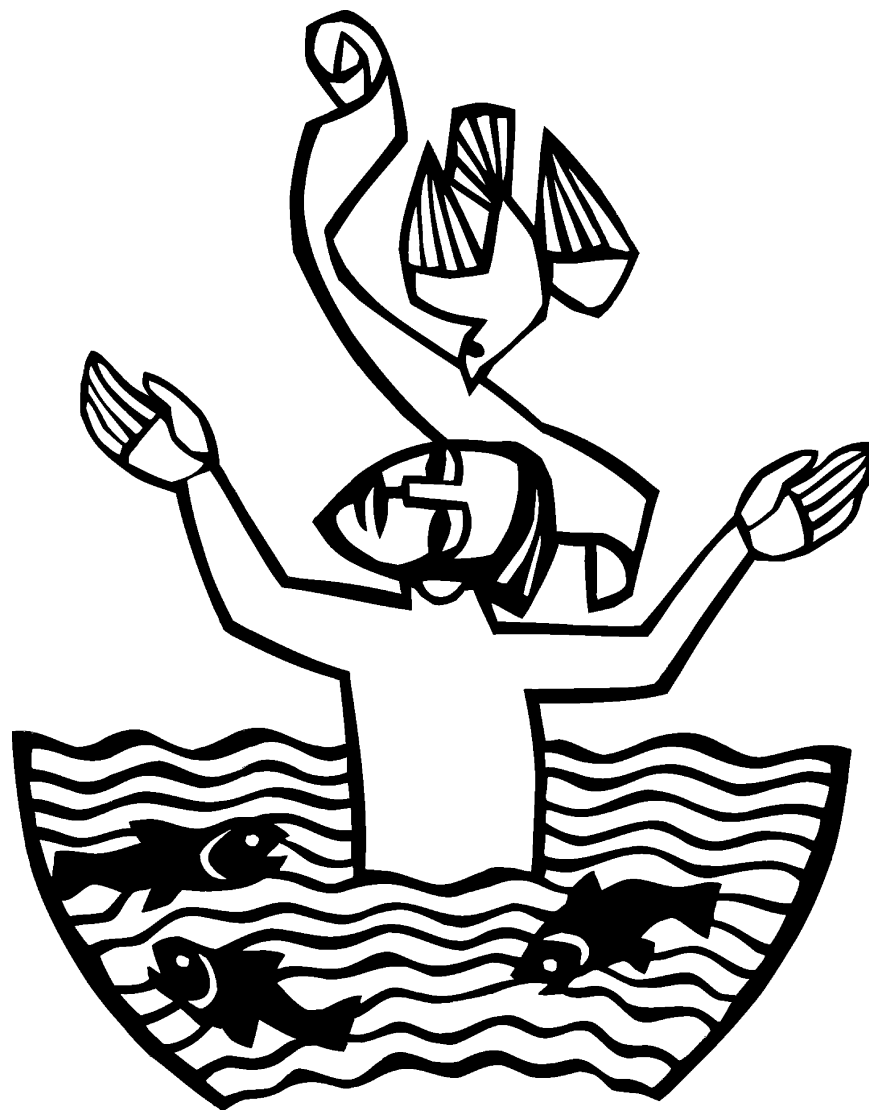


# The Baptism of our Lord

January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025



Gethsemane Lutheran Church

3600 Hampton - St. Louis, MO 63109

Worship God, welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.

*Welcome to worship! We're delighted you are here!*



Gethsemane Lutheran Church is a *Reconciling in Christ* Congregation. **You are welcome here.**



We ask all members, guests, and visitors to please fill out the **attendance slip** in your worship folder and place it in the offering plate.



Please **silence** phones and other devices during the worship service. Sharing that you're at Gethsemane on social media is encouraged! "Check in" using hashtag: #glcstlCheckIn.



The presence, energy, and noise of **children** are always welcome in worship at Gethsemane. The sound of a child in worship is music to our ears. We welcome and encourage kids to move and play. Additional space to move and Wiggle Bags are located in the narthex entry area.



**Postures** are a way in which we engage the body in worship. These movements (sitting, standing, making the sign of the cross) are optional; please engage in them only as you are comfortable or able.



**Holy Communion** is offered to all who seek the presence of Christ. This is a welcome table.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church wishes to **acknowledge** and **honor** the Osage, Quapaw, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówiŋ, Kaskaskia, and Kickapoo peoples upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship, as well as all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to care for this place—this land—and call it their home.

**CHURCH STAFF**

Minister: Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie  
Connections Coordinator: Gretchen Jenson  
Music Director: Dr. Aria Thomé  
Organist: Amy Crousore  
Council President: Gary Borkowski  
Office Manager: Eve Cooney

[pastor@gethsemanestl.org](mailto:pastor@gethsemanestl.org)  
[glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com)  
[gethsemane.choirs@gmail.com](mailto:gethsemane.choirs@gmail.com)  
[amycrousore@gmail.com](mailto:amycrousore@gmail.com)  
[gvborkowski@gmail.com](mailto:gvborkowski@gmail.com)  
[office@gethsemanestl.org](mailto:office@gethsemanestl.org)

Office Hours: Vary. Please call before coming to the church to ensure someone will be here to let you in.

**Church Office – (314) 352-8050**

[office@gethsemanestl.org](mailto:office@gethsemanestl.org)

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

## *ELW Holy Communion Setting 6*

*Today's festival rejoices in God's blessings. We recall and celebrate our adoption as God's children, the gift of the Holy Spirit, and the promised company of almighty God when we "pass through the waters . . . the rivers . . . fire." On this day the heavens open again for this assembly, and we receive the gift of God's Beloved, Jesus, in bread and wine.*

### **GATHERING**

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**PRELUDE:** *Hymn Prelude on Puer Nobis*

*15th Century Chorale, Arr. by Peter Stearns*

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

**P:** Holy creator of all that exists, as we journey to seek you, we remember that before the beginning of time you separated waters from waters, creating all that is, bringing peace to all the earth. To the dry land, you give rainfall and mist. To the seas, you give deeps and currents. To the creatures and plants, you give water of life.

**C: Praise to you for water.**

**P:** Your Spirit churned over the waters and into the hearts of your people, filling us with life and showing us who we are. To the thirsty, you give a drink of cold water. Into the broken, you pour the cup of healing and forgiveness. For the destitute, you offer a pool of restoration and abundance.

**C: Praise to you for water.**

**P:** Through the baptism of Jesus, his body washed in the waters of the Jordan River, you baptized the waters of all the Earth, and called us home when we are weary and lost. We drink and bathe in water blessed by Jesus. Water of creation frees us, teaches us, and binds us to you, filling us with peace beyond our understanding.

**C: Praise to you for water.**

**C: Make us grateful for the gifts of healing water, beautiful water, flowing water, nourishing water. Bring us to your living water, in the name of Christ who makes our path clear and leads us in the way of peace. Amen.**

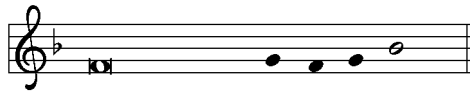
### **GREETING:**

**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

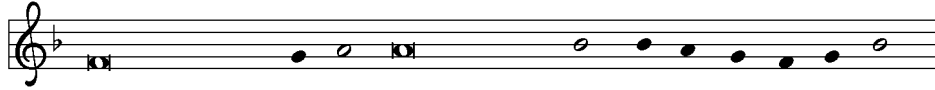
p. 165-166 front of Hymnal



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



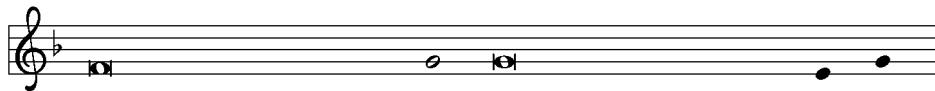
Lord, have mer - cy.



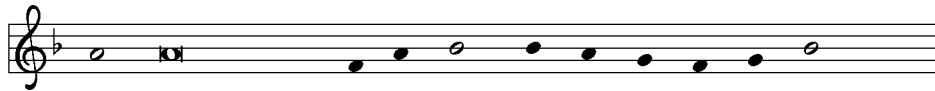
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



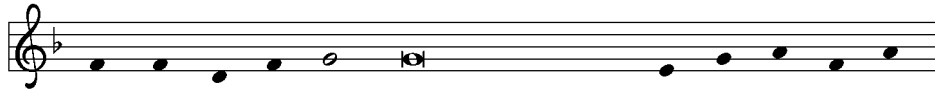
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of



God, and for the uni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



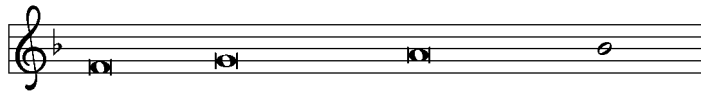
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gracious Lord.



A - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Almighty God, you anointed Jesus at his baptism with the Holy Spirit and revealed him as your beloved Son. Keep all who are born of water and the Spirit faithful in your service, that we may rejoice to be called children of God, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## MISSION MOMENT

Garrett Finazzo, MCU

## WORD

## THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 43:1-7

*Near the end of Israel's exile in Babylon, God promises to bring the people home. They need no longer be afraid, because the one who formed, created, and called them by name now redeems them from all their enemies. God declares them precious and honored, and God loves them.*

<sup>1</sup> But now thus says the Lord, the one who created you, O Jacob, the one who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

<sup>2</sup> When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

<sup>3</sup> For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. <sup>4</sup> Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. <sup>5</sup> Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; <sup>6</sup> I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— <sup>7</sup> everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM: PSALM 29

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

<sup>1</sup> Ascribe to the <sup>1</sup> Lord, you gods,  
ascribe to the Lord glo- <sup>1</sup> ry and strength.

<sup>2</sup> **Ascribe to the Lord the glory <sup>1</sup> due God's name;**  
**worship the Lord in the beau- <sup>1</sup> ty of holiness.**

- <sup>3</sup> The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of <sup>1</sup> glory thunders;  
the Lord is upon the <sup>1</sup> mighty waters.
- <sup>4</sup> **The voice of the Lord is a pow- <sup>1</sup> erful voice;  
the voice of the Lord is a <sup>1</sup> voice of splendor.**
- <sup>5</sup> The voice of the Lord breaks the <sup>1</sup> cedar trees;  
the Lord breaks the ce- <sup>1</sup> dars of Lebanon;
- <sup>6</sup> **the Lord makes Lebanon skip <sup>1</sup> like a calf,  
and Mount Hermon like a <sup>1</sup> young wild ox.**
- <sup>7</sup> The voice <sup>1</sup> of the Lord  
bursts forth in <sup>1</sup> lightning flashes.
- <sup>8</sup> **The voice of the Lord <sup>1</sup> shakes the wilderness;  
the Lord shakes the wilder- <sup>1</sup> ness of Kadesh.**
- <sup>9</sup> The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the <sup>1</sup> forests bare.  
And in the temple of the Lord all are <sup>1</sup> crying, “Glory!”
- <sup>10</sup> **The Lord sits enthroned a- <sup>1</sup> bove the flood;  
the Lord sits enthroned as king for- <sup>1</sup> evermore.**
- <sup>11</sup> O Lord, give strength <sup>1</sup> to your people;  
give them, O Lord, the bless- <sup>1</sup> ings of peace.

## **SECOND READING: ACTS 8:14-17**

*Peter and John are sent to support the new Christians in Samaria, a group that was recently baptized after hearing the good news of Christ through the preaching of Philip. Here the Samaritans receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in the laying on of hands.*

<sup>14</sup> Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. <sup>15</sup> The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit <sup>16</sup> (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). <sup>17</sup> Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

## GOSPEL: LUKE 3:15-17, 21-22

*The reading opens with questions about the identity of the Messiah. John the Baptist insists that he is not the Messiah; instead he points ahead to one who is coming. And whether the voice of God was heard by all or only by Jesus, God settles the matter: Jesus is God's beloved Son.*

<sup>15</sup> As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, <sup>16</sup> John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> With a winnowing fork in hand, he will clear the threshing floor and gather the wheat into his granary, burning the chaff with unquenchable fire."

<sup>21</sup> Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

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: Christ, When for Us You Were Baptized**

**HYMN# 304**

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

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

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

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

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

## THE PRAYERS

**AM:** With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

**AM:** . . . God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

**P:** We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

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

**P:** I invite you to share a sign of peace with those around 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:** *My Beloved*

by Aria Thome'



*The congregation rises in body or spirit.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

**AM:** God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

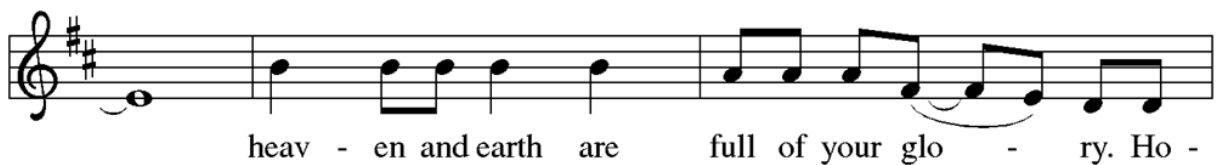
**P:** The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

**P:** Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

**P:** 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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### *Holy, Holy, Holy*



## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

### COMMUNION

**P:** The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

*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.


*Wade in the Water*

**Hymn# 459**

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

*Refrain*



Ev - 'ry time I feel the spir - it mov - ing



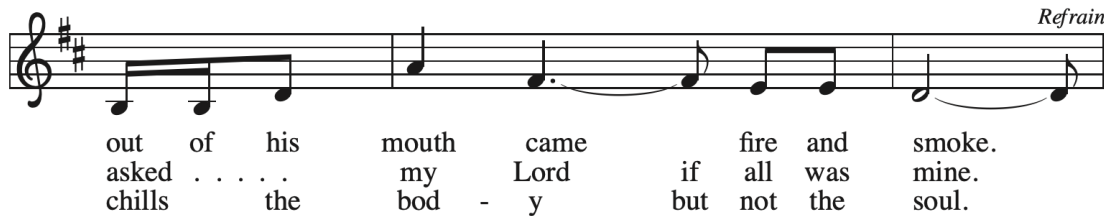
in my heart, I will pray. Ev - 'ry time I feel the



spir - it mov - ing in my heart, I will pray.



1 Up - on the moun - tain my Lord spoke,  
2 . . . All a - round me looked so fine,  
3 . . . Jor - dan riv - er, chilly and cold,



out of his mouth came fire and smoke.  
asked . . . my Lord if all was mine.  
chills the bod - y but not the soul.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: PENTECOST, African American spiritual; arr. Melva W. Costen, b. 1933  
Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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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:** Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,  
**Amen**

## **SENDING**

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*These are ways we welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.  
The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

### **BLESSING**

**P:** The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**Amen**

**SENDING HYMN:** *Baptized in Water*

**HYMN# 456**

### **DISMISSAL**

**AM:** Go in peace. Live in hope.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!*

Tune by Philipp Nicolai,  
Arr. By Wilbur Held

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**The flowers this week are given by Cindy Breed  
in honor of Elizabeth Penny Breed's Birthday**



WORSHIP LEADERS		
PREACHER/PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
GREETER	Betsy Bartholomew	Keith Paulson
USHERS	Richard Lima John Sandberg	Denise Buehrer
ASSISTING MINISTER	Natalie T. F.	Maryn Olson
LECTOR	Mike Schmidt	Anja Walentik
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Pastor Cheryl	
BREAD BAKER	Natalie Traylor Fontana	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	Walentik Family	
DONUT DRIVER	Walentik Family	
ALTAR GUILD	Bauer Family	
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson	
WINE SPONSOR	Barb Johnson	

### PRAYER REQUESTS:

**Cindy Breed:** Good surgery on Jan 21 and good recovery

**Barb Johnson:** Healing and strength

Request for:	On Behalf of:
Farmers of the World, Ellen (healing and comfort)	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, Sudan and Myanmar; thanksgiving for the arrival of baby James; Ginny Olson (healing and strength); Don and family as they mourn Bonnie's death; Sister Marie Orf (healing and strength); Marcelle (successful treatment); Jojo (healing and courage); all impacted by disasters; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Maggie Blossfeld (sister) - Hope, comfort, strength	<i>Bartholomew Family</i>

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**COMMITTEES!** Committee Annual Reports are due to the Church Office ASAP. Reports need to be submitted from the following persons and committees (and perhaps others I missed!):

- Education/Sunday School/VBS
- Executive/Council
- Fellowship
- Finance/Endowment
- Member Care
- Nominating
- Project Sanctuary
- Property
- Social Action
- Staff Support
- Stewardship
- Treasurer
- Welcoming
- Worship and Music

Thanks to all who have already submitted their reports! If you haven't submitted your report yet and are part of a committee without a lead person, please work together to write up a quick summary for 2024. Or just call Eve in the office and dictate something over the phone! Easy-peasy lemon-squeezy!

**Gethsemane's Annual Meeting** is Sunday, January 26 following the 9:30 am (single) service. A quorum must be met for the meeting to be official, so your attendance is needed. Childcare will be available. More details are available in the e-news.

The **January Big Ask** is Laundry Soap and Dish Soap. Please place donations near the shopping cart. These items are shared between St. Anthony's and Isaiah 58.

**Welcome Statement** As a Reconciling in Christ congregation and to make sure our language is up-to-date, we needed to make two minor changes to our welcome statement. Challenge yourself and see if you can find the changes on the back of the bulletin today. (Answers will be revealed on Jan 26, which we will celebrate as RIC Sunday!)

**The Mitten Tree** will remain in the narthex through the end of January. All donated hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves will be donated to those in need.

**Confirmation Presentation TODAY** – Today between services and during Fellowship Hour, hear the Confirmation class's presentation about the 12 Disciples in the form of a movie trailer!

The apostles weren't just 12 random guys that Jesus bumped into as He wandered around Judah. He knew them and they knew Him. And each other. The confirmation class imagined what that might look like today, and based on what they learned about the apostles and their lives, imagined a movie and its cast. Come see the trailer for a movie they would like to see on the big screen. **Not** coming soon to a theater near you!

**Lumin Dinner and Jesus nights return in January!** Gethsemane has signed up to provide meals to the college students who attend the Lumin Dinner and Jesus night at the Lumin house near the Wash U campus. Sign ups can be found online or in the fellowship hall. The next dinners are TODAY, February 9, March 23, and April 27. If you cannot provide food, they will accept monetary donations as well.

**LuMin St. Louis** announces our annual **Trivia Night** to be held on Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 6:00 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church on Forsyth. The price is \$25 pp and a table of 8 is \$200. Registration opens January 1, 2025. You or your business can also sponsor a round of trivia. Contact Pastor Tina Reyes for details at [pastor.luminstl@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.luminstl@gmail.com).

**Blessing Bags** are available near the main doors of the church. These are available for all to take and give to anyone you meet who may need the items.

**2025 Free Calendars** Need a new calendar for the new year? Feel free to take one or more calendars from the table near the parking lot.

**The Messenger has a new digital format!** If you have any items to include for the February newsletter, please send them to Gretchen at [glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.org](mailto:glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.org) by **January 24**.

**Thursday e-newsletter!** Gethsemane is using Constant Contact to send the weekly e-news on Thursdays. If you would like to be included, please click this QR code to fill out a form indicating that you would like to be added to the list. Also, be sure to check your spam or junk folders!



### **Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar January 12-19, 2025**

1/12 Sunday	8:30 am	<b>Baptism of our Lord</b> Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Hour, Sunday School, <b>Confirmation Presentation during Fellowship!</b>
	9:45 am	
	11:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person Vocal Choir Rehearsal
	5:00 pm	
1/13 Monday	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
1/14 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
1/15 Wednesday	10:00 am	Church Office Staff Meeting
1/19 Sunday	8:30 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Hour, Sunday School <b>Committee Meetings: Member Care (fellowship hall)</b>
	9:45 am	
	10:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person Vocal Choir Rehearsal
	5:00 pm	

### **Upcoming Dates to Consider**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Jan 20	All Day	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
Fri, Jan. 24	All Day	February Messenger Info due to Gretchen
<b>Sun, Jan 26</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>One Service followed by Congregational Meeting</b>
Mon, Jan 27	11:30 am 6:00 pm	Women's Luncheon at Rich and Charlies North Hampton Neighborhood Assn. Mtg.

**Blood Pressure (BP):** First and third Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall.

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

## 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...

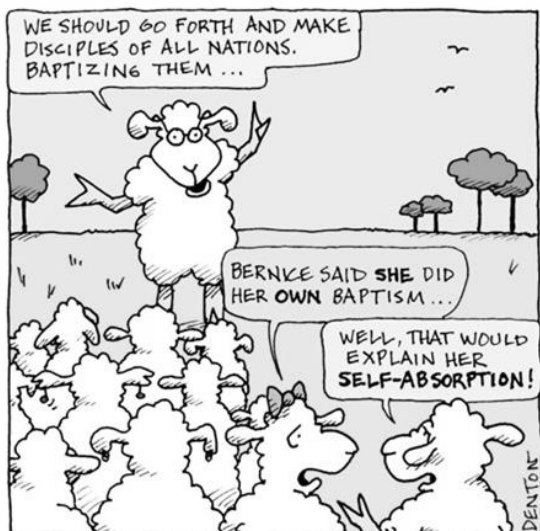
People of differing educational backgrounds...

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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