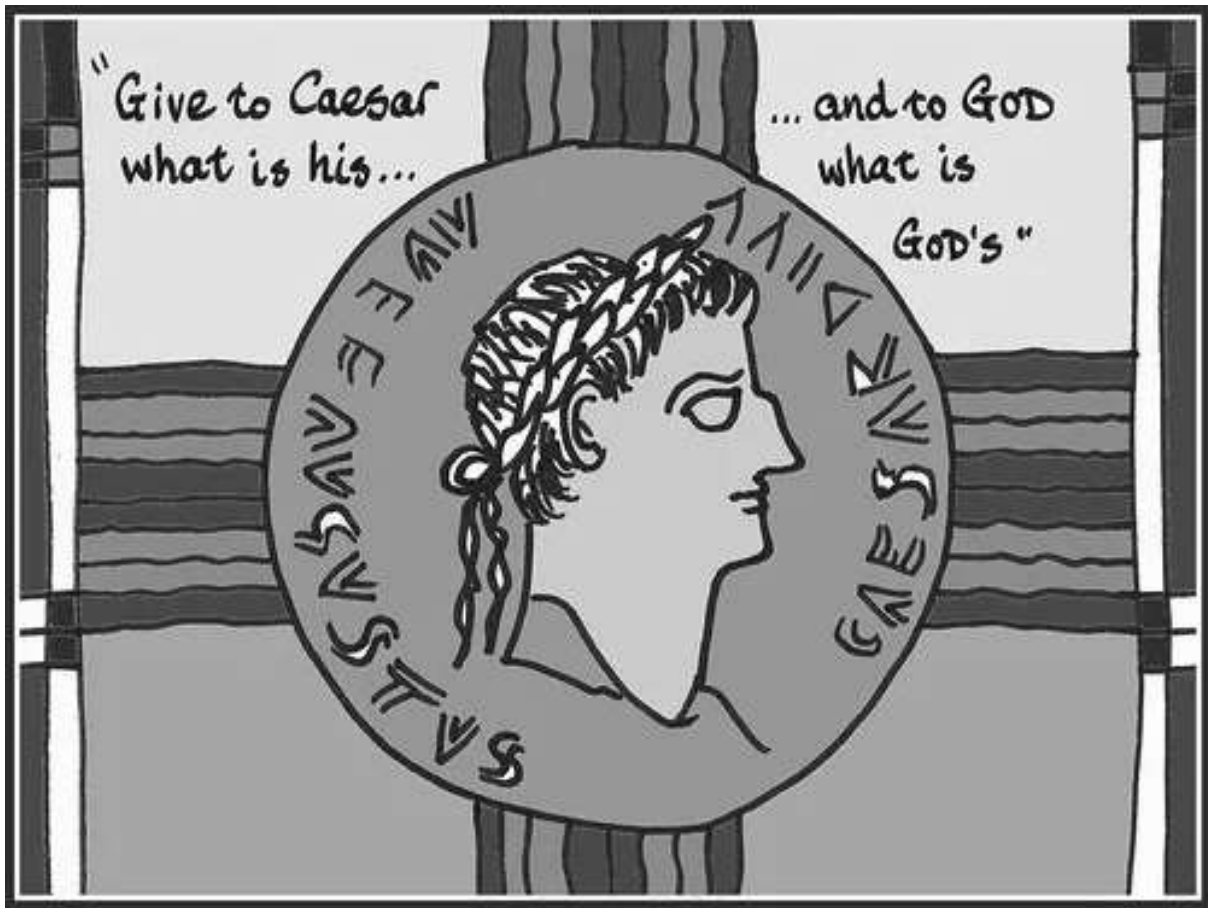


21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18th, 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
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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 today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Shepherd Me, O God*

Marty Haugen, Arr. Jeffrey Honore'

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: *All My Hope on God Is Founded*

HYMN# 757

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. Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.

⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 96:1-9 [10-13]

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

¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.

³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,**
more to be feared | than all gods.

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.

⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: “The | LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples
with equity.”**

¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.

¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly
³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness
of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he
has chosen you, ⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in
power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we
proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in
spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became
an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has
sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God
has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For they report about us what
kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and
true God ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who
rescues us from the coming wrath.

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 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

¹⁵ The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶ So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹ They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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: *O God of Every Nation*

HYMN# 713

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 Handbell Choir): *Come, Christians, Join to Sing*

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.

The Lord's My Shepherd
Shepherd Me, O God

HYMN# 778
HYMN# 780

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: *Praise Ye the Lord*

HYMN# 872

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE: *How Good It Is to Praise the Lord*

by Carl Schalk, Arr. Nancy M. Raabe

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The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by
Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary



WORSHIP LEADERS	
PRESIDER	Rev. T. Edwards Breed
GREETER	Richard Lima
USHERS	Gary Borkowski, Steve Hetager
ASSISTING MINISTER	Carolyn Schainker
LECTOR	Richard Schuessler
CANTOR	Robyn Wolfsberger
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Mary Wolfsberger
ACOLYTE	Noel Nahm
DONUT DRIVER	Cayce Morice
FELLOWSHIP HOST	<i>Needed</i>
ALTAR GUILD	Leah Morrell
CAMERA	Jaryd Wolfsberger
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

Comfort and peace to **Jean Chouquette** and family as they mourn the death of Jean's sister, Gayle Wolf

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.

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.

Wanted for Winter Blessing Bags – **bottled water!** Please put donated water by the blessing bag shelf near the parking lot entrance. We are hoping to collect 100-200 bottles.

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.

Plan to arrive at 9 am on **November 1**, when we will work together to assemble at least **100 blessing bags** with winter items (hats, gloves, water, snacks, etc.) before Worship.

Fellowship Hosts Wanted! Please sign up in the kitchen to help "host fellowship," which just entails some light clean-up afterwards (9:45 – 10 am). We've made clean-up even easier during our trial one service time this fall, by using paper cups instead of washing mugs.

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

JOIN

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

Next Sunday, October 25 is **Reformation Sunday** and **Confirmation** for a few Gethsemane youth. A reception in honor of the confirmands will take place **AFTER** worship in the fellowship hall. Pre-worship fellowship with donuts (9 am) will occur as usual. You can continue the Reformation celebration at Unity Lutheran Church (8454 Glen Echo Dr.) at 3 pm.

The Member Care Team/Fellowship Team will have their next meeting **Sunday, Oct 25th after service**. They will discuss the needs of GLC members and plans for fellowship events—like an upcoming breakfast. All are welcome to attend.

Celebrate Halloween at Gethsemane with a **Halloween Organ Concert** featuring Amy's Organ students – Yeats and Joyce Wolfsberger, and Evan Gorvie, the Gethsemane Choir 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.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
October 18 - 25, 2026

10/18 Sunday	9:00 am	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee, Bread for the World
	9:00 am	Letter Writing
	10:00 am	Sunday School and Faith Village
	After Worship	ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Social Action Meeting (library)
10/19 Monday	6-7 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
10/20 Tuesday	Various times	In-person no excuse needed absentee voting begins at select area libraries and other place
	10:00 am	Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
10/21 Wednesday	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Staff Meeting (phones unanswered)
	6:30 – 8 pm	Choir Rehearsal
10/25 Sunday Reformation Wear Red!	9:00 am	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee,
	9:00 am	Sunday School and Faith Village
	10:00 am	ONE Worship Service with Confirmation: In-Person and on YouTube
	After Worship	Reception (featuring cake!) honoring confirmands Member Care 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
Mon, Oct 26	11:30 am	GLC Women's Luncheon at Favazza's on the Hill (RSVP to Kathleen Moe)
	6:00 pm	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.

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

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