



RECONCILING IN CHRIST SUNDAY 2026

Celebrating Diversity
as God's Children



January 25, 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 Šakówinj, 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 Crousore
Council President: Gary Borkowski

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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

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ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Fairest Lord Jesus*

Schlesische Volkslieder

Performed by Yeats Wolfsberger, Gethsemane Member and Organ student, Age 9

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, 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: *What is This Place*

HYMN# 524

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 *This is the Feast*



PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: God of Beauty, you gather your beloved children into your care, each one a unique image of you. You claim us as your own and call us to follow in the ways of mercy, justice, and joy. Strengthen our changing hearts and minds to continue the work of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 49:1-7

The northern tribes of Zebulun and Naphtali experienced the gloom of defeat by Assyrian military forces, but they are assured that their condition will be reversed when God makes a light-filled appearance. The joy they will experience will resemble celebrations of great harvests, because God will deliver them from everything that diminishes or oppresses them.

¹ There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time [the Lord] brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³ You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴ For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 27:1, 4-9

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

¹ The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then ¹ shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I ¹ be afraid?

⁴ **One thing I ask of the Lord; one ¹ thing I seek;**

that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God ¹ in the temple.

⁵ For in the day of trouble God will ¹ give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- ¹ on a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies ¹ who surround me.**

Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music ¹ to the Lord.

⁷ Hear my voice, O Lord, ¹ when I call;
have mercy on me and ¹ answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message—¹ “Seek my face.”**
Your face, O Lord, ¹ I will seek.

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser-¹ vant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of ¹ my salvation.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

Paul calls on the Corinthians to end their dissensions and share the unified outlook of the gospel. Discord arises when we forget that we belong not to human leaders or institutions but to Christ. Indeed, the unifying word of the cross of Christ is the center of the gospel and the power of God’s salvation.

¹⁰ Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹ For it has been made clear to me by Chloe’s people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹² What I mean is that each of you says, “I belong to Paul,” or “I belong to Apollos,” or “I belong to Cephas,” or “I belong to Christ.” ¹³ Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴ I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵ so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶ I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷ For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of 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 4th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 4:12-23

Jesus begins his public ministry shortly after John the Baptist is imprisoned by Herod. He proclaims the nearness of God's reign and calls four fishermen to be his first disciples.

¹² Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. ¹³ He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, ¹⁴ so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁵ “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—¹⁶ the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” ¹⁷ From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. ¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” ²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him. ²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. ²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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 Every Voice and Sing*

HYMN# 841

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

A: We believe in you, O God, who spoke all life into being, author of heaven and earth, architect of time, quilter of the cosmos. You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground, and by your breath we are given life.

We believe in you, O God, who became incarnate in Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh, truly divine and truly human. You lived among us to reveal your justice, died among us to break the bonds of sin and death, and were raised among us to bring abundant life.

We believe in you, O God, who transforms us by the Holy Spirit, draws us into community, moves us to action, and inspires us to hope against hope. You breathe new life into a fallen world and equip us to proclaim the good news of resurrecting love. All thanks and praise to you, O God, our beginning and our end. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

AM: Let us pray. Trusting in God's extraordinary love, let us come near to the Creator in prayer.

(A brief silence.)

AM: . . . Spirit, intercede for us,
C: Send wholeness, O God.

AM: Receive the prayers of your children, merciful God, and hold us forever in your steadfast love; through Jesus Christ, our holy wisdom.
C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The spirit-filled 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: *Come Build a Church*
(See page 12 for words to this powerful song)

Ken Medema

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 al - so 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: Heavenly God, giver of life, holy is your name, your blessed community come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For you reign in power and glory now and forever. 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.

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

HYMN# 461

One Bread, One Body

HYMN# 496

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: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

HYMN# 815

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Heavenly Sunlight*

George Harrison Cook, Arr. by Mark Hayes

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The flowers this week are given by the Schuessler family
in celebration of Rick's birthday



WORSHIP LEADERS	
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
GREETER	Lois Wind
USHERS	John Sandberg, Denise Buehrer
ASSISTING MINISTER	Mike Schmidt
LECTOR	Marilyn McGuire
CANTOR	T. Edwards Breed
INSTRUMENTALIST	Yeats Wolfsberger (organ prelude)
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Lindsay Schuessler
ALTAR GUILD	Bauer Family
CAMERA	Gary Borkowski
WINE SPONSOR	Kate Hartz

**Come Build a Church (choir anthem),
By Ken Medema**

God of Creation, Maker of all things, we gather in this place to pray.
We do invite you, come now among us; come and build your church today.

Come build a church with soul and spirit, Come build a church of flesh and bone.
We need no tower rising skyward; No house of wood, or glass, or stone.
Come build a church with human frailty. Come build a church of flesh and blood.
Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the hand of God.

Let us see the tongues of fire. Let us hear the great wind roar.
Let us know the awe and wonder, that we've only glimpsed before.
Let us feel the strength of passion, which can make us laugh and weep.
Let us know this great awakening. For so long we've been asleep.

Let us know the love unceasing, which alone can loose the bounds.
Reaching out across the chasm, bringing walls of hatred down.
Let us taste the sweet communion, where the circle never ends.
Hold us in the sweet connection, turning strangers into friends.

Guide our feet in peaceful pathways. Teach us peace of heart and mind;
Peace with God and all God's children; till we leave our wars behind.
Surely joy will come and find us like a breeze that cools the night;
Like the rain upon the desert; like a candle's' gentle lights.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Mark Cutelli: healing

Neil Gustafson: healing

Kate Hartz: courage and trust

Barb Johnson: healing and strength

Fred Lenhart: recovering from hip surgery

Richard Lima: recovering from surgery

Dell Roth: in rehab after surgery

Sharon Salerno: healing and strength

Family and friends of Mark Johnson (**Darlene McElwee's** brother): Comfort and peace as they mourn his death on Dec. 30, 2025

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
That our thoughts would be on the Kingdom and our eternal safety and that we focus on everyday reminders of the Spirit.	<i>Anonymous</i>
Mark's brother, Bob Salsman (healing and strength)	<i>Mark Cutelli</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>

LIVING YOUR FAITH

GIVE

Little Free Pantry Items needed include cereal, shelf-stable milk, canned soups, chili, stews, etc. (pull tops, please) and cold weather items (hats, gloves, hand-warmers, etc.)

The Red Cross will be at Gethsemane on Monday, February 9, from 1-5pm. Sign up on Gethsemane's website to give blood. All types are needed!

January'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. **Hats and Mittens** are still being collected on the Mitten Tree in the Narthex through January.

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.

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

The **Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck** has been rescheduled to next **Sunday, Feb 1!** Immediately following the service please stay in the Sanctuary for the Annual Meeting. Any children and non-voting members can meet in the Fellowship hall during the meeting to assemble Blessing Bags. Once the meeting has concluded everyone is invited to head downstairs for a potluck!

The next **Gethsemane Women's Lunch** will be tomorrow, at The Pasta House, 6214 S. Lindbergh Blvd. at 11:30 am.

Our 2 Gethsemane tables are full for **LuMin Trivia night**, on January 31. Folks can still register individually on the LuMin website and join the fun.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please retrieve your **Year-End Contribution** statements from your mailbox in the hallway. Statements not picked up after next week will be mailed. If you have changed your pledge amount, don't forget to update your bank or MyVanco account if you auto-donate.

Shout out to **Yeats Wolfsberger** for his amazing progress learning to play the Pipe Organ. This morning's prelude required him to play with both hands and feet. Yeats has been taking lessons with our organist Amy Crousore since September.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
January 25–February 1, 2026

1/25/26 Sunday	9:30 am	Reconciling in Christ Sunday One Worship: In-Person and Livestream RESCHEDULED TO NEXT SUNDAY Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck Lunch in Fellowship Hall!
1/26/26 Monday	11:30 am 6:00 pm 6:00 pm	GLC Women's Luncheon at Pasta House on S. Lindbergh. RSVP to Lois Wind NorthHampton Neighbors Meeting at Gethsemane Handbell Choir Rehearsal
1/27/26 Tuesday	10 am	Bible Study
1/28/26 Wed.	1 – 2:30 pm 6:15-6:30 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Office Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Music Fundamentals Choir Rehearsal
2/01/26 Sunday	9:30 am 10:45 am	Worship: In-Person and Livestream Annual Congregational Meeting followed by Potluck Lunch in Fellowship Hall!

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Mondays	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:15 – 8 pm	Music Fundamentals followed by Choir Rehearsal (Music Fundamentals will not meet during Lent, Feb 18-April 5)
Sun, Feb 8	9:45 am	NEW! Technology Committee Mtg (library and beyond)
Mon, Feb 9	1-5 pm	Blood Drive at Gethsemane
Wed, Feb 18	Noon, 7 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Services
Weds in Lent	5:30 pm	Lent Midweek Worship, Holden Evening Prayer

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

Gethsemane is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation Affirmation of Welcome

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

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

People of any race or ethnicity...

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

People of any age...

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

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

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

People with a variety of political perspectives...

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

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

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

People of differing educational backgrounds...

People of any socio-economic condition...


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

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

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



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