

# 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

September 1, 2024

The Season of Creation



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 Šakówiŋ, 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  
Music Director: Dr. Aria Thomé  
Organist: Amy Crousore  
Council President: Gary Borkowski

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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](mailto:office@gethsemanestl.org)

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

## *ELW Holy Communion Setting Four*

*Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.*

## GATHERING

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**PRELUDE:** *Meditation on "Beach Spring"*

*Arr. By Hal Hopson*

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**P:** God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright*

**Hymn# 559**

## **GREETING:**

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also, with you.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE:**

*God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*

verse 1

**Hymn# 771**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**AM:** O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen**

*The congregation is seated.*

## **WORD**

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### **First Reading: Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9**

*The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.*

<sup>1</sup>So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. <sup>2</sup>You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

<sup>6</sup>You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" <sup>7</sup>For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? <sup>8</sup>And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

<sup>9</sup>But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: 15:1-5

*The choir will lead the singing of the Psalm with the congregation singing the bolded lines.*

<sup>1</sup>Lord, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?

Who may abide upon your | holy hill?

**<sup>2</sup>Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,  
who speak the truth | from their heart;**

<sup>3</sup>they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;  
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.

**<sup>4</sup>In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the Lord.  
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.**

<sup>5</sup>They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the  
innocent.

Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown.

## SECOND READING: JAMES 1:17-27

*The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instruction in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act on what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.*

<sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

<sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The Word of the Lord.

**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 Mark, the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter:  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### GOSPEL: MARK 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

*Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around [Jesus], <sup>2</sup>they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup>(For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup>and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup>So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup>He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
<sup>7</sup>in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

<sup>8</sup>You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

<sup>14</sup>Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup>there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.

<sup>21</sup>“For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup>adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup>All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## **CHILDREN'S SERMON**

### **SERMON**

**Pastor Tina Reyes**

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil***

**Hymn# 512**

### **CONFESSION OF FAITH**

**P:** Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **THE PRAYERS**

**AM:** Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

**AM:** ... Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

**P:** We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## THE PEACE

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also, with you.**

**P:** Let us share a sign of peace with one another.  
*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

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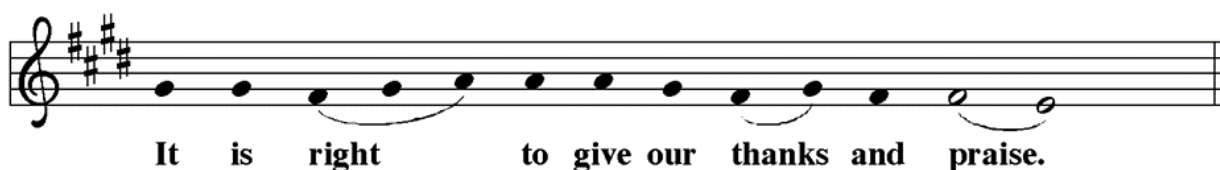
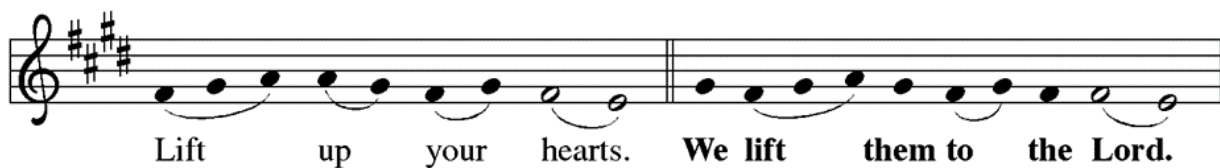
**THE OFFERING:** *The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared.*

**MUSICAL OFFERING** *This Is My Father's World* arr. John Carter

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

**AM:** Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING





**P:** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS:

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.

### EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

**P:** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

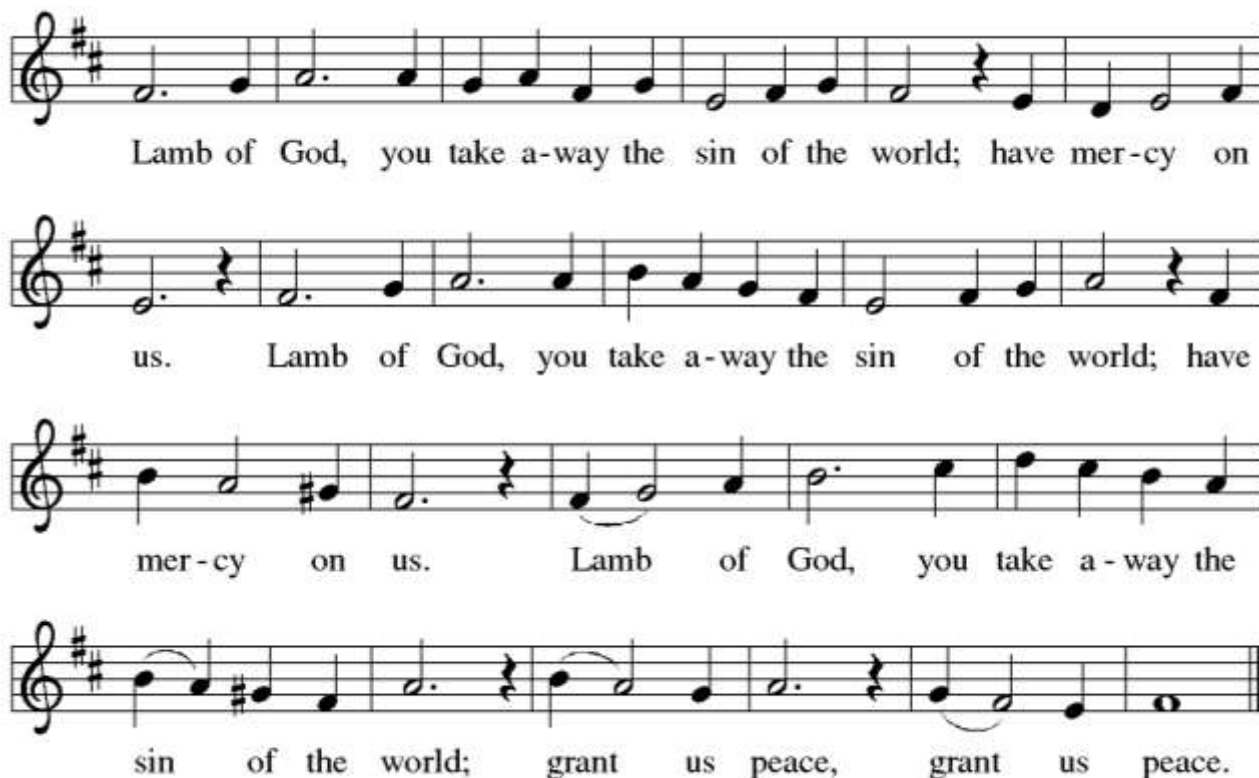
**P:** Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

*The congregation is seated.*

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

### MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

#### *Lamb of God*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*Restore in Us, O God*

**Hymn# 328**

*We Come to the Hungry Feast*

**Hymn# 479**

**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:** Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

*These are ways we welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.*

### BLESSING

**P:** God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.

**Amen**

**SENDING HYMN:** *Take My Life, That I May Be*

**Hymn# 583**

### DISMISSAL

**AM:** Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Shalom Chaverim*

arr. John Carter

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Today's flowers are sponsored by the Williams/Wind Families.

<b>WORSHIP LEADERS</b>	
PREACHER/PRESIDER	Rev. Tina Reyes
GREETER	Richard Lima
USHERS	Cayce Morice, Denise Buehrer
ASSISTING MINISTER	Natalie Fontana
LECTOR	Michael McFarlane
BREAD BAKER	Natalie Fontana
BLOOD PRESSURE	Joan Williams
FELLOWSHIP HOST	Natalie Fontana
ALTAR GUILD	Bauer Family
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson
WINE	Stephen Brown

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**New Thursday e-newsletter!** Perhaps you noticed last Thursday that the e-news looked a little different! Gethsemane is now using Constant Contact to send the weekly e-news and for the foreseeable future will be sent on Thursdays instead of Fridays. If you did not receive one on Thursday and would like to be included, please click this QR code to fill out a form indicating that you would like to be added to the list.



**Request of the Month:** This month, we are collecting diapers. Items may be placed on the shelves of the collection unit located in the main hall next to the Council corkboard and family mailboxes. Items placed in the grocery cart will be placed in Gethsemane's Little Free Pantry.

**God's work. Our hands.** Our annual day of service this year will be on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> immediately following one 9:30am worship service. (It's the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Sept.) We will once again bring back old favorites and will also participate in the Tower Grove Pride Fest with Lutherans for Love and Pride. Do you know of an organization that could use some volunteers? Do you have an idea or project that you are passionate about? Contact Gethsemane's Connection Coordinator Gretchen Jenson or see the Thursday E-newsletter for more information.

**Egg Cartons:** We are collecting egg cartons again for St. Anthony's food pantry. Please place your empty, clean cartons **in** the box next to the grocery bag collection and empty pill bottle collection tub near the hall to the office.

**Little Free Food Pantry:** Thank you for your continued support! This summer we are seeing an increased need for cereal, jars of peanut butter, and canned meals like SpaghettiOs, chili, and soup. We are also looking for new or gently used umbrellas and rain ponchos. Please consider picking up an extra item or two the next time you go shopping. Donations may be placed directly into the Little Free Pantry on Pernod or left in the cart in the hall by the church mailboxes.

**Sunday School Registration:** Did your child enjoy their time at Vacation Bible School this week? The fun can continue all year long with Sunday School. We offer classes for children ages 4 (and potty trained) through high school. Students meet at 9:45am between our 8:30am and 11:00am worship services. To register, go to the Gethsemane website ([www.gethsemanestl.org](http://www.gethsemanestl.org)) and click on the *1<sup>st</sup> Day of Sunday School* line in the green “Current and Upcoming Events” box.

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar  
September 1 – September 8, 2024**

9/1 Today	9:30 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube No Fellowship – No Host
9/2 Monday		Office Closed for Labor Day
9/3 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
9/4 Wednesday	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
9/8 Sunday <b>Return to two services!</b>	9:30 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Ministry Fair! Fellowship Worship Service: In-Person

**Upcoming Dates to Consider**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
9/15 Sunday	8:30 am 10:30 am 11:00am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship and 1 <sup>st</sup> Day Sunday School Worship Service: In-Person
Sept. 28th-29th		Tower Grove Pride Fest
Sept. 29th	10:30 am	God’s work. Our hands. Day of Service

**Blood Pressure (BP):** First and third Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall.  
**Women’s Luncheon:** Fourth Monday of every month. \*Except for Holidays.

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Stephen Brown:** healing and strength

**Mike Fenton:** health management, patience, understanding

**Elizabeth Penny:** healing and peace

**Bill Scanlan:** recovery after knee surgery

**Tatum Family**

**Caroline Tullock:** recovering after eye surgery

<b>Request for:</b>	<b><i>On Behalf of:</i></b>
Jennie (strength); Megan and Ledger (safe travels home)	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
Ginny Olson (strength, stamina); Nicole and Harmin (healthy pregnancy); the people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories, Sudan and Ukraine; all impacted by disaster; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson</i>
Thankful for continued health of Darlene's mom	<i>McElwee Family</i>
Michelle Stewart (healing); Jessica (healthy pregnancy for Andy and Ollie)	<i>Penny Family</i>
Mary's brother Carl (healing); Brenda (healing)	<i>Scanlan Family</i>
Chris and Michael (comfort, perseverance)	<i>Schaller Family</i>
Dan, Arline, Mike (healing); family unity	<i>Kate Schejbal</i>
Rob, Lilly, Raegan (peace and comfort)	<i>Lindsay Schuessler</i>



## 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, 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 straight, gay, lesbian, 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

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