

5th Sunday After Epiphany
February 8, 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 Šakówin, 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

pastor@gethsemanestl.org

Connections Coordinator: Gretchen Jenson

connect@gethsemanestl.org

Office Manager: Eve Cooney

office@gethsemanestl.org

Organist/Interim Choir Director: Amy Croushore

organist@gethsemanestl.com

Council President: Cayce Morice, 314-574-0850

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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

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ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

Light shines in the darkness for the upright, the psalmist sings. Isaiah declares that when we loose the bonds of injustice and share our bread with the hungry, the light breaks forth like the dawn. In another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus, the light of the world, calls his followers to let the light of their good works shine before others. Through baptism we are sent into the world to shine with the light of Christ.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

Lowell Mason

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFSSION 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, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God.** Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Rise, Shine, You People!*

HYMN# 665

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 58:1-9a [9b-12]

Shortly after the return of Israel from exile in Babylon, the people were troubled by the ineffectiveness of their fasts. God reminds them that outward observance is no substitute for genuine fasting that results in acts of justice, such as feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, and clothing the naked.

¹Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³"Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 112:1-9 [10]

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

¹ Hallelujah! Happy are they who **fear the LORD**
and have great delight in **God's commandments!**

² **Their descendants will be mighty in the land;**
the generation of the upright will be blessed.

³ Wealth and riches will be **in their house,**
and their righteousness will **last forever.**

⁴ **Light shines in the darkness for the upright;**
the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

⁵ It is good for them to be **generous in lending**
and to manage their **affairs with justice.**

⁶ **For they will never be shaken;**
the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.

⁷ They will not be afraid of any **evil rumors;**
their heart is steadfast, trusting **in the LORD.**

⁸ **Their heart is established and will not shrink,**
until they see their desire upon their enemies.

⁹ They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands **fast forever;**
they will hold up their **head with honor.**

¹⁰ **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away;**
the desires of the wicked will perish.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-12 [13-16]

Though people such as the Corinthians are enamored with human philosophy and wisdom, Paul continuously presents God's hidden wisdom which is Jesus Christ crucified. True spiritual maturity involves judging ourselves and others in light of God's revelation in the cross.

¹ When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the testimony of God to you with superior speech or wisdom. ² For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. ³ And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. ⁴ My speech and my proclamation were made not with persuasive words of wisdom but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, ⁵ so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

⁶ Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are being destroyed. ⁷ But we speak God's wisdom, a hidden mystery, which God decreed before the ages for our glory ⁸ and which none of the rulers of this age understood, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written,

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ God has revealed to us through the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For what human knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God. [¹³ And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ Those who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to them, and they are unable to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ Those who are spiritual discern all things, and they are themselves subject to no one else's scrutiny.

¹⁶ "For who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.]

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 5th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:13-20

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus encourages his followers to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, doing good works and keeping God's commandments.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ "You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY *This Little Light of Mine*

HYMN# 677
African American Spiritual

PRESENTATION OF NEW MEMBER

Amy Crousore

CONFession OF FAITH

P: Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

C: 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.

INSTALLATION OF LAY PROFESSIONAL STAFF MUSICIAN

Amy Crousore

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL LEADERS

Betsy Bartholomew

Nicole Matlock

Gary Borkowski

Cayce Morice (President)

Missy DeVore

Debbie Schaller

Garrett Finazzo (Vice – President)

Jaryd Wolfsberger (Secretary)

Angie Fulton

Chuck Wuensch (Treasurer)

Roderic Kerner

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AM: Let us pray. As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

(A brief silence.)

AM: . . . Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

AM: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always!

C: And also with you.

P: Let us greet one another with a sign of this spirit-filled peace, respecting the boundaries and honoring the consent of our neighbors.

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: *This Little Light of Mine*

Arr. by Ginger B. Littleton

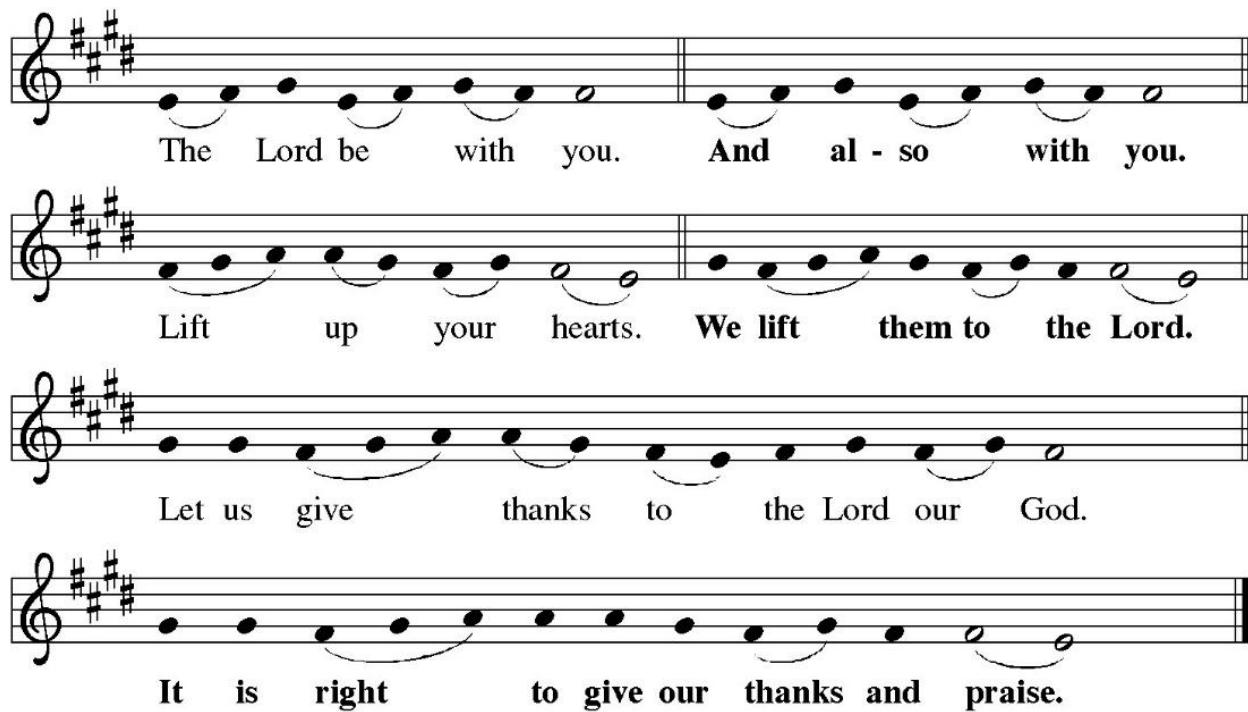
The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,



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

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. 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:

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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

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.

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!

HYMN# 308

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. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HYMN# 815

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Toccata in C Major*

Johann Pachelbel

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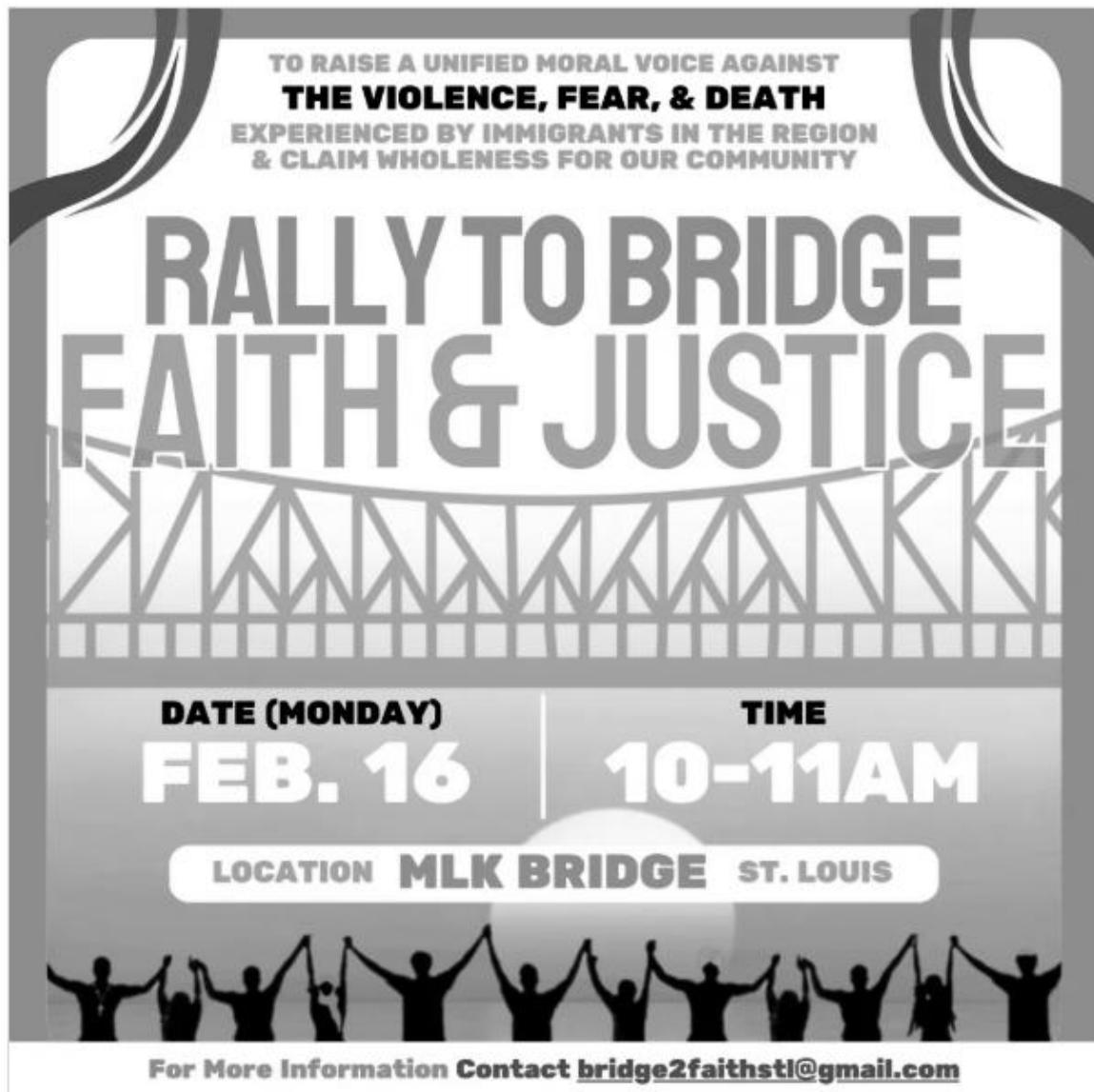


The altar flower's this week are given to the glory of God.



WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
GREETER	Betsy Bartholomew	Peggy Lewis
USHERS	Cayce Morice	Rob Schainker
ASSISTING MINISTER	Rick Schuessler	Gary Borkowski
LECTOR	Natalie Traylor Fontana	Barb Johnson
CANTOR	Robyn Wolfsberger	
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Pastor Cheryl	
ALTAR GUILD	Missy DeVore	
DONUT DRIVER	Cayce Morice	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	needed	
CAMERA	Natalie Traylor Fontana	
WINE SPONSOR	Tepe – McFarlane Family	



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Mark Cutelli: healing

Neil Gustafson: healing

Kate Hartz: courage and trust

Barb Johnson: healing and strength

Fred Lenhart: healing

Margaret Lenhart: healing

Richard Lima: recovering from surgery

Elizabeth Penny: healing

Dell Roth: in rehab after surgery

Sharon Salerno: healing and strength

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
Ed's brother, John Breed (healing)	<i>Breed Family</i>
Mark's brother, Bob Salsman (healing and strength)	<i>Mark Cutelli</i>
For the good health of MCU, so that we can position ourselves to make an impact against the rapid rise of authoritarianism.	<i>Garrett Finazzo</i>
Prayers for peace and understanding for Brent's parents as his father deals with health challenges. Continued prayers for Aidan and Liv as they continue their studies abroad in Switzerland and Thailand.	<i>Jenson Family</i>
Roberta (recovering from surgery), Caregivers, that they would have support, strength, and energy	<i>Beth Jung</i>
Tyla and Karis (healing), Melissa (employment), Parents (health)	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
Comfort for the families of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. Justice in the USA for all people.	<i>Marilyn McGuire</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, Cambodia and Venezuela; Pat Fulton (healing, strength); Ginny Olson (strength and healing); Sister Marie Orf; Jojo (encouragement); those who do not feel safe in their communities; all impacted by disasters; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Jill (healing, love), my loved ones in the Twin Cities: Margaret, Jim, Kathryn, Emily, Chris, Joe, Merritt, Kaitlin and Patrick.	<i>Penny Family</i>
Job opportunities for Chad	<i>Tullock Family</i>

LIVING YOUR FAITH

GIVE

It's the **Souperbowl of Caring!** Vote for your team by adding a food donation for the Little Free Pantry to that team's box in the narthex. Items needed include SPAM, Vienna sausages, canned chicken, canned soups/stews/chili, Ramen noodles, and cereal.

The Red Cross will be at Gethsemane **tomorrow, February 9, from 1-5 pm**. Sign up on Gethsemane's website to give blood. All types are needed!

February's Big Ask for Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's is laundry soap and dish soap. Place donation items in the cabinet located in the hallway leading to the Narthex.

ACT

Be a host! Fellowship hosts make Sundays welcoming by helping with coffee and donuts and cleaning up afterwards. Sign up in the kitchen during fellowship.

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

A peaceful, prayerful Presidents Day (2/16 at 10 am) rally will be held on the MLK Bridge to stand in solidarity with immigrant communities and call for justice, compassion, and meaningful reform. See the flyer, website or the weekly eNews for more information and to sign up.

Community Care & Support Training, Saturday, February 21, 10:00 AM–1:00 PM, As immigration enforcement increases, neighbors across St. Louis are organizing to offer care, connection, and support. This training will help participants map local resources, strengthen neighborhood networks, and make a collective plan for responding with compassion. Bringing friends or neighbors is encouraged. See the flyer, website or eNews to sign up!

Share your voice! Send Mar. newsletter items to connect@gethsemanestl.org by Feb. 24.

JOIN

The following meetings are **Today, Feb 8:**

- **Member Care and Fellowship Committees:** Between Services in the library
- The inaugural meeting of the new **Technology Committee** will meet between services in the Choir Loft and then proceed to other areas of the building. Anyone with an interest is welcome to come.
- **Worship and Music Committee:** After worship (noonish) in the conference room

The **Social Action Committee** will meet next week, **Feb.15**, between services.

Sign-ups for **Vacation Bible School** are on Gethsemane's website and in the weekly eNews! We need volunteers and campers! July 6-10, 9 am - 5 pm or 9 am - 12:30 pm.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Year-End Contribution statements were mailed last week. If you don't receive yours in the mail, please contact the office to get an emailed copy.

If you have **changed your pledge** amount, don't forget to update your bank or your MyVanco account if you donate electronically on a recurring basis.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar

February 8 - 15, 2026

2/8/26 Sunday	8:30 am	Worship: In-Person and Livestream
	9:45 am	Fellowship hour
	10:00 am	Member Care/Fellowship Committee Mtg. (library)
	11:00 am	Technology Committee Mtg. (choir loft and beyond)
	Noonish 1-3pm	Sunday School / Confirmation Worship: In-Person Worship and Music Committee Mtg. (conference rm) Confirmation Class at Trinity Lutheran
2/9/26 Monday	1-5 pm 6:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive at Gethsemane Handbell Choir Rehearsal
2/10/26 Tues.	10 am	Bible Study
2/11/26 Wed.	1 – 2:30 pm 6:15-6:30 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Office Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Music Fundamentals Choir Rehearsal
2/15/26 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship: In-Person and Livestream Fellowship hour Social Action meeting in library Sunday School / Confirmation Worship: In-Person

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Mondays	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:15 – 8 pm	Music Fundamentals followed by Choir Rehearsal (Music Fundamentals will not meet during Lent, Feb 18-April 5)
Wed, Feb 18	Noon, 7 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Services
Weds in Lent	5:30 pm	Lent Midweek Worship, Holden Evening Prayer
Mon, Feb 23	11:30 am	Gethsemane Women's Luncheon

Blood Pressure (BP): First Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall.

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

Gethsemane is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation Affirmation of Welcome

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

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

People of any race or ethnicity...

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

People of any age...

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

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

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

People with a variety of political perspectives...

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

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

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

People of differing educational backgrounds...

People of any socio-economic condition...

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

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

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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