GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH
MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

January 2023 Volume #130 Issue #1

Church Office closed:
January 2 - in honor of New Year's Day
January 16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Annual Meeting:
January 29 (immediately following the single worship service at 9:30am)

Messenger Contents

Pastor's Page.....2
Worship in January 3
Community Life 4
Connections Corner 5
Around the Church 6
Rodney's Reflection 7
January Calendar 8
January Worship Leaders ..9
Announcements 10
Anniversaries 10
It's A Sign 11
Get Connected 11
Month in Pictures 12

Pastor's Page

"When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy."
--Matthew 2:10

Epiphany means an appearance of God; Epiphany is also the name of the season after Christmas. We remember the stories of Jesus when it becomes clear that he is more than merely human: he is also God. We keep telling these stories to remind ourselves what God has done, and also to keep inquiring: what is God up to among us, even now?

In this new year, how is God making us new?

I used to think that the change of a year meant an opportunity to change myself, to recreate myself into something better. As if the calendar date was the reason I hadn't adopted healthier habits any sooner. I don't think I ever stuck with any "new year's resolutions" for more than a couple of weeks—does anybody?

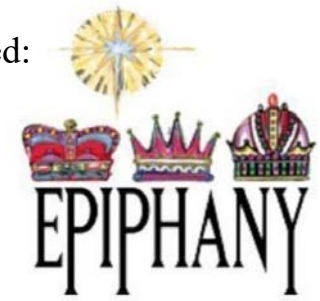
Now I'm learning more from observing my behavior over time—what's the catalyst that moves me toward this or that decision? What purpose does this habit serve? And what do I really want to happen? What really matters to me?

These are good questions for individuals to ask themselves from time to time, and this is useful also for groups of people, like churches! Last year, we set up a bulletin board display in the basement with sixteen different "value words," which were chosen by members of the Church Council (narrowed down from a list of 52 words!). Everyone was invited to select the top five values that describe Gethsemane Lutheran Church—maybe you helped with this project, too!

Now, all of the values listed are good values, but which were the ones that seem closest to our heart as an organization? There are probably lots of ways to investigate this, and "voting" by putting stickers on a bulletin board is not the most scientific assessment, but it was kinda fun and also helped us to think.

Here are the top six values, along with how many "votes" each word received:

19	Family
23	Intergenerational
25	Justice
25	Diversity
26	Serving
28	Music



The Church Council leaders have been looking at these values and determining how to name our top two values (any more than that, and it easily becomes just a list of things we wish were true…kinda like making resolutions!). Are any of these answers surprising? Or does this sound "about right" for Gethsemane?

And what is God up to among us? These are questions to keep asking as we seek to name our values so that we can be really clear about what we're doing and why. This is part of our faithful work as a church, always seeking God's will for us as we embrace the gifts God has entrusted to us!

In Christ, we are always made new, even in a new year!

Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie

Worship in January

Sunday, January 1, 2023
<u>1st Sunday of Christmas</u>
9:30am In-Person and Online Worship
No Coffee Hour/ No Sunday School

Sunday, January 8, 2023
<u>Baptism of Our Lord</u>
8:30am In-Person and Online Worship
9:45am Coffee Hour/Sunday School
11:00am In-Person Worship

Sunday, January 15, 2023
<u>2nd Sunday after Epiphany</u>
8:30am In-Person and Online Worship
9:45am Coffee Hour/Sunday School
11:00am In-Person Worship

Sunday, January 22, 2023
<u>3rd Sunday after Epiphany</u>
8:30am In-Person and Online Worship
9:45am Coffee Hour/Sunday School
11:00am In-Person Worship

Sunday, January 29, 2023
<u>4th Sunday after Epiphany</u>
9:30am In-Person and Online Worship
**Annual Meeting/Sunday School*

*The Annual Meeting will take place immediately following the one 9:30am service **<u>in the sanctuary</u>**.

Thank You Church Council!

On Sunday, January 29th, we will come together for our Annual Congregational meeting. We plan to meet in the sanctuary, immediately following worship. During the meeting, we will vote on the new church council members.

At this time, we would like to thank our outgoing council members: **Michael Elliott** and **Becky Rentchler,** who have fulfilled their 3-year term and **Denise Buehrer**, who completed a term for someone unable to fulfill their term.

We would also like to thank our current and returning council members: **Barb Johnson** (President), **Betsy Bartholomew**, **Gary Borkowski**, **Matthew Christian**, **Eve Cooney**, **Carolyn Schainker,** and **Anja Walentik**. We wish you all good health and the best of luck as you meet this year and continue to lead Gethsemane in 2023.

Nominations are still being accepted for new council members and other church roles. If you are interested, please contact the church office for more information.

December Attendance

December 4th
87 In-Person 39 Online

December 11th
84 In-Person 62 Online

December 18th
103 In-Person (Not Available)

December 24th 4pm - Christmas Eve
92 In-Person 61 Online

December 24th10:30pm - Christmas Eve
34 In-Person

December 25th
29 In-Person 24 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!

Community Life

Mittens, Hats, Gloves

The Mitten Tree will stay up through the end of January to be decorated with your donated mittens, hats, and gloves. All items will be donated to our Food Pantry Partners: Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's. We hope we can count on you to help fill the Mitten Tree again this year!

Looks like the tree is almost full, so we'll empty the tree to fill again in January. Way to go GLC!

LuMin is once again hosting "Jesus and Dinner" nights every Sunday and Gethsemane is helping with the 2nd Sunday on: **Feb 12th and March 12th.** 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!

The St. Anthony's Delivery Crew with Sister Marie: Ken Bauer, Don Thuss, (Sr. Marie), Fred Lenhart, Dan Flaxbart.

Each month Gethsemane will have a specific **"Big Ask"** to benefit St. Anthony's and Isaiah 58. For complete details please visit Gethsemane's website: *gethsemanestl.org/big-ask.*

January/February - Laundry Soap & Dish Soap
March/April - Toilet Paper & Pads
May - Deodorant & Adult Diapers
June - Shampoo, Conditioner, Bar Soap
July - Back to School Supplies
August - Shaving Cream, Razors, Body Lotion, Lip Balm
September - Diapers and Baby Care Items
October - Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, & Socks!
November - TBD
December - Adopt A Family, Gift Cards, Blankets

Planning is underway for a Little Free Food Pantry next to the Little Free Library for people with immediate needs. We hope to have the pantry built and stocked by Easter. Thank you to all who have helped get this initiative off the ground!

Connections Corner

Gretchen Jenson
Connections Coordinator

💻: glcstlsocialmedia@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, 9am-1:30pm

Ways to stay connected: Utilizing these resources can help you feel closer to Gethsemane!

Give online
(Vanco Mobile App)

Access the Member Portal and Church Directory Online (Servant Keeper)

Watch Worship Services Online (YouTube)

Directory: Many of you have reached out with questions on how to access the Gethsemane Directory. When we switched to the Servant Keeper version we were under the impression it would be user friendly and would offer much more flexibility in reaching out to others. We were wrong and we are looking into options. Part of it is just the fumbling that comes with learning something new. Part of it is having time to really dive into the product. Please know there are others who are having issues and it's not just you. The website has instructions on how to access the Member Portal AND the Directory. Check that out first and if you still have trouble, see me between services and I will try to help you figure it out.

If all else fails, I can print you a names and addresses directory. It's my job to connect you. Let me know if you need help!

gethsemanestl.org/member-directory

Find Gethsemane on Social Media:

Website: www.gethsemanestl.org
YouTube: gethsemanestl
Instagram: gethsemane_elca_stl
Pinterest: Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Facebook: Gethsemane Lutheran Church - ELCA, St. Louis, MO

Around the Church

Dearest Gethsemane,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! again for your generosity this Christmas season. We made the bold decision to increase our number of adoptees this year and, as expected, you rose to the occasion!

In 2022, we as Gethsemane:

- adopted 7 families for a total 40 individuals
- had 25 sponsors from our congregation for the St. Anthony's "Adopt A Family" program
- collected a total of 46 blankets, which were divided between St. Anthony's and Isaiah 58
- collected $1,930 in gift cards for Walgreens, Walmart, Schnucks, Target, and ALDI

In addition to gifts, each family received a grocery gift card, toilet paper and laundry detergent. The remaining gift cards were divided between our two ministries, St. Anthony's and Isaiah 58.

Special thanks to our faithful delivery "elves," pictured on page 4.

Blessed New Year!
Angie and Maryn

Welcome New Members

Cindy and Ed Breed

John and Missy DeVore

New Members; Cindy and Ed Breed, John and Missy DeVore, and Mike Hogan (not pictured) were officially welcomed to Gethsemane on Sunday, December 18, 2022 by Council President, Barb Johnson. (This was also the Sunday, Pr. Cheryl had the flu and Rev. T. Edwards Breed graciously stepped in at the last minute to help us out!)

If you are on Facebook and are friends with Rodney Jones, you may have seen his November 27th post reflecting on his participation in a recent baptism and his little sister Dorothy who was stillborn. Many people were moved by his words and his story is a touching one albeit, heartbreaking. The following is lifted from his post. And shared with his permission. Enjoy, and thank you Rodney, for sharing this poignant and touching story with us.

"Last week I had the honor and the pleasure of being assistant minister where I assisted in the baptism of a beautiful baby girl. Pastor gave me instructions on where to stand and she explained that the little step stool by the font was where the big brother would be standing to help us. I would need to take my cue from his parents as to whether it would be okay to hand a four year old the baptismal candle after lighting it from the Christ candle. He was very keen on holding his sister's candle.

"When we gathered around the font, the wide eyed boy took in every ritual - the significance of the water, the words and responses of affirmation of our faith and creed, the pouring of the water from a pitcher into the font creating a peaceful background to the words readying the infant for the water poured on her forehead in the name of the Father and of the Son and of The Holy Spirit. The little boy kept reassuring his baby sister it was all going to be okay. His sweet and loving little reassurances helped me remember that it's all going to be okay.

"Today would have been my own little sister's 50th birthday had she lived. My parents gave her the name Dorothy after my paternal grandmother who had a very short life dying just months after my father was born. Even though she was a still birth, it was important to give her a name. I had eagerly and excitedly awaited her coming because I was going to be the best big brother to my baby sister. I was devastated when I learned from my dad that my mom wasn't coming home from the hospital with my sister.

"The next few weeks after my mom came home were some of the saddest days I can ever remember my mom having. My dad was sad and languishing too as Christmas approached. One night my dad needed to get out of the house so he took me to Central Hardware in St. Charles to buy a few decorations for our tree. I wanted an angel for our tree as I had seen angels on other trees in homes we visited and I thought that was the most beautiful object that could grace a tree.

"I spied to my great delight a revolving musical Little Drummer Boy figurine. I was a big fan of "The Little Drummer Boy" - the Rankin Bass version. I identified with the little drummer boy's sadness and his searching for love and purpose and I had been feeling like I too had to have a smile drawn on my face to entertain everybody. I would also sing the song to anyone who would listen. I'm sure the incessant pa rump pa pa pum drove my Dad crazy, but my Dad has always been kind hearted and he wanted us all to not be so damned sad. So the angel tree topper and revolving musical drummer boy came home and has been part of our small family's Christmas decorations for the last fifty years.

"I've always been curious who I would have become with a little sister to protect and love and cherish. I think I'd still be the same person, but I'd have a little sister who was turning 50 today. She would have been beautiful and she would have been kind and witty and she would have been so loved. Happy heavenly Birthday, dear Dorothy!"

Rodney Jones

January 2023

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **Happy New Year** 9:30am Worship **Don't forget your pjs.** 	**2** Office Closed	**3** 10:00am Bible Study	**4** 10:00am Staff Meeting	**5**	**6** 	**7**
8 **Baptism of Our Lord** 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School 11:00am Worship	**9** 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	**10** 10:00am Bible Study 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	**11** 10:00am Staff Meeting	**12** Gretchen on Vacation	**13** Gretchen on Vacation	**14** **National Dress Your Pet Day** Gretchen on Vacation
15 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School 11:00am Worship Gretchen on Vacation	**16** **Martin Luther King Jr. Day** Office Closed 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	**17** 10:00am Bible Study	**18** 10:00am Staff Meeting	**19** **National Popcorn Day** 	**20** **Messenger info. due**	**21**
22 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School 11:00am Worship	**23** 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	**24** 10:00am Bible Study	**25** 10:00am Staff Meeting	**26**	**27** HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY	**28**
29 9:30am Worship Annual Meeting and Sunday School	**30**	**31** 10:00am Bible Study	 		Chili Cook Off and Cookie Contest: Sunday, February 5th Red Cross Blood Drive: Monday, February 13th	

January 2023
Worship Leaders

	1st	8th		15th		22nd		29th
	One	Early	Late	Early	Late	Early	Late	One
Greeter	K. Paulson	D. McElwee	N. Fontana	B. Bartholo-mew	D. Schaller	C. Reinhardt	E. Crotty	K. Hartz
Usher	G. Borkow-ski	J. McElwee	D. Buehrer	L. Yemm	R. Schain-ker	S. Yemm	A. Rentchler	J. Sandberg
Usher	R. Lima	J. Mayhaus	S. Walentik	J. McElwee	D. Buehrer	J. Sandberg	R. Schainker	A. Rentchler
Assisting Minister	R. Schuessler	A. Repp	M. Olson	M. Yemm	G. Borkow-ski	F. Tatum	C. Schainker	B. Rentchler
Lector	Schmidt Family	L. Schuessler	A. Rentchler	C. Morice	B. Johnson	J. Sandberg	A. Fulton	O. McFar-lane
Wine	Rosemarie Lubbes							
Bread Baker	Richardson Family	Fontana Family		Yemm Family		Wisch Family		McFarlane Family
Children's Ser-mon	C. Schmidt	L. Schuessler		Pastor Cheryl		C. Schmidt		L. Schuessler
Donut Pick Up	None	Tatum Family		Tatum Family		Tatum Family		None
Fellowship Host	None	Wisch Family		Available		Available		None
Altar Flowers	None	Available		Available		V. Aronsson		Available
Altar Guild	D. Buehrer	A. Repp						

Announcements & Anniversaries

Congratulations…

Thank You…

...To everyone who attended the Midweek Advent services and helped with dinner!

… to those of you who took the Christmas Care packages to the Gethsemane members who are homebound.

… To Cheryl Bauer and Margaret Lenhart for getting the Christmas packages together,

… To Phyllis and Sharon for decorating the Sanctuary and to Rich B., Mike E. and Keith for trimming the tree.

Don't forget…

...to pick up your poinsettias by Jan 3rd or else they become a donation to Gethsemane!

Gethsemane's Annual Chili Cook-Off and Cookie Contest!!

Mark Your Calendars for Sunday, February 5th

Calling all chefs and bakers! It is time to grab those aprons and dust off your recipe boxes. Start testing those secret ingredients and watch for your chance to sign up in this month.

Red Cross Blood Drive
Monday, February 13th
1:30pm - 5:30pm

January Birthdays

2	Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
3	Mark Overton
4	Carol Frohlichstein Royal Wobbe
6	Myles Richardson
10	Brent Jenson
11	Aria Thomé
13	Claudine Hensel
15	William Unsicker
19	Elizabeth Breed Penny
24	Rick Schuessler Rob Schurz
25	Melissa Tepe Maggie Schurz
26	Jean Miller
28	Alex McElwee
29	Dan Flaxbart

January Anniversaries

15	Larry & Margaret Hollingworth	55

It's A Sign

Ask anyone who visits Gethsemane why they made the decision to come to Gethsemane and a majority will tell you it was because of the sign. Gethsemane's welcoming hospitality, active social justice, multigenerational approach, traditional theology, and active music program may keep them here, but, more likely than not, the sign on Hampton got them in the door.

Gethsemane became known as "the church with the sign" at the turn of the millennium due to the witty sayings Pastor Glusenkamp installed each week on our sign. Many of his saying were quoted in the Post Dispatch and Pastor Glusenkamp published *Signs for These Times: Church Signs That Work* in 1998.

The tradition has continued through the years; "authored" by suggestions from Pastor Kendra, Pastors John and Liz Backus, various Gethsemane members, and most consistently, Gethsemane's office manger, Kim Elliott. The sayings continue to be well though out, witty, and still elicit comments from the community on a regular basis. If you would like to suggest wording for the church sign, please submit your thoughts to the church office.

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 Barb Johnson
314-962-3501
barbjohnson47@hotmail.com

Website: www.gethsemanestl.org
YouTube: gethsemanestl
Twitter: @gethsemane_stl
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 20th of each month.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63109

Return Service Requested

A Month in Pictures