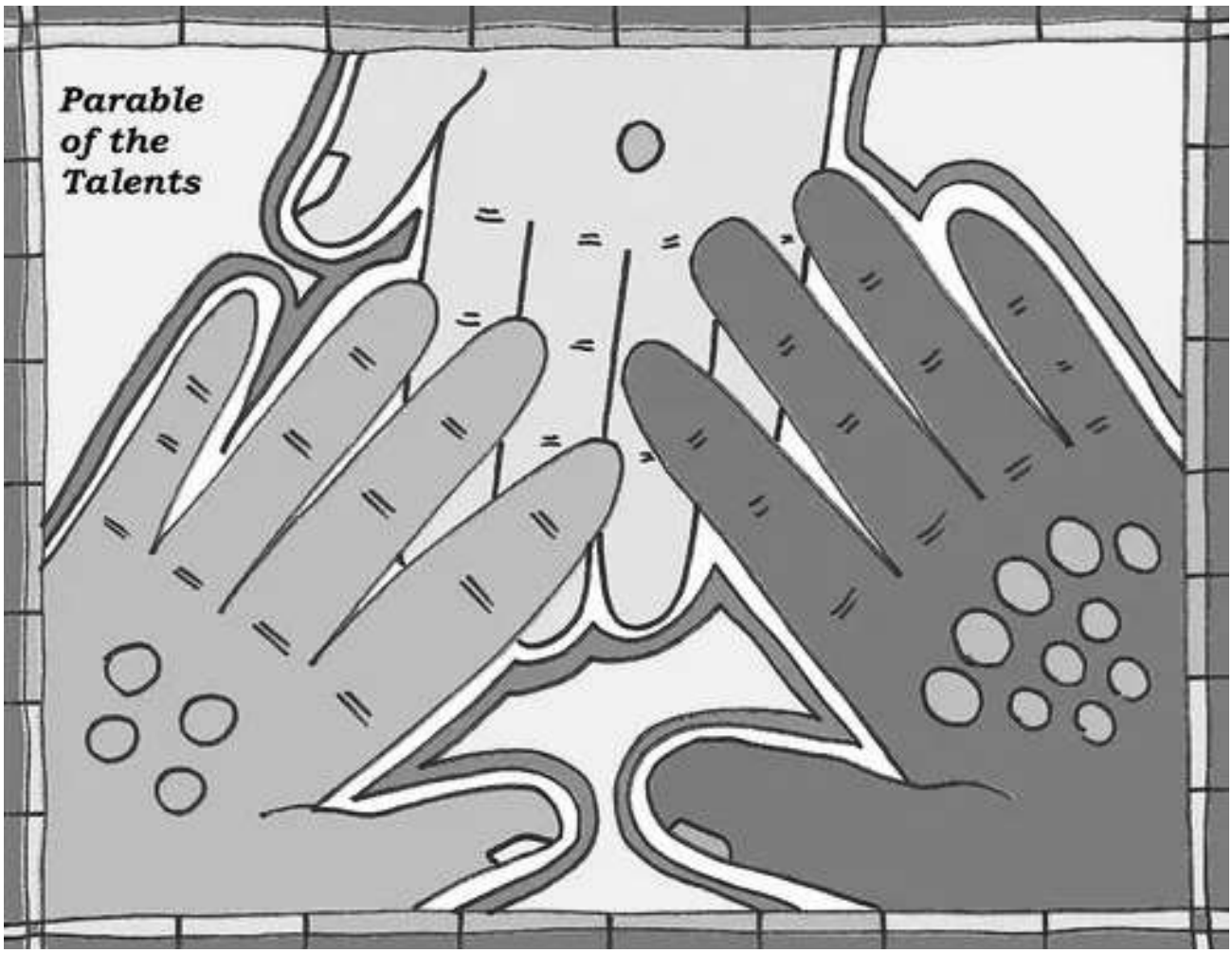
25th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 15, 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 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	pastor@gethsemanestl.org
Connections Coordinator: Gretchen Jenson	connect@gethsemanestl.org
Office Manager: Eve Cooney	office@gethsemanestl.org
Minister of Music/Choir Director: Amy Crousore	organist@gethsemanestl.org
Handbell Choir Director: Ella Rothgangel	handbelldirector@gethsemanestl.org
Council President: Cayce Morice, 314-574-0850	cayce.morice@yahoo.com

Office Hours: Vary, but include Tues-Thurs, 10 am – 3 pm.
Outside of these hours, 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

Holy Communion, Setting 12

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *When We Are Living* John Carter

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFESSION 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, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,
C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: ***Christ, Be Our Light*** **HYMN# 715**

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:



PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray. Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

The congregation is seated.

MISSION MOMENT Dr. Melissa Tepe*, Stewardship*

WORD

THE FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

7 Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand! The Lord has prepared
a sacrifice and has consecrated the guests. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and
I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord
will not do good, nor will the Lord do harm." 13 Their wealth shall be plundered and their houses
laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them

14 The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the
Lord is bitter; the warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress
and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and
thick darkness, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the
lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like those who are blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their
flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the
Lord's wrath; in the fire of the Lord's passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a
terrible end the Lord will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 90:1-12

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

1 Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,**
from age to age | you are God.
3 You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past**
and like a watch | in the night;
5 you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
6 **in the morning it is | green and flourishes;**
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.

7 For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
8 **Our iniquities you have | set before you,**
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.
9 When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
10 **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;**
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.
11 Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?
12 **So teach us to num- | ber our days**
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, dear family, you do not need to have anything
written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a
thief in the night. 3 When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will
come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!
4 But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all
children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us
not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at
night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be
sober and put on the breastplate of faith and love and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For
God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore
encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter:
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: **Matthew 25:14-30**

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

Jesus said to the disciples:¬ 14"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves
and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one,
to each according to his ability. Then he went away. "At once 16the one who had received the
five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the
one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one
talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid the master's money. 19"After a long time
the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had
received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed
over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21His master said to him, 'Well
done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in
charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22And the one with the two talents also
came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more
talents.'

23His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your
master.' 24"Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I
knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did
not scatter, 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what
is yours.'

26But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap
where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my
money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with
interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all
those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have
nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into
the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ***Blessing and Honor*** **HYMN# 854**

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

AM: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

AM: . . . God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
C: Amen.

PEACE

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

P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, using the words of the risen Lord: Peace be with you.

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: (Gethsemane choir) *Sing to our Father* Lorna Ball, Arr. Stephen Ball

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Lift up your hearts.
C: **We lift them to the Lord.**
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is our duty and delight . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

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***



Blessed Assurance **HYMN# 638**
When We Are Living (Pues si vivimos) **HYMN# 639**

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

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
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: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.
C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past*** **HYMN# 632**

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Fugue and Harmonization on St. Anne* J. S. Bach, Arr. Hal Hopson

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The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by
Jane O'Neill in celebration of her parents'
Howard and Gloria Watson's wedding anniversary.



WORSHIP LEADERS	
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
GREETER	Gretchen Jenson
USHERS	Steve and Ben Walentik
ASSISTING MINISTER	Megan Yemm
LECTOR	Melissa Tepe
CANTOR	Ruthie Grollman
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Mary Wolfsberger
ACOLYTE	Evan Gorvie
DONUT DRIVER	Wolfsberger
FELLOWSHIP HOST	*Needed*
ALTAR GUILD	Debbie Schaller
CAMERA	Jaryd Wolfsberger
WINE SPONSOR	Kate Hartz

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Damien Gustafson: healing at home
Kate Hartz: courage and trust
Barb Johnson: continued healing and increased mobility
Margaret Lenhart: comfort and peace
Sharon Salerno: healing and strength
Mary Scanlan: recovering after stroke

Request for:	***On Behalf of:***
Ed's brother-in-law, Jim Cellette, following pacemaker surgery	*Breed Family*
Lisa McL (healing)	*Jean Chouquette*
Arlis (comfort and hope); Barbara (bravery); Gabe (discernment)	*Jenson Family*
Nick (recovering after a fall)	*Jung Family*
Parents (continued health); Melissa (employment); Shannon (continued health): City of St. Louis	*Cat Leonard*
Peter (nephew) prayers for decrease in swelling and regaining feeling after a spinal cord injury while on honeymoon	*Carleen Reinhart*
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Venezuela, Colombia, Nepal and Tibet; all impacted by disasters; Pat Fulton (strength); Ginny Olson (strength); Jojo (healing, energy); Sonya and Sean (healing and strength); those who do not feel safe in their communities; for peace with justice in our world.	*Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton*
Toby (patience and faith while jailed), Ronnie (employment), Dale (food, employment), Russel and Tanya (food, health, housing)	*Social Action*

LIVING YOUR FAITH

GIVE

Instead of November/December Big Asks Gethsemane will again participate in the **St. Anthony's Christmas Cheer program**, formerly known as Adopt-a-family. We will be "adopting" 35 people this year! Sign up will be available during Fellowship next Sunday, and/or online via a link in the eNews. Wrapped gifts should be delivered to Gethsemane by Dec 13. To help ensure consistency among recipients, we recommend spending approximately $75 per person.

The **Little Free Pantry** needs **Pasta sauce,** preferably in cans or plastic jars. Place donations for Big Ask items in the cabinets near the shopping cart. Items placed **IN** the cart go to our Free Food Pantry. We are also looking for someone who could either regularly purchase some items from Aldi or receive a delivery at their home and bring it to Gethsemane.

ACT

Follow-up Single Service Surveys continue today. Please share your feedback about the trial period (September – December) of 10 am Worship, **by today**. Please only complete one survey per person. Church Council meets on Tuesday. An announcement regarding future worship times will be announced soon based on feedback from your completed surveys.

Gretchen and Eve are organizing **Thanksgiving meals** for our home-bound members and others in need. If you would like a meal delivered to you or know someone who would, please contact Eve or Gretchen to be put on the list!

Winter blessing bags are available in the Narthex for you to pick up and distribute to those you see who are in need

Fellowship Hosts Wanted! Please sign up in the kitchen to help "host fellowship," which just entails some light clean-up afterwards (9:45 – 10 am). We've made clean-up even easier during our trial one service time this fall, by using paper cups instead of washing mugs.

Did you know Gethsemane has a **Member Care team**? If you or a church member you know is in need of support from the GLC's Member Care team please contact the church office or Betsy Bartholomew, or check the box on the weekly attendance insert.

Share your voice! Send December newsletter items to Gretchen by November 29.

JOIN

Join us for breakfast before worship on **Stewardship Sunday, November 22**! The Fellowship Team will provide a light breakfast in the Fellowship Hall from **9:00-9:55 a.m.** There is no need to bring anything. Come enjoy good food, conversation, and time with your Gethsemane family as we gather in gratitude for God's blessings. **All are welcome!**

Do you have an awesome recipe for sweet potatoes? Can you mash potatoes? Can you purchase jars of gravy? No matter your kitchen skills, you can contribute to the **Thanksgiving meals** that we will be preparing to deliver to home-bound members and neighbors. Look for the sign-up in the eNews and on the Sanctuary door to provide a side dish and/or help prep or deliver meals.

The **November Women's Lunch** is Monday, Nov. 30, 11:30 am at Maggie O'Briens in Sunset Hills. RSVP to Cindi Fenton by Nov. 27.

Ponies and sheep and baby Jesus, Oh My! Our Live Nativity is only a few weeks away on **December 5, 4-5 pm**. We could use help with set up and tearing down. Rumor has it following the Live Nativity, Music Director, Amy Crusore, will lead carolers caroling around the neighborhood to continue spreading Christmas cheer and good will to all!

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
November 15 - 22, 2026

11/15 Sunday	9:00 am 9:00 am **10:00 am** 11:15 am	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee, Bridge Bread Children's Christmas Program run through & Faith Village **ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube** Worship and Music Committee Mtg, (Conf. Room) Social Action Committee Mtg. (Library)
11/16 Monday	6-7 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
11/17 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
11/18 Wednesday	1–3 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Choir Rehearsal
11/22 Sunday ***Stewardship Sunday!***	9:00 am 9:00 am **10:00 am**	Stewardship Breakfast! Sunday School and Faith Village **ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube**

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	**Time**	**Event**
Mondays	6 - 7 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:30 – 8 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Tues, Nov 17	6:30 pm	Council Meeting
Sun, Nov 22	9 am	Stewardship Breakfast
Wed, Nov 25	6-7 pm	Thanksgiving dishes drop-off
Thurs, Nov 26	All day	Thanksgiving Day
Sun, Nov 29	10 am	First Sunday of Advent
Mon, Nov 30	11:30 am	Gethsemane Women's Luncheon
Sat, Dec 5	4-5 pm	Live Nativity!
Sat, Dec 19	9:30 am – 2:30 pm	Parent's Day Out AND Children's Christmas program rehearsal
Sun, Dec 20	10 am	Children's Christmas Program during Worship
Thurs, Dec 24	4 pm	Christmas Eve Worship
Fri. Dec. 25	10 am	Christmas Day Worship

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

We're Bringing Back Thanksgiving Meals!

For many years, Thanksgiving meals were delivered to homebound neighbors through the efforts of St. Joan of Arc. When that ministry came to an end, and no meals were delivered last year, it left a gap that didn't feel right.

This year, Gretchen and Eve are coordinating the effort through Gethsemane, but we need volunteers to help prepare, package, and deliver meals. If you've been meaning to sign up, there's still time.

Together, we can share a warm meal and a tangible reminder of God's love this Thanksgiving.



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 unhoused…
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.

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Scan here to donate to Gethsemane's African American Spiritual Reparation project.

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