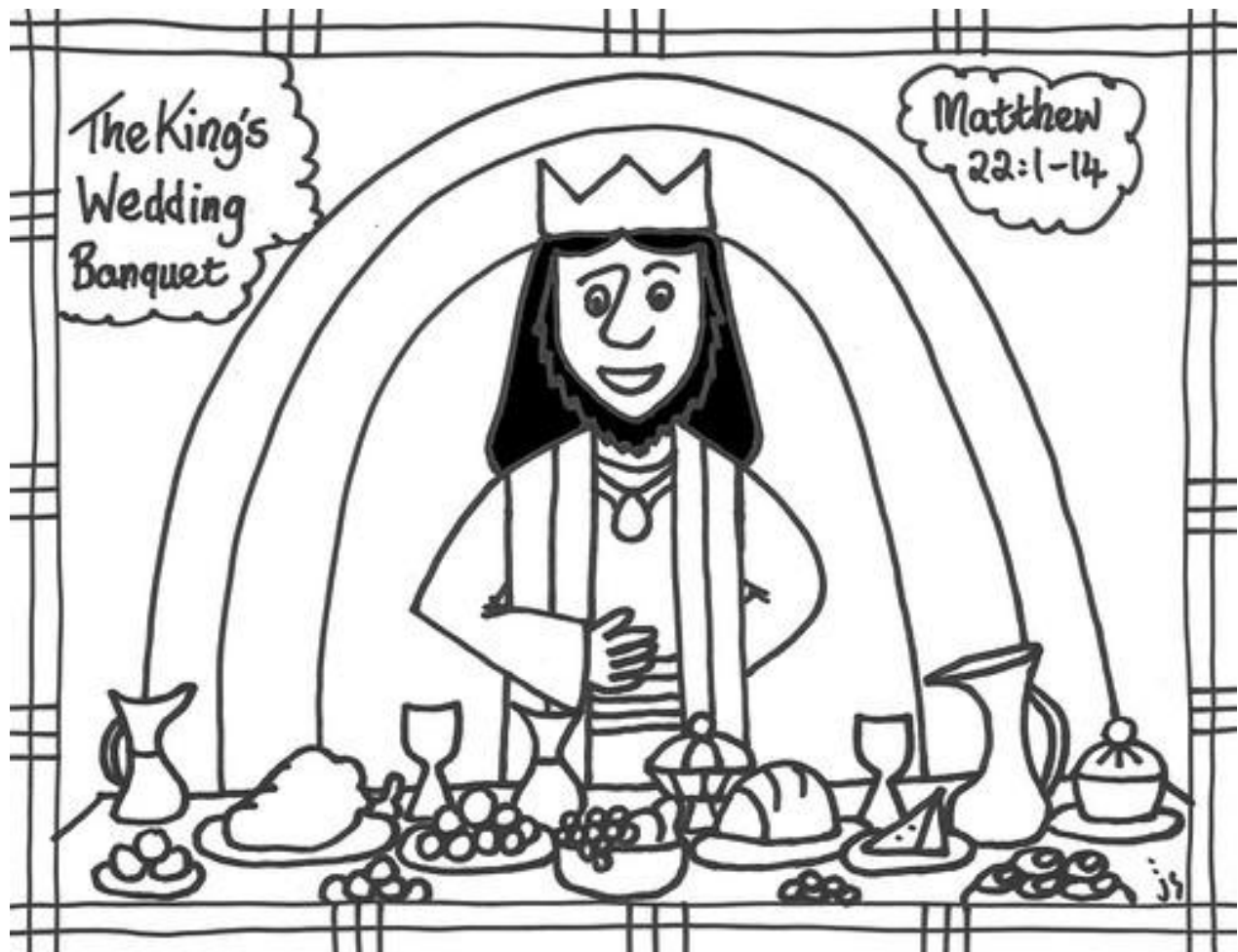


20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 11th, 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 Šakówinj, 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/Choir Director: Amy Crousore
Handbell Choir Director: Ella Rothgangel
Council President: Cayce Morice, 314-574-0850

pastor@gethsemanestl.org
connect@gethsemanestl.org
office@gethsemanestl.org
organist@gethsemanestl.org
handbelldirector@gethsemanestl.org
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, Setting 12

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *For the Beauty of the Earth*

Conrad Kocher arr. Rudy Davenport

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C: **Amen.**

P: Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: **we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *God Extends an Invitation*

HYMN# 486

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE:



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray. Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The congregation is seated.

MISSION MOMENT

Pastor Cheryl

WORD

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

After a hymn of praise acknowledging God as a shelter for the poor, the prophet portrays a wonderful victory banquet at which death—which in ancient Canaan was depicted as a monster swallowing up everyone—will be swallowed up forever. The prophet urges celebration of this victory of salvation.

¹ O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ² For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³ Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴ For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵ the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶ On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; ⁸ he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹ It will be said on that day, “See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 23

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

¹ The LORD [|] is my shepherd;
I shall not [|] be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down [|] in green pastures
and leads me be- [|] side still waters.**

³ You restore my [|] soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways [|] for your name’s sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall [|] fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they [|] comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence [|] of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is [|] running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days [|] of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the [|] LORD forever.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

¹ My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter:

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14, from The Inclusive Bible translation

The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation, New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2007 by Priests for Equality.

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

¹ Then Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, ²“The kingdom of heaven is like this: there was a ruler who prepared a feast for the wedding of the family's heir; ³ but when the ruler sent out workers to summon the invited guests, they wouldn't come. ⁴ The ruler sent other workers, telling them to say to the guests, ‘I have prepared this feast for you. My oxen and fattened cattle have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding.’ ⁵ But they took no notice; one went off to his farm, another to her business, ⁶ and the rest seized the workers, attacked them brutally and killed them. ⁷ The ruler was furious and dispatched troops who destroyed those murderers and burned their town. ⁸”Then the ruler said to the workers, ‘The wedding feast is ready, but the guests I invited don't deserve the honor. ⁹ Go out to the crossroads in the town and invite everyone you can find.’ ¹⁰ The workers went out into the streets and collected everyone they met, good and bad alike, until the hall was filled with guests.

¹¹”The ruler, however, came in to see the company at table, and noticed one guest who was not dressed for a wedding. ¹² ‘My friend,’ said the ruler, ‘why are you here without a wedding garment?’ But the guest was silent. ¹³ Then the ruler said to the attendants, ‘Bind this guest hand and foot, and throw the individual out into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴”Many are called, but few are chosen.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly*

HYMN# 461

CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

AM: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

AM: . . . Hear us, O God,

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

PEACE

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

C: **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 (Gethsemane Choir): *Praise Ye the Lord* J. Jefferson Cleveland

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

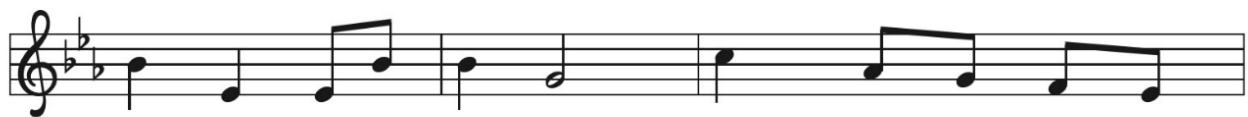
P: Lift up your hearts.

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 our duty and delight . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the



Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Ho - san - na, 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:

C: 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: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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 world; have mer-cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*For the Beauty of the Earth
Come to the Table*

HYMN# 487
HYMN# 481

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

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.
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: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
C: Amen.
P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.
C: Amen.
P: The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

HYMN# 742

DISMISSAL

AM: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Postlude*

by L. J. A., Arr. E. L. Ashford

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



WORSHIP LEADERS	
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
GREETER	Betsy Bartholomew
USHERS	Steve and Ben Walentik
ASSISTING MINISTER	Phyllis Saathoff
LECTOR	Anja Walentik
CANTOR	Robyn Wolfsberger
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Pastor Cheryl
ACOLYTE	Noel Nahm
DONUT DRIVER	Wind Family
FELLOWSHIP HOST	<i>Needed</i>
ALTAR GUILD	Leah Morrell
CAMERA	Gary Borkowski
WINE SPONSOR	Olson-Fulton

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Damien Gustafson: healing at home

Kate Hartz: courage and trust

Barb Johnson: continued healing and increased mobility

Margaret Lenhart: comfort and peace

Sharon Salerno: healing and strength

Mary Scanlan: recovering after stroke

Joan Williams: successful recovery from shoulder surgery

Scott Hanson: comfort and peace as he mourns the death of his mother, Novalee Klein

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
Lisa McL (healing)	<i>Jean Chouquette</i>
Arlis (comfort and hope); Barbara (bravery)	<i>Jenson Family</i>
Ellen Tai (living in hospice); Melissa (employment); Parents (continued health); City of St. Louis; Farmers of the World	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Venezuela, Colombia, Nepal and Tibet; all impacted by disasters; Pat Fulton (strength); Ginny Olson (strength); Jojo (healing, energy); Sonya and Sean (healing and strength); those who do not feel safe in their communities; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Rose Gant (Dawn's mother) healing and recovery after a fall	<i>The Schuessler Family</i>
Toby (patience and faith while jailed), Ronnie (justice)	<i>Social Action</i>

LIVING YOUR FAITH

GIVE

The **October Big Ask** is **toilet paper and multipurpose cleaner**, to support both Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's ministries. We collected **1,231 diapers** for last month's diaper drive! Thank you!

The **Little Free Pantry** needs **Pasta sauce**, preferably in cans or plastic jars. Place donations for Big Ask items in the cabinets near the shopping cart. Items placed **IN** the cart go to our Free Food Pantry.

Due to the tremendous need in our neighborhood, Gethsemane also now has a fund for **Homeless/Unhoused ministries** to help with emergency needs in our community, including rent for Ronnie's apartment. This is separate from the Little Free Food Pantry funds. Donations are welcome.

ACT

Did you know Gethsemane has a **Member Care team**? If you or a church member you know is in need of support from the GLC's Member Care team please contact the church office or Betsy Bartholomew, or check the box on the weekly attendance insert.

SAVE THE DATE! The Fall edition of Gethsemane's **Church Work Day** is coming up on October 17, 9 am – 2 pm. This is the day to pitch in and help with a deep clean to get our beautiful church in tip-top shape for the upcoming Advent and Christmas seasons!

TOMORROW, Monday, Oct 12 is the **Red Cross Blood Drive** at Gethsemane from 1-5 pm. All types needed!

Share your voice! Send November newsletter items to Gretchen by October 25.

JOIN

The **October Women's Lunch** is on Tuesday, Oct 26, 11:30 am at **Favazza's** on the Hill. Contact Kathleen Moe to RSVP

Celebrate Halloween at Gethsemane with a **Halloween Organ Concert** featuring Amy's Organ students – Yeats Wolfsberger, Evan Gorvie and Amy herself on **Friday, Oct 30 at 6:30 pm**. Spooky Songs, Harrowing Hymns and Screaming Pipes! Snacks and Organ Tours follow the concert!

Sunday School has started before Worship, at the same time as Fellowship Hour. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers! We hope it is a great year!

Here is the schedule:

9:00 am: All gather in the sanctuary for music

9:15 am: groups will head to their classrooms (3 years old – 5th Grade)

or to Faith Village (younger children and parents, fellowship stage)

9:50 am: Sunday School concludes, followed by Worship at 10 am

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
October 11 - 18, 2026

10/11 Sunday	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:15 am	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee, Bridge Bread! Sunday School and Faith Village ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Meeting for Confirmation Families
10/12 Monday	1-5 pm 6-7 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive at Gethsemane Handbell Choir Rehearsal
10/13 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
10/14 Wednesday	1:00 – 3:00 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Choir Rehearsal
10/17 Saturday	9 am – 2 pm	Gethsemane Fall Church Work Day! ALL HANDS ON DECK!
10/18 Sunday	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee, Bread for the World Letter Writing Sunday School and Faith Village ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Social Action Meeting

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Mondays	6 - 7 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:30 – 8 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Tues, Oct 20	All day 6:30 pm	In-person no excuse needed absentee voting begins at select area libraries and other places Church Council Meeting
Sun, Oct 25	10 am 11 am	Reformation Sunday and Confirmation, wear Red! Confirmation Reception – Cake for all to celebrate our confirmands
Mon, Oct 26	11:30 am 6:00 pm	GLC Women's Luncheon at Favazza's on the Hill (RSVP to Kathleen Moe) NorthHampton Neighbors Meeting
Tues, Oct 27	6:30 – 8 pm	Choir Rehearsal (no rehearsal on Wed.)
Thurs, Oct 29	6:30 pm	Dress Rehearsal for Halloween Concert
Fri, Oct 30	6:30 pm	Halloween Organ Concert featuring Amy's organ students and other musicians
Tues, Nov 3	All day	General Election Day

Women's Luncheon: Fourth Monday of every month. *Except for Holidays.



HALLOWEEN CONCERT

SPOOKY SONGS, HARROWING HYMNS, AND SCREAMING PIPES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

FREE!

COSTUMES
ENCOURAGED

SNACKS!

TOUR THE ORGAN

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH
3600 HAMPTON AVE.
ST. LOUIS, MO 63109

GETHSEMANESTL.ORG

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...

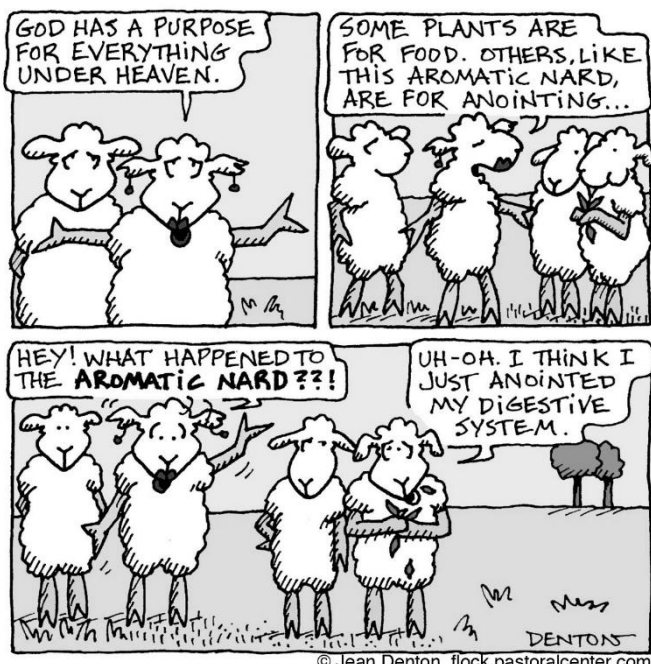
People of differing educational backgrounds...

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.

Sunday Funnies: The Sunday Flock is printed with permission through Pastoral Center.



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Scan here to donate to Gethsemane's African American Spiritual Reparation project.

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