

First Sunday of Advent

November 27, 2022



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton - St. Louis, MO 63109

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

PRELUDE by Gethsemane Bell Choir: *Two Pieces for Advent* Linda Scholes

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
 Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of great expectations,
 We confess that we have been closed off to your reign of justice. We have strayed from your paths. We expect war instead of peace. We lower our expectations for life, dishonoring one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your expectant way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P: People of God, expect the unexpected. God gives us living signs: New things are growing in our midst and tender branches spring forth. This is our life expectancy. By water and the Spirit we are joined to this wonder. We have put on ✠ Christ, and our sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of our God, where and when we least expect it.
 Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

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

First Sunday - Hope

*Light the candle of Hope today,
the giver of hope will come!
Welcome the hope we long and wait for,
but only Christmas can give.
Flicker and flame and glow with hope
light up the world around you.
Flicker and flame and glow with hope,
Light up the world around 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.
And also, with you.

KYRIE

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

C 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

C 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

C 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. Awaken us to your promise. Make us ready for your justice. We ask this in the name of the One who brings salvation near.

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 worshiping community responds: “Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!”

¹The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²In 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. ³Many 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. ⁴He 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.

⁵O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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.

¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, 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.

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 24th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

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 disciple, ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing

until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But 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. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN’S SERMON with Chris Schmidt

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

Hymn# 242



1 A - wake! A - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though



an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall



soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.



Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less



geth - er, he o - pens wide the heav'n - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - 'ry day we share and



lives now in - side us for - ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

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The congregation may stand as comfortable.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

P: Let us join together as we affirm our faith.

We believe in God, who in greatness created with a Word all that is and continues to be.

We believe in God, who is Word made flesh, Emmanuel, born of Mary, come to fulfill the expected promise: justice, mercy, peace, love; who was executed because our expectations were worldly, not divine; who rose to break the expectation that death has the final word.

We believe in God who fills us with expectations; who pushes us to change; who moves us with her joy and gladness that we might be united to proclaim the Word full of grace and truth for an expectant people.

THE PRAYERS

AM: Anticipating the coming of God's redeeming love, let us pray for a world in longing expectation.

A brief silence.

AM: God of all, your children everywhere cry out for mercy. Awaken the global church to the urgent needs of our time. Break down barriers of culture and custom and unite people of all faiths in your redemptive and healing work. When we least expect,

God hears our prayer.

AM: God of wonder, the earth's beauty and abundance is your gift. Teach us your ways of sharing resources and caring for life. Guard fragile habitats, preserve the wild places, and protect endangered plants and animals. When we least expect,

God hears our prayer.

AM: God of peace, you judge the nations. Beat our weapons into tools for serving the neighbor. Strengthen the resolve of all who work for an end to war. We pray for lasting peace in the land of Jesus' birth. When we least expect,

God hears our prayer.

AM: God of lovingkindness, you desire fullness of life. Fill those who hunger. Comfort the grieving and attend to those near death. Bring help and hope to any who are sick or needing your care. Today we pray especially for Damien, Neil, Barb, Kevin, Kathy, Troy, Maryn, Susan, Elizabeth, Adayah, Fred, Joan, and those we name before you now either silently in our hearts or spoken from our lips. . . . When we least expect,

God hears our prayer.

AM: God of community, you are present when we gather in your name. Guide congregations in transition or conflict. Give wisdom to congregational councils, call committees, and ministry leaders. Keep us alert to unexpected opportunities for mission. When we least expect,

God hears our prayer.

P: Trusting that God hears us and knows our deepest longings, we offer our prayers with great expectation.

Amen.

THE PEACE

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

And also, with you.

P: I invite you to share a sign of peace with those around 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:

8:30am – TBD

11:00am Gethsemane Choir – Wait for the Lord

Jacques Berthier

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

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 that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

C 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.

P: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en.
Christ will come a - gain.

P: Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the incarnation of your Son: his human birth and the covenant he made with us. We remember the sacrifice of his life: his eating with outcasts and sinners, and his acceptance of death. But chiefly we remember his rising from the tomb, his ascension to the seat of power, and his sending of the holy and life-giving Spirit. We cry out for the resurrection of our lives, when Christ will come again in beauty and power to share with us the great and promised feast.



A - men. Come, Lord Je - sus.

P: Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we and all who share in this bread and cup may be united in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, may enter the fullness of the kingdom of heaven, and may receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.



A - men. Come, Ho - ly Spir - it.

P: Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Hymn# 436



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the
Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
bliss be - yond all dream - ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

What Feast of Love

Hymn# 487



1 What feast of love is of - fered here, what ban-quet come from heav - en?
2 What light of truth is of - fered here, what cov - e - nant from heav - en?
3 What wine of love is of - fered here, what crim-son drink from heav - en?



What food of ev - er - last-ing life, what gra - cious gift is giv - en?
What hope of ev - er - last-ing life, what won-drous word is giv - en?
What stream of ev - er - last-ing life, what pre - cious blood is giv - en?



This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sun come down from heav - en.
This, this is Christ the king, the sweet - est wine of heav - en.



Oh, taste and see and sing! How sweet the man - na giv - en!
Oh, see and hear and sing! The Word of God is giv - en!
Oh, taste and see and sing! The Son of God is giv - en!

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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 CANTICLE: *Now Let Your Servant Go in Peace*

C Now, Lord, you let your ser- vant go in peace:
your word has been ful- filled. My own eyes have
seen the sal- va - tion which you have pre - pared in the sight of all
peo - ple: a light to re - veal you to the
na- tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa- ther and to the Son, glo - ry to the
Ho - ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and
will be for - ev - er. A - men, a - men, a - men.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: In this meal we have experienced God with us

Ordinary made extraordinary: familiar made holy

AM: As we are called forth from the table, may we awaken to divine justice

That these expectant days may be alive with hope

AM: We pray this in the name of the one who has promised to come again,

Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

These are ways we are sharing God's Grace with our community and with the world!

BLESSING

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen

SENDING HYMN: *My Lord, What a Morning*

Hymn# 438

Refrain



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

Refrain

Text: African American spiritual. Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritualPublic Domain.

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace and in hope-filled expectation. Watch; wait; pray; dream.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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We invite all **members, guests and visitors**
to join us for coffee and doughnuts after worship
in the Walter Eckman Fellowship Hall downstairs.



Today's flowers were given by the Fenton family
in appreciation of family and health.

WORSHIP LEADERS		
PASTOR	Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
ORGANIST	Michelle Sliger	
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Chris Schmidt	
GREETER	Darleen McElwee	Keith Paulson
USHERS	John McElwee and Cayce Morice	Rob Schainker and Kim Elliott
ASSISTING MINISTER	Phyllis Saathoff	Gary Borkowski
LECTOR	Cayce Morice	Kim Elliott
ALTAR GUILD	Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton	
BREAD BAKER	Tepe Family	
WINE	Hartz Family	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	Wisch Family	
DONUT PICK UP	Scanlan Family	

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

THANK YOU! We would like to thank everyone who was able to support our adopt a family drive for St. Anthony's. As of earlier this week, almost all 40 of the individuals were sponsored. Don't forget to bring your gifts back to the church no later than next Sunday, December 4th. We are also collecting blankets and gift cards from local stores to be divided between St. Anthony's and Isaiah 58. You have an extra week for blankets and gift cards. They are due back at the church by Sunday, December 11th.

Blood Drive! The next Blood Drive at Gethsemane is on Monday, December 12, from 1:30pm-5:30pm. Sign up to donate through Gethsemane's website. We are also looking for volunteers to help people get checked in. You do not need to give blood to volunteer, but you can if you want! Email Gretchen for more information or to volunteer.

Interested in Joining Gethsemane? We are planning a new member orientation for those who are interested in joining Gethsemane, or just curious about what makes this church special on Sunday, December 11th from 4-7pm. Please indicate your interest on the attendance form in your bulletin or contact the church office to reserve your place. Dinner will be served and childcare is available upon request.

The choirs are looking to expand their presence in this year's Christmas worship services. If you would like to add your voice or ring for the Christmas celebration, please contact Aria.

Freezer Meals: If you know someone who would benefit from a meal, please consider looking in Gethsemane's freezer! (Behind the door in the fellowship hall with a sign that says "Not an Exit") We have an abundance of frozen meals and need them gone before they expire! Please ensure the following criteria are met before you take a meal to someone: are they alive? Do they eat food? If you answered yes to either of these questions, they are eligible for a meal!

Midweek Advent Plans: Starting Wednesday, November 30th, we will celebrate Advent with a family friendly meal and worship service. Please plan to join us each Wednesday night during Advent in the fellowship hall for a shared meal and brief service based on the Holden Evening Prayer service and each week's theme. We will provide the foundation of each meal and ask that you bring something to share. This is low stress, so keep it simple. Regardless of what you are able to share (a bag of salad, a pizza, a container of brownies, a bag of clementines or carrots) we'll be happy to see you.

Introduction to the Season: We begin Advent with the call to "...be ready, for the Son of Humanity is coming at an unexpected hour" (Matt. 24:44). How can we expect the unexpected? In a world that has already traversed through Easter's promise, it is often easy to forget that every year we enter Advent as a season of expectation and promise. We spend the four weeks waiting and watching, with wonder building as we hear of God's expected transformation of the world. From weapons transformed into plowshares, through rulers promised to bring justice and peace, over dry places made fertile with life, to God with Us—Immanuel, our expectations grow ever greater.

When Mary brings forth her first-born son, wraps him in bands of cloth, and places him in a feeding trough, we find the fullness of God in a tiny child—everything and nothing we expected from the grace of God appearing in the world. Still, we are called to be heralds of this promise that continues to reverberate through the generations—the light shining in the shadowed world that cannot be overcome.

Through this Advent and Christmas season, we are invited into a time of great expectation. We are invited to wrestle with our own expectations of God and God's expectations for us. Where is God calling us to be willingly watchful? Where is God delighting us with unexpected peace? Where is God filling us with unexpected abundance? Where is God meeting us with the divine in our midst?

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
November 27 – December 4, 2022**

Today	8:30 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube
First Sunday of Advent	9:45 am	Fellowship Coffee
	11:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person
11/28 Monday	6:30 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal
	7:30 pm	Vocal Choir Rehearsal
11/29 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
11/30 Wednesday	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
	6:00 pm	Midweek Advent Service
12/4 Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube
Second Sunday of Advent	9:45 am	Fellowship Coffee Hour and Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Sunday, December 11 th	9:50 am 4:00 pm	Little Free Pantry Discussion New Member Orientation
Monday, December 12 th	1:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Sunday, December 18 th	11:00 am	Children’s Christmas Program

WEEKLY THEME

Advent 1: Great Expectations - When You Least Expect

Let’s face it—things do not always happen when we want them to happen. The people of God were tired. They were waiting for something that looked like swords. But God had promised swords turned into plowshares. They were expecting more of the same—a worldly king and throne. We too, often expect more of the same: God ruling through power and military might; worldly rulers bringing some sort of salvation.

But we are called to wake up. How? Imagine being in a deep sleep. Suddenly, your alarm goes off and you are not ready! Do you hit the snooze button or do you jump out of bed? Most of us would prefer to hit the snooze button, roll over, shut our eyes, and sink into more comfortable, dozy sleep. **WAKE UP SLEEPERS!** God calls us without warning... when we least expect it.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Damien Gustafson – healing and back pain relief
Neil Gustafson – strength and pain relief
Barb Johnson – healing after recent surgery
Kevin Kopplin – continued health and strength
Kathy Lee – continued healing as she recovers in rehab
Troy Mann – healing and strength
Maryn Olson – as she starts a new job
Susan Otto – freedom from pain, continued healing as she recovers in rehab
Elizabeth Penny – healing after recent surgery
Adayah Tatum
Fred Tatum – pain relief for back
Joan Williams – strength and freedom from pain

Request for:	On Behalf of:
Pam Murphy (healing), Peggy Adams (healing)	<i>Jean Chouquette</i>
Donald Jenson (strength, comfort)	<i>Mark Cutelli</i>
The Berghorn family on the loss of a husband and dad	<i>Barb Johnson</i>
Grayson (continued healing)	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
Darlene's sister (strength, healing) as she goes through chemo and radiation treatments for cancer	<i>McElwee Family</i>
Marie (healing, strength, comfort), Ginny Olson (comfort, peace, strength); those who mourn; all impacted by gun violence, for peace and justice in our world	<i>Olson/Fulton Family</i>
Brother-in-law, Harry Lewis (healing from surgery, pain relief)	<i>Carleen Reinhardt</i>
Nephew Bryan (strength, healing after surgery)	<i>Phyllis Saathoff</i>
Greg (support), Ken (healing)	<i>Kate Schejbal</i>
Venie, Mary Ann, and Ruth (strength, healing)	<i>Scanlan Family</i>
Prayers for a healthy and safe pregnancy	<i>Lindsay Schuessler and Brian Williams</i>
The family and friends of Bobby Silverstein	<i>Unsicker Family</i>
Lois Wind (guidance, healing, freedom from pain)	<i>Joan Williams</i>
Mike, Liz, and Allison (healing, comfort)	<i>Yemm Family</i>

Note: Prayer requests will remain in the bulletin for two weeks. After that time, they will be removed. Simply resubmit or update your request as necessary.

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, 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 straight, gay, lesbian, 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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Commitment Sunday – December 4th

Next Sunday, we will commit our financial pledges for the coming year during the worship service. Your 2023 Pledge card was mailed this week and should be arriving soon, if you have not already received it. Additional pledge cards are available in the church narthex, by the bulletins. Please prayerfully consider how you can contribute to the mission of the church in 2023.



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