

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

May 2023

Volume #130 Issue #5



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Pastor's Page

"All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does this mean?'"
--Acts 2: 12

After a painful event, like a medical crisis or death of a loved one or pandemic, it's human to process the event by asking, "What does this mean?"

This isn't an intellectual question like asking for a translation of an unfamiliar language. This is a search for meaning, which is part of healing and integrating. *Why did this happen to me? Why did this friend die so young? Why did my child get cancer but not me? Why did the storm destroy my home but not my neighbor's home?*

Jesus never told his followers that they'll never experience trouble. In fact, he guaranteed that they WILL experience all sorts of painful events, perhaps even as a result of following him.

What Jesus promised is to remain present. There's no trouble or pain that can scare him away. He's already been crucified. He already died, was buried, and even went to hell, according to the Apostle's Creed. He knows what it's like to suffer, and Jesus isn't blaming you for suffering either. He will join you in your suffering and won't leave you there alone.

The resurrected Jesus Christ kept appearing to people, walking around with them and eating meals and even breaking through locked doors. He sits with the disciples who are trying to make sense of what has happened and understand what God is doing.

All during the Easter season (which extends through most of the month of May this year), we read from the Gospels about these post-resurrection appearances of Jesus and also from the book of Acts. Acts tells the story of the disciples after Jesus's resurrection, how the Holy Spirit shows up at Pentecost, affirms believers in their faith, and shows them how to keep telling their story.

It wasn't straightforward or easy to make sense of Jesus's death, and when telling the story of Jesus, no disciple was encouraged to leave out the painful parts. Can resurrection even make sense without first dying?

Wherever you are in your journey of faith, Jesus is traveling alongside you. And all of us believers—who together become the body of Christ still active and alive in the world—are here to testify to this same Jesus with our presence, too. Resurrection is real, life is eternal, and God is at work.

Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie

Worship in May

Sunday, May 7, 2023

5th Sunday of Easter

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship

9:45am *Coffee Hour/Sunday School*

11:00am In-Person Worship

Sunday, May 14, 2023

6th Sunday of Easter

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship

9:45am *Coffee Hour/ Sunday School
performance*

11:00am In-Person Worship

Sunday, May 21, 2023

7th Sunday of Easter

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship

9:45am *Coffee Hour/Sunday School*

11:00am In-Person Worship

Sunday, May 28, 2023

Pentecost

9:30am In-Person and Online Worship

10:45am *Cookies and Lemonade*

Calling All Scouts Past and Present



On Sunday, May 7th, we will recognize and bless current and past Scouts. Current Scouts are encouraged to wear their uniforms. All Scouts are asked to wear or bring a representation of their membership.



April Attendance

April 2nd - Palm Sunday

113 In-Person 47 Online

April 6th - Maundy Thursday

31 In-Person 26 Online

April 7th - Good Friday

39 In-Person 41 Online

April 8th - Easter Vigil

68 In-Person

April 9th - Easter Sunday

168 In-Person 53 Online

April 16th

73 In-Person 16 Online

April 23rd

94 In-Person 37 Online

YOU

A lot of things have returned since the pandemic, but if you haven't had a chance to return to Gethsemane, know that you are missed!

Community Life



On **Thursday, May 10th**, LuMin will participate in GiveSTLDay, sponsored the St. Louis Community Foundation. This day of online giving helps to make worship, meals, trips, and events possible for their students. Visit www.givestlday.org/lumin to give now through May 10th.



May:
Deodorant and Adult Incontinent Underwear.

Please bring products to the church before the last Sunday of the month!



We support our trans friends and family!

Freezer Meals!

Thank you to everyone who has taken freezer meals! It's now time to restock! For details, see the Friday e-news for tips.

Flat Jesus is Back!

It's been a few years since we've done this so here's a recap of what to do: We will have pictures of Flat Jesus available in the Narthex beginning in May. You can color him as you wish (or not). Some choose to attach a craft stick to him or you can just hold him as you go on your merry way. After getting your Flat Jesus all set to go, you can take him on your adventures over the summer. That may be on vacation with you or to a ball game, up in the arch, to the playground, at the store... We ask that you snap a photo of yourself and send it to glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com. Another alternative is to simply post it on social media with the hashtag #FlatJesusSTLGLC23. We want to remind others (and ourselves!) that Jesus is always with us wherever we go. Have fun with Jesus!



Tilles Park Clean Up - Sunday, May 7th



You are invited to join the Gethsemane Green Committee on Sunday, May 7th, for a Tilles Park clean up. We will gather in the church front yard by the circular bench at 12pm and walk over to Tilles picking up trash along the way. Those unable to make the walk are welcome to join us at the park. Bring your gloves and water bottles.

Connections Corner



✉: glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com

☎: 314-518-6978 (ok to text)

*if you send me a friend request on Facebook I will accept you!

Office hours: Mon –Thurs, 10am—2:30pm

Ways to stay connected:

Utilizing these resources can help you feel closer to Gethsemane!



Give online
(Vanco Mobile App)



Access the Church Directory
Online (Instant Church Directory)



Watch Worship Services
Online (YouTube)



**Evangelical
Lutheran**
Church in America

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
www.gethsemanestl.org

Save the Date! August 27th.

Even though the sweltering heat of August is months away, it's time to start thinking about *God's work. Our hands.* day of service!

Do you have an organization that is near and dear to you? Do you know of an organization that could use a little boost of people power?

Let me know or have them get in touch with me (details listed above) .

God's work Our hands. is a day where we, Gethsemane can give back to the community as a way of living out Jesus' commandment to love one another.

Find Gethsemane on Social Media:

Website: www.gethsemanestl.org

YouTube: [gethsemanestl](https://www.youtube.com/gethsemanestl)

Instagram: [gethsemane_elca_stl](https://www.instagram.com/gethsemane_elca_stl)

Pinterest: [Gethsemane Lutheran Church](https://www.pinterest.com/GethsemaneLutheranChurch)

Facebook: [Gethsemane Lutheran Church - ELCA, St. Louis, MO](https://www.facebook.com/GethsemaneLutheranChurch-ELCA-St-Louis-MO)



Around the Church



May GLCW Luncheon

All women are welcome to join us at our next luncheon:

Date: Monday, May 22nd
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Olive Garden at 5529 S. Lindbergh
Hostess: Chris Schmidt
RSVP: Please contact hostess at 314-452-1931

Little Free Pantry Update

We are so excited to share that Gethsemane's little free food pantry is being used on a regular basis; with that being said, our need for supplies to stock it is greater than expected. Introducing Gethsemane's "From Your Cart to Ours" program, where we encourage you to place one or two extra grocery items in your shopping cart each week to place in Gethsemane's "grocery cart" to help stock our new little free food pantry. Cereal, canned meat/jerky, peanut butter, toilet paper, pop-top cans of soup, vegetables, and fruit are appreciated.



Church Council News

Barb Johnson, Council President

The next Coffee with a Council Member is Sunday, May 7th. Hope to see you there!

Check Us Out!

Gethsemane is now "On the Map" of the Homegrown National Park website. The Green Committee members and some helpers successfully planted two native plant gardens on Sunday, April 23rd. Thanks for your support.



You're Invited

Come join in the pickleball fun! Gethsemane member Mike Chapin, one of the top pickleball teachers and ambassadors in our area, will run an introduction to pickleball session for Gethsemane members and friends on May 7th from 4PM to 6PM at Tilles Park. Mike will provide balls and paddles for those wanting to learn about pickleball. This event is structured for beginners, but all levels are welcome to participate in the fun, and will be able to learn something from Mike. Please RSVP to the church office so that we know how much equipment to bring.

Class of 2023



Olivia (Liv) Jenson will graduate from Metro Academic and Classical High School in St. Louis on May 21, 2023 and will attend the University of Illinois - Urbana/Champaign. She will major in Environmental Science.

Olivia is co-president of her school's environmental club and has played on Metro's volleyball team for four years.

Alexis (Lexi) Tatum will graduate from Oakville Senior High on June 4, 2023. She is and will continue to work at the YMCA during the summer. While she has yet to decide on which school to attend, she plans to study to be an ultrasound technician.



Congratulations!



Brenna Bartholomew will graduate from the University of Virginia-Charlottesville on May 21, 2023. She will have earned a degree in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Technology and the Environment.

After graduation she's heading to the windy city of Chicago to work for a sustainable energy firm. She's looking forward to exploring Chicago and having her evenings free from studying.

Jacob Boehlje will graduate on May 13, 2023 from UMKC (University of Missouri—Kansas City) with a degree in Supply Chain Management.

He's currently interviewing for jobs in the Kansas City and St. Louis areas. His family is very proud of him, and know his future is bright!



Katheryn 'KT' Elliott will graduate from Saint Louis University May 18th with a Bachelor of Arts. She will be receiving a major in English with a focus on technical and creative writing. KT will be staying right here in St. Louis and will be working on publishing her first short story.

KT looks forward to selecting and reading literature that she has chosen for herself.

May 2023

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	10:00am Bible Study	10:00am Staff Meeting			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School 11:00am Worship 4:00pm Pickleball	6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	10:00am Staff Meeting			
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mother's Day 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School Play 11:00am Worship	6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	10:00am Bible Study	10:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm In-Person Workshop Committee Meeting		*Messenger info. due 4:30pm – 6:00pm Mallinckrodt Picnic	
Kim on Vacation						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School 9:50am Social Action Meeting 11:00am Worship	11:30am GLC Women's Luncheon 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	10:00am Bible Study	10:00am Staff Meeting		Gretchen on Vacation	Pastor on Vacation
	Gretchen Out					
28	29	30	31			
Summer Sunday Services 9:30am Worship	Memorial Day Office Closed	10:00am Bible Study	10:00am Staff Meeting	We are excited to announce the return of Blood Pressure Monitoring by and for members of Gethsemane. BP Monitoring will be available the first and third Sunday of each month between services in the fellowship hall.		
Gretchen on Vacation Pastor on Vacation						
Pastor on Vacation						

May 2023 Worship Leaders

	7th		14 th		21st		28th	June 4th
	Early	Late	Early	Late	Early	Late	One – 9:30am	One – 9:30am
Greeter	C. Reinhardt	R. Schainker	B. Bartholomew	D. Schaller	D. McElwee	A Crotty	C. Morice	N. Fontana
Usher	R. Lima	R. Schainker	B. Scanlan	G. Borkowski	J. McElwee	S. Hetager	B. Scanlan	J. Mayhaus
Usher	J. McElwee	G. Borkowski	R. Lima	D. Buehrer	C. Morice	D. Buehrer	S. Hetager	R. Schainker
Assisting Minister	M. Yemm	A. Fulton	P. Saathoff	M. Olson	R. Jones	G. Borkowski	R. Schuessler	C. Schainker
Lector	C. Morice	M. Tepe	J. Sandberg	D. Schaller	M. Christian	B. Rentchler	P. Saathoff	A. Boehlje
Children's Sermon	Pastor Cheryl		Chris Schmidt		Pastor Cheryl		Chris Schmidt	TBD
Organist	Bob Chamberlin		Ella Rothgangel		Ella Rothgangel		Ella Rothgangel	TBD
Wine	Fontana Family		Tepe-McFarlane Family		Fontana Family		Tepe-McFarlane Family	Johnson Family
Bread Baker*	Lima Family		Fontana Family		Richardson Family		Elliott Family	Wisch Family
Donut Pick Up	Sandberg Family		Scanlan Family		McElwee Family		No Donuts	
Fellowship Host	Needed		Needed		Needed		Needed	Needed
Altar Flowers	Williams Family		Hartz Family		Jenson Family		Aronsson Family	Fontana Family
Altar Guild	Olson-Fulton Family							
Camera	G. Jenson		G. Jenson		L. Christian		M. Elliott	G. Jenson

*Bread Bakers: Due to the volume of bread used for intinction, we are asking that you bring 6 “loaves” of bread each Sunday through the end of May. We will re-evaluate in June when we return to one service.

Announcements & Anniversaries

Congratulations...

Mitchell Paulson upon his recent engagement to Katie Ruddell. Looks like the Paulson family now has two weddings to plan for. Congratulations!

Thank You...

To everyone who has brought meals and visited Aria while she is recovering from her recent wrist fracture.

Don't forget...

The next Red Cross Blood Drive will be on Monday June 12th. Watch for sign ups in the Friday e-news and on Gethsemane's website.



Blood pressure monitoring on the first and third Sundays of each month. Look for the sign in the fellowship hall.

Save the date: St. Phillip's will have a Juneteenth celebration on Saturday June 17th.

Juneteenth
FREEDOM DAY



May Birthdays

- 1 Colleen Rentchler
Michael Rentchler
Peter Schainker
Chuck Wuensch
- 3 Susan Otto
Sarah Unsicker
- 6 Carmen Lampkin
Jacob Walentik
- 8 Don Thuss
- 9 Connor Boehlje
- 11 Michael Chapin
- 12 Maxwell McFarlane
- 15 Julie Otto
Benjamin Walentik
- 16 Stephen Brown
- 20 Carolyn Moe
Chloe Richardson
Henry Szyman
- 22 Gwen Gamewell
- 23 Ben McElwee
- 25 Scott Bartholomew
Mary Lou Young
- 26 Nathaniel Unsicker
Tom Unsicker
- 27 Joe Cooney
- 28 Noah Jenson
Marilyn McGuire
- 30 Olivia McFarlane
Chris Schmidt
- 31 Susan Flaxbart
Judith Mayhaus

May Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----|
| 1 | Scott & Betsy Bartholomew | 36 |
| | John & Darlene McElwee | 25 |
| 16 | Richard Brown & Paula Brud-Brown | 36 |
| 17 | Richard G. & Sara Schuessler | 9 |
| 30 | Alfred and Cheryl Gorvie | 12 |

Dates to Remember

Coming Up:

Sunday, May 14	10am	Sunday School Performance
Friday, May 19	4:45-8pm	Mallinckrodt Picnic
Sunday, May 28	9:30am	Return of Single Summer Services
Sunday, June 11	4-7pm	New Member Orientation
Sunday, August 27		God's Work. Our Hands. day of service

SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

* On May 28th, we return to Single Summer Services at 9:30am through Labor day in September.

Don't Forget

Every Wednesday -
Bulletin Items Due

Second Tuesday -
Church Council Meeting

Third Friday -
Messenger Articles Due

December First -
Budget Requests Due

One Month Prior to the Annual Meeting in January -
Committee Reports Due



Get Connected @ Gethsemane

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

3600 Hampton Ave.,
St. Louis, MO 63109
Phone: 314-352-8050
Fax: 314-352-8051
Email Address:

office@gethsemanestl.org

Church Office Hours: 8:00am-2:00pm

Pastoral Care: Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
903-918-3992 pastor@gethsemanestl.org

Council President Barb Johnson
314-962-3501
barbjohnson47@hotmail.com

Website: www.gethsemanestl.org
YouTube: [gethsemanestl](https://www.youtube.com/gethsemanestl)
Twitter: [@gethsemane_stl](https://twitter.com/gethsemane_stl)
Instagram: [gethsemane_elca_stl](https://www.instagram.com/gethsemane_elca_stl)
Pinterest: [Gethsemane Lutheran Church](https://www.pinterest.com/GethsemaneLutheranChurch)
Facebook: [Gethsemane Lutheran Church - ELCA, St. Louis, MO](https://www.facebook.com/GethsemaneLutheranChurch-ELCA-St-Louis-MO)

eMESSENGER

Please consider helping us save a tree and save on the cost of paper and postage. This happens if you choose to receive your *Messenger* only by e-mail. Just send a message to:
messenger@gethsemanestl.org.

WEEKLY E-NEWS

If you are not receiving our weekly e-news and would like to receive it, let us know by sending us an email. Please make sure that you put our address in your address book so that your spam filters let it pass through!

MESSENGER NEWS

You can send your news and notes for the *Messenger* to **messenger@gethsemanestl.org**. There is also a *Messenger* drawer by the church office. For best results, news should be in by the 20th of each month.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63109

Return Service Requested

A Month in Pictures

