

# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

November 30, 2025



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  
Organist/Interim Choir Director: Amy Crousore  
Council President: Gary Borkowski

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Office Hours: Vary. 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](mailto:office@gethsemanestl.org)    [www.gethsemanestl.org](http://www.gethsemanestl.org)

## ***WOV Holy Communion Setting Four***

*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*

### **GATHERING**

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**PRELUDE:** *My Lord, What a Morning*

spiritual arr. by Michael Hassell

*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, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Long-expected God,

**C:** we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake.

**Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.**

**P:** God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness. ☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

**C: Amen.**



# LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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**AM:** The alarm sounds when we least expect it.  
**Still we rise, filled with hope for the new day:**

**AM:** a day when God recycles tanks into tractors  
**a day when minefields have been cleared to make way for playgrounds and parks.**

**AM:** a day when laughter and gladness are shared without reserve  
**a day when salvation is at hand for all creation.**

**AM:** And so, we light this candle to shine forth with hope, for we know a new day is dawning even if the timing is unexpected.  
**We live in great expectation, awake to divine possibilities.**

**LIGHT THE CANDLE** **ADVENT CAROL**  
Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 Carl F. Schalk

Light the can-dle of HOPE to-day, the Giv-er of  
hope will come! Wel-come the hope we long and  
wait for, but on - ly Christ can give. Flick-er and  
flame and glow with hope, light up the world a -  
round you. Flick - er and flame and glow with hope,  
light up the world a - round you.

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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:

**A** In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. **A** For the

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a-bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For the peace of the whole world, the well - be-ing of the

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord. **A** For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their

**G** Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**AM:** Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

*The congregation is seated.*

## WORD

### THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 2:1-5

*The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"*

<sup>1</sup> The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup> In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup> Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup> He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into

plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup> O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: PSALM 122**

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

- <sup>1</sup> I was glad when they | said to me,  
“Let us go to the house | of the Lord.”
- <sup>2</sup> **Now our | feet are standing  
within your gates, | O Jerusalem.**
- <sup>3</sup> Jerusalem is built | as a city  
that is at unity | with itself;
- <sup>4</sup> **to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the Lord,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the Lord.**
- <sup>5</sup> For there are the | thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the | house of David.
- <sup>6</sup> **Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:  
“May they pros- | per who love you.**
- <sup>7</sup> Peace be with- | in your walls  
and quietness with- | in your towers.
- <sup>8</sup> **For the sake of my kindred | and companions,  
I pray for | your prosperity.**
- <sup>9</sup> Because of the house of the | Lord our God,  
I will seek to | do you good.”

## **SECOND READING: ROMANS 13:11-14**

*Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ’s coming in the future.*

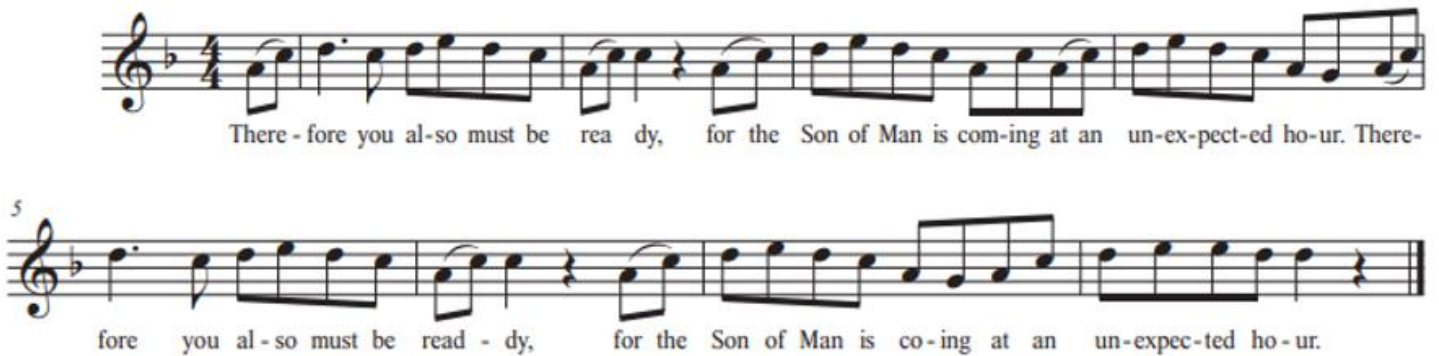
<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## WELCOME TO ADVENT—PREPARE YOUR HEART!

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL: MATTHEW 24:36-44

*Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.*

[Jesus said to the disciples,] <sup>36</sup>“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

*Repeat Gospel Acclamation*

<sup>37</sup> For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup> For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, <sup>39</sup> and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man.

*Repeat Gospel Acclamation*

<sup>40</sup> Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>41</sup> Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. <sup>42</sup> Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

*Repeat Gospel Acclamation*

<sup>43</sup> But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

*Repeat Gospel Acclamation*

The Gospel of the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### ADVENT SKIT: HOMEFIELD ADVENT-AGE

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*



## HYMN OF THE DAY: *Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus*

### Come to Be Our Hope, O Jesus

*Tú, Jesús, nuestra esperanza*



Español: 1 Tú, Je - sús, nues - tra es - pe - ran - za, ven y  
2 Ven, y te - je un mun - do nue - vo ca - mi -  
English: 1 Come to be our hope, O Je - sus, come to  
2 Come to build your new cre - a - tion through the



li - bra nues - tro ser. Ni - ño,  
nan - do en la ver - dad, pa - ra  
set your peo - ple free. From op -  
road of ser - vant - hood; give new



na - ce en - tre no - so - tros, ven y da - nos tu po -  
que, por fin, el pue - blo vi - va en ple - na li - ber -  
pres - sion, come, re - lease us, grant us your true lib - er -  
life to ev - 'ry na - tion, chang - ing e - vil in - to



der. Ven li - ber - ta pri - sio - ne - ros de in - jus -  
tad. Ven, Je - sús, a - bre el fu - tu - ro de tu  
ty. Come, re - lease from ev - 'ry pris - on those who  
good. Come and o - pen our to - mor - row for your



ti - cia y a - flic - ción; ven, re - ú - ne nues - tros  
rei - no de a - le - grí - a. Ven, de - rrum - ba es - te gran  
suf - fer in our land. In your love we find the  
joy - ful reign so near. Take a - way all hu - man



pue - blos en a - mor y en com - pren - sión.  
mu - ro que hoy se - pa - ra no - che y dí - a.  
rea - son still to live and un - der - stand.  
sor - row; give us hope a - gainst our fear.

Text: Jaci Maraschin, 1929–2009, Portuguese and English; Spanish tr. Jorge Rodríguez  
Music: JESUS NOSSA ESPERANÇA, Marcílio de Oliveira Filho, 1947–2005  
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## NICENE CREED

**P:** Let us confess our faith in God using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**C:** We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,\* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**AM:** In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation. (*A brief silence.*)

**AM:** . . . God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

**P:** Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

**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.

*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

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

**MUSICAL OFFERING:** *Prepare for the Coming of the Lord*

by Lloyd Larson

*The congregation rises in body or spirit.*

### OFFERING PRAYER

**AM:** Let us pray. Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

**C:** Amen.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so 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 and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are  
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord. 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:** Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

*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, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.**

**Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;**

**have mer-cy on us, have mer-cy on us, have mer - cy.**

**Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

*Oh Lord, How Shall I Meet You*

**HYMN# 241**

*My Lord, What a Morning*

**HYMN# 438**

**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. God our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen**



# SENDING

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## 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:** May God who comes among us, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

**C:** Amen.

**SENDING HYMN:** *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

**HYMN# 244**

## DISMISSAL

**AM:** Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

Arr. by Johann Gottfried Walther

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The **Altar Flowers** are presented to the glory of God



WORSHIP LEADERS	
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
GREETER	Carleen Reinhardt
USHERS	Ted Yemm Lily Yemm
ASSISTING MINISTER	T. Edwards Breed
LECTOR	Debbie Schaller
CANTORS	Andrew Copeland
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Lindsay Schuessler
BREAD BAKER	Megan Yemm
ALTAR GUILD	Debbie Schaller
CAMERA	Natalie Traylor Fontana
WINE SPONSOR	Kate Hartz

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Cindy Breed:** healing

**Neil Gustafson:** healing

**Kate Hartz:** courage and trust

**Barb Johnson:** preparing for surgery

**Fred Lenhart:** recovering from hip surgery

**Dell Roth:** recovering from surgery

**Sharon Salerno:** healing and strength

**Kate Schejbel:** grateful for the conclusion of treatment of lung cancer by the cyberknife, and for prayers on her behalf.

Request for:	On Behalf of:
Arlis and Greg McFarland (health), Margaret Lenhart (health)	<i>Jenson Family</i>
Richard (healing), Emily (hope)	<i>Beth Jung</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, Sudan and Myanmar; Pat Fulton (healing, strength); Ginny Olson (strength); Sister Marie Orf (healing and strength); Marcelle (successful treatment); Jojo (healing and courage); all impacted by disasters; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Deb (employment), Jessica and Aeja (healing), Erin (healing), Mom and Dad (continued health), Melissa (healing and employment)	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
Larry Laux (Leah's dad) for successful heart treatment for A-fib.	<i>Morrell Family</i>
For all who don't have a family to go home to during the holidays	<i>Penny Family</i>

# Christmas Cheer 2025 – Only 3 people still available

Gethsemane has committed to provide gifts for 38 people (in 10 families) for Christmas this year through St. Anthony's, one of our community ministry partners.

How do I sign up? Sign up in-person with Angie or Maryn in the Narthex between Worship services today OR scan the QR code below or the link in the E-news. Please sign up next to the name of each person for whom you plan to provide gifts.

What do I purchase? Clothing sizes and gift ideas will be shared with you (via email) after you sign up. We ask that you spend \$75-\$100 per person for clothing and gift items. (Remember: gift cards are a great option if you're not sure what to buy for that teenager!)

What is the deadline? **Wrapped** gifts should be delivered to the church chapel on (or before) Sunday, December 7, and our faithful volunteers will organize everything and deliver to St. Anthony's in time for Christmas. *Be sure to label each gift with the recipient's name!*

Are there other options if I can't adopt an individual? YES! We are also collecting blankets and \$25 gift cards (ALDI, Schnucks, Walgreens, or Target) that will be divided evenly between St. Anthony's and Isaiah 58. Blankets and gift cards do not need to be wrapped but do need to be delivered to the church by Dec. 7th.

Happy holidays, and thank you for helping to make Christmas brighter for our neighbors served through St. Anthony's!



# LIVING YOUR FAITH

## GIVE

**The St. Anthony's Christmas Cheer program** has started, and we still have 3 individuals available to "adopt!" Sign up online (see previous page for details.) Gift cards and blankets are needed too! Wrapped gifts are due Dec. 7.

**Little Free Pantry Items** needed include cereal, shelf-stable milk, canned soups, chili, stews, etc. (pull tops, please) and mac n' cheese.

**Pledge Cards** for your 2026 giving are still being accepted. This information is important for creating our 2026 church budget and to inspire your personal giving to Gethsemane and our missions. Thanksgiving is for both Thanks and Giving!

**Red Cross Blood Drive** will be back at Gethsemane on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> from 1-5pm. All types are needed! Sign up on Gethsemane's website. Many spots are still available!

## ACT

**Committee members, leaders and/or council liaisons**, your annual report will be due to the office by December 16. Remember that budget requests are due to Dan Flaxbart by **tomorrow, Dec. 1.**

**Fellowship hosts** are needed on Sundays to help clean up after coffee and donuts. Sign up in the kitchen during fellowship.

**Ushers** (adults) and **Associate Ushers** (youth or adults) are needed, especially for the early service. Please contact any staff member if you are interested. Training is provided.

**Blessing bags** are in the Narthex for anyone to take and give to those in need.

**The Messenger has a digital format!** If you have any items to include for the December newsletter, please send them to Gretchen at [connect@gethsemanestl.org](mailto:connect@gethsemanestl.org) by **November 25.**

## JOIN

**Gethsemane's annual Live Nativity** is this Saturday from 4-5pm. There will be animals to pet from Cowboy Critters, cookies and hot cocoa, music, a fire pit, and a Holy Family. This event is always free and open to the public. Bring your friends and get into the Christmas spirit! There are still opportunities to volunteer! Sign up on the Sanctuary doors!

Amy Crousore will lead a 15-minute **Music Fundamentals** class each Wednesday at 6:15 pm, before Choir Rehearsal. All are welcome. You do not need to be a choir member.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **2026 Flower and Wine Charts** are available on the bulletin board. Upon signing up, please send your "dedication" to Eve in the office, or in her mailbox.

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar**  
**November 30 – December 7, 2025**

11/30 TODAY	9:30 am	<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, One Worship Service</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent</b> Worship: In-Person and Livestream No Sunday School/Confirmation/Fellowship
12/1 Monday	Noon 6:00 pm	Committee Reports due to Dan Flaxbart Handbell Choir Rehearsal
12/2 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
12/3 Wednesday	1–2 pm 6:15-6:30 pm 6:30–8 pm	Church Office Staff Meeting, phones unanswered Music Fundamentals Class, All Are Welcome! Choir Rehearsal
<b>12/6 Saturday</b>	<b>4-5 pm</b>	<b>Live Nativity – Get in the Christmas Spirit!</b>
12/7 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 10 am 11 am	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent –</b> <b>CHRISTMAS CHEER GIFTS DUE TODAY</b> Worship: In-Person and Livestream Fellowship Hour Christmas Program Practice (meet in Sanctuary) Worship: In Person

**Upcoming Dates to Consider**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Mondays	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:15 – 8 pm	Music Fundamentals followed by Choir Rehearsal
Mon, Dec 8	1 – 5 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive at Gethsemane
Sun, Dec 14	10 am	Children’s Christmas Program practice
Tues, Dec 16	Noon	2025 Committee Reports due to Church Office
Sun, Dec 21	11 am	Children’s Christmas Program during Worship
Wed, Dec 24	4 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
Thurs, Dec 25	10 am	Christmas Day Worship
Sun, Jan 26	10:30 am	Annual Congregational Meeting (one worship at 9:30 am)
Sun, Feb 1	TBD	Chili Cook-off / Cookie Bake-off

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



# CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH



[gethsemanestl.org](http://gethsemanestl.org)

LIVE NATIVITY - SAT, DEC. 6 4-5 PM

KIDS CHRISTMAS PROGRAM - SUN, DEC. 21, 11 AM

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP - WED, DEC. 24, 4 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP - THURS, DEC. 25, 10 AM

1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS - SUN, DEC. 28, 9:30 AM  
(LESSONS AND CAROLS) (ONE WORSHIP SERVICE ONLY)

## 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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