

# Season of Creation

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
September 6<sup>th</sup>, 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: Amy Crousore  
Bell 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**

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

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

## *Holy Communion, Setting 12*

*Since the seventh century, September 1 has symbolized the day of the creation of the world in the Byzantine tradition and has been the opening feast of its liturgical year (known as the Feast of the Indiction), in parallel with Rosh Hashanah marking the Jewish New Year. Creation in Christ celebrates the ongoing creation of the world in and through Christ, who sustains, unites, and holds all created things.*

### GATHERING

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**PRELUDE:** *Improvisation on This Little Light of Mine Marie Barnette*, arr. Charles Callahan

*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.  
**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:** *Christ, Be Our Light*

**HYMN# 715**

## 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 God, in whom we live and move and have our being, in Christ you created the worlds, and your Spirit breathes life into the universe. We praise you for your wondrous creation. Bless us and all your handiwork with your infinite light, and direct our lives to the care of this good earth, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*The congregation is seated.*

## WORD

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### THE FIRST READING: Ezekiel 33:7-11

*God appointed Ezekiel as a sentinel for the house of Israel. Ezekiel must faithfully convey God's warnings to the people. Remarkably, God—who is about to attack Jerusalem—gives a warning with the hope that repentance will make the attack unnecessary.*

<sup>7</sup> So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup> If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup> But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup> Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel: Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup> Say to them: As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM: PSALM 119:33-40

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

<sup>33</sup> Teach me, O Lord, the way | of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it | to the end.

<sup>34</sup> **Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching;**  
**I shall keep it with | all my heart.**

<sup>35</sup> Lead me in the path of | your commandments,  
for that is | my desire.

<sup>36</sup> **Incline my heart to | your decrees**  
**and not to | unjust gain.**

<sup>37</sup> Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood;  
give me life | in your way.

<sup>38</sup> **Fulfill your promise | to your servant,**  
**which is for | those who fear you.**

<sup>39</sup> Turn away the reproach | that I dread,  
because your judg- | ments are good.

<sup>40</sup> **Behold, I long for | your commandments;**  
**by your righteousness en- | liven me.**

## SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

*The obligation of Christians is to love one another and so fulfill the heart and goal of the law. Clothes make the person as we “put on the Lord Jesus Christ” and live today in light of the future God has in store for us.*

<sup>8</sup> Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 18<sup>th</sup> chapter:

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

*Jesus offers practical advice to his disciples on how individuals—and the church as a whole—should go about restoring relationships when one member has sinned against another.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>15</sup> “If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If that person refuses to listen to them,

tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

**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: *Shine, Jesus, Shine***

**HYMN #671**

## **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

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

**MUSICAL OFFERING:** *This Little Light of Mine* Spiritual, Arr. Ginger B. Littleton

*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.

***Goodness Is Stronger Than Evil***

**HYMN# 721**

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

**HYMN #815**

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

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

**C:** Amen

# SENDING

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS** *After making this time to worship God, these are ways we welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.*

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

## BLESSING

**P:** 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:** *This Little Light of Mine*

**HYMN# 677**

## DISMISSAL

**AM:** Go in peace. Flourish with creation.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE:** *Shine, Jesus, Shine*

Graham Kendrick, arr. John Carter

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The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Natalie Traylor Fontana,  
in loving memory of her niece, Emily Sue Nunn, on her birthday.



| WORSHIP LEADERS    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| PRESIDER           | Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie     |
| GREETER            | Moe Family                     |
| USHERS             | Nancy Luebke and Rob Schainker |
| ASSISTING MINISTER | Rick Schuessler                |
| LECTOR             | Ami Boehlje                    |
| CANTOR             | Ed Breed                       |
| CHILDREN'S SERMON  | Chris Schmidt                  |
| FELLOWSHIP HOST    | Tullock/Gaines Families        |
| ALTAR GUILD        | Olson-Fulton                   |
| CAMERA             | Gretchen Jenson                |
| 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

The family and friends of **Fred Lenhart:** comfort and peace as they mourn his death

Comfort and Peace to the family and friends of Donna Fitzwater (**Kate Schejbal's** sister) as they mourn her death.

| <b>Request for:</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b><i>On Behalf of:</i></b>         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Finley Bartholomew, Betsy's Granddaughter - healing and speedy recovery                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <i>Betsy Bartholomew</i>            |
| Lisa McL. (healing)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>Jean Chouquette</i>              |
| Thanks for healing for husband Barry after eye surgery                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <i>Suzanne Hirth</i>                |
| Celebrating mother, Patty Horn's, 72 <sup>nd</sup> birthday on Aug. 25. Prayers for health and joy in years ahead                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <i>Horn Family</i>                  |
| Marc, Malakai (health)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <i>Jung Family</i>                  |
| Kids starting school, teachers and staff; Dana and Kelsey (healthy pregnancies); guidance during decisions; gratitude for the chaos                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <i>Kohlberg Family</i>              |
| Kristin (health); Melissa (employment); Parents (continued health); City of St. Louis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <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> |
| Toby (patience and faith while jailed), Ronnie (housing, employment), Dale (employment), Allen (healing), Tim (safe travels), Rob, Chase, Judy, Russell and Tanya, Diane, Nicole and Steve (housing, food, health and hope.)                                                                                                                                                                   | <i>Social Action</i>                |

# LIVING YOUR FAITH

## GIVE

Please pick up your **Contribution statement** from your mailbox this week! Any statements not picked up will be mailed on Tuesday.

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

## ACT

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

Gethsemane supports the **Reconciling In Christ** 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!

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.

**Sunday School Rally Day** is coming up next **Sunday, September 13**. We'll start in the Fellowship Hall at 9 am with activities, a family scavenger hunt and prizes! All ages welcome!

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

## Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar September 6-13 2026

|                                                 |                               |                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Today<br>9/6 Sunday<br><b>Labor Day Weekend</b> | 9:30 am<br>10:45 am           | Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube<br>***Last Sunday of 9:30 Worship<br>Fellowship – Cookies and Lemonade             |
| 9/8 Tuesday                                     | 10:00 am                      | Bible Study                                                                                                                  |
| 9/9 Wednesday                                   | 1:00 – 3:00 pm<br>6:30 – 8 pm | Staff Meeting (phones unanswered)<br>Choir Rehearsal                                                                         |
| 9/13 Sunday<br><b>Rally Day</b>                 | 9:00 am<br><b>10:00 am</b>    | <b>Fellowship, Donuts &amp; Coffee, Bridge Bread, and Rally Day!</b><br><b>ONE Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube</b> |

### 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                                                                                  |
| Mon, Sept. 14        | 6-7 pm         | Handbell Choir Rehearsal                                                                         |
| Tues, Sept. 15       | 6:30 pm        | Church Council Meeting                                                                           |
| <b>Sun, Sept. 20</b> | <b>9:00 am</b> | <b>First Day of Sunday School</b>                                                                |
| Sat/Sun, Sept. 26-27 | Various Times  | Pride Fest at Tower Grove Park. Help at the booth!                                               |
| Sun, Sept. 28        | 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.



# **SEASON OF CREATION**

## 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...

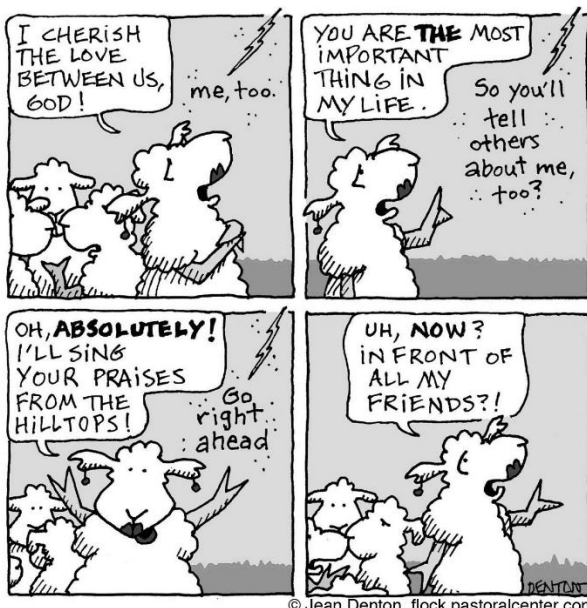
People of differing educational backgrounds...

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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