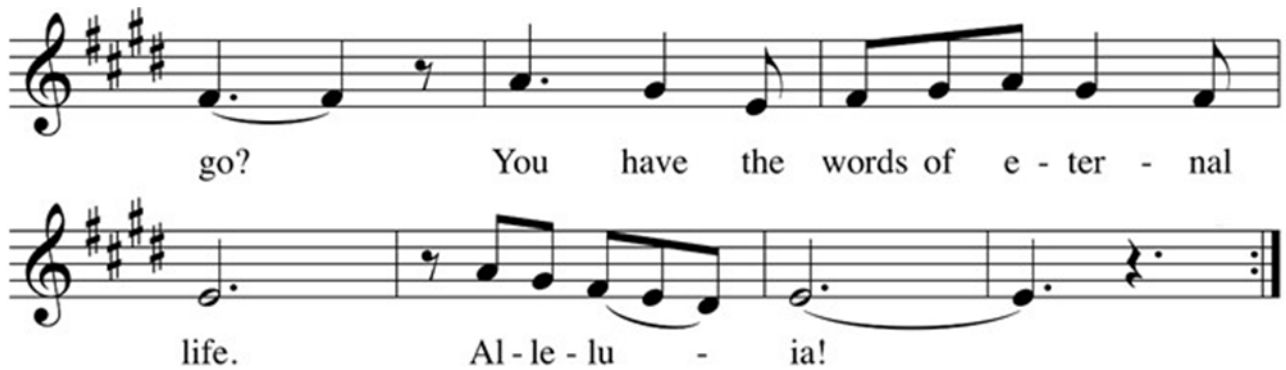
Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we



P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 14th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 14:1-14

Jesus On the night that he is to be arrested, Jesus shares final words with his disciples. As the one through whom God is known, he promises to go before them and act on their behalf.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹ “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. ² In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. ⁴ And you know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵ Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. ⁷ If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.”

⁸ Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own, but the Father who dwells in me does his works. ¹¹ Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me, but if you do not, then believe because of the works themselves. ¹² Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. ¹³ I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

**CHILDREN’S SERMON
 SERMON**

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come My Way, My Truth, My Life*

HYMN# 816

CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of Martin Luther, taken from the small catechism, the explanation of the second article of the Apostles' creed.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

AM: Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

AM: . . . Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also, with you.

P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, using the words of the risen Lord:
Peace be with you.

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: **Peace be with you.***

The congregation is seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING: *The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Medley of Praise and Joy* Arr. and performed by Suzanne Hirth
on mountain dulcimer

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Congregation:

The musical score is written on five staves of music. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

COMMUNION

P: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

The congregation is seated.

All who seek the Lord are welcome at Christ's table to receive the gift of God's grace! Those not receiving the bread and wine are welcome to come for a blessing. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION: *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you broke the bonds of sin and
you are the way of jus - tice and
you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



world:
death; have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
peace:
love:

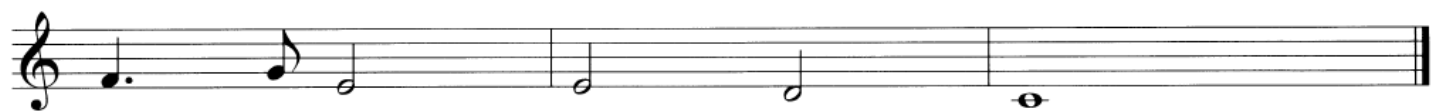


mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing: The Feast Is Ready

HYMN# 531

I Know that My Redeemer Lives

HYMN# 619

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

C: Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After making this time to worship God, these are ways we welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

BLESSING

P: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen*

HYMN# 548

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Praise the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Pasticcio*

Jean Langlais

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The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Joan Williams and Lois and Jack Wind in memory of our loving mothers Elaine Wind and Norma Schenck and in memory of Jeffrey Williams.



WORSHIP LEADERS		
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
GREETER	Carleen Reinhardt	Peggy Lewis
USHERS	Ted Yemm Lily Yemm	Steve Hetager
ASSISTING MINISTER	Gary Borkowski	Maryn Olson
LECTOR	John Sandberg	Chris Schmidt
CANTOR	Pr. Cheryl	Angie Fulton
ORGANIST	T. Edwards Breed	
INSTRUMENTALIST	Suzanne Hirth (Mountain Dulcimer)	
RECYCLING RANGER	Penny Family	
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Pastor Cheryl	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	<i>needed</i>	
DONUT DRIVER	Wolfsberger	
BLOOD PRESSURE	Joan Williams	
ALTAR GUILD	Bauer Family	
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson	
WINE SPONSOR	Wind Family	

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Cindy Breed: patience and healing

Kate Hartz: courage and trust

Barb Johnson: healing and strength

Fred Lenhart: comfort and peace

Margaret Lenhart: comfort and peace

Dell Roth: healing, strength and joy

Sharon Salerno: healing and strength

Peace and comfort for the family and friends of **David Lauber**, Gethsemane member, who died on April 19.

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
Julie, Debbie, Keith and Laura (healing and strength)	<i>Boehlje Family</i>
Community of Lena, IL, recovering from a tornado (Cindy's pastoral internship location)	<i>Breed Family</i>
Melissa (peace through grief,) Marc and Malakai (continued healing)	<i>Beth Jung</i>
Melissa (employment); Charlie (remission); Karen (wisdom); Matt (confidence); Dad (healing)	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Venezuela; Pat Fulton (healing, strength); Ginny Olson (healing, strength); Sister Marie Orf; Jojo (encouragement); the family of Jacob Carlson (comfort as they grieve); those who do not feel safe in their communities; all impacted by disasters; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
For Pat Stewart, undergoing cancer treatment (strength and healing)	<i>Kate Schejbal</i>
Toby, Dale, Rob, Russell, Tanya, Zino, Brooks, and Vonya (housing, employment, food, health and hope)	<i>Social Action</i>
Sister Angela on her upcoming surgery and hope for relief from her pain.	<i>Cathy White</i>

LIVING YOUR FAITH



The May Big Ask is laundry detergent (50 oz and smaller) and toothpaste. Place donation items in the cabinet located in the hallway leading to the Narthex.

The **Little Free Pantry and Comfort Cabinet** needs are canned fruit, fresh fruit, mashed potatoes, rice packets, jelly in plastic containers, nutrigrain/fruit/granola bars, shaving cream, sunscreen and small tissue packets. Place donations in the shopping cart in the hallway.

To care for our neighbor's feet, we collected 228 pairs of “Maundy Thursday” socks for our Blessing bags. Thank you for your generosity and compassion for our unhoused neighbors.

⚡ ACT

Sponsor Altar Flowers (\$30) or Wine (\$10) Flowers may be given in honor or memory of a loved one, to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or just because. Several summer – winter dates are open. Thank you for helping make our worship space beautiful and for sharing your celebrations and remembrances with the Gethsemane community. Sign up near the bulletin board, pay via envelope or online, and send flower dedications to Eve in the office.

Summer is Coming! Make sure to update your Worship Leader availability if you have any vacation plans or Sunday conflicts. The new Worship Leader schedule for June – August will be completed in mid-May. Summer is the perfect time to try on a new role as a cantor, usher or assisting minister.

Lutheran Disaster Response is urgently seeking support to aid families affected by escalating conflict in the Middle East, where over a million people have been displaced in Lebanon alone, and are in critical need of food, water, shelter, and emotional care. Check out the eNews for a link to donate or scan the QR code to the right.



Spread kindness! Blessing bags are in the Narthex - take and share with those in need.

Share your voice! Send June newsletter items to Gretchen by May 26.

♡ JOIN

A gathering of the **ELCA Eastern Missouri Conference** will occur at St. Thomas Holy Spirit on **Sat, May 9**, 10 am – 3 pm. Lunch is provided, it is free to attend and all are welcome. RSVP online (www.css-elca.org). More info in the eNews.

Adult Forum TODAY at 9:45 am in the chapel. Join Chuck Wuensch, Leah Morrell, Eve Cooney and other GLC members to hear stories about how they have been ministering to the unhoused in our community. How are these relationships formed and what are the challenges. Perhaps you also have a story to share.

Be Recognized! On **May 10** between services, the church staff will celebrate YOU (all of our many volunteers) by serving delicious bagels and schmears at fellowship hour. No volunteers are needed to help because this is YOUR day! If you can bring a toaster, please contact the office.

Congrats 2026 Graduates! We will celebrate you with a special cake and well wishes during fellowship hour on **May 17**. Please come and be recognized.

The next GLC **Women's Luncheon** will be held, **Monday, May 18**.

Sign-up now for **Vacation Bible School** on Gethsemane's website. We need volunteers and campers! July 6-10, 9 am - 12:30 pm or 5 pm. **Registration deadline June 1**.

On **June 7**, following 9:30 am Worship, meet in the Fellowship hall for a “pop-up potluck” celebrating nothing in particular, then help put together more Blessing bags for our unhoused neighbors! Bring a dish to share. (clean-up help always appreciated.)

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
May 3 - 10, 2026

Today 5/3 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 9:45 am 11:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Sunday School (Last Day!) and Fellowship Ministry to unhoused neighbors - Chapel Worship Service
5/4 Monday	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
5/5 Tuesday	10 am	Bible Study
5/6 Wednesday	1:00 – 3:00 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Choir Rehearsal
5/10 Sunday Mother's Day	8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Hour – Volunteer Appreciation bagels! Worship Service

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Mondays	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:30 – 8 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Tues, May 12	7 pm	Worship and Music Committee Meeting
Sun, May 17	Between Services	Celebrating our Graduates with cake
Mon, May 18	11:30 am	Women's Luncheon (week early to avoid Mem. Day)
Tues, May 19	6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Sun, May 24	9:30 am	Single Summer Worship begins
Mon, June 1	All Day	Registration deadline for VBS
Sun, June 7	10:45 am	Pop-up Potluck followed by Blessing Bag assembly

Blood Pressure (BP): First Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall.
Women's Luncheon: Fourth Monday of every month. *Except for Holidays.

Gethsemane is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation Affirmation of Welcome

Christ's welcome knows no boundaries! Therefore, our welcome knows no boundaries and we invite all people to full participation in the life of the congregation.

We at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Saint Louis embrace...

People of any race or ethnicity...

People who are male, female, transgender, intersex or any other gender identity...

People of any age...

People wherever they are, or wherever they have been, on their faith journeys...

People who are single, married, widowed, divorced, separated or partnered...

People who are gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, or any other sexual orientation...

People with a variety of political perspectives...

People who have, or had, addictions, phobias, abortions, or a criminal record...

People who are homeowners, renters, living with parents, or homeless...

People who are fully-abled, disabled, or of differing abilities...

People of differing educational backgrounds...

People of any socio-economic condition...

People not mentioned above, all of whom are created and loved by God!

As we celebrate and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God's creation, we pledge to ourselves and to all others that we will strive to live as a reconciling people in our life together and in our outreach to the world. We are committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith.


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