

Season of Creation
16th Sunday after Pentecost
September 13th, 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
Minister of Music/Choir Director: Amy Crousore
Handbell Choir Director: Ella Rothgangel
Council President: Cayce Morice, 314-574-0850

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Office Hours: Vary, but include Tues-Thurs, 10 am – 3 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

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www.gethsemanestl.org

Holy Communion, Setting 12

In today's second reading Paul questions why we judge one another, since we all stand before the judgment of God. Yet we do sin against one another, and Jesus' challenge that we forgive seventy-seven times reveals God's boundless mercy. When we hear the words of forgiveness in worship and sign ourselves with the cross, we are renewed in baptism to be signs of reconciliation in the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *September 11 – A Prelude*

Rudy Davenport

Musical Note: This week marks the 25th anniversary of the tragic events that occurred on 9-11. The composer of the Prelude music, a Prelude for September 11, Rudy Davenport, says that she wrote this piece to express the devastation and depression that she felt. I offer it here, not as a political statement, but as a prayer for the victims of that day and for healing of my country.

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, our hope, our heart, our home.

C: Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Everlasting God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,

C: we confess that we participate in systems that perpetuate oppression and injustice. We are often numb to the pain of the world around us, resistant to change that costs us something, and reluctant to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We sin against your good creation, failing to be faithful stewards of the land, the sea, and all their creatures. Make your home among us once more, O God, naming us beloved and opening our hearts to do your will. Amen.

P: All you saints and sinners, this good news is for you:

God knows you, forgives you by the self-giving of † Jesus Christ, and frees you to love the world as you have been loved. Creation's story will not end until mourning, crying, and pain are no more. When everything else changes, God's love is steadfast and sure.

Nothing can ever separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: *Thine the Amen*

HYMN# 826

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:



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray. O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

MISSION MOMENT

Amy Crousore

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING: Genesis 50:15-21

After Jacob's death the brothers of Joseph begged for forgiveness for the crime they had done against him. You intended to do me harm, Joseph said, but God used this as an opportunity to do good and save many lives.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷ 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸ Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹ So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 103:[1-7] 8-13

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

[¹ Bless the Lord, | O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless God's | holy name.
² **Bless the Lord, | O my soul,**
and forget not | all God's benefits—
³ who forgives | all your sins
and heals all | your diseases;
⁴ **who redeems your life | from the grave**
and crowns you with steadfast | love and mercy;
⁵ who satisfies your desires | with good things
so that your youth is renewed | like an eagle's.
⁶ **O Lord, you provide | vindication**
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
⁷ You made known your | ways to Moses
and your works to the chil- | dren of Israel.]
⁸ **Lord, you are full of compas- | sion and mercy,**
slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love;

⁹ you will not al- | ways accuse us,
 nor will you keep your an- | ger forever.
¹⁰ **You have not dealt with us according | to our sins,**
nor repaid us according to | our iniquities.
¹¹ For as the heavens are high a- | bove the earth,
 so great is your steadfast love for | those who fear you.
¹² **As far as the east is | from the west,**
so far have you removed our transgres- | sions from us.
¹³ As a father has compassion | for his children,
 so you have compassion for those who fear | you, O Lord.

SECOND READING: Romans 14:1-12

This Christian community has significant struggles with diversity. Here Paul helps us understand that despite different practices in worship and personal piety, we do not judge one another. All Christians belong to the Lord Jesus Christ who died for all of us and will judge each of us.

¹ Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ² Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³ Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat, for God has welcomed them. ⁴ Who are you to pass judgment on slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

⁵ Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶ Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God.

⁷ For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸ If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹ For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
 and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

¹² So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. *Repeat*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18th chapter:

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35

When Peter asks about the limits of forgiveness, Jesus responds with a parable that suggests human forgiveness should mirror the unlimited mercy of God.

²¹ Peter came and said to [Jesus,] “Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

²³ “For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ ²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Let All Things Now Living*

HYMN# 881

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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

AM: We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need.

A brief silence.

AM: . . . Hear us, O God,

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, O God, our maker and keeper, we commend ourselves and your whole creation, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also, with you.

P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, using the words of the risen Lord:
Peace be with 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: *Shir LeShalom: Sing a Song of Shalom* Rotblit and Rosenblum,
Arr. Francisco Monteiro

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. 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 our duty and delight . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

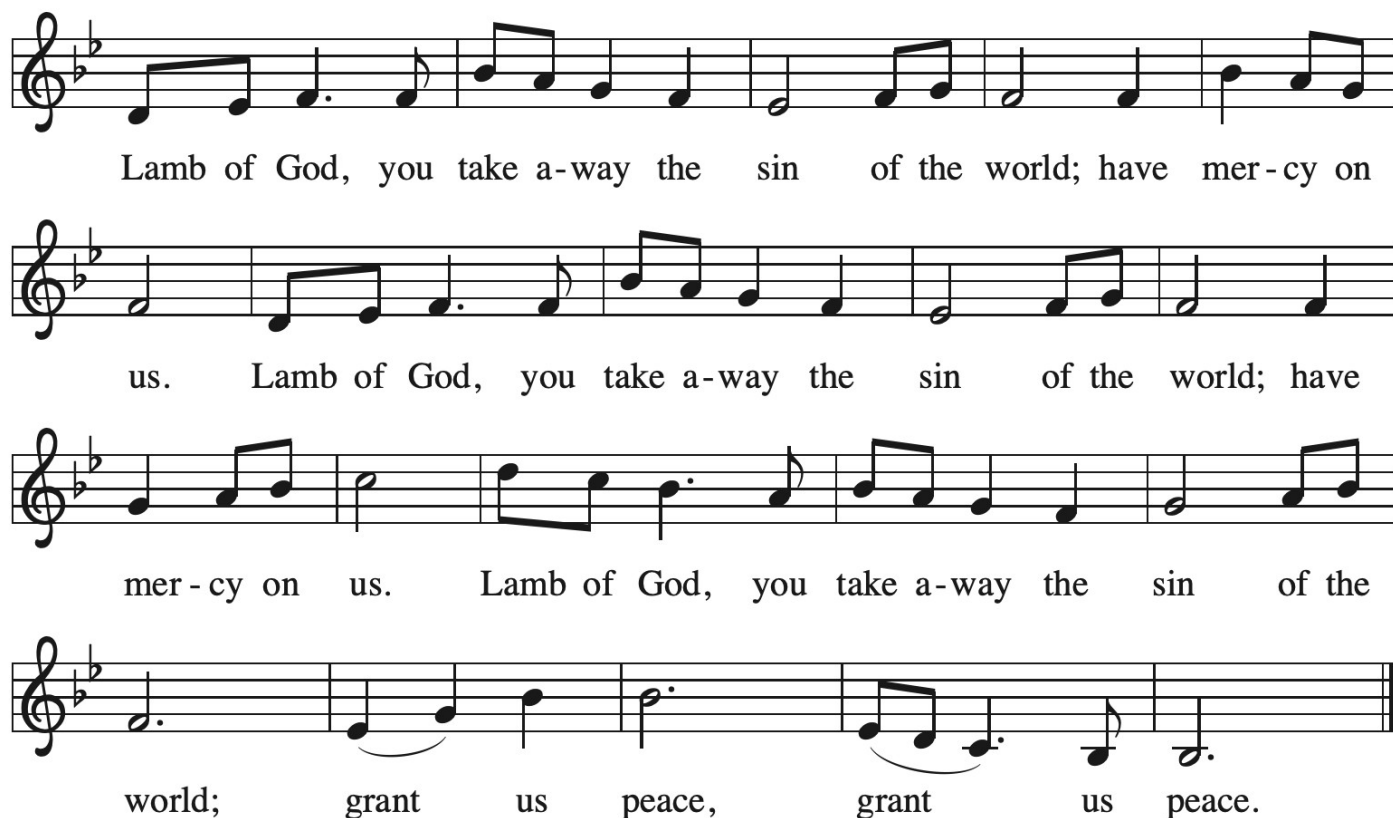
COMMUNION

P: The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

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.

Many and Great, O God: Wakantanka taku nitawa

HYMN# 837

Morning Has Broken

HYMN# 556

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

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: Creator God bless you and keep you. Creating Christ shine through you with grace and mercy. Creative Spirit nourish you and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

HYMN# 836

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*

L. V. Beethoven

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The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God
by the Gorvie family in celebration of Willo's 11th birthday.



WORSHIP LEADERS	
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
GREETER	Norm Hopfer
USHERS	Adam Rentchler and family
ASSISTING MINISTER	Phyllis Saathoff
LECTOR	Lindsay Schuessler
CANTOR	Jessica Freiburger
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Pastor Cheryl
DONUT DRIVER	Rentchler Family
FELLOWSHIP HOST	<i>needed</i>
ALTAR GUILD	Olson-Fulton
CAMERA	Jaryd Wolfsberger
WINE SPONSOR	Wind Family

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Kate Hartz: courage and trust

Barb Johnson: continued healing at home

Margaret Lenhart: comfort and peace

Sharon Salerno: healing and strength

Mary Scanlan: recovering after stroke

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
Prayer for Molly Johnson and her family	<i>Bellis Family</i>
Friend, Lisa and her mom, Vicki (love, strength, comfort)	<i>Natalie Traylor Fontana</i>
Health and healing for husband and father, Heinz. For all those in Nepal and affected by climate change and disasters.	<i>Horn Family</i>
Arlis (comfort and hope - recent diagnosis of a return of cancer); Barbara (bravery)	<i>Jenson Family</i>
Huff family, Mom and Dad, Melissa (employment)	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
Recovery and healing from surgery and cancer treatment for my son, John	<i>Peggy Lewis</i>
Vassar family (comfort and peace)	<i>Cayce Morice</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Ukraine, Sudan, South Sudan, Myanmar, Venezuela, Columbia, Nepal and Tibet; all impacted by disasters; Pat Fulton (strength); Ginny Olson (strength); Jojo (healing, energy); John and Rita (comfort as they mourn); those who do not feel safe in their communities; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Rose Gant (Dawn's mother) healing and recovery after a fall	<i>The Schuessler Family</i>
Toby (patience and faith while jailed), Ronnie (housing, employment), Dale (employment), Allen (healing), Rob, Chase, Judy, Russell and Tanya, Diane, Nicole and Steve (housing, food, health and hope.)	<i>Social Action</i>

LIVING YOUR FAITH

GIVE

The **September Big Ask** is **diapers**, to support both Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's diaper and drives. Did you know that the St. Louis Diaper Bank distributes 250,000 diapers per month to families in need? Our donations help fill this critical need!

The **Little Free Pantry** needs **Pasta sauce**, preferably in cans or plastic jars. Place donations for Big Ask items in the cabinets near the shopping cart. Items placed **IN** the cart go to our Free Food Pantry.

Due to the tremendous need in our neighborhood, Gethsemane also now has a fund for **Homeless/Unhoused ministries** to help with emergency needs in our community. Donations are welcome.

ACT

The **Social Action Team** is meeting Sun, September 20 after Worship (11 am – ish) in the library. All are welcome!

Gethsemane supports the **Lutherans for Love and Pride** booth at **Tower Grove Pride Fest on Sept 26-27**, and we need some volunteers! Please look at the sign-up in the enews or Messenger and put your name in the slot that works for you. There are still a few options left!

Can you **cross-stitch**? Gethsemane has a long tradition of providing cross-stitched gifts for baptisms and confirmations, and cross-stitchers are needed for this ministry! Patterns, cloth and embroidery floss are provided to stitchers. Contact Eve in the office if you can help!

Did you know Gethsemane has a **Member Care team**? If you or a church member you know is in need of support from the GLC's Member Care team please contact the church office or check box on weekly insert or contact Betsy Bartholomew.

Share your voice! Send October newsletter items to Gretchen by September 25.

JOIN

Get to Know Gethsemane returns on Sunday, September 27, 4-7 pm. This is an information session for anyone who wants to learn about Gethsemane, and also a new member orientation for those who wish to become members. Dinner provided. RSVP to Pastor Cheryl. Please let us know if you would like child care.

Today was **Sunday School Rally Day** before Worship. Thanks to all who participated!

The first day of **Sunday School** is next Sunday, September 20 for children ages 3 through 5th Grade. Gather in the Sanctuary at 9 am for music, then at 9:15 am groups will head to their classrooms. Families with younger children are invited to join **Faith Village**, a gathering led by Sunday School music leader **Ruthie Grollman** in the play area adjacent to the Fellowship Hall. Faith Village provides an opportunity for parents and caregivers to get to know one another, build relationships, and share fellowship while children play together. Sunday School concludes at 9:50 am, then Worship begins at 10 am

The next GLC **Women's Luncheon** will be held **Monday, Sept 28, 11:30 am** at Las Fuentes Mexican Restaurant, 8025 MacKenzie Rd. Contact Phyllis Saathoff to RSVP

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
September 13-20, 2026

TODAY 9/13 Sunday Rally Day	9:00 am 10:00 am	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee, Bridge Bread, and Rally Day! ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube
9/14 Monday	6-7 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsals Resume!
9/15 Tuesday	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study Church Council Meeting
9/16 Wednesday	1:00 – 3:00 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Choir Rehearsal
9/20 Sunday	9:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am	Fellowship, Donuts & Coffee First day of Sunday School and Faith Village ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Mondays	6 - 7 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – begins Sept 14
Tuesdays	10:00 am	Bible Study
Wednesdays	6:30 – 8 pm	Choir Rehearsal
Sat/Sun, Sept. 26-27	Various Times	Pride Fest at Tower Grove Park. Help at the booth!
Sun, Sept. 27	4:00 -7:00 pm	Get to Know Gethsemane, information session and/or new member orientation. RSVP to Pastor Cheryl
Mon, Sept. 28	11:30 am	Women’s Lunch at Las Fuentes. Contact Phyllis

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.

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