

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

April 2023

Volume #130 Issue #4

He is Risen!

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Pastor's Page

"Do not be afraid."

--Angel and also Jesus (Matthew 28: 5, 10)

It's such an easy thing to say "Don't be afraid," and it's such a hard thing to do. How does one *stop* being afraid? When human bodies experience fear, there's an entire cascade of bodily system responses, over which we have little or no control, like the "fight or flight" response. I would reject this advice—"don't be afraid"—if not for my trust in the one who is speaking.

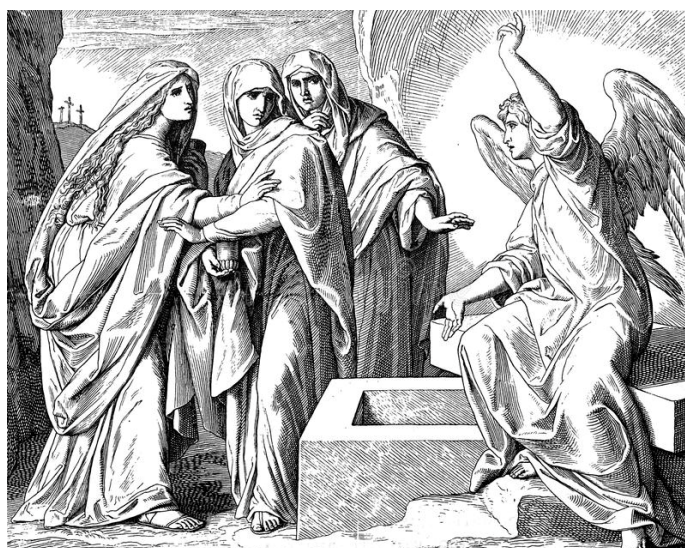
If the risen Christ says, "don't be afraid," it's possible he knows what he's talking about. After having experienced betrayal, isolation, crucifixion, death, and burial, Jesus has already experienced some of the worst of humanity. At that point, is there anything left to be afraid of?

Facing the worst of the world is difficult work, and we're faced with this reality all the time. It's easy to despair and want to give up. During the season of Lent, we have wrestled with faith questions and studied "why we do what we do" in the liturgy we use regularly in worship. We will keep asking questions, like "What is God up to?"

Even on Good Friday, as we contemplate the crucified Christ, we still notice where else in the world Christ is being crucified among the vulnerable and the "least of these." We keep vigil, as believers huddled together, until Jesus comes again, as he promised.

The resurrected Jesus keeps showing up, saying "Don't be afraid." Listen to the Easter story. Keep looking for signs of resurrection. What is God up to? Wherever healing is happening, you can be sure God is part of it.

Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie



Worship in April

Sunday, April 2, 2023

Palm Sunday

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship

9:45am *Coffee Hour/Sunday School*

11:00am In-Person Worship

Holy Week:

Maundy Thursday 4/6 7:00pm

Good Friday 4/7 7:00pm

Easter Vigil 4/8 7:30pm

Sunday, April 9 2023

Easter Sunday

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship

9:45am *Coffee/Egg Hunt/Cross Flowering*

11:00am In-Person Worship

Sunday, April 16, 2023

2nd Sunday of Easter

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship

9:45am *Coffee Hour/Sunday School*

11:00am In-Person Worship

Sunday, April 23, 2023

3rd Sunday of Easter

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship

9:45am *Coffee Hour/Sunday School*

11:00am In-Person Worship

Sunday, April 30, 2023

4th Sunday of Easter (Single Service)

9:30am In-Person and Online Worship

10:30am Congregational Meeting

(No Sunday School)

11:00am Volunteer Appreciation Potluck

Easter Flowers

This year we are decorating with silk Easter lilies, but you can still order flowers to add the colors of spring to our Easter decorations. We have ordered begonias, cyclamens, and kalanchoe, - all make great outdoor plants for your home. Donations toward other organizations and causes will also be accepted. Order online or contact the church office to place your order by April 3rd.



Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 8th

7:30pm

Bishop Candea Preaching

**more info on pg. 7*

Please be considerate of our guests and elderly members on Easter Sunday! If you arrive early, please leave parking spaces in the lot or nearer the church for those who need them. Remember that parking is available in the Mallinckrodt School lot in addition to street parking. Do not park in the three marked spots located south of our parking lot, across Tholozan. Thank you.

March Attendance

March 5th

83 In-Person 46 Online

March 12th

81 In-Person 41 Online

March 19th

79 In-Person 26 Online

March 26th

86 In-Person 38 Online

Easter Parking tips

Community Life

The COLLEGIUM VOCALE OF ST. LOUIS (CVSL) is proud to present *The Fabulous Bononcinis*, a concert of Baroque vocal chamber music on Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. The concert will be presented at Gethsemane Lutheran Church. Admission is free but donations are gratefully accepted. Dr. Bruce Carvell, Artistic Director of the Collegium Vocale, will offer pre-concert remarks at 2:30.



April:
Toilet Paper &
Feminine
Hygiene Pads
(no tampons)

We have a goal of 500 rolls! In 2020 at the height of the TP shortage, we collected over 480 rolls - let's see if we can set a new record!



**Red Cross
Blood Drive**
Monday, April 17th
1:30pm - 5:30pm

Freezer Meals!

Thank you to everyone who has taken freezer meals! It's now time to restock! For details, see the Friday e-news for tips.

**Spring Academy:
Diversity and the
Doctrine of
Discovery
April 22, 2023**



THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY
EASTERN MISSOURI MINISTRIES
AND LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

**with
Vance
Blackfox**

**9 AM-3 PM
Trinity Lutheran
Chesterfield**



JOIN THE EASTERN MISSOURI CONFERENCE AND THE LUTHERAN SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY FOR A DAY OF EDUCATION ON DIVERSITY AND THE DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY

Saturday, April 22, 2023 9AM – 3 PM, Lunch included
Registration: \$30 per individual or \$100 for a group of 4

Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Rd, Town and Country, MO 63017

Vance Blackfox, a citizen of the Cherokee Nation, is ELCA director for Indigenous ministries and tribal relations. He will address the doctrine of discovery, including some history, as well as power analysis, and why this matters for Christians and how the ELCA is responding. The Academy will also include breakout sessions in the afternoon on racial justice work and on LGBTQIA inclusion. See e-news for links.

Connections Corner



✉: glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com

☎: 314-518-6978 (ok to text)

*if you send me a friend request on Facebook I will accept you!

Office hours: Mon –Thurs, 10am—2:30pm

Ways to stay connected:

Utilizing these resources can help you feel closer to Gethsemane!



Give online
(Vanco Mobile App)



Access the Church Directory
Online (Instant Church Directory)



Watch Worship Services
Online (YouTube)



seeking:
honest questions
for deeper faith

seeking:
friends for
Lent -

Hear what

others are saying about the experience:

“We really enjoyed this conversation!”

“I had a joyful meet with [my friend for Lent] this morning. We're going to continue with our Lenten Buddy day again, next week...”

“...This has helped me feel less frightened about attending church in person, because I'm still feeling that "new person syndrome.”

Just because the program is over doesn't mean the connections need to stop!

The three starter questions we asked people to ponder and ask each other are as follows:

1. What brought you to Gethsemane?
2. What makes this congregation special to you? (i.e. Why do you keep coming back?)
3. Who is someone in your life who helped you get to know Jesus OR who showed you what God's love looks like? (And how did they do this?)

Perhaps you can ask someone these questions while you share a coffee or a donut in the Fellowship Hall?!

Find Gethsemane on Social Media:

Website: www.gethsemanestl.org

YouTube: [gethsemanestl](https://www.youtube.com/gethsemanestl)

Instagram: [gethsemane_elca_stl](https://www.instagram.com/gethsemane_elca_stl)

Pinterest: [Gethsemane Lutheran Church](https://www.pinterest.com/GethsemaneLutheranChurch)

Facebook: [Gethsemane Lutheran Church - ELCA, St. Louis, MO](https://www.facebook.com/GethsemaneLutheranChurch-ELCA-St-Louis-MO)



Around the Church



April GLCW Luncheon

All women are welcome to join us at our next luncheon:

Date: Monday, April 24th
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Favazza's on the Hill
 5201 Southwest 63139
Hostess: Joan Williams
RSVP: Please contact hostess at 314-894-0646



Church Council News

Barb Johnson, Council President

One of the goals of the Church Council this year is to increase transparency and visibility. One of the ways we plan to do this is to have a Council bulletin board. It will be located in the hallway between the mailboxes and the collection shelf. Minutes, financial information, and other reports will be included.

We are also going to have *Coffee with a Council Member* one Sunday a month during Fellowship Hour. Future dates will be included in the Messenger calendar. **This month, we will meet April 16th.** Please take this opportunity to visit with a Council member.

Special Congregational Meeting followed by a Volunteer Appreciation Potluck Sunday, April 30th.

On Sunday, April 30th, we will have one service at 9:30am. Immediately following the service, there will be a brief Congregational Meeting to discuss and vote on changes to the Church Constitution. Following the meeting, we will gather in the fellowship hall for a Volunteer Appreciation potluck. The Council will provide fried chicken.

Spring Work Day Fun

Members of the congregation gathered on Saturday, May 25th for a morning of cleaning and fellowship. Rich Brendel organized the volunteers and provided guidance and nourishment. Pews were polished, windows were washed, the Council bulletin board was hung, the new pantry was stained, and the church was given an overall good spring cleaning. We would like to thank all the volunteers who donated their time and elbow grease. More pictures on back cover.



Little Free Pantry Update

The Social Action team has been hard at work planning the pantry's official unveiling for Easter Sunday. The pantry has been stained and labeled. Posts will be placed on April 1st to support the structure. We have food to fill it. Please join us between services Easter Sunday for a special blessing.



Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday

Where are you headed?

Join us for the first day of Holy Week, April 2nd, with the waving of palm branches and the singing of some of our favorite hymns. Hear how Jesus entered into Jerusalem on a donkey and was welcomed by crowds waving palm branches and lining the streets with their cloaks. We will start worship outside, in the front yard by the sign. Please plan to arrive early enough to grab your bulletin and a palm branch. Those unable to join us outside will be able to hear the service from their pews.



Maundy Thursday

Will you wash my feet?

On Maundy Thursday, learn about how Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. Then take part in a special Communion where we will gather as one group in the front of the church to share Jesus' last supper.



The Vigil of Easter: *This is the Night!*

Join Bishop Candea and siblings from St. Louis area ELCA churches for the Vigil of Easter, held this year on Saturday, April 8th, at 7:30pm, at Gethsemane Lutheran Church.

This capstone to the great Three Days of Holy Week will include storytelling, the striking of a new fire, affirmation of baptism, and the first eucharist of the Easter season.

With a light reception to follow, this is a great time of fellowship and worship with folks from across the region at the pinnacle of the church year!



Good Friday

Why have you forsaken me?

Hear the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. During the reading, members of the congregation will share news articles demonstrating current acts of hostility against our neighbors from around the world as well as to the land itself.



Easter Sunday




Who are you looking for?



The tomb is empty, Halleluia! Celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and the hope he shares of our salvation on Sunday, April 9th. Children are invited to bring their baskets for an Easter egg hunt between services. Don't forget to bring your cut flowers for flowering of the cross. We will also dedicate Gethsemane's new Little Free Pantry between services.

April 2023

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1						
2 Palm Sunday 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School 11:00am Worship	3 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	4 Election 6:00am-7:00pm 10:00am Bible Study	5 10:00am Staff Meeting	6 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Worship	7 Good Friday 7:00pm Worship	8 Easter Vigil 7:30pm Worship
9 Easter Sunday 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship 11:00am Worship	10 Office Closed No Music Rehearsals	11 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	12 10:00am Staff Meeting	13	14	15
16 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School 11:00am Worship 	17 1:30pm-5:30pm Red Cross Blood Drive 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	18 10:00am Bible Study	19 10:00am Staff Meeting	20	21 Messenger info. due	22 
23 8:30am Worship 9:45am Fellowship and Sunday School 11:00am Worship 3:00pm Choir Concert	24 11:30am GLCW Luncheon 6:30pm Bell Choir 7:30pm Vocal Choir	25 10:00am Bible Study	26 10:00am Staff Meeting	27	28	29
30 9:30am Worship 10:30am Congregational Meeting 11:00am Volunteer Potluck	 Introducing <i>Coffee with a Council Member</i>. This is your invitation to meet and talk with the members of Gethsemane's Church Council. One Sunday a month, a table in the fellowship hall will be designated for those wishing to talk with the council member of the month. See you April 16th!					

2nd

	2nd		9 th		16th		23rd		30th
	Early	Late	Early	Late	Early	Late	Early	Late	One
Greeter	J. Mayhaus	A. Crotty	R. Lima	N. Fontana	Wind Family	D. Schaller	J. Williams	K. Paulson	K. Hartz
Usher	C. Morice	G. Borkowski	J. Mayhaus	A. Rentschler	S. Yemm	R. Boehlje	L. Yemm	S. Walentik	T. Yemm
Usher	J. Sandberg	R. Schainker	J. Sandberg	D. Buehrer	J. Mayhaus	A. Rentschler	T. Yemm	R. Boehlje	S. Hetager
Assisting Minister	M. Yemm	M. Olson	P. Saathoff	C. Schainker	R. Lima	B. Rentschler	R. Schuessler	N. Fontana	A. Repp
Lector	C. Morice	A. Boehlje	R. Schuessler	N. Fontana	C. Schmidt	M. Olson	M. Schmidt	A. Rentschler	M. McGuire
Children's Sermon	Chris Schmidt		Pastor Cheryl		Chris Schmidt		Pastoral Cheryl		Chris Schmidt
Organist	Bob Chamberlin		Johanna Erdman		Ella Rothgangel		Johanna Erdman		Ella Rothgangel
Wine	Brown-Kopplin Family		Brown-Kopplin Family		Brown-Kopplin Family		Tepe-McFarlane Family		Brown-Kopplin Family
Bread Baker	Yemm Family		Lima Family		Fontana Family		Tepe-McFarlane Family		Hunsinger Family
Donut Pick Up	Sandberg Family		McElwee Family		Wind Family		Tepe-McFarlane Family		Paulson Family
Fellowship Host	Needed		Needed		Rentschler Family		Needed		Potluck
Altar Flowers	No Flowers During Lent		Easter		Johnson Family		Tepe-McFarlane Family		McGuire Family
Altar Guild	Mayhaus Family								

Announcements & Anniversaries

Condolences...

we pray for Sue and the friends and family of Dave Hackmann upon his death on March 19th. Funeral services were held on Monday, March 26th.

Congratulations...

Gethsemane would like to feature our high school and college graduates in next month's *Messenger*! If you have a graduate this spring, please send a short bio and picture to Gretchen at glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com by April 20th.

Thank You...

To everyone who showed up during the Spring Cleaning Day on Saturday, March 25th. Please see photos on page 6 and the back cover.

Don't forget...

There is only one service on Sunday April 30th. **Worship will be at 9:30am** followed by a brief Congregational meeting to vote on the Church Constitution. There will be a volunteer appreciation potluck after the meeting in the fellowship hall! Bring a side dish or a dessert to share! Please note there will be **NO Sunday School** on this day, but a few Sunday School teachers will be on hand to supervise children in a classroom during the meeting.



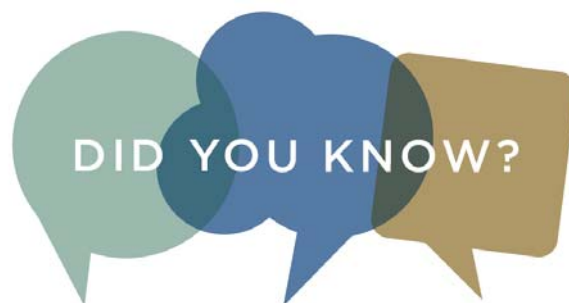
April Birthdays

- 1 Henry (Huck) Hunsinger
John DeVore
- 8 Eldon Miller
- 9 Lillian Yemm
Sabrina Kohlberg
- 11 Deanna Brooker
Julie Wisch
- 13 Lillie Niebuhr
- 20 Kim Elliott
- 23 Ruth Hanson
Michael McFarlane
- 28 Todd Boehlje
Peggy Lewis
Shelly Morgan

April Anniversaries

- 28 Conrad and Susan Otto 50
- 28 Ted and Megan Yemm 22

Have you ever wondered when you are scheduled to usher next? Or who you can get to replace you as a greeter? Or how to sign up for these volunteer positions that always seem to be filled with friendly people? The worship leader list is carefully compiled from a list of people who have indicated a willingness to help out and gave their availability to the office. A copy of the worship leader list is emailed to all worship leaders, included in the monthly *Messenger*, AND can be found online under the "worship" tab. If you have ideas on how and where to share the list, we're happy to hear them! We are also ALWAYS looking for volunteers!



Dates to Remember

Coming Up:

Sunday, April 2	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 6	Maundy Thursday
Friday, April 7	Good Friday
Saturday, April 8	Easter Vigil
Sunday, April 9	Easter
Sunday, April 30	5 th Sunday, One Service at 9:30am, Congregational Meeting Volunteer Appreciation Potluck
Sunday, May 28	Return of Single Summer Services

Don't Forget

Every Wednesday -
Bulletin Items Due

Second Tuesday -
Church Council Meeting

Third Friday -
Messenger Articles Due

December First -
Budget Requests Due

One Month Prior to the Annual
Meeting in January -
Committee Reports Due



SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

* Election Day, April 4. Gethsemane is a polling place.
* Sunday, April 16. Coffee with a Council Member. Come to the Fellowship Hall between services to meet and chat with the church council

Get Connected @ Gethsemane

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

3600 Hampton Ave.,
St. Louis, MO 63109
Phone: 314-352-8050
Fax: 314-352-8051
Email Address:

office@gethsemanestl.org

Church Office Hours: 8:00am-2:00pm

Pastoral Care: Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
903-918-3992 pastor@gethsemanestl.org

Council President Barb Johnson
314-962-3501
barbjohnson47@hotmail.com

Website: www.gethsemanestl.org
YouTube: [gethsemanestl](https://www.youtube.com/gethsemanestl)
Twitter: [@gethsemane_stl](https://twitter.com/gethsemane_stl)
Instagram: [gethsemane_elca_stl](https://www.instagram.com/gethsemane_elca_stl)
Pinterest: Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Facebook: Gethsemane Lutheran Church - ELCA, St. Louis, MO

eMESSENGER

Please consider helping us save a tree and save on the cost of paper and postage. This happens if you choose to receive your *Messenger* only by e-mail. Just send a message to:
messenger@gethsemanestl.org.

WEEKLY E-NEWS

If you are not receiving our weekly e-news and would like to receive it, let us know by sending us an email. Please make sure that you put our address in your address book so that your spam filters let it pass through!

MESSENGER NEWS

You can send your news and notes for the *Messenger* to **messenger@gethsemanestl.org**. There is also a *Messenger* drawer by the church office. For best results, news should be in by the 20th of each month.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63109

Return Service Requested

A Month in Pictures

