

Baptism of our Lord

January 11, 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

pastor@gethsemanestl.org
connect@gethsemanestl.org
office@gethsemanestl.org
organist@gethsemanestl.com
gvborkowski@gmail.com

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

Church Office – (314) 352-8050

office@gethsemanestl.org www.gethsemanestl.org

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word, anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Lord, You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*

John Carter

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: *Crashing Waters at Creation*

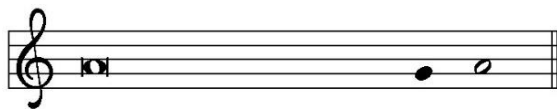
HYMN# 455

GREETING:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



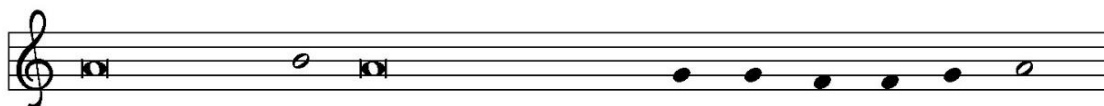
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray. O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 42:1-9

God's servant is endowed with God's spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever prevent the fulfilling of the servant's task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the servant's new assignment is to bring light to the nations.

¹ Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. ² He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; ³ a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

⁵ Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: ⁶ I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, ⁷ to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸ I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

⁹ See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 29

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

- ¹ Ascribe to the | Lord, you gods,
ascribe to the Lord glo- | ry and strength.
- ² **Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due God's name;**
worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness.
- ³ The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of | glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the | mighty waters.
- ⁴ **The voice of the Lord is a pow- | erful voice;**
the voice of the Lord is a | voice of splendor.
- ⁵ The voice of the Lord breaks the | cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the ce- | dars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ **the Lord makes Lebanon skip | like a calf,**
and Mount Hermon like a | young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice | of the Lord
bursts forth in | lightning flashes.
- ⁸ **The voice of the Lord | shakes the wilderness;**
the Lord shakes the wilder- | ness of Kadesh.
- ⁹ The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the | forests bare.
And in the temple of the Lord all are | crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ **The Lord sits enthroned a- | bove the flood;**
the Lord sits enthroned as king for- | evermore.
- ¹¹ O Lord, give strength | to your people;
give them, O Lord, the bless- | ings of peace.

SECOND READING: ACTS 10:34-43

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to [Cornelius and his household]: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as

witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

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 3rd chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:13-17

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God’s child.

¹³ Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴ John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” ¹⁵ But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. ¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Spirit of Gentleness*

HYMN# 396

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C: I renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

AM: As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home. *(A brief silence.)*

AM: . . . Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

P: Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
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: *Baptized in Water*

by Michael Saward and Jane Holstein

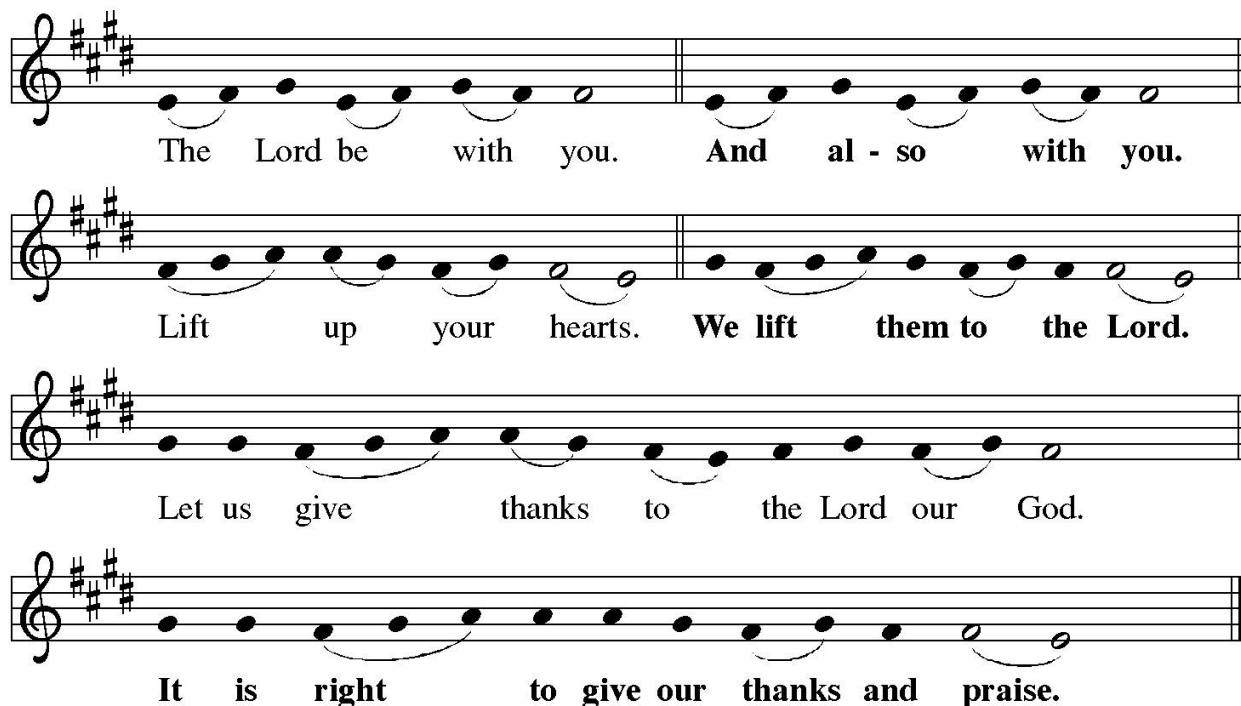
The congregation rises in body or spirit.

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



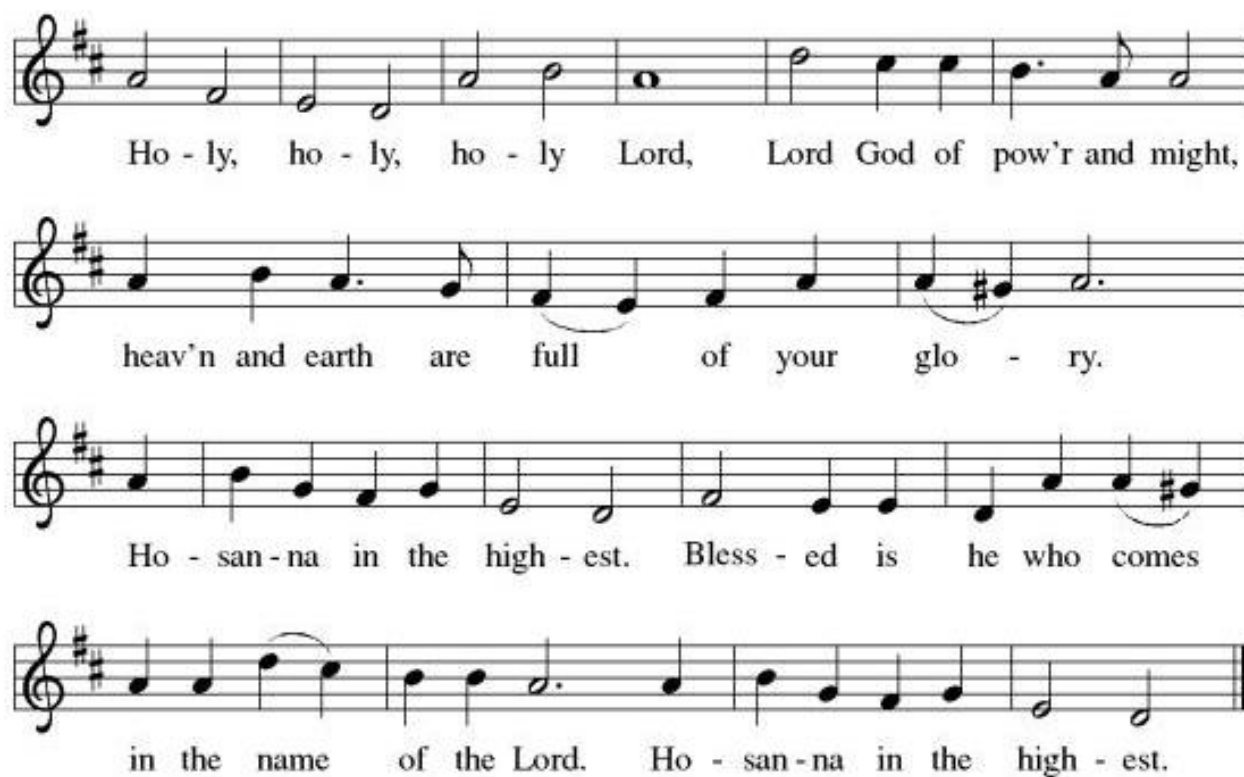
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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,



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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: 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.

Wade in the Water

HYMN# 459

Shall We Gather at the River

HYMN# 423

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: *Fling Wide the Door*

HYMN# 259

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *This Little Light of Mine*

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The flowers this week are given
by Joan Williams and Jack and Lois Wind
in Memory of our Loving Mother, Norma Schenck.



WORSHIP LEADERS		
PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
GREETER	Betsy Bartholomew	Peggy Lewis
USHERS	Cayce Morice	Steve Walentik Ben Walentik
ASSISTING MINISTER	Phyllis Saathoff	Maryn Olson
LECTOR	John Sandberg	Ami Boehlje
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Mary Wolfsberger	
ALTAR GUILD	Bauer Family	
DONUT DRIVER	Cayce Morice	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	<i>needed</i>	
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson	
WINE SPONSOR	Kate Hartz	

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Cindy Breed: 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

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
Family of Doug Adams, husband of Ed's cousin	<i>Ed and Cindy Breed</i>
Safe travels for Aidan and Olivia as they depart for their semester abroad programs. (Switzerland and Thailand, respectively.)	<i>Jenson Family</i>
Thanksgiving for the gift of pets and comfort to those who have lost one this year.	<i>Beth Jung</i>
Mom and Dad (health and comfort), Tyla (healing), MaryAnn (in hospice), Melissa (employment), Nicholson Family (on death of Mike), Shane (health), Stacy, Mary, The City of St. Louis	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories of Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, Sudan and Myanmar; Pat Fulton (healing, strength); Ginny Olson (strength); Sister Marie Orf (healing and strength); Marcelle (successful treatment); Jojo (healing and courage); all impacted by disasters; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Gratitude for the healing of 2025, anticipation for the joy of 2026	<i>Kate Schejbal</i>

LIVING YOUR FAITH

GIVE

Little Free Pantry Items needed include cereal, shelf-stable milk, canned soups, chili, stews, etc. (pull tops, please) and mac n' cheese.

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.

ACT

Share your gifts! Committee members, leaders, and council liaisons—your annual reports are overdue but still welcome! Email submissions to office@gethsemanestl.org.

Bring a dish! We'll hold a potluck lunch after the Annual Meeting on Jan 25. Bring a main or side dish, salad or dessert. Lemonade provided. Clean-up help is also appreciated.

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.

Join the team! The Worship Leader Schedule for Dec–Feb is out, but there's always room for more. Contact Eve to be part of this dedicated group that makes worship meaningful.

Spread kindness! Blessing bags are in the Narthex - take and share with those in need.

Share your voice! Send Feb. newsletter items to connect@gethsemanestl.org by Jan. 23.

JOIN

Ken and Cheryl Bauer will be in the Fellowship Hall between services today to discuss Wednesday's **Christian Nationalism** Zoom meeting hosted by Bishop Simon. Feel free to join them even if you were not able to attend.

Erika Warner from **Archwell Health** will be in the Fellowship Hall during fellowship hour TODAY, with information about Archwell's services.

Save the Date for the **Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck on Sunday, January 25!** There will be one Worship service at 9:30 am, immediately followed by the meeting and potluck lunch (potluck sign up on the sanctuary door!) There will be a service activity for children during the meeting.

The next **Gethsemane Women's Lunch** will be Monday, Jan. 26 at The Pasta House, 6214 S. Lindbergh Blvd. at 11:30 am. RSVP to Lois Wind by Jan. 23.

Join one of the 2 Gethsemane tables, or form your own team for **LuMin Trivia night**, on January 31. Tables of 8 are now forming. Contact Eve Cooney or Chris Schmidt to join a table.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **2026 Flower and Wine Charts** are available on the bulletin board. Upon signing up, please email your "dedication" for the bulletin to Eve in the office, or put a card in her mailbox. Flower sponsorship is \$25 and Wine sponsorship is \$10. Your donation can be included in your offering envelope, in a separate envelope or online via our website.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
January 11 – 18, 2026

1/11/26 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 10 am 11 am	Baptism of our Lord – Worship: In-Person and Livestream Fellowship Hour, Archwell Health table Sunday School/Confirmation Class Worship: In-Person
1/12/26 Monday	6 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
1/13/26 Tuesday	10 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study Church Council Meeting
1/14/26 Wednesday	1 – 2:30 pm 6:15-6:30 pm 6:30 – 8 pm	Office Staff Meeting (phones unanswered) Music Fundamentals Choir Rehearsal
1/18/26 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 10 am 11 am	Worship: In-Person and Livestream Fellowship Hour, Social Action Meeting in Library Sunday School/Confirmation Class Worship: In-Person

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
Mon, Jan 19	All day	Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday / Day of Service
Sun, Jan 25	9:30 am	RIC Sunday, Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck! (one worship at 9:30 am followed by the meeting and potluck. Childcare during meeting provided)
Mon, Jan 26	11:30 am 6:00 pm	GLC Women's Luncheon at Pasta House on S. Lindbergh. RSVP to Lois Wind NorthHampton Neighbors Meeting at Gethsemane
TBD (not Feb 1)	TBD	Chili Cook-off / Cookie Bake-off – start perfecting your recipes!

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.


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American Spiritual
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