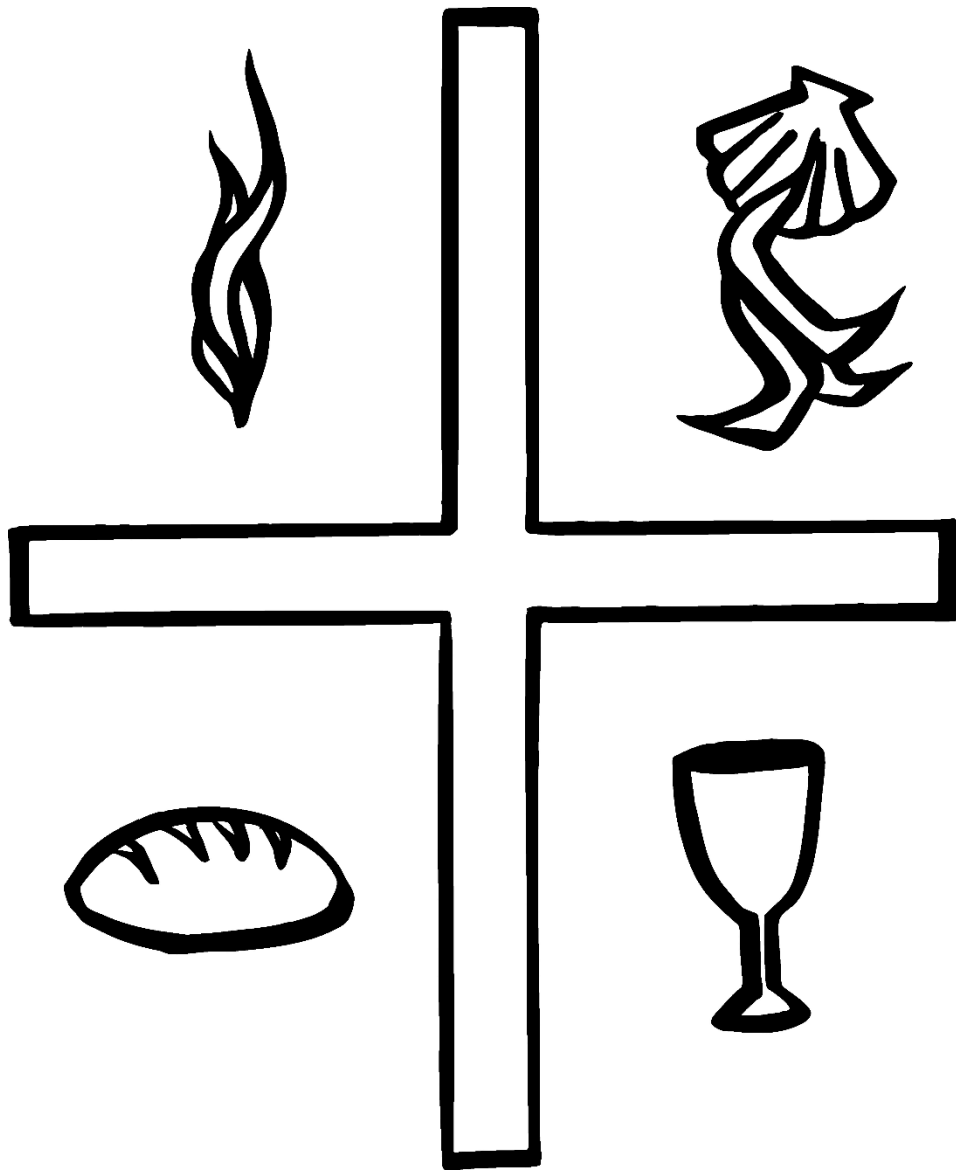


Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 17th, 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
Connections Coordinator: Gretchen Jenson
Office Manager: Eve Cooney
Minister of Music: Amy Crousore
Council President: Cayce Morice, 314-574-0850

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organist@gethsemanestl.com
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, Now the Feast and Celebration

In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Breathe (Handbell Choir)*

Marie Barnette, Arr. by Derek K. Hake

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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

P: Let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us. Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

C: **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

P: Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *God , We Gather as Your People*

See next page

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.**

God, We Gather As Your People



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
that they nev - er have a rea - son to
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman

Text and music © 2007 Welcome Song Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

KYRIE

Cantor: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Refrain

Assembly



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Cantor: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Refrain

Cantor: For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

All: Refrain

Cantor: Help, save, and defend us, O God.

All:



A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: *Now the Feast and Celebration*

HYMN# 167

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray. O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 45:1-7

From east to west, there is no other God

¹ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall not be closed: ² I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness

and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. ⁵ I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶ so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. ⁷ I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 21:1-7

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

- ¹ **The king rejoices in your | strength, O Lord;
how greatly he exults | in your victory!**
- ² You have given him his | heart's desire;
you have not denied him the request | of his lips.
- ³ **For you meet him with blessings | of prosperity,
and set a crown of fine gold up- | on his head.**
- ⁴ He asked you for life, and you gave | it to him:
length of days, forev- | er and ever.
- ⁵ **His honor is great, because | of your victory;
splendor and majesty you be- | stow upon him.**
- ⁶ For you will give him ever- | lasting blessings
and will make him glad with the joy | of your presence.
- ⁷ **For the king puts his trust | in the Lord;
because of the lovingkindness of the Most High, he | will not fall.**

SECOND READING: ACTS 1:6-14

Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

⁶ When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹ When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰ While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹ They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

¹² Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day's journey away. ¹³ When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying: Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. ¹⁴ All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, 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 John, the 17th chapter:
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: JOHN 17:1-11

On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.

¹ After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples,] he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, ² since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³ And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴ I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. ⁵ So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

⁶ “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, ⁸ for the words that you gave to me I have given to

them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹ I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰ All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. ¹¹ And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

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: *I Come with Joy*

HYMN #482

CONFESSION OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of Martin Luther, taken from the small catechism, the explanation of the second article of the Apostles’ creed.

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true. Amen.

BLESSING OF GRADUATES

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

AM: Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

A brief silence.

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

P: God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

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: *Lamb of God*

by Twila Paris, Arr. by Lloyd Larson

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

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:

Congregation:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; Heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!
 Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

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: Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.

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*



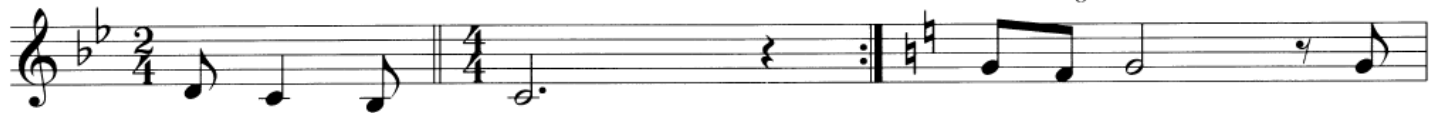
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
 you broke the bonds of sin and
 you are the way of jus - tice and
 you are the way of mer - cy and

Congregation:



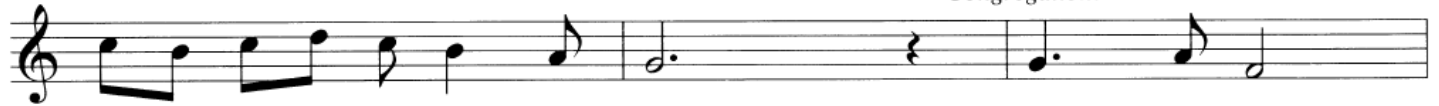
world:
 death; have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
 peace:

Final time Cong. or assistant:

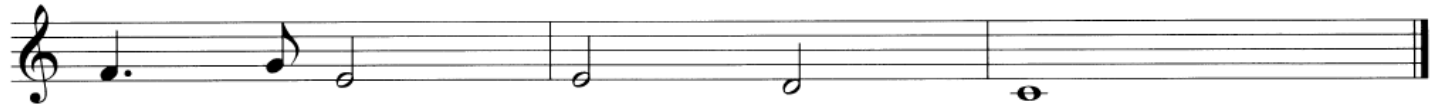


mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you

Congregation:



take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading

HYMN #401

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 One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

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: God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✠ bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *You Servants of God*

HYMN# 825

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Praise the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Fanfare*

E. S. Lorenz

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The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Ami Boehlje
in memory of Gary Jenson, and Keith and Susie Lingwall.



WORSHIP LEADERS		
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
GREETER	Lois Wind	Rob Schainker
USHERS	Adam, Michael and Colleen Rentchler	Gary Borkowski
ASSISTING MINISTER	Becky Rentchler	Carolyn Schainker
LECTOR	Rick Schuessler	Steve Walentik
CANTOR	Ruthie Grollman	Jessica Freiberger
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Chris Schmidt	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	Celebrate Graduates with cake!	
DONUT DRIVER	Adam Rentchler	
ALTAR GUILD	Leah Morrell	
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson	
WINE SPONSOR	Wind Family	

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Cindy Breed: patience and healing
Kate Hartz: courage and trust
Barb Johnson: healing and strength
Fred Lenhart: comfort and peace
Margaret Lenhart: comfort and peace
Dell Roth: healing, strength and joy
Sharon Salerno: healing and strength

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
Bev, good friend, (fighting cancer)	<i>Breed Family</i>
Mom's missing their kids or estranged; Moms caring for sick or injured children; Women struggling to become moms; Kelsey, Dana, Joran - healthy pregnancies	<i>Kohlberg Family</i>
Gracie (healing); Melissa (healing/employment); Charlie (remission); Karen (wisdom); Matt (confidence); Dad (safe travels to appointment and healing)	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Cambodia, and Venezuela; Pat Fulton (healing, strength); Ginny Olson (healing, strength); Sister Marie Orf; Jojo (encouragement); the family of Jacob Carlson (comfort as they grieve); those who do not feel safe in their communities; all impacted by disasters; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Toby, Dale, Rob, Charlie, Russell, Tanya, Zino, Brooks, Vonya, Nicole and Steve (housing, employment, food, health and hope)	<i>Social Action</i>

LIVING YOUR FAITH

GIVE

The May Big Ask is laundry detergent (50 oz and smaller) and toothpaste. Place donation items in the cabinet located in the hallway leading to the Narthex.

The **Little Free Pantry and Comfort Cabinet** needs are canned fruit, fresh fruit, mashed potatoes, rice packets, jelly in plastic containers, nutri-grain/fruit/granola bars, shaving cream, sunscreen and small tissue packets. Place donations in the shopping cart in the hallway.

Food Drive! Gethsemane is partnering with Affinia Healthcare to support neighbors facing food insecurity. Donate dried fruits, beans, pasta, rice, bottled water/juice, and canned goods. **Place donations in the box** near the parking lot doors through **June**. Monetary gifts are also accepted – see the enews for a link. Thank you for sharing God’s love!

ACT

The **Social Action Team** is meeting **TODAY at 10 am** in the library. All are welcome!

Kate Hartz invites you to join her for the **Walk to Defeat ALS** on Saturday, June 27, in Forest Park. Kate has even been invited to help kick off the event, making it an especially meaningful day for our community. Whether you walk the route or simply come to cheer her on, this is a wonderful opportunity to stand together and make a difference for those affected by ALS.

Sponsor Altar Flowers (\$30) or Wine (\$10) Flowers may be given in honor or memory of a loved one, to celebrate a birthday or anniversary, or just because. Several summer – winter dates are open. Thank you for helping make our worship space beautiful and for sharing your celebrations and remembrances with the Gethsemane community. Sign up near the bulletin board, pay via envelope or online, and send flower dedications to Eve in the office.

Share your voice! Send June newsletter items to Gretchen by May 26.

JOIN

Congrats 2026 Graduates! We will celebrate you with a special cake and well wishes during fellowship hour **TODAY**. Please come and be recognized.

The next **GLC Women’s Luncheon** will be held **TOMORROW, Monday, May 18**, 11:30 am at Schlafly Bottleworks, 7260 Southwest Ave. Contact Susan Sommerfield to RSVP or see the enews/website.

Sign-up now for **Vacation Bible School** on Gethsemane’s website. We need volunteers and campers! July 6-10, 9 am - 12:30 pm or 5 pm. **Registration deadline June 1.**

On **June 7**, following 9:30 am Worship, meet in the Fellowship hall for a “pop-up potluck” celebrating nothing in particular, then help put together more Blessing bags for our unhoused neighbors! Bring a dish to share. (clean-up help always appreciated.)

On **Fri, June 19**, 7-9 pm, the **Synoptic Frequencies** concert returns to Gethsemane. This iteration features guitarist Marisa Anderson, who the New Yorker calls “*one of the most distinctive guitar players of her generation.*”

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
May 17 - 24, 2026**

Today 5/17 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Hour – Celebrate Graduates with cake! Social Action Team Meeting (library) Worship Service
5/18 Monday	11:30 am 6:00 pm	Women’s Luncheon at Schlafly on Southwest Handbell Choir Rehearsal
5/19 Tuesday	10:00 am 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Bible Study Church Council Meeting Vivaldi Gloria (Pattonville HS Choir and Orchestra, Amy Crousore Accompanying)
5/20 Wednesday	1:00 – 3:00 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Choir Rehearsal
5/24 Sunday Memorial Day	9:30 am 10:15 am	SINGLE SUMMER WORSHIP BEGINS ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship (cookies and tea/lemonade)

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Mondays	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:30 – 8 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sun, May 31	7-9 pm	Sunday Funday for Youth in grades 7-12 (Bethel)
Mon, June 1	All Day	Registration deadline for VBS
Sun, June 7	10:15 am	Pot-luck and Blessing Bag Assembly
Mon, June 8	1-5 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive at GLC
Fri, June 19	7 -9 pm	Synoptic Frequencies Concert (ft. Marisa Anderson)
Sat, June 27	10 am	Walk with Kate (Hartz) to Defeat ALS (Forest Park)
July 6-10	9 am – 5 pm	Vacation Bible School!
July 19-24		Confirmation Camp at Camp Tomah Shinga

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

Gethsemane is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation Affirmation of Welcome

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

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

People of any race or ethnicity...

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

People of any age...

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

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

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

People with a variety of political perspectives...

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

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

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

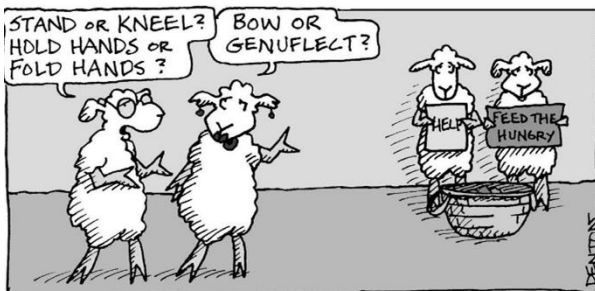
People of differing educational backgrounds...

People of any socio-economic condition...

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

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


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



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

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