

Season of Creation
18th Sunday after Pentecost
September 27th, 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

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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

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *All Earth is Hopeful*

Alberto Taule, Arr. by Lynn L. Petersen

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, our hope, our heart, our home.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,

C: we confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate oppression and injustice. We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will. Amen.

P: All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:

God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of ☩ Jesus Christ, and frees you to love the world as you have been loved. Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more. When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.

Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *O Master, Let Me Walk with You*

HYMN# 818

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: God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

MISSION MOMENT

Chris Schmidt

WORD

THE FIRST READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

¹ The word of the Lord came to me: ² What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? ³ As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel.

⁴ Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins who shall die.

²⁵ Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? ²⁶ When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed, they shall die. ²⁷ Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸ Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹ Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

³⁰ Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin.

³¹ Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? ³² For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord God. Turn, then, and live.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 52:1-9

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

¹ To | you, O LORD,
I lift | up my soul.

² **My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be | put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph | over me.**

³ Let none who look to you be | put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame | who are treacherous.

⁴ **Show me your | ways, O LORD,
and teach | me your paths.**

⁵ Lead me in your | truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all | the day long.

⁶ **Remember, O LORD, your compas- | sion and love,
for they are from | everlasting.**

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and ¹ my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good-¹ness, O
LORD.

⁸ **You are gracious and up-¹right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners ¹in your way.**

⁹ You lead the low-¹ly in justice
and teach the low-¹ly your way.

SECOND READING: Philippians 2:1-13

As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.

¹ If, then, there is any comfort in Christ, any consolation from love, any partnership in the Spirit, any tender affection and sympathy, ² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests but to the interests of others. ⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he existed in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be grasped,

⁷ but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
assuming human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a human,

⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God exalted him even more highly
and gave him the name
that is above every other name,

¹⁰ so that at the name given to Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

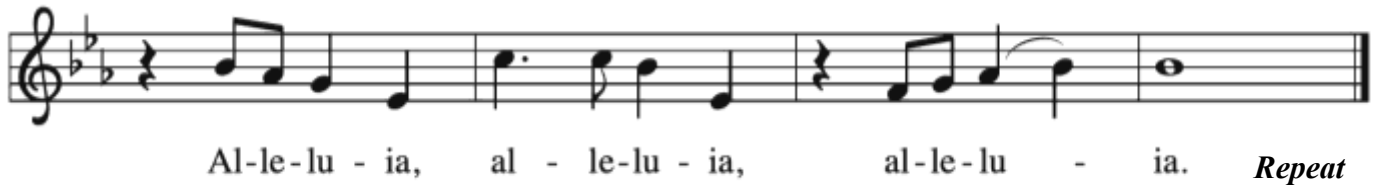
¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence but much more now in my absence, work on your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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 21th chapter:

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

²³ When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴ Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵ Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe him?’ ²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same, and he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³² For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him, and even after you saw it you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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.

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: We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need.

A brief silence.

AM: . . . Hear us, O God,

C: **Your mercy is great.**

P: Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and 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 Choir): *Dona Nobis Pacem*

Emily Lund

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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: The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

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.

Take, Oh, Take Me As I Am

HYMN# 814

Dona Nobis Pacem (repeat until communion ends)

HYMN# 753

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. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, 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: Creator God bless you and keep you. Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy. Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *What God Ordains Is Good Indeed*

HYMN# 776

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Postlude*

E. L. Ashford

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The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by
Don Kurt in loving memory of Jane Kurt



WORSHIP LEADERS	
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
GREETER	Lois Wind
USHERS	Peggy Lewis, Denise Buehrer
ASSISTING MINISTER	Natalie Traylor Fontana
LECTOR	Anja Walentik
CANTOR	Ruthie Grollman
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Mary Wolfsberger
ACOLYTE	Noel Nahm
DONUT DRIVER	Wolfsberger
FELLOWSHIP HOST	<i>Needed</i>
ALTAR GUILD	Olson – Fulton
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson
WINE SPONSOR	Wind Family

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 shoulder surgery and recovery

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
Prayer for Molly Johnson and her family	<i>Bellis Family</i>
Family healing	<i>Jung Family</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Venezuela, Columbia, Nepal and Tibet; all impacted by disasters; Pat Fulton (strength); Ginny Olson (strength); Jojo (healing, energy); John and Rita (comfort as they mourn); 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), Dale (employment), Allen (healing), Rob, Chase, Judy, Russell and Tanya, Diane, Nicole and Steve (housing, food, health and hope.)	<i>Social Action</i>

LIVING YOUR FAITH

GIVE

The **September Big Ask** is **diapers**, to support both Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's diaper and drives. Did you know that the St. Louis Diaper Bank distributes 250,000 diapers per month to families in need? Our donations help fill this critical need!

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. This is separate from the Little Free Food Pantry funds. Donations are welcome.

Ronnie York will be moving into a nearby apartment this week after being unhoused for 2 years, and we are **accepting donations of used household items**. Please use the link in the enews to sign up to provide an item on the list. Items can be dropped off at Gethsemane this week. Contact Eve Cooney in the office to arrange drop off of small items or pick up of large items. We are also looking for a few volunteers to help move in on Fri./Sat, October 2-3.

ACT

Gethsemane is supporting the **Lutherans for Love and Pride** booth at **Tower Grove Pride Fest this weekend!** If you visit this afternoon, make sure to look for our booth.

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.

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

JOIN

Get to Know Gethsemane returns **TODAY**, September 27, 4-7 pm. This is an information session for anyone who wants to learn about Gethsemane, and also a new member orientation for those who wish to become members. Dinner provided. RSVP to Pastor Cheryl. Please let us know if you would like child care.

The next GLC **Women's Luncheon** will be held **TOMORROW, Monday, Sept 28, 11:30 am** at Las Fuentes Mexican Restaurant, 8025 MacKenzie Rd. Contact Phyllis Saathoff to RSVP

Sunday School started today before Worship. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers! We hope it is a great year!

Here is the schedule:

9:00 am: All gather in the sanctuary for music

9:15 am: groups will head to their classrooms (3 years old – 5th Grade)
or to Faith Village (younger children and parents, fellowship stage)

9:50 am: Sunday School concludes, followed by Worship at 10 am

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
September 27 – October 4, 2026

9/27 Sunday	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:15 am 4–7 pm Various times	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee Sunday School and Faith Village ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Worship and Music Committee Meeting Get to Know Gethsemane, information session and/or new member orientation. RSVP to Pastor Cheryl. Pride Fest Continues at Tower Grove Park
9/28 Monday	11:30 am 6-7 pm	Womens Lunch at Las Fuentes. Contact Phyllis Handbell Choir Rehearsal
9/29 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
9/30 Wednesday	1:00 – 3:00 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Choir Rehearsal
10/4 Sunday	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:15 am 4:00 pm	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee Sunday School and Faith Village ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube VBS Planning Meeting Blessing of the Animals. Volunteers Wanted!

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 12	1-5 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Sat, Oct 17	9 am – 2 pm	Fall Church Clean Up day! Projects for all ages!
Sun, Oct 18	9 am	Bread For the World Sunday
Tues, Oct 20	6:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Sun, Oct 25	10 am	Reformation Sunday and Confirmation
Tues, Oct 26	11:30 am 6:00 pm	GLC Women's Luncheon NorthHampton Neighbors Meeting
Fri, Oct 30	6:30 pm	Halloween Organ Concert featuring Amy's organ students and other Gethsemane musicians

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.



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

 This Bulletin is 100% recyclable. If you would like to keep your copy, please do so. If you are done with your copy, please place it in the basket provided as you exit the sanctuary.