

# GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

February 2023

Volume #130 Issue #2

**The time  
of Lent  
is upon  
us.  
Prepare!**

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# Pastor's Page

"I tell you: love your enemies and pray for your persecutors.

This will prove that you are children of God.

For God makes the sun rise on bad and good alike;

God's rain falls on the just and the unjust."

--Jesus (Matthew 5:44-45, The Inclusive Bible)

Do you ever get depressed while listening to the news? Or do you ever just avoid the news because you want to avoid the bad stuff? Do you get angry about what's going on in the world, and you want to fix it but don't know how? Do you get upset about people who seem to be making things worse?

All this stuff happens to me. Often. I want to find some wisdom in Scripture, because isn't there peace in God's Word, somewhere? Isn't there justice, and victory over one's enemies, and righteousness through Jesus Christ? It sounds hopeful.

So there in Scripture, I find Jesus: preaching about loving one's enemies. And I roll my eyes. I don't wanna do that.

Jesus is really annoying because he just doesn't ever quit preaching about love. I always want to justify myself with all the reasons why I should be excused from this assignment, but my own justification is never going to be enough. And somewhere in between the lines of Jesus's words, I hear the echo of a question:

"Who do you want to be?"

You can't change someone else's behavior, but what about your own? How do you want to spend your precious time and energy? Would you rather live disconnected from reality because it's too painful, or do you want to live in this world with all its beauty and pain because God is present here?

Loving one's enemies starts to sound like a matter of setting priorities: if I don't want to nurture the hatred and anger in my heart, then I need to let that go, and that looks like love. And that doesn't mean I ignore what my enemies are doing; sometimes loving my enemies means holding them accountable for their actions. Accountability is a loving thing to do because it builds trust, even if it sometimes feels awkward at first.

Even after all the Valentine's Day hearts and chocolates and decorations have drifted away, what is the love which remains? What is the love worth fighting for, worth working toward, worth engaging?

The crucified and risen Christ waves his nail-scarred hand and says, "I can tell you all about it."

# Worship in February

**Sunday, February 5, 2023**

**5th Sunday after Epiphany**

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship

9:45am *Coffee Hour/Sunday School*

11:00am In-Person Worship

**Sunday, February 12, 2023**

**6th Sunday after Epiphany**

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship

9:45am *Coffee Hour/Sunday School*

11:00am In-Person Worship

**Sunday, February 19, 2023**

**Transfiguration**

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship

9:45am *Coffee Hour/Sunday School*

11:00am In-Person Worship

**Sunday, February 26, 2023**

**1st Sunday of Lent**

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship

9:45am *Coffee Hour/Sunday School*

11:00am In-Person Worship



## Lenten Worship Schedule

**Ash Wednesday - February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

12:00pm Worship Service

7:00pm Worship Service\*

**Midweek Worship Services\***

7:00 pm Wednesdays

(3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29)

Holden Evening Prayer

**Holy Week**

Maundy Thursday\*

April 6th -7:00 pm

Good Friday\*

April 7th - 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil (TBA)

Easter Sunday April 9th

8:30 am\*

11:00 am

\*These services will be live-streamed to YouTube.

## January Attendance

**January 1st**

20 In-Person      50 Online

**January 8th**

88 In-Person      63 Online

**January 15th**

90 In-Person      32 Online

**January 22nd**

92 In-Person      37 Online

**January 29th**

83 In-Person      26 Online

## Attention Worship Leaders

Did you know it takes, on average, **12** people to lead a single worship service? Multiply that by two services on any given Sunday, and then by four weeks, and we need at least **96** volunteers a month. Please consider volunteering. We really need your help!

This month, we will be rolling out a new online system that allows you to schedule the days and duties you are interested in serving. Watch for more info.

# Community Life

## January/February:

Laundry Soap &  
Dish Soap

## March/April:

Toilet Paper &  
Feminine Hygiene Pads



Throughout the year, Gethsemane will have specific "**Big Ask**" requests to benefit St. Anthony's and Isaiah 58. For complete details please visit Gethsemane's website: [gethsemanestl.org/big-ask](http://gethsemanestl.org/big-ask).

## Gethsemane is Excited to Introduce:

There are many different kinds of animals and plants that live on earth. This is called biodiversity! Biodiversity is good for the earth because it keeps nature in balance. Having more nature areas can even help the climate. The new Gethsemane Green Committee is committed to improving our little piece of nature, and our first step is making bird feeders! For two weeks (Feb 5 and 12) we would like to collect empty, clean 2-liter soda bottles with caps; clean orange juice or other juice cartons; and any wooden spoons to help us make bird feeders for around the church. We would also appreciate donations of birdseed for the bird feeders. Please put your donations in the box in the hall to the office. Your donation could help change the future!



## Keeping Saint Louis Warm One Mitten at a Time!

Congratulations Gethsemane!

We managed to fill the Mitten tree two times in January. A total of 92 hats, 98 mittens and gloves, and 4 scarves were collected, for a grand total of 194 items. Thank you. All items will be divided between our two food pantry partners.

## LuMin

is once again hosting "Jesus and Dinner" nights every Sunday and Gethsemane is helping with the second Sunday on:

**February 12<sup>th</sup> and March 12<sup>th</sup>.**

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



## Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

1:30pm - 5:30pm

Warm hearts. Warm thoughts.

Give in February for a \$10 Gift

Card by email, thanks to Amazon, and be automatically entered for a chance to win a trip for two to Clearwater Beach, FL. Includes travel, hotel, gift card and more! Terms: [rcblood.org/heart](http://rcblood.org/heart).

**St. Philip's Lutheran Church in The Ville** is hosting a celebration in honor of Black History Month on Sunday, February 26th: "Young, Gifted, and Black" Morning worship at 10:00 am, with potluck lunch following (bring a side dish, salad, or dessert to share).

# Connections Corner



✉: [glestlsocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:glestlsocialmedia@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**

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## 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)

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This Lent, we invite you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. We encourage you to participate and have a focused, faith-based conversation with a fellow Gethsemane member—a “friend for Lent” at least once during Lent. If you would like to participate, a survey will be available February 11th to help us match you with your new friend. Brief discussion started questions will be provided to help get the conversations rolling.



**Directory:** As you may have read from the weekly e-news, we have brought back the original Instant Church Directory! For the few of you who were able to figure out the new Directory/Member Portal - that is not going away and the Member Portal is still the best way for you to quickly see your current giving and update any address changes. The website will have links to all the directories including a PDF that you can download. (The PDF will change periodically so you might have to download it monthly to stay up to date.) Contact the church office for the password for the PDF. The password will stay the same throughout 2023.

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## Find Gethsemane on Social Media:

**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





# Around the Church

## GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN (GLCW)

We welcome back the ladies of GLC to our monthly luncheon! Prior to the pandemic, this group of women met monthly (usually the fourth Monday of the month) at different restaurants in the area. It is primarily a social gathering for everyone to get to know each other more. The luncheon is open to all women of Gethsemane. Each month an individual signs up as a hostess, identifies a location and communicates to Joan Williams so it can be published. Our first luncheon of 2023 will be:

**DATE:** Monday, February 20, 2023 (NOTE: DATE CHANGE)

**TIME:** 11:30 AM

**LOCATION:** Olive Garden at 5529 S. Lindbergh Blvd. – South County

**RSVP:** Call Joan Williams by Friday, 2/17 (314-894-0646)

## Freezer Meals!

Thank you to everyone who has taken freezer meals! It's now time to restock! For details see the Friday e-news in February for tips



*Around the  
Church*

## Gethsemane's Annual Chili Cook-Off and Cookie Contest!! Sunday, February 5th (Noon-ish)



The Chili/Cookie Cook-off is BACK! This is a free event! Stay after the 11am service and head to the Fellowship Hall to taste test your fellow Gethsemane friends' chilis and cookies. Everyone present is a voter! Prizes are awarded to the top three chilies and cookies.



## Little Free Pantry Update

Planning is underway for a Little Free Food Pantry. Under the Social Action Team umbrella, a group has met several times to discuss, research, and plan for Gethsemane's Little Free Food Pantry. They selected a style (see image below from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Fayetteville, AR), secured funds for building materials and initially stocking the pantry, and made plans for working within Gethsemane and our community to care for the pantry. The new addition will be placed next to the Little Free Library. We hope to dedicate the completed project on Easter Sunday.



Would you like to be involved? On February 12th, Super Bowl Sunday, we will be collecting a noisy offering for our food pantry partners, Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's. Please consider bringing a pop top can of food to donate to the new pantry and help someone in our own neighborhood.



# Meet the Church Council



**Betsy Bartholomew**



**Gary Borkowski**



**Richard Brendel**



**Matthew Christian**



**Eve Cooney**



**Barb Johnson**



**Richard Lima**



**Carolyn Schainker**



**Richard Schuessler**



**Anja Walentik**

Introducing Gethsemane's 2023 Church Council members! Barb Johnson will continue as President, Carolyn Schainker is the new Vice President, and Anja Walentik will serve again as secretary. If you would like to contact a Council member, their email addresses and phone numbers are in the Online Directory and on Gethsemane's website. The Church Council meets the second Tuesday of each month. New and returning members of Council will be installed during a yet-to-be-determined worship service in February.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank the current and new members of the committees listed below:

## **Endowment Fund:**

Richard Brendel  
Chuck Wuensch  
Sarah Unsicker  
Steve Walentik  
Mary Ruckdeschel

## **Memorial Fund:**

Jean Chouquette  
Norm Hopfer  
Chris Schmidt  
Lindsay Schuessler  
Dawn Schuessler  
Leslie Wobbe

## **Nominating Committee:**

Ami Boehlje  
Michael Elliott  
John McElwee  
Becky Rentchler  
Emily Szyman  
Steve Walentik





## **Audit Committee:**

Cayce Morice  
Angie Fulton  
Megan Yemm

thank  
you!

# February 2023

## Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
<b>5</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Chili Cook-Off	<b>6</b> 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	<b>7</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Worship and Music Committee Meeting	<b>8</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>9</b>  <b>Happy Groundhog Day</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>National Make a Friend Day</b> "Friend for Lent" survey opens today.
<b>12</b> <b>Transfiguration of Our Lord</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School 11:00am Worship	<b>13</b> <b>Red Cross Blood Drive</b> 1:30pm-5:30pm 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	<b>14</b> <b>Valentine's Day</b> 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	<b>15</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>Messenger info. due</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School 11:00am Worship	<b>20</b> <b>President's Day</b> Office Closed 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	<b>21</b> 10:00am Bible Study	<b>22</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 10:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Worship 7:00pm Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Kim on Vacation
<b>26</b> <b>First Sunday in Lent</b> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School 9:50am Social Action Meeting; Little Free Pantry 11:00am Worship	<b>27</b> <b>Polar Bear Day</b> 	<b>28</b> 10:00am Bible Study				

The lectionary for this Lenten season offers many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking. What unfolds is an exchange filled with questions and exploration. This Lent, we invite you to engage in the spiritual practice of seeking. We encourage you to stay curious, open, and nimble. We hope you will soften your assumptions and expand your perspectives.



# Aria's Notes

by Gethsemane's Music Director: Dr. Aria Thomé

Throughout the season of Lent, beginning with the first weekend of Lent, we will be taking a brief moment to learn or perhaps renew our knowledge about why it is we do what we do in worship. By looking at disparate elements, we will be better able to see and understand the whole and perhaps feel able to enter more deeply into its grace.

The first week we will look at confession and forgiveness. Mercy will be viewed through the lens of our gratitude for baptism. During week two, a close examination of the gathering elements; gathering song, Kyrie, and Cantic of praise will offer us three related but different forms of sung response to ponder. The Word of God during week three will show us the primacy of psalmody and we will leave with a broader understanding of the Gospel Acclamation. What is an acclamation? How is it different? Why do we stand while singing it? The interplay between hearing and responding will be shown when we see how the Hymn of the Day and the Creed are placed side by side in worship during the fourth week. Finally, the last week we will look at the Agnus Dei, or Lamb of God and why it is placed where it is placed, as well the *Nunc Dimittis*, or Post Communion Cantic. What is a cantic? How is it different than a hymn? Can't we just call everything a song?

In school, I can remember examining Bach chorales. Looking at each note, how it related to the other ones played simultaneously, and why it led to and came from where it did. We dove into the structure looking at ways the first four bars related to the last four bars. We saw how a theme was woven into the piece in one part, traveled to another, and was quoted it yet another. The tedium drove us first year theory students crazy. However, when all was said and done, listening to the piece gave such a fresh understanding, and we could hear how the parts interconnected with each other to form the whole and the end result was like a seamless garment...a nectar to our ears.

We care very much that our Worship Services give us Christ's grace, that we resonate with the Word, and that we're brought even closer to God's presence through our voicing of hymns and canticles. We care about the all. The big picture. That that is why we will afford ourselves the opportunity to pause and just ask ourselves why it is we do what we do. We pray it renews your love of our Worship Service!

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If you attended church on Christmas day last year, you may have participated in a different Communion practice called intinction. In February, you will have the opportunity to learn more about this practice as the worship committee and church leadership consider this practice for distributing Communion during Lent. For a better understanding here is a brief explanation.

**Intinction** is the action of dipping the bread in the wine at a Eucharist, so that the communicant receives both together. We are considering this starting Ash Wednesday.

Why?

- more sanitary, as the bread will be larger and hands won't touch the wine
- environmentally friendly as in no more plastic cups
- aesthetically pleasing - no more trash bins or plastic tables
- two cups: one wine, and one grape juice to accommodate needs and preferences
- ease of altar guild's already full responsibilities
- sacramentally sound. If you receive only bread you still receive all the grace of the sacrament.

# Announcements & Anniversaries

## *Congratulations...*



to Matt and Therese Hartz on the birth of Elias Bernard Hartz. Elias was born Wednesday, January 11th. Proud grandparents, Kate and Terry, have been visiting Eli and his big brother Leo and we are sure there will be lots of pictures to share in the near future.

to Rowan Elliott upon receiving acceptance to the Saint Louis University's accelerated graduate program, School of Public Health. She plans to work towards a PhD. in Psychiatric Epidemiology.

## *Thank You...*

to Richard Schussler who recently retired from service as Gethsemane's treasurer. Rick served for over thirty years.

"...to the Gethsemane Ladies for putting together and for delivering to me the Christmas Goodie bag. I really enjoyed it!" -Vi Aronsson

## *Don't forget...*

to pick up your fourth quarter statement for 2022. Statements were placed in the family mailbox of those who have recently attended worship in person. For those who have been unable to attend, statements were mailed to family homes.



If you are looking for a Fish Fry to check out during Lent—the Gethsemane staff recommends St. Cecilia's at 5418 Louisiana Ave. Their first Fish Fry will be on February 24th and they are back with in-person dining but also

have a limited number of order ahead slots. Check the weekly e-news for recommendations each Friday during Lent!

If you would like to recommend a local Fish Fry during Lent, please contact the church office.



## February Birthdays

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

## February Anniversaries

- |    |                                       |    |
|----|---------------------------------------|----|
| 06 | Courtney Baxter –Annis & Nathan Annis | 2  |
| 19 | Melissa Tepe & Michael McFarlane      | 18 |
| 20 | Kendra Nolde & Jeff Lindgren          | 35 |

# Dates to Remember

## Coming Up:

Sunday, February 5	Chili Cook-Off and Cookie Bake-Off
Monday, February 13	Red Cross Blood Drive
Wednesday, February 22	Ash Wednesday
Sunday, February 26	First Sunday in Lent
Sunday, March 12	Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, April 2	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 6	Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 7	Good Friday
Sunday, April 9	Easter
Sunday, April 30	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday, One Service, Volunteer Appreciation Day

## Don't Forget

Every Wednesday -  
Bulletin Items Due

Second Tuesday -  
Church Council Meeting

Third Friday -  
Messenger Articles Due

December First -  
Budget Requests Due

One Month Prior to the Annual  
Meeting in January -  
Committee Reports Due



## SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH Camp Tomah Shinga Visit

Staff from Camp Tomah Shinga will be visiting Gethsemane on Sunday, **February 12th**. They will share a brief presentation at both services and plan to meet with Sunday school students and their parents during fellowship.

# 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**

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** Barb Johnson  
314-962-3501  
[barbjohnson47@hotmail.com](mailto:barbjohnson47@hotmail.com)

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

**YouTube:** [gethsemanestl.org](http://gethsemanestl.org)

**Twitter:** [@gethsemane\\_stl](https://twitter.com/@gethsemane_stl)

**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 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.





Gethsemane Lutheran Church  
3600 Hampton Avenue  
Saint Louis, MO 63109

Return Service Requested

## A Month in Pictures

