

# Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 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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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](mailto:office@gethsemanestl.org)    [www.gethsemanestl.org](http://www.gethsemanestl.org)

## *ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten*

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

## GATHERING

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**PRELUDE:** *Chorale from Cantata 22: Embrace with Thy Goodness* By J. S. Bach  
ft. Mike Schmidt – Trumpet

*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, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

**P:** Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P:** God’s steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God’s love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**C: Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG:** *Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

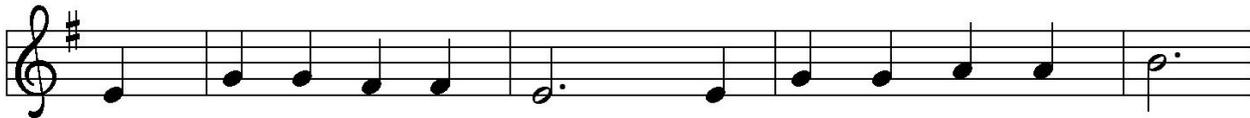
**HYMN# 335**

**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.**

**KYRIE**



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow’r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**AM:** Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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

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## THE FIRST READING: GENESIS 12:1-4a

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: PSALM 121

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

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes | to the hills;

from where is my | help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes | from the Lord,**  
**the maker of heav- | en and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord will not let your | foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you | fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keep- | er of Israel**  
**will neither slum- | ber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the Lord watches | over you;  
the Lord is your shade at | your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike | you by day,**  
**nor the | moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will preserve you | from all evil  
and will | keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**  
**from this time forth for- | evermore.**

## SECOND READING: ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

### LENTEN VERSE



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter:  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL: JOHN 3:1-17**

*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

<sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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** *Lift High the Cross*

**HYMN# 660**

## THE APOSTLE'S CREED

**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. Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*(A brief silence.)*

**AM:** . . . Hear us, O God,

**C:** Your mercy is great.

**P:** Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**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

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

**MUSICAL OFFERING:** *They'll Know We Are Christians*

by Peter Scholtes

*The congregation rises in body or spirit.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

**AM:** O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C: Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

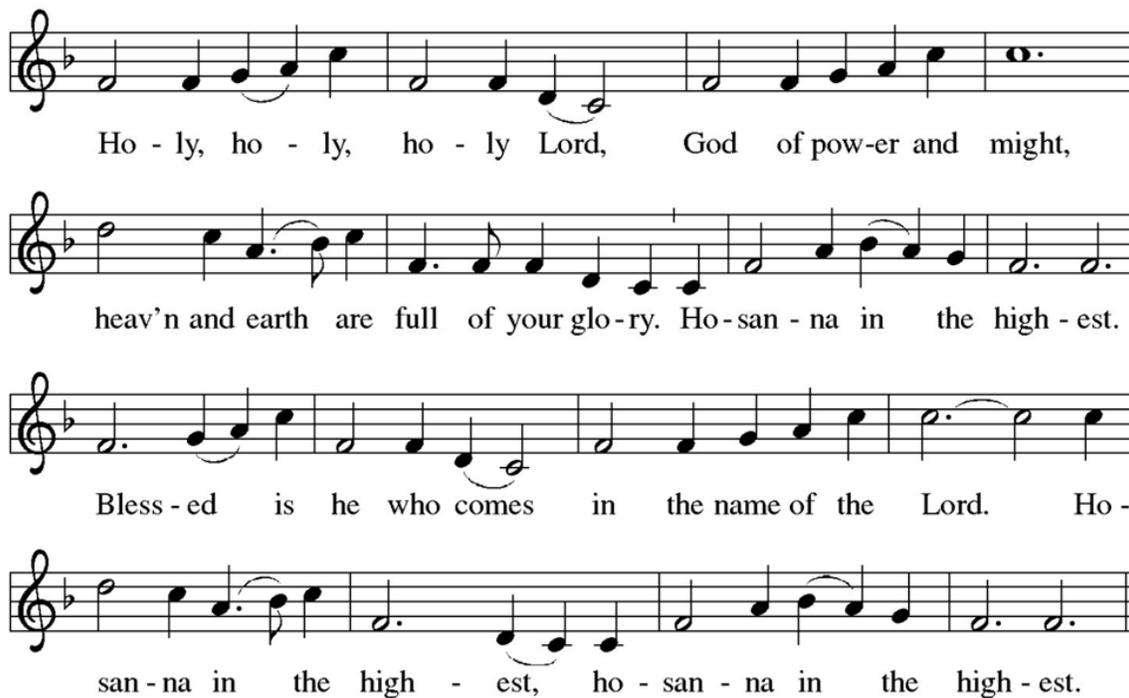
**P:** Lift up your hearts.

**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 indeed right, our duty and our joy, . . . .



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**P:** Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

**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. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*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*



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

*What Wondrous Love Is This*

**HYMN# 666**

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

**HYMN# 803**

**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. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

## **SENDING**

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### **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:** Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:** *Blessed Assurance*

**HYMN# 638**

### **DISMISSAL**

**AM:** Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Symphony in Bb*

By Nicolas Le Begue

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**(No flowers during Lent.)**

WORSHIP LEADERS		
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
GREETER	Joan Williams	Debbie Schaller
USHERS	Cayce Morice	Steve Walentik Ben Walentik
ASSISTING MINISTER	Phyllis Saathoff	Carolyn Schainker
LECTOR	Richard Lima	Barb Johnson
CANTOR	Robyn Wolfsberger	T. Edwards Breed
INSTRUMENTALIST	Mike Schmidt	Mike Schmidt
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Pastor Cheryl	
ALTAR GUILD	Missy DeVore	
DONUT DRIVER	Adam Rentschler	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	<i>needed</i>	
CAMERA	Gary Borkowski	
WINE SPONSOR	Carleen Reinhart	

**HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER**  
 MIDWEEK WORSHIP | MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>  
**5:30PM**  
 In person and Online



the good news is...  
 great love for  
 God & neighbor

## PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Neil Gustafson:** healing  
**Kate Hartz:** courage and trust  
**Barb Johnson:** healing and strength  
**Fred Lenhart:** recovering from hip surgery  
**Margaret Lenhart:** healing  
**Marilyn McGuire:** healing from cancer  
**Dell Roth:** healing and strength  
**Sharon Salerno:** healing and strength

<b>Request for:</b>	<b><i>On Behalf of:</i></b>
My sister-in-law, Chris Austin, who is recovering from shoulder surgery	<i>Suzanne Hirth</i>
Gretchen's Aunt Arlis and Uncle Greg (peace and understanding); Bonus Mom Pat (health); Sister Gillian (perseverance as she is in the home stretch of her Master's degree.)	<i>Gretchen Jenson</i>
Kelsey, Jordan, Dana (healthy pregnancies), Spencer and Sullivan (new babies), Husted family (trust and comfort), for humanity in the world	<i>Kohlberg Family</i>
Tyla and Karis (healing), Ethan (wisdom), Melissa (employment); Dad (successful treatment)	<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>
Friend Kim (strength and courage with health issues.)	<i>Carleen Reinhart</i>
Dear friend's grandson, Jack (6 years old), facing cancer surgery	<i>Mary Scanlan</i>
Russel Forbes and Tonya Keeton (healing, safe housing, food, water, hope for the future)	<i>Social Action Team</i>

# LIVING YOUR FAITH

## GIVE

**Little Free Pantry Items** needed include **cereal** and **canned vegetables**. We are also collecting small condiment packages and/or utensil packs. Clean out your drawers!

**The March Big Ask** for Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's is shampoo, razors and shaving cream. Place donation items in the cabinet located in the hallway leading to the Narthex.

## ACT

The Social Action Team is organizing a **Food Drive** for the Little Free Pantry at Schnucks on Hampton and Chippewa on **Saturday, March 21**. Help is needed to ask shoppers for donations as they enter the store, and periodically shuttle collected groceries back to church in your vehicle. Sign up in the enews, the website or contact Leah Morrell.

**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.

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

**Share your voice!** Send April newsletter items to [connect@gethsemanestl.org](mailto:connect@gethsemanestl.org) by 3/24.

## JOIN

**Our Annual Cookie & Chili Cook-Off is TODAY after the second Worship service (around noon.)** Everyone is welcome, come taste, vote, or just come and enjoy!



There will be a brief "Salad Supper" between Worship and Choir Practice (6-6:30 pm) this Wednesday, March 4. Eve Cooney is providing a simple ceasar salad. If you would like to host an upcoming Wednesday, please contact the office! There is no time for clean-up, so bring your own "mess kit" or wash your own dish afterwards.

The next GLC **Women's Luncheon** will be held, Monday, March 23 at 11:30 am at the Three Kings Public House in Ronnie's Plaza. RSVP on the website or contact Angie Fulton.

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  
March 1 – 8, 2026**

3/1/26 Sunday 	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 11:00 am <b>Noon</b>	Worship: In-Person and Livestream <b>Fellowship hour</b> Sunday School / Confirmation Worship: In-Person <b>Chili Cook-off and Cookie Bake-off</b>
3/2/26 Monday	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
3/3/26 Tuesday	10 am	Bible Study
3/4/26 Wed.	1:30–2:30 pm <b>5:30 pm</b> 6:00 pm  6:30 pm	Office Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) <b>Midweek Lenten Worship – Holden Evening Prayer</b> <b>Caesar Salad</b> in the fellowship hall – Bring your own “mess kit” or do your own dishes Choir Rehearsal
3/8/26 Sunday <b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS</b>	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship: In-Person and Livestream <b>Fellowship hour</b> Sunday School / Confirmation Worship: In-Person

**Upcoming Dates to Consider**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Mondays	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	5:30 – 6 pm 6-6:30 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Lent Midweek Worship, Holden Evening Prayer Simple supper and fellowship (if host available) Choir Rehearsal
Sat, Mar 21	10 am – 6 pm	Food Drive at Schnucks for the Little Free Pantry
Sun, Mar 15	Between Services	Social Action Committee
Sat, Mar 21	10 am – 6 pm	Food Drive at Schnucks for the Little Free Pantry
Mon, Mar 23	11:30 am	Women’s Luncheon at Three Kings Public House
Tues, Mar 24	6:30 pm	Church Council Meeting
Th, F, Mar 2,3	7 pm	Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Worship
Sun, April 5	8:30 and 11 am	Easter Sunday, Easter Breakfast between services

**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.



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

 This Bulletin is 100% recyclable. If you would like to keep your copy, please do so. If you are done with your copy, please place it in the basket provided as you exit the sanctuary.

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church**

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