



RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY 2026

Celebrating Diversity as God's Children



February 1, 2026

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

Worship God, welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.

Welcome to worship! We're delighted you are here!



Gethsemane Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**



We ask all members, guests, and visitors to please fill out the **attendance slip** in your worship folder and place it in the offering plate.



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the worship service. Sharing that you're at Gethsemane on social media is encouraged! "Check in" using hashtag: #glcstlCheckIn.



The presence, energy, and noise of **children** are always welcome in worship at Gethsemane. The sound of a child in worship is music to our ears. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. Additional space to move and Wiggle Bags are located in the narthex entry area.



Postures are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



Holy Communion is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church wishes to **acknowledge** and **honor** the Osage, Quapaw, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówin, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo peoples upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place—this land—and call it their home.

CHURCH STAFF

Minister: Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
Connections Coordinator: Gretchen Jenson
Office Manager: Eve Cooney
Organist/Interim Choir Director: Amy Croushore
Council President: Gary Borkowski

pastor@gethsemanestl.org
connect@gethsemanestl.org
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organist@gethsemanestl.com
gvborkowski@gmail.com

Office Hours: Vary. Please call before coming to the church to ensure someone will be here to let you in.

Church Office – (314) 352-8050

office@gethsemanestl.org www.gethsemanestl.org

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Schlesische Volkslieder

Performed by Yeats Wolfsberger, Gethsemane Member and Organ student, Age 9

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, \dagger one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

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

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

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!*

HYMN# 873

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 *This is the Feast*

Refrain

This is our gift of o - va - tion for our God, Al - le - lu - ia.

Verse 1

Bles - sed is Christ, the Re - deem - er of all, who showed us the
way to be peo - ple of God. Mer - cy and jus - tice and whole - ness and

Refrain

love, and free - dom and cour - age and peace are his.

Verse 2

Sing _____ with all the peo - ple of God and join in the

hymn _____ of all cre - a - tion. For queer and trans and black and

brown, give _____ thanks to our God for in - clu - sion. A - men.

This is our gift of o - va - tion for our God, for the

Sa - vior of all has come with his peace. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

AM: God of Beauty, you gather your beloved children into your care, each one a unique image of you. You claim us as your own and call us to follow in the ways of mercy, justice, and joy. Strengthen our changing hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING: MICAH 6:1-8

The With the mountains and the foundations of the earth as the jury, God brings a lawsuit against Israel. God has “wearied” Israel with a long history of saving acts. God does not want or expect lavish sacrifices to attempt to earn divine favor. Rather God empowers the people to do justice, to love loyalty to God, and to walk shrewdly in God’s service.

¹ Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ² Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the Lord has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

³ “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴ For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵ O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

⁶ “With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷ Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸ He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 15

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

¹ Lord, who may dwell in your ¹ tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your ¹ holy hill?

² Those who lead a blameless life and do ¹ what is right,

who speak the truth ¹ from their heart;

³ they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil ¹ to their friends;

they do not cast discredit up- ¹ on a neighbor.

⁴ In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who ¹ fear the Lord.

They have sworn upon their health and do not take ¹ back their word.

⁵ They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- ¹ gainst the innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be ¹ overthrown.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31

According to the world's standards of power and might, the message of the cross seems stupid and offensive. Yet this word reveals the paradoxical way God has chosen to work power and salvation through weakness, rejection, and suffering. Hence the message of the cross becomes true wisdom and power for believers.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶ Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; ²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, ²⁹ so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

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

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

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5:1-12

Jesus opens the Sermon on the Mount by naming those who are blessed in the reign of God.

¹ When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ² And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

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

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Let Streams of Living Justice*

HYMN# 710

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

C: We believe in you, O God, who spoke all life into being, author of heaven and earth, architect of time, quilter of the cosmos. You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground, and by your breath we are given life.

We believe in you, O God, who became incarnate in Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh, truly divine and truly human. You lived among us to reveal your justice, died among us to break the bonds of sin and death, and were raised among us to bring abundant life.

We believe in you, O God, who transforms us by the Holy Spirit, draws us into community, moves us to action, and inspires us to hope against hope. You breathe new life into a fallen world and equip us to proclaim the good news of resurrecting love. All thanks and praise to you, O God, our beginning and our end. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AM: Let us pray. Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Creator in prayer.

(A brief silence.)

AM: . . . Spirit, intercede for us,

C: Send wholeness, O God.

AM: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy wisdom.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The spirit-filled peace of Christ be with you always!

C: And also with you!

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

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

The congregation is seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING: *The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Come Build a Church*

(See page 12 for words to this powerful song)

Ken Medema

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

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

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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

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

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

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, in the languages or translations of our hearts.

C: **Heavenly God, giver of life, holy is your name, your blessed community come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For you reign in power and glory now and forever. Amen.**

COMMUNION

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

The congregation is seated.

All who seek the Lord are welcome at Christ's table to receive the gift of God's grace! Those not receiving the bread and wine are welcome to come for a blessing. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Lamb of God

front of hymnal p.154

When the Poor Ones (Cuando el pobre)

HYMN# 725

One Break, One Body

HYMN# 496

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

C: Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After making this time to worship God, these are ways we welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

HYMN# 545

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Heavenly Sunlight*

George Harrison Cook, Arr. by Mark Hayes

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The altar flowers last week were given by the Schuessler family
in celebration of Rick's birthday.



The altar flower's this week are given to the glory of God
by the Gethsemane staff, in thanksgiving for the church council and all volunteers.

WORSHIP LEADERS	
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
GREETER	Carleen Reinhart, Peggy Lewis
USHERS	Cayce Morice, Steve Hetager
ASSISTING MINISTER	Phyllis Saathoff
LECTOR	Rick Schuessler
CANTOR	T. Edwards Breed
INSTRUMENTALIST	Yeats Wolfsberger (organ) Mike Schmidt (trumpet)
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Lindsay Schuessler
ALTAR GUILD	Missy DeVore
RECYCLING RANGER	Cooney
BLOOD PRESSURE	Ted Yemm
CAMERA	Gary Borkowski
WINE SPONSOR	

**Come Build a Church (choir anthem),
By Ken Medema**

God of Creation, Maker of all things, we gather in this place to pray.
We do invite you, come now among us; come and build your church today.

Come build a church with soul and spirit, Come build a church of flesh and bone.
We need no tower rising skyward; No house of wood, or glass, or stone.
Come build a church with human frailty. Come build a church of flesh and blood.
Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the hand of God.

Let us see the tongues of fire. Let us hear the great wind roar.
Let us know the awe and wonder, that we've only glimpsed before.
Let us feel the strength of passion, which can make us laugh and weep.
Let us know this great awakening. For so long we've been asleep.

Let us know the love unceasing, which alone can loose the bounds.
Reaching out across the chasm, bringing walls of hatred down.
Let us taste the sweet communion, where the circle never ends.
Hold us in the sweet connection, turning strangers into friends.

Guide our feet in peaceful pathways. Teach us peace of heart and mind;
Peace with God and all God's children; till we leave our wars behind.
Surely joy will come and find us like a breeze that cools the night;
Like the rain upon the desert; like a candle's' gentle lights.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Mark Cutelli: healing

Neil Gustafson: healing

Kate Hartz: courage and trust

Barb Johnson: healing and strength

Fred Lenhart: recovering from hip surgery

Margaret Lenhart: healing

Richard Lima: recovering from surgery

Elizabeth Penny: healing

Dell Roth: in rehab after surgery

Sharon Salerno: healing and strength

Family and friends of Mark Johnson (**Darlene McElwee**'s brother): Comfort and peace as they mourn his death on Dec. 30, 2025

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
That our thoughts would be on the Kingdom and our eternal safety and that we focus on everyday reminders of the Spirit.	<i>Anonymous</i>
Ed's brother, John Breed (healing)	<i>Breed Family</i>
Mark's brother, Bob Salsman (healing and strength)	<i>Mark Cutelli</i>
For the good health of MCU, so that we can position ourselves to make an impact against the rapid rise of authoritarianism.	<i>Garrett Finazzo</i>
Karis (healing), Tyla (healing), Scott (strength), Parents (continued health), Farmers of the World.	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, Cambodia and Venezuela; Pat Fulton (healing, strength); Ginny Olson (strength and healing); Sister Marie Orf; Jojo (encouragement); those who do not feel safe in their communities; all impacted by disasters; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Jill (healing, love), my loved ones in the Twin Cities: Margaret, Jim, Kathryn, Emily, Chris, Joe, Merritt, Kaitlin and Patrick.	<i>Penny Family</i>

LIVING YOUR FAITH

GIVE

Little Free Pantry Items needed include cereal, shelf-stable milk, canned soups, chili, stews, etc. (pull tops, please) and cold weather items (hats, gloves, hand-warmers, etc.)

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

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

Help Wanted! The property committee is looking for a **drone pilot** who could help them investigate Gethsemane's roof, which has been leaking in various places over the last several months. Please contact Rich Brendel or the office if you know a drone pilot.

ACT

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

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

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

JOIN

The Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck is TODAY! Immediately following worship please stay in the Sanctuary for the Annual Meeting. Any children and non-voting members can meet in the Fellowship hall during the meeting to assemble Blessing Bags. Once the meeting has concluded everyone is invited to head downstairs for a potluck!

The following meetings scheduled for last week have been rescheduled to **next week, February 8:**

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please retrieve your **Year-End Contribution** statements from your mailbox in the hallway. Statements not picked up today will be mailed. If you have changed your pledge amount, don't forget to update your bank or your MyVanco account if you auto-donate.

Shout out to **Yeats Wolfsberger** for his amazing progress learning to play the Pipe Organ. This morning's prelude required him to play with both hands and feet. Yeats has been taking lessons with our organist Amy Crousore since September.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar

February 1 - 8, 2026

2/1/26 Sunday	9:30 am 10:45 am	Reconciling in Christ Sunday Worship: In-Person and Livestream Annual Congregational Meeting followed by Potluck Lunch in Fellowship Hall!
2/2/26 Monday	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
2/3/26 Tuesday	10 am	Bible Study
2/4/26 Wed.	1 – 2:30 pm 6:15-6:30 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Office Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Music Fundamentals Choir Rehearsal
2/8/26 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 11:00 am Noonish	Worship: In-Person and Livestream Fellowship hour Member Care/Fellowship Committee Mtg. (library) Technology Committee Mtg. (choir loft and beyond) Sunday School / Confirmation Worship: In-Person Worship and Music Committee Mtg. (conference room)

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Mondays	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:15 – 8 pm	Music Fundamentals followed by Choir Rehearsal (Music Fundamentals will not meet during Lent, Feb 18-April 5)
Mon, Feb 9	1-5 pm	Blood Drive at Gethsemane
Wed, Feb 18	Noon, 7 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Services
Weds in Lent	5:30 pm	Lent Midweek Worship, Holden Evening Prayer

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

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

Gethsemane is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation Affirmation of Welcome

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

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

People of any race or ethnicity...

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

People of any age...

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

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

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

People with a variety of political perspectives...

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

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

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

People of differing educational backgrounds...

People of any socio-economic condition...

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

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

Sunday Funnies: The Sunday Flock is printed with permission through Pastoral Center.



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.

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