

He is Risen!

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Pastor's Page

"Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.
-- John 13:1h

I'm celebrating Holy Communion with a very small group of worshippers—there are only four of us gathered on this night. I distribute the bread and wine, then I ask a young woman to serve me. She takes a piece of bread, and her eyes open wide: "What words am I supposed to say?" I smile and repeat the words: *the body of Christ, given for you*. The silence is too much; pretty soon, we're all laughing.

I feel so awkward, someone says. Well, we probably can't feel any more awkward than Jesus did, at what would be his last supper together with his disciples. I mean, he was washing their feet. He was eating with them and reminding the disciples what would happen—Jesus would die—and what they should do—love each other as he has loved them.

What we name as "awkward" probably comes from our feelings of discomfort about being vulnerable. Most of us will go out of our way to avoid vulnerability.

Jesus, on the other hand, seems to embrace vulnerability. He remains human and vulnerable until the end of his life, continuing to love even the people who are betraying him and torturing him and crucifying him.

It feels vulnerable to even to receive such love, yet that is the call of Holy Week—to witness the lengths to which God will go to demonstrate love for creation.

George Matheson wrote a hymn imagining God's love like an ocean—huge, immersive, and limitless—upon which he would be free to float, embraced by God's grace and surrounded by abundant life.

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that in thine ocean depths its flow May richer, fuller be.

What would it be like to receive such love? What would it be like to sit, even through the awkwardness, to allow Jesus to wash our own feet—not shaming us, but showing us the love and tenderness that many of us struggle to bestow upon our own selves? What is it like to float upon God's mercy?

May God's mercy sustain us through Lent and Holy Week, all the way to the celebration of the resurrection and beyond.

Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie

Worship in March

Sunday, March 3, 2024 3rd Sunday in Lent

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

Sunday, March 10, 2024 4th Sunday in Lent

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

Sunday, March 17, 2024 5th Sunday in Lent

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

Special Services

Midweek Lenten Prayer services continue on Tuesday nights through March 19th. Please join us at 7pm for a 30-minute service based on the Holden Evening Prayer service by Marty Haugen with a focus on dismantling antisemitism through the Solemn Reproaches.

Holy Week Plans

Holy Week starts with Palm Sunday on March 24th. Worship services will be held at 8:30am and 11am.

Maundy Thursday worship service will be held Thursday, March 28th at 7pm.

Good Friday worship service will be held on Friday, March 29th, at 7pm.

Easter Vigil will not be celebrated at Gethsemane this year. Watch for information about other local ELCA churches offering this service.

Sunday, March 24, 2024 Palm Sunday

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

Sunday, March 31, 2024 Easter Sunday

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship 9:45am Easter Breakfast* and Egg Hunt 11:00am In-Person Worship

*Watch for more information about Easter breakfast and how to reserve your seat.

February Attendance

February 4th 96 In-Person 51 Online

February 11th 96 In-Person 40 Online

February 18th 102 In-Person 34 Online

February 25th 96 In-Person 31 Online

Don't forget to complete your weekly attendance form.
We're counting on you!
(We really are - the Synod requests an average Sunday attendance in our annual report)



Community Life



Thank you for your continued support of Gethsemane's Food Pantry Isaiah 58 Cares Partners: Isaiah 58 Ministries and St. Anthony's.





LuMin is hosting "Jesus and Dinner" nights every Sunday. Gethsemane is helping on: April 14th.



March/April Collection: **Toilet Paper & Menstrual Pads**

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

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

Little Free Pantry Addition: Comfort Cupboard

We are very excited to announce the expansion of Gethsemane's Little Free Pantry project. In March, we will install a new Comfort Cupboard. The cupboard will allow us to move non food items like toilet paper, hygiene items, diapers, pet food, medical equipment, and cutlery out of the food pantry and into its own dedicated space. This will give us more room for food. We will continue to fill the food pantry on a regular schedule, as donations allow. The new cupboard will be stocked as needed and supplies are available.

A Lenten series featuring "The Chosen" will be held at Mercy Conference and Retreat Center, Frontenac on Tuesdays, 9:30 AM-2:00 PM (lunch included), February 27, March 5, 12, 19, 26. Cost: \$40 individual session; \$175 whole series. Register at www.mercycenterstl.org. Each day will include the viewing of an episode of "The Chosen" and time for reflection, prayer, and discussion. There will be craft activities that correspond to the theme of the episode and time to walk the outdoor labyrinth, stations of the Cross, and walking paths.

St. Joan of Arc Fish Fry

Every Friday in Lent, 4-7pm

Across the street, at 5821 Pernod Ave.

DINE IN | CAFETERIA CARRY-OUT | GYM FOYER

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



Mercy Conference and Retreat Center

Labyrinth Anniversary Celebration

March 19th from 3-8pm Cost \$20 Includes simple supper. RSVP by March 1st at mercycenterstl.org

Around the Church



March GLCW Luncheon

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

Date: Monday, March 25

Time: 11:30 AM

Place: TBD

Hostesses: Kathleen Moe and

Mary Scanlan

RSVP: Please call Kathleen:

314.346.4088 by 3/22

Youth Church Lending Library

Introducing our new youth church lending library, coming soon! This exciting addition will offer a diverse selection of books for kids from early childhood through high school, providing age-appropriate exploration of God, spirituality, Christian love, religious holidays, and more. Our youth library aims to foster curiosity and understanding, offering resources for children and teens to explore their faith in a meaningful way. Available for lending twice a month between services and by appointment, we look forward to welcoming young readers to this enriching experience. Stay tuned for updates, as we aim to launch by the end of March!

CHRISTIAN LENDING



Adult Forum Topics

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

March 3rd - The importance of native bees in landscapes and gardening with Angie Fulton.

March 10th - Organ Education w/ our organist

March 17th - Social Action Team

March 24th - Palm Sunday March 31st - Easter Sunday April 7th - (Available)

April 14th - (Available)

April 21st - Member Care Team

April 28th- Volunteer Appreciation Lunch

If you have an idea for an adult forum, please contact the church office.

The Property Committee is Looking for Church Mice

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve as a "Church Mouse" by helping with some small projects around the church? The Property Committee has created a list of easy, one-day projects and they need your help. Projects include painting, staining, cleaning, and repairing items around the church. A complete list and more information can be found just outside the kitchen door in the basement hallway.

Easter Flowers

Would you like to sponsor spring flowers for Easter? Watch your Sunday Bulletin and Friday e-newsletter in March for details on how you can make a special donation to support your favorite cause or sponsor flowers to decorate the church for Easter. All flowers must be picked up and taken home by Sunday, April 7th.

Connections Corner



☐: glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com

3: 314-518-6978 (ok to text)

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

Office hours: Mon –Thurs, 10am—2:30pm

Ways to stay connected:

Utilizing these resources can help you feel closer to Gethsemane!



Give online (Vanco Mobile App)

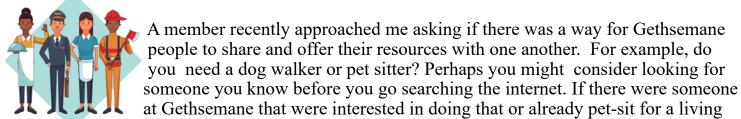


Access the Church Directory
Online (Instant Church Directory)



Watch Worship Services
Online (YouTube)

Building Connections at Gethsemane



or a hobby they would see your request and reach out. Right before the pandemic we erected a giant billboard in the Fellowship Hall. This bulletin board has had a few updates since 2020 but it doesn't really serve a purpose right now other than to highlight the ways people volunteer at Gethsemane. Stay tuned to the Fellowship Hall bulletin board to add your information with other Gethsemane folks!

Also, special thanks to Marilyn McGuire for being persistent in requesting something like this. It really is a fantastic idea!

Website: www.gethsemanestl.org

YouTube: gethsemanestl

Instagram: gethsemane elca stl

Pinterest: Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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

Find Gethsemane on Social Media:









Welcome New Members



Katie and Miriam Bellis



Lily Bennett (and her dog Bear!)



Seth Kassel and Noah Madrigal



Roderic Kerner and his daughter Eliza



Rick Yakimo

On Sunday, January 28th, we welcomed seven new members to Gethsemane. If you are interested in becoming a member, or would just like to learn more about Gethsemane, please contact the church office or check the "contact me about the membership process" box on your Sunday attendance sheet.

		KC h				Easter Sunday 8:30am Worship 10:00am Fellowship 11:00am Worship
	7:00pm Worship Service	7:00pm Worship Service	10:00am Staff Mtg*	10:00am Bible Study	11:30am GLC Women's Luncheon 6:00pm Bell Choir 6:00pm Neighborhood Mtg.	8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00am Adult Forum 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Vocal Choir
	29	28	27	26	25	24
			10:00am Staff Mtg*	10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Prayer	6:00pm Bell Choir	8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00am Committee Meetings 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Vocal Choir
	22	21	20	19	18	6 17
	9/24	chen On Vacation 3/12-19/24	Gre			5:00pm Vocal Choir
	Messenger info. due		10:00am Staff Mtg 6:30pm Council Mtg	10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Prayer	6:00pm Bell Choir	Forward 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00am Adult Forum
	15	14	13	12	11	10
6:00pm Project Sanctuary			10:00am Staff Mtg*	10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Midweek Lenten Prayer	6:00pm Bell Choir	8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00am Adult Forum 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Vocal Choir
	8	7	6	5	4	3
	1					
	Friday	Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Sunday

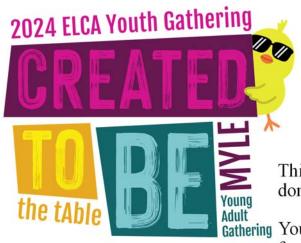
^{*}Office will be closed between 10am and 12pm for Staff Meetings

March 2024 Worship Leaders

SAIN THE SECTION OF T	3rd	p.	1(10th	17th	th	24 th Palm Sun.	m Sun.	31 st Easter Sun.	er Sun.
The state of the s	Early	Late	Early	Late	Early	Late	Early	Late	Early	Late
Greeter	Lois W.	Deb S.	Chris S.	Rob S.	Joan W.	Peggy L.	Kate H.	Keith P.	Carlene R.	Rob S.
Usher	Richard L.	Steve W.	Bill S.	Nancy L.	Bill S.	Gary B.	Cayce M.	Steve H.	Ted Y.	Denise B.
Usher	Adam R.	Nancy L.	Adam R.	Riley B.	Ted Y.	Nancy L.	John S.	Gary B.	Cayce M.	Steve H.
Assisting Minister	Becky R.	Carolyn S.	Rick S.	Gary B.	Megan Y.	Maryn O.	Phyllis S.	Angie F.	Becky R.	Gary B
Lector	Elizabeth P.	Anja W.	Adam R.	Ami B.	Lindsay S.	Deb S.	Becky R.	Anne C.	Matthew C.	Carolyn S.
Children's Sermon	Pastor Cheryl	Cheryl	Chris	Chris Schmidt	Lindsay Schuessler	chuessler	Pastor Cheryl	Cheryl	Chris Schmidt	chmidt
Wine					Stephen Brown	Brown				
Bread Baker*	Elliott Family	Family	Yemr	Yemm Family	Wisch Family	Family	Richardson Family	n Family	Purchase	hase
Blood Pressure	Joan Williams	illiams	V	N/A	шшәД рәД	emm	N/A	A	V/N	A
Fellowship Host	Wind Family	amily	Walent	Walentik Family	Schmidt Family	Family	Moe Family	amily	Youth Group	Group
Donut Driver	John Sandberg	ındberg	Scanla	Scanlan Family	Sue Hackmann	kmann	Rentchler Family	r Family	Youth Group	Group
Altar Flowers					No Flowers During Lent	Ouring Lent				
Altar Guild				M	Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton	l Angie Fultor	ı			
Camera		Gretchen Jenson	ı Jenson		Linus C	Linus Christian		Gretcher	Gretchen Jenson	

^{*} Please use Gluten Free bread mix provided by the church.

Youth Gathering



Youth Gathering Update

The youth and their families are planning an epic Easter Sunday Breakfast fundraiser with egg casseroles, quiches, pastries, fruit, juice and coffee and more between services on Easter Sunday, March 31 from 9:30am-11am.

This is a free will offering will a suggested donation of \$10/per person.

Gathering You will be encouraged to fill out a registration form to reserve your seats or table.

You can donate ahead of time or the day of. The form will be on Gethsemane's home page and in the weekly e-newsletter. You have until March 24th to register.

If you have kids who are in the 5th grade or younger they will be invited to participate in an egg hunt around 10:15am. Watch your email and social media for information.

The youth and their families are so appreciative of everyone's support. The closer we get the clearer the costs are becoming and we have slightly underestimated the how much we needed to raise, and while we are getting close to our goal, we do not want to leave the bank with a zero balance. We want the next group to have some money to get started just as the last group did for us.

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





Easter potluck breakfast April, 2019

Vacation Bible School

We are so excited to announce the return of Vacation Bible School! All potty-trained four-year-olds to those currently in the 5th grade are welcome to join us for the return of Vacation Bible School at Gethsemane, July 29-August 2, 2024.

VBS will run from 9am-noon. We are once again offering aftercare (aka VBS+) from 12pm-5:30pm! VBS+ will be run and supervised by Anja Walentik, a professional 1st grade teacher.

Cost for VBS only (9am-12pm) is \$30/child or \$60/two or more children.

Cost for VBS+ (9am-5:30pm) is \$100/child or \$200/two or more children.

To register, go to the church website or click on the link in the Friday enewsletter. If you would like to volunteer, you can also go to the church website or click on the volunteer link in the Friday e-newsletter.



"Greening" the Kitchen Stove or Don't Keep the Fire Burning

The Gethsemane Green Committee has a lot of great ideas about how Gethsemane can go greener. Our last project was simple – at last year's Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, the Green Committee suggested using "real" plates and silverware instead of disposable ones. Gethsemane already had the supplies, so the Green Committee helped by bussing tables and washing the dishes afterwards. It was during this time spent in the kitchen that Rich Brendel (on the property committee) taught us about the problem of the kitchen stove. And thus, our next project was born!

We learned that every hour of every day, whether the stove is in use or not, eleven pilot lights are burning natural gas. This reminds me of the Parable of the Bridesmaids from Pastor Cheryl's sermon on November 12th. But in this version, there are eleven bridesmaids with pilot lights instead of lamps waiting for the bridegroom to come and bake a casserole or cook pancakes. But the bridegroom only comes once or twice each year and then buys takeout instead of cooking. Is keeping those lamps burning just a waste of energy? Maybe there is a moral to that parable after all!

Natural gas is one of the fossil fuels that we humans commonly burn for energy – the others are coal and oil. When burned it releases methane and carbon dioxide, which are greenhouse gases. These are the gases that accumulate in the earth's upper atmosphere, like a heat-trapping blanket, which are contributing to global climate change. Research also shows that burning natural gas indoors is a human health concern. It produces nitrogen dioxide, which can be harmful, especially for people with asthma. According to the church gas bill, we are paying around \$40-\$50 each month (~\$500 per year) to keep these pilot lights burning.

Most gas stoves today have an electric ignition, so the gas valve is only open and lit when the stove is in use. Our older stove (from 1962) does not have this feature, and turning the valves off for an extended time can cause the valves to become clogged, or a gas leak could develop, so this is not an easy or safe solution.

For an action to be sustainable or "green" it should have benefits in three areas — People, Planet and Profit. This is called the triple bottom line of sustainability. Replacing our gas stove with an electric model hits all three of these targets: better health for all of us, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and savings of around \$500 each year. If we can find a used model in good condition, we will save even more resources. The Green Committee hopes to raise up to \$4,000 for the stove replacement project, and our first fundraiser is a Pancake Dinner and Movie Night on Friday, April 12th. You can buy tickets from Green Committee members at church, or online at gethsemanestl.org/green. Other ways to help include volunteering at the fundraiser, donating supplies or making a larger sponsorship donation via the website, coming soon. On April 12th, we will be using the stove's griddle to make those fluffy pancakes — at last the bridegroom has come!

Eve Cooney Green Committee

Chili Cook-Off/ Cookie Bake-Off

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank all of the chefs, bakers, tasters, and decorators for their help making this year's Chili Cook-Off and Cookie Bake-Off such a huge success. We had a total of nine Chilis and six Cookies to sample and enjoy. Adam Rentchler's "Classic Chili" and Colleen and Michael Rentchler's "Lemon Meltaway Cookies" beat out the competition to earn the right to have their names engraved on our perpetual trophy. Jack Wind's "Give Us Our Daily Chili" and Mary Scanlan's "Best Beer Chili" rounded out the chili winners. Nathan Unsicker's "Mystery Mints" and Chris Schmidt's "Twisted M's" placed second and third in the cookie bake-off competition.

Thank you for your support of this annual event. Next year's event is scheduled for Sunday, February 2nd, between the NFL playoffs and Super Bowl LIX.



Chili winners: (from left to right) 1st Adam, 2nd Jack, and 3rd Mary



Cookie winners: (from right to left) 1st Colleen, 2nd Nathan, and 3rd Chris

Church Announcements: Why You Don't Get Calls Anymore

Some of you may have noticed that Gethsemane no longer shares announcements over the phone. That is because the system we had been using, called "Phonetree" no longer offers this service. We are currently investigating other options. In the meantime, if you would like to be called with announcements, please contact the church office so that your name can be added to a list.

How You Can Help Our Janitor!

It has recently come to our attention that there is a need for cleaning supplies in the bathrooms for use between scheduled cleanings. Baskets with gloves, wipes, and air freshener have been placed in several of the bathrooms. We strongly encourage that you use these products (instead of paper towels)

as needed.

Thank you!

Money Matters

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Did you know that you can choose how the church uses your Thrivent Choice Dollars? If you would like to designate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to a specific church fund, contact the church office and let Kim know the amount you are donating and the fund you would like your donation to go to. If you are unsure, the Council will select a fund. Current funds go to the Youth Fund to help with Gathering expenses.

Announcements & Anniversaries

Condolences...

We pray for the hope and comfort of the resurrection for Darlene McElwee and her family upon the death of her sister, Denise Sebek. Denise died on February 24th. Her funeral will be Saturday, March 1st, in Norwalk Iowa.

Thank you...

to Rob and Carolyn Schainker, Keith Paulson, Peggy Lewis, Don DeVore, Sue Hackmann, Joan Williams, Jack and Lois Wind, Mike and Kim Elliott, and Gretchen Jenson for all their help cleaning up after the Chili Cook-Off and Cookie Bake-Off.

to everyone who sent sympathy cards, attended my sister's visitation and/or funeral, and called or spoke with me; I am truly grateful! Vicki Herrmann

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Thank you for your generous donation of \$100 to Project Peanut Butter from your Mission Day. 100% of your tax-deductible donation goes to the feeding programs in sub-Saharan Africa.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark Manary and the PPB Team

Dear Friends, Thank you so much for your recent contribution of \$215 received on Jan 26th for our ministry at Isaiah 58 Ministries. We are blessed to have you as a partner in ministry as we provide much needed resources to people in our community. Again, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you. We pray good health and many blessings upon you and your loved ones in the coming year.

Sincerely,

Rev. Brenda Booth, Executive Director

Don't forget....

to turn your clocks forward on March 9th when you go to bed!



March Birthdays

- 2 Nora Nelson
- 3 Luke Borkowski
- 4 Betsy Bartholomew
 Deb Schaller
 Maegen Drake-Williams
- 5 Mike Elliott Kate Schejbal
- **6** Jennifer Paulson
- 7 Finn Gamewell Mary Ruckdeschel Mary Thuss
- 11 Susan Newell
- 13 Mary Scanlan Richard Schuessler Adayah Tatum
- 15 Bill Scanlan
- 16 Angie Fulton
- **17** Gretchen Jenson
- **18** Brenna Bartholomew
- 19 Richard Brendel Henry Wisch
- **20** Liv Jenson
- 22 Ed Breed
- 26 Cayce Morice Britt Wisch
- **27** Steve Walentik
- **28** Conrad Otto

3



March Anniversaries

Dates to Remember

Coming Up:

Sunday, March 10 Daylight Saving Time Begins

Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday

Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday

Friday, March 29 Good Friday

Sunday, March 31 Easter

Sunday, April 28 One Service at 9:30am,

Volunteer Appreciation Day

Sunday, May 26 Return of Single Summer Services

Don't Forget

Every Wednesday -

Bulletin Items By Noon

Third Tuesday - (starting in April)
Church Council Meeting

Third Friday -

Messenger Articles Due

December 1st -

Budget Requests Due

Committee Reports are due Friday, December 6th.



SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

Easter Sunday, March 31! Breakfast fundraiser and Easter Egg Hunt for all children through 5th grade.

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

Council President Gary Borkowski

314-489-0937

gvborkowski@gmail.com

Website: www.gethsemanestl.org

YouTube: gethsemanestl
Instagram: 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:

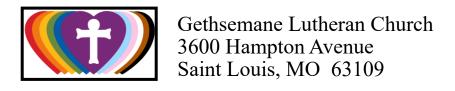
messenger@gethsemanestl.org.

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**. There is also a *Messenger* drawer by the church office. For best results, news should be in by the third Friday of each month.



Return Service Requested

Month in Pictures

