

Transfiguration of our Lord

February 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 Šakówin, 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

Organist/Interim Choir Director: Amy Croushore

Council President: Cayce Morice, 314-574-0850

pastor@gethsemanestl.org

connect@gethsemanestl.org

office@gethsemanestl.org

organist@gethsemanestl.com

cayce.morice@yahoo.com

Office Hours: Vary, but include Tues-Thurs, 10 am – 1 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

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Cantad al Señor (Oh Sing to the Lord)*

Arr. by Kevin McChesney

Presented by the Gethsemane Handbell Choir

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFSSION 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, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*

HYMN# 834

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 *Glory to God in the highest*

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, 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: EXODUS 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the Lord” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

¹² The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 2

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

¹ Why are the nations ¹ in an uproar?

 Why do the peoples mutter ¹ empty threats?

**² Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes ¹ plot together,
 against the Lord and against the ¹ Lord's anointed?**

³ "Let us break their ¹ yoke," they say;
 "let us cast off their ¹ bonds from us."

**⁴ God whose throne is in heav- ¹ en is laughing;
 the Lord holds them ¹ in derision.**

⁵ Then in wrath God ¹ speaks to them,
 and in rage fills ¹ them with terror.

**⁶ "As for me, I have anoint- ¹ ed my king
 upon Zion, my ¹ holy mountain."**

⁷ Let me announce the decree ¹ of the Lord,
 who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I be- ¹ gotten you.

**⁸ Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for ¹ your inheritance
 and the ends of the earth for ¹ your possession.**

⁹ You shall crush them with an ¹ iron rod
 and shatter them like a ¹ piece of pottery."

**¹⁰ And now, you ¹ kings, be wise;
 be warned, you rulers ¹ of the earth.**

¹¹ Submit to the ¹ Lord with fear,
 and with trembling ¹ bow in worship;

**¹² lest the Lord be angry, and you perish in a sudden ¹ blaze of wrath.
 Happy are all who take ref- ¹ uge in God!**

SECOND READING: 2 PETER 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

¹⁶ We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷ For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." ¹⁸ We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

¹⁹ So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ²⁰ First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of

one's own interpretation,²¹ because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Word of God, word of life
Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 17th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 17:1-9

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Jesus on the Mountain Peak*

HYMN# 317

CONFESION OF FAITH

P: Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

C: 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 THE PEOPLE

AM: Let us pray. As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

(*A brief silence.*)

AM: . . . Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

AM: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always!

C: And also with you.

P: Let us greet one another with a sign of this spirit-filled peace, respecting the boundaries and honoring the consent of our neighbors.

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: *Peace Like a River*

Traditional Spiritual Arr. by Joel Raney

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

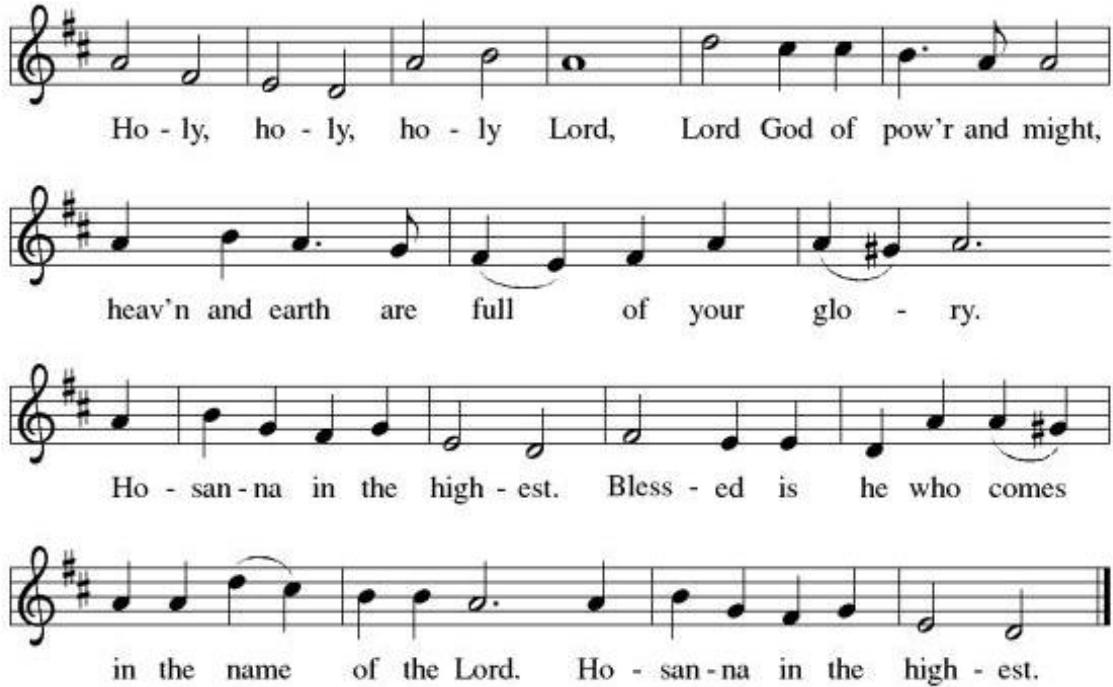
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,



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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, in the languages or translations of our hearts.

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

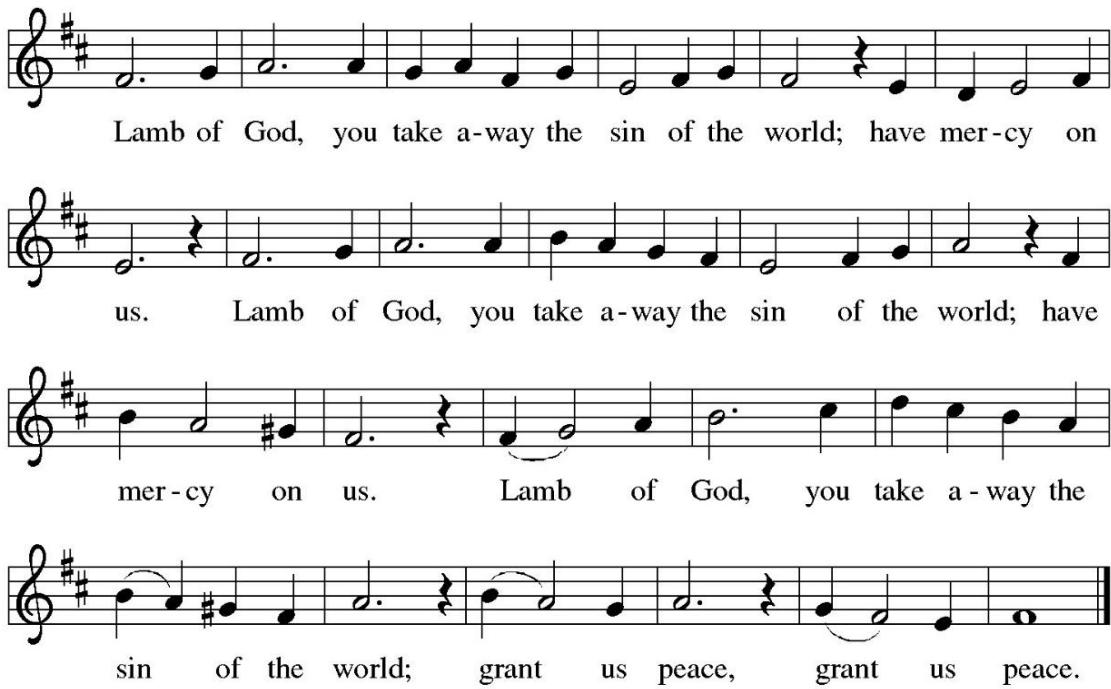
P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

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.

Beautiful Savior

HYMN# 838

I Love to Tell the Story

HYMN# 661

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: Let us pray. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Alleluia, Song of Gladness*

HYMN# 318

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Rondeau*

Jean-Joseph Mouret, Arr. Hal Hopson

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The altar flower's this week are given to the glory of God
by the Tepe-McFarlane family celebrating
Melissa Tepe and Michael McFarlane's
21 year Wedding anniversary.



| WORSHIP LEADERS | | |
|--------------------|--|------------------------|
| PRESIDER | Rev. Tina Reyes | |
| GREETER | Richard Lima | Debbie Schaller |
| USHERS | Adam Rentchler, Colleen and Michael | Steve and Ben Walentik |
| ASSISTING MINISTER | Becky Rentchler | Chris Schmidt |
| LECTOR | Lindsay Schuessler | Angie Fulton |
| CANTOR | Robyn Wolfsberger | Angie Fulton |
| CHILDREN'S SERMON | Mary Wolfsberger | |
| ALTAR GUILD | Missy DeVore | |
| DONUT DRIVER | Adam Rentchler | |
| FELLOWSHIP HOST | needed | |
| CAMERA | Gary Borkowski | |
| WINE SPONSOR | Tepe – McFarlane Family | |

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Mark Cutelli: healing

Neil Gustafson: healing

Kate Hartz: courage and trust

Barb Johnson: healing and strength

Fred Lenhart: recovering from hip surgery

Margaret Lenhart: healing

Richard Lima: recovering from surgery

Elizabeth Penny: healing

Dell Roth: healing and strength

Sharon Salerno: healing and strength

Family and friends of Bob Salsman (**Mark Cutelli's** brother): Comfort and peace as they mourn his death.

| Request for: | <i>On Behalf of:</i> |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Ed's brother, John Breed (healing) | <i>Breed Family</i> |
| For the good health of MCU, so that we can position ourselves to make an impact against the rapid rise of authoritarianism. | <i>Garrett Finazzo</i> |
| Karis (healing), Tyla (healing), Scott (strength), Parents (continued health), Farmers of the World. | <i>Cat Leonard</i> |
| The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar, Cambodia and Venezuela; Pat Fulton (healing, strength); Ginny Olson (strength and healing); Sister Marie Orf; Jojo (encouragement); 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> |
| Jill (healing, love), my loved ones in the Twin Cities: Margaret, Jim, Kathryn, Emily, Chris, Joe, Merritt, Kaitlin and Patrick. | <i>Penny Family</i> |
| Stephanie Rice's family on the death of her nephew | <i>Schmidt Family</i> |
| Job opportunities for Chad | <i>Tullock Family</i> |

LIVING YOUR FAITH



GIVE

Little Free Pantry Items needed include **cereal** of any types. We are also collecting small condiment packages and/or utensil packs from restaurants. Clean out your drawers!

February's Big Ask for Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's is laundry soap and dish soap. Place donation items in the cabinet located in the hallway leading to the Narthex.



ACT

Be a host! Fellowship hosts make Sundays welcoming by helping with coffee and donuts and cleaning up afterwards. Sign up in the kitchen during fellowship.

Care for others! Did you know Gethsemane has a **Member Care Team**? Gethsemane's Member Care team provides support for members facing illness, surgery, crisis, or loss, and also celebrate significant life events like births. We perform duties such as sending cards, providing meals (via gift cards), coordinating visits for the homebound or hospitalized. The team acts as a vital link between members in need and those who can offer help within the church community.

If you or a church member you know is in need of support please contact the church office or check the box on weekly insert. You may reach out to the Member Care team directly by contacting Betsy Bartholomew. Requests for member care support are private and will only be shared with the congregation if you so choose.

All of us can be members in need as well as members who provide care. To join this team, watch for meeting updates.

Spread kindness! Blessing bags are in the Narthex - take and share with those in need.

Share your voice! Send Mar. newsletter items to connect@gethsemanestl.org by Feb. 24.



JOIN

Get ready for a fun and delicious time at our Annual Cookie & Chili Cook-Off Sunday, March 1st after 2nd service! We're looking for:

- Cookie bakers – any kind of cookie welcome
- Chili chefs – red, white, chicken, vegetarian, mild, or spicy
- Taste testers/judges – no baking or cooking required!

This is a great opportunity to invite family and friends, enjoy amazing food, and connect with your Gethsemane church family. Everyone is welcome, come cook, come taste, or just come enjoy! Sign up in the Narthex, or email, call, or text Natalie: 314-412-9524 | natalie.fontana@gmail.com

The Gethsemane **Women's Luncheon** will be held Monday, Feb 23 at 11:30 am at the 1356 Public House at 1356 Big Bend in Ballwin. RSVP on the website or by contacting Dawn Schuessler.

Sign-ups for **Vacation Bible School** are on Gethsemane's website and in the weekly eNews! We need volunteers and campers! July 6-10, 9 am-5 pm or 9 am-12:30 pm.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar

February 15 - 22, 2026

| | | |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 2/15/26 Sunday | 8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 11:00 am | Worship: In-Person and Livestream Fellowship hour Social Action Committee Mtg. (library) Sunday School / Confirmation Worship: In-Person |
| 2/16/26 Monday | All Day 6:00 pm | President's Day 10-11 am Bridge for Faith and Justice at MLK bridge Handbell Choir Rehearsal |
| 2/17/26 Tuesday | 10 am | Bible Study |
| 2/18/26 Wed. | Noon 1:30–2:30 pm 5:30–6:30 pm 7:00 pm | Ash Wednesday Mid-Day Worship Office Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Choir Rehearsal Ash Wednesday Evening Worship |
| 2/22/26 Sunday | 8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 11:00 am | Worship: In-Person and Livestream Fellowship hour Sunday School / Confirmation Worship: In-Person |

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 |
| Weds in Lent | 5:30 pm | Lent Midweek Worship, Holden Evening Prayer |
| Sun, Mar 1 | Noon | Annual Chili Cook-off and Cookie Bake Off! |

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.

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

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