



GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH



# MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

February 2024

Volume #131 Issue #2



## Messenger Contents

Pastor's Page .....	2
Worship in February .....	3
Community Life .....	4
Around the Church .....	5
Connections Corner .....	6
Welcome New Council.....	7
February Worship Leaders ..	8
Solemn Reproaches.....	9
Announcements.....	10
Anniversaries .....	10
Dates to Remember .....	11
Get Connected.....	11
Year in Pictures .....	12

# Pastor's Page

*"As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love."  
--Jesus (John 15:9)*

Ash Wednesday happens, this year, on February 14<sup>th</sup>—a date you might recognize as “Valentine’s Day,” when people like to celebrate love. These holidays might seem really opposite—Ash Wednesday for praying and fasting, Valentine’s Day for romance and date night—but truly, God is with us in all of these things.

Taking time for prayer and fasting—as we say “giving up” something for Lent—gives us the opportunity to simplify our lives and consider what’s really important by clearing away the distractions and focusing. It might feel like a daunting task, but look at this as an invitation to simplify.

Setting aside time to celebrate love also sounds like fun when restaurants advertise special menus for Valentine’s Day and stores are selling candies. It might feel exciting and special, and this is also an invitation to celebrate the love you have in your life. (And no, you don’t have to spend any money for this.)

In the season of Lent, the church pauses its celebrations and puts away the “alleluia” for six weeks, and we focus on Jesus and his journey to the cross. It might feel depressing and not-at-all appealing, but we get to notice how Jesus lives into what is important.

In John’s Gospel, Jesus’ final speech to his disciples, during the Last Supper, is one last pep talk, giving instructions about what happens after he’s gone (the Holy Spirit will show up) and reminding the disciples why he’s done all this teaching and healing and why he will suffer death: it’s all for love. Life includes suffering but is not ultimately *only* about suffering—Jesus is demonstrating God’s love.

Why do you do the things you do, especially the things you don’t want to do? Daily life features an endless parade of monotonous tasks: paying bills, washing dishes, doing laundry—where’s the love in these things? Perhaps it isn’t obvious, but dig around in your sense of motivation and I’ll bet love comes up somewhere: love of clean spaces for yourself, love for your family members, love of connecting with the world, love and gratitude for a safe place to live.

The odd combination of Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day may not be so odd, after all. Where’s the love in self-denial and in fasting? Perhaps even these can be ways to show love and honor to God, and also a way to clear enough space to receive God’s message: I’m here, and I love you.

*Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie*

# Worship in February

**Sunday, February 4, 2024**

**4th Sunday after Epiphany**

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship  
9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship  
10:00am Adult Forum: Bread Baking  
11:00am In-Person Worship

**Sunday, February 18, 2024**

**1st Sunday in Lent**

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship  
9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship  
10:00am Committee Meetings  
11:00am In-Person Worship

**Sunday, February 11, 2024**

**Transfiguration of Our Lord**

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship  
9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship  
10:00am Adult Forum: Bread for the World  
11:00am In-Person Worship

**Sunday, February 25, 2024**

**2nd Sunday in Lent**

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship  
9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship  
10:00am Adult Forum: Women's Health  
11:00am In-Person Worship

## Preparing for Lent

**Ash Wednesday:** This year Gethsemane will offer two Ash Wednesday worship services February 14th. The first will be offered at noon and the second will be offered at 7pm. The first service will be also be online so that you may participate from home at your convenience. If you still have your palm branches from last Easter, please bring them to church on Sunday, February 11th so that they may be burned to make the ashes used during the services.

**Midweek Services:** Midweek services will be held at 7pm on Tuesdays starting February 20th and continuing through March 19th. Worship will use the Holden Evening Prayer with the Good Friday Solemn Reproaches. See page 9 for additional information. We are still in need of volunteers to serve as usher/greeters for these services. Please contact the church office if you are available.

## Scout Sunday

On Sunday, February 25th, Gethsemane will recognize and honor all Scouts, past and present. You are encouraged to wear or bring your uniform, sash, or other Scouting memorabilia.

## January Attendance

**January 7th**

94 In-Person 50 Online

**January 14th**

77 In-Person 38 Online

**January 21st**

101 In-Person 31 Online

**January 28th**

**Annual Meeting**

104 In-Person 31 Online

Don't forget to complete your weekly attendance form.

We're counting on you!

(We really are - the Synod requests an average Sunday attendance in our annual report)





# Community Life

## donate Request of the Month



Thank you for your continued support of Gethsemane's Food Pantry Partners: Isaiah 58 Ministries and St. Anthony's. For the month of February, Gethsemane is collecting **cans of soup and chili**. In recognition of the "Souper" Bowl and Tackle Hunger collection drives, we will collect these items through the end of February, because we all know the need will still exist way after Super Bowl LVIII.

Remember, items placed on the food collection shelves will be divided between our food pantry partners. Food placed in the grocery cart will be used to fill Gethsemane's Little Free Food Pantry.

### Little Free Pantry Thank You!!!

We would like to thank Emily, Henry, and Dan Szyman; Anne Crotty; Kate Hartz; Chris Schmidt; Eve and Evan Cooney; Leah Morrell; Kim Elliott; Ken Bauer; Chuck Wuensch; Amy Crousore; and Garrett Finazzo for volunteering to stand outside of the Hampton Plaza Schnucks to collect non-perishable food items to fill Gethsemane's Little Free Food Pantry on Saturday, January 27th. Together, they collected 1,668 items worth an estimated \$3,000.00.

We would also like to thank Keith Paulson, Phyllis Saathoff, Dawn Riske, Jamie Rhodes, Ken Bauer, and Eve and Tom Cooney for helping move and sort all the items into the back hallway and classroom. These items will be used to fill the outdoor pantry over the next several weeks.

The Social Action team plans to hold another drive at Schnucks in September.



**LuMin** is hosting "Jesus and Dinner" nights every Sunday. Gethsemane is helping on:



**Feb 18<sup>h</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>.**

See the website, weekly e-news, or the paper sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall to participate. They will need an entree, side dish, dessert, and someone to deliver. You are also welcome to join the students for their meal!

"**The Song of Mark**" is a musical by Marty Haugen which is based on the life of Jesus as recounted in the Gospel of Mark. Musicians from a variety of Churches are coming together to perform this musical at three Churches during Lent. Four musicians from Gethsemane are participating: *Keith Paulson, Taylor Schmidt, Dawn Schuessler, and Matthew Christian* in the role of Jesus. The Song of Mark is presented with the support of the Saint Louis Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Performances are free and open to the public—an offering will be received.

➤ Friday, February 23rd at 7:30 pm at St. Joseph Church

➤ Sunday, February 25th at 2:30 pm at St. Joan of Arc Church

➤ Friday, March 1st at 7:00 pm at Christ the King Church

# Around the Church



## February GLCW Luncheon

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

**Date:** Monday, February 26  
**Time:** 11:30 AM  
**Place:** Bartolino's Osteria  
 in the Drury Inn on Hampton  
**Hostesses:** Joan Williams  
**RSVP:** Please call : 314.894.0646  
 by Friday, Feb. 23

## Adult Forum Topics

All adults are welcome to join us in the chapel between services at 10:00am for the following discussions:

Feb. 4th - Gluten Free Bread Baking  
 Feb. 11th - Bread for the World  
 Feb. 18th - Member Care Team  
 Feb. 25th - Women's Health



## The Property Committee is Looking for Church Mice

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve as a "Church Mouse" by helping with some small projects around the church? The Property Committee has created a list of easy, one-day projects and they need your help. Projects include painting, staining, cleaning, and repairing items around the church. Watch for a complete list and more information coming soon.

## Green Committee Pancake Dinner and a Movie Night

Save the date and will be available soon for purchase for the Green Committee's first Pancake Dinner and a Movie fundraiser night on Friday, April 12! Delicious pancakes, sausage and fruit will be served from 5:30 - 7 pm, followed by a showing of the movie Hoot. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids 5-13, and free for children 4 and under.

We are raising funds to replace the gas stove in Gethsemane's kitchen with a more energy-efficient appliance. The current stove has 11 gas pilot lights which are *always* burning, even when not in use. The constant burning of natural gas is an overuse of this resource and contributes to the church's monthly gas bill.

Please see Ben Valentik, Eve Cooney or a member of the Green Committee if you are interested in helping to plan, volunteer, or donate supplies for the pancake dinner.



## Red Cross Blood Drive February 12th

1:00pm - 5:00pm

We welcome all "types" of donors. A link to book your preferred time slot can be found on Gethsemane's website.

## Mitten Tree Success

We would like to thank everyone who donated hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves to fill our Mitten Tree. We collected over 250 hats, 60 pairs of gloves, and several scarves. The items were split between Isaiah 58 Ministries and St. Anthony's. We know they will be appreciated!



# Connections Corner



✉: [glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com)

☎: 314-518-6978 (ok to text)

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

**Office hours: Mon –Thurs, 10am—2:30pm**

## Ways to stay connected:

Utilizing these resources can help you feel closer to Gethsemane!



**Give online**  
(Vanco Mobile App)

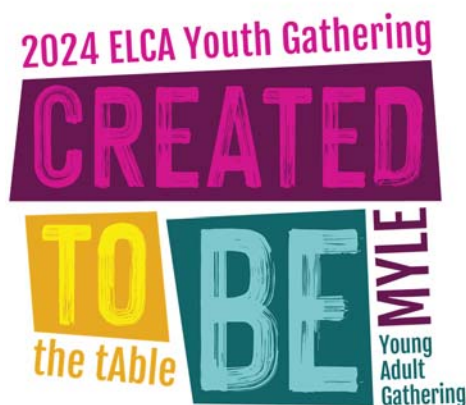


**Access the Church Directory**  
**Online** (Instant Church Directory)



**Watch Worship Services**  
**Online** (YouTube)

## Youth Gathering Update



The next fundraiser will be snacks for your Super Bowl party! The order form can be found on Gethsemane's website. Cash (exact change only) or charge cards accepted.

You will have the option to choose a Chex mix or a cheese and crackers tray, or both!

You can always donate to the Gethsemane Youth Fund directly. There is a link on Gethsemane's website under the "donate now" tab. Scroll until you find the ELCA Youth Gathering tile.

**Website:** [www.gethsemanestl.org](http://www.gethsemanestl.org)

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

**Instagram:** [gethsemane\\_elca\\_stl](https://www.instagram.com/gethsemane_elca_stl)

**Pinterest:** Gethsemane Lutheran Church

**Facebook:** Gethsemane Lutheran Church - ELCA, St. Louis, MO

## Find Gethsemane on Social Media:





# Welcome Council Members



President  
Gary Borkowski



Vice President  
Carolyn Schainker



Secretary  
Rick Schuessler



Betsy Bartholomew



Rich Brendel



Eve Cooney



Garrett Finazzo



Barb Johnson



Richard Lima



Julie Wisch



Chuck Wuensch  
Treasurer

We wish to welcome the council members for 2024. Congratulations to the new board members: Gary Borkowski, Carolyn Schainker, and Rick Schuessler. Gethsemane will officially recognize and install the new council on Sunday, February 11th.

## February 2024 Worship Leaders

	4th		11th		14th: Ash Wed.		18th		25th	
	Early	Late	Early	Late	Noon	7pm	Early	Late	Early	Late
Greeter	Mary S.	Anne C.	Sue H.	Deb S.	Carleen R.	Rob S.	Elizabeth P.	Peggy L.	Richard L.	Keith P.
Usher	Richard L.	Nancy L.	Adam R.	Peggy L.	Richard L.	Cayce M.	John S.	Rob S.	John S.	Gary B.
Usher	Bill S.	Ben W.	Elizabeth P.	Nancy L.	Bill S.	Rob S.	Adam R.	Riley B.	Ted Y.	Stever H.
Assisting Minister	Becky R.	Angie F.	Amy R.	Maryn O.	Rick S.	Carolyn S.	Phyllis S.	Gary B.	Megan Y.	Maryn O.
Lector	Lindsay S.	Anja W.	Cayce M.	Anne C.	Barb J.	Mike S.	John S.	Angie F.	Michael M.	Carolyn S.
Children's Sermon	Chris Schmidt		Lindsay Schuessler		N/A		Pastor Cheryl		Chris Schmidt	
Wine	Barb Johnson									
Bread Baker*	Olson/Fulton Family		Elliott Family		Elliott Family		Richard Lima		Richardson Family	
Blood Pressure	Ted Yemm		N/A		N/A		Melissa Tepe		N/A	
Fellowship Host	Fellowship Committee		Schmidt Family		N/A		Moe Family		Wisch Family	
Donut Driver	John Sandberg		Keith Paulson		N/A		Wind Family		Tepe/McFarlane Family	
Altar Flowers	No Sponsor		Tepe/McFarlane Family		No Flowers During Lent					
Altar Guild	Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton									
Camera	Gretchen Jensen		Linus Christian		Gretchen Jensen		Linus Christian		Gretchen Jensen	



# Solemn Reproaches for Lent

This Lent, on Tuesday evenings, we will be coupling our beloved Holden evening prayer with the Good Friday Solemn Reproaches in an effort to draw attention to and eliminate the ways that antisemitism can present itself in subtle ways and explore how we can avoid unnecessary pitfalls. Firstly, here is a brief history of the Solemn Reproaches.

The Solemn Reproaches are liturgical poetry that began to be incorporated into the Roman Rite and spread throughout Europe from the 7<sup>th</sup> century to the 11<sup>th</sup> century. Composed for use on the Good Friday liturgy, the voice of God and His people dialog, with God asking what He has he done to us to have His son taken to a cross after so many biblical references to His constant guiding presence.

Our lack of faith is questioned when asked what “more could I have done for you?” (From Micah 6:3) Our lack of faith and trust as Christians becomes clear when we see the way God’s presence hovered over us in the Old Testament and our response is to “prepare a cross for (our) Savior.” The liturgical text then has the people responding with what is called a Trisagion, a thrice plea for mercy. “Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.”

Controversy has always surrounded the incorporation of this text into Good Friday’s liturgy. The anti-Semitic overtones of the original text seem to clearly blame the Jewish people (not the Roman) for the death of Jesus. Other questionable texts were often used in the Roman Rite, so much so, that Jews in the Middle Ages were often ordered to stay indoors, and even though local churches would condemn the practice, they would turn a blind eye to the common practice of throwing stones and generally attacking Jewish citizens.

It would not be until the Second Vatican Council when the blatant overtones were called into question and revised. Even after analysis of the new text, it still seemed clear that Jews were being blamed for the death of Jesus, something even scripturally alluded to with the use of the reading of St. John’s account of the passion. For obvious reasons, many ecclesial bodies just eliminated usage altogether of the Reproaches and some attempted revisions to greater or lesser success.

So, why does the ELCA Church use them still? One would be led to believe that a progressive arm of Lutheranism would have simply discarded them. As we will see this Lent, you will see how the ELCA responded in their reworking of the Reproaches, invites us as a Church to repentance, and shows us ways we can be sensitive to ways anti-Semitism can present itself if not careful.

By Aria Thomé, PhD

# Announcements & Anniversaries

## ***Congratulations...***

...to Carmen Lampkin and Tyrone Riley on the birth of their daughter Brielle Chanelle Riley! For more photos please see proud grandparents, Fred and Rose Tatum!



...to Garrett Finazzo on starting his new job with MCU!

## ***Condolences...***

...to Pastor Kendra and her family on the death of her mother Jocyle A. Nolde who died January 22nd.

...to Dell Roth and her family on the death of her mother Mary who died on January 26th.

...to Jack Wind and his family on the death of two of his cousins.

## ***Thank you...***

...to Michael McFarlane, Keith Paulson, Rob and Carolyn Schainker, Sue Hackmann, and Mike and Kim Elliott for all their hard work setting up for the Chili Cook-Off and Cookie Bake-Off. Watch the March Messenger for a list of the winners and pictures from the event.

## ***Welcome...***

... to our new members: Katie and Miriam Bellis, Lily Bennett, Seth Kassel and Noah Madrigal, Roderic Kerner, and Rick Yakimo. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to the newest members of our Gethsemane family. Watch the March Messenger for pictures and additional information.



## **February Birthdays**

- 1 Damien Gustafson
- 13 Dawn Riske  
Cynthia Tanner
- 14 KT Elliott
- 15 Jill Ehret  
Lisette Overton
- 17 Maya Kohlberg
- 18 Anna Bohnert
- 19 Fred Tatum
- 21 Zach Hunsinger
- 22 Darlene McElwee
- 23 Scott Hanson  
Rick Yakimo
- 25 Brock Williams
- 26 Tom Wobbe
- 27 Jack Wind



## **February Anniversaries**

- 06 Courtney Baxter –Annis & Nathan Annis 3
- 19 Melissa Tepe & Michael McFarlane 19
- 20 Kendra Nolde & Jeff Lindgren 36

# Dates to Remember

## Coming Up:

Sunday, February 4	Chili/Cookie Cook-Off
Sunday, February 11	Super Bowl Snacks fundraiser
Monday, February 12	Red Cross Blood Drive 1-5pm
Wednesday, February 14	Ash Wednesday
Tuesday, February 20	Midweek Lenten services begin
Saturday, February 24	Project Sanctuary
Tuesday, February 27	Midweek Lenten service

## Don't Forget

Every Wednesday -  
Bulletin Items By Noon

Second Tuesday -  
Church Council Meeting

Third Friday -  
Messenger Articles Due

December 1st -  
Budget Requests Due

Committee Reports are  
due Friday, December 6th.



## SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

The "Song of Mark" will be performed across the street at St. Joan of Arc on February 25th. Several Gethsemane choir members are performing in this piece. See page 4 for details.

# Get Connected @ Gethsemane

## Gethsemane Lutheran Church

3600 Hampton Ave.,  
St. Louis, MO 63109  
Phone: 314-352-8050  
Fax: 314-352-8051  
Email Address:  
[office@gethsemanestl.org](mailto:office@gethsemanestl.org)  
Church Office Hours: 8:00am-2:00pm

**Pastoral Care:** Rev. Cheryl Walenta  
Gorvie 903-918-3992  
[pastor@gethsemanestl.org](mailto:pastor@gethsemanestl.org)

**Council President** Gary Borkowski  
314-489-0937  
[gvborkowski@gmail.com](mailto:gvborkowski@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.gethsemanestl.org](http://www.gethsemanestl.org)  
**YouTube:** [gethsemanestl](http://gethsemanestl.org)  
**Instagram:** [gethsemane\\_elca\\_stl](https://www.instagram.com/gethsemane_elca_stl)  
**Pinterest:** Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
**Facebook:** Gethsemane Lutheran Church - ELCA, St. Louis, MO

## eMESSENGER

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

## WEEKLY E-NEWS

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

## MESSENGER NEWS

You can send your news and notes for the *Messenger* to [messenger@gethsemanestl.org](mailto:messenger@gethsemanestl.org). There is also a *Messenger* drawer by the church office. For best results, news should be in by the third Friday of each month.





Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
3600 Hampton Avenue  
Saint Louis, MO 63109

Return Service Requested

## Year in Pictures

