

Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton - St. Louis, MO 63109

WOV Holy Communion Setting Four

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases, we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

GATHERING

PRELUDE:

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFSSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

P: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.
Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.

P: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of great expectations,
We confess that we have been closed off to your reign of justice. We have strayed from your paths. We expect war instead of peace. We lower our expectations for life, dishonoring one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your expectant way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.

P: People of God, expect the unexpected. God gives us living signs: New things are growing in our midst and tender branches spring forth. This is our life expectancy. By water and the Spirit we are joined to this wonder. We have put on \dagger Christ, and our sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of our God, where and when we least expect it.

Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

AM: Sometimes we see endings—axes razing trees and vines; predators stalking prey.
Yet, God still calls us to expect life, even from what once seemed beyond hope:

AM: a shoot springs forth, fresh and new
the ash of a fire nourishes seedlings

AM: the wolf and the lamb can rest together
for a peaceable world emerges, life expectant even from our hearts of stone.

AM: And so we light this candle to shine forth with peace, for we know a new day is dawning even if the timing is unexpected.

We live in anticipation, awake to divine possibilities.

Light the Candle

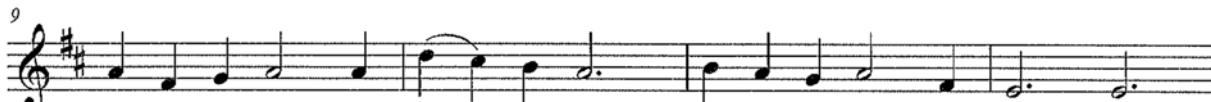
Second Sunday - Peace



Light the can - dle of PEACE to - day; the Gi - ver of peace is here: _____



5 Wel - come the peace we fight and cry for, but on - ly Christ can give. _____



9 Fli - cker and flame and glow - with peace, light up the world a - round you.



13 Fli - cker and flame and glow with peace, light up the world a - round you.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1987. Tune: Carl F. Schalk, 1988. *Light the Candle* © 1987, Concordia Publishing House, cph.org. Used by permission. Tune © 1991, G.I.A. Publishing. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-704953.

GREETING:

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

And also, with you.

KYRIE

A In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

A For the

C Lord, have mer - cy.

peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the

Lord.

A For the peace of the whole world, the well - be-ing of the

C Lord, have mer - cy.

Church of God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

A For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their

C Lord, have mer - cy.

wor - ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.

A Help, save, com - fort, and de-fend us, gra- cious Lord.

C A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ. Make lifeless stones a living people. Prepare us for reconciliation. Fill us with joy, peace, and hope We ask this in the name of the One who brings salvation near.

Amen

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
²The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

The choir will lead the singing of the Psalm with the congregation singing the bolded lines.

¹Give the king your jus-¹tice, O God,
and your righteousness to¹ the king's son;

**²that he may rule your¹ people righteously
and the¹ poor with justice;**

³that the mountains may bring prosperity¹ to the people,
and the¹ hills, in righteousness.

**⁴Let him defend the needy a-¹mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush¹ the oppressor.**

⁵May he live as long as the sun and¹ moon endure,
from one generation¹ to another.

**⁶Let him come down like rain upon¹ the mown field,
like showers that wa-¹ter the earth.**

⁷In his time may the¹ righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall¹ be no more.

**¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the¹ God of Israel;
you alone do¹ wondrous deeds!**

¹⁹And blessed be your glorious¹ name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A-¹men. Amen.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

C Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al- le- lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 3rd chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!* Hymn# 246



1 Hark! a thrill - ing voice is sound - ing! "Christ is near," we
 2 Wak - ened by the sol - emn warn - ing, from earth's bond - age
 3 See the Lamb, so long ex - pect - ed, come with par - don
 4 So, when next he comes in glo - ry and the world is
 5 Hon - or, glo - ry, might, and bless - ing to the Fa - ther



hear it say. "Cast a - way the works of dark - ness,
 let us rise; Christ, our sun, all sloth dis - pel - ling,
 down from heav'n. Let us haste, with tears of sor - row,
 wrapped in fear, he will shield us with his mer - cy
 and the Son with the ev - er - last - ing Spir - it



all you chil - dren of the day!"
 shines up - on the morn - ing skies.
 one and all, to be for - giv'n;
 and words of love draw near.
 while un - end - ing a - ges run!

Text: Latin hymn, 1632; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814-1878. Music: MERTON, William H. Monk, 1823-1889. Public Domain.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

P: Let us join together as we affirm our faith.

We believe in God, who in greatness created with a Word all that is and continues to be.

We believe in God, who is Word made flesh, Emmanuel, born of Mary, come to fulfill the expected promise: justice, mercy, peace, love; who was executed because our expectations were worldly, not divine; who rose to break the expectation that death has the final word.

We believe in God who fills us with expectations; who pushes us to change; who moves us with her joy and gladness that we might be united to proclaim the Word full of grace and truth for an expectant people.

THE PRAYERS

AM: Anticipating the coming of God's redeeming love, let us pray for a world in longing expectation.

A brief silence.

AM: God, you renew the church in every age. We give thanks for hymn writers and theologians. Inspire teachers, writers, and musicians to delight and instruct your people. God of expectant life,

Receive our prayer.

AM: You give us a vision of creation in harmony, when hurting and destruction will be no more. Teach us to be stewards of the earth and companions to its creatures. Restore to balance and wholeness, what human greed has harmed. God of expectant life,

Receive our prayer.

AM: You defend the cause of all who are poor and oppressed. Raise up leaders who will govern with equity and serve the common good. Guide judges, lawmakers, and public officials to protect the rights of those who cannot advocate for themselves. God of expectant life,

Receive our prayer.

AM: You deliver those in need from suffering and fear. Come to the aid of any who are exploited or abused, especially children, elders, and victims of human trafficking. Provide safety and help to our neighbors without shelter, refugees, and those fleeing violence. God of expectant life,

Receive our prayer.

AM: You urge your people to welcome one another as you have welcomed us. Nurture ministries of hospitality and care in this and every congregation. We pray for people who are homebound, hospitalized, or separated from loved ones. Damien, Neil, Kevin, Kathy, Troy, Maryn, Susan, Elizabeth, Adayah, Fred, Joan, and those we name before you now either silently in our hearts or spoken from our lips. . . God of expectant life,

Receive our prayer.

AM: You embrace all who have died trusting in your promises, and we give thanks for their faithful witness. Sustain us in hope until we are united with them in the joy of your eternal presence. God of expectant life,

Receive our prayer.

P: Trusting that God hears us and knows our deepest longings, we offer our prayers with great expectation.

Amen.

THE PEACE

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

P: I invite you to share a sign of peace with those around 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: *Emmanuel, God with Us* Chris Tomlin

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER AND DEDICATION OF PLEDGES

AM: God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings: our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. We bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. We entrust to you these pledges as a commitment to serving you in the coming year. Grant us wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major, common time. The first staff begins with a fermata over a note, followed by a dotted half note, a quarter note, another dotted half note, and a quarter note. The second staff begins with a fermata over a note, followed by a dotted half note, a quarter note, another dotted half note, and a quarter note. The third staff begins with a fermata over a note, followed by a dotted half note, a quarter note, another dotted half note, and a quarter note. The fourth staff begins with a fermata over a note, followed by a dotted half note, a quarter note, another dotted half note, and a quarter note.

P The Lord be with you. C And al - so 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 indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everliving God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might, ³ heav-en and earth are
full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P: You are indeed holy, O God, the fountain of all holiness; you bring light from darkness, life from death, speech from silence. We worship you for our lives and for the world you give us. We thank you for the new world to come and for the love that will rule all in all. We praise you for the grace shown to Israel, your chosen, the people of your promise: the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the memory of the ancestors, the homecoming from exile, and the prophets' words that will not be in vain. In all this we bless you for your only-begotten Son, who fulfilled and will fulfill all your promises. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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

The congregation is seated.

COMMUNION

P: Unexpected and mysterious, Christ comes to us in this feast of grace. Eat, drink, and be filled.

Amen.

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. Grape juice is available in the center of the tray. Ask the pastor if you need gluten-free wafers.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer- cy on us, have mer- cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

have mer- cy on us, have mer- cy on us, have mer - cy.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

Hymn# 249



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
way for God with - in, and let us all our
and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite. Music: European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571-162. Public Domain.

Prepare the Royal Highway

Hymn# 264



- 1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
- 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: your own e - ter - nal king!
- 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
- 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
So let your praise be sound-ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship. Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent. Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-704953.

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 CANTICLE: Now, Lord, You Let Your Servant Go in Peace

C Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:
 your word has been ful - filled. My own eyes have
 seen the sal-va-tion which you have pre-pared in the sight of all
 peo-ple: a light to re-veal you to the
 na-tions and the glo-ry of your peo-ple Is-ra-el.
 Glo-ry to the Fa-ther and to the Son, glo-ry to the
 Ho-ly Spir-it, as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and
 will be for-ev-er. A-men, a-men, a - men.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: In this meal we have experienced God with us

Ordinary made extraordinary: familiar made holy

AM: As we are called forth from the table, may we awaken to divine justice

That these expectant days may be alive with peace

AM: We pray this in the name of the one who has promised to come again,

Christ Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

These are ways we are sharing God's Grace with our community and with the world!

BLESSING

P: The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait.

Amen

SENDING HYMN: *All Earth is Hopeful*

Hymn# 266

To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor

1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell:
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.

y el sur - co_a_bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el

Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task: this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our

mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -

la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our

1-3 | 4

cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver-dad. dar-nos li-ber-tad.

God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour-age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate-way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

Text: Alberto Taulé, b. 1932; tr. Madeleine Forell Marshall, b. 1946. Music:TODA LA TIERRA, Alberto Taulé. English text © 1993 Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, admin. OCP. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-704953.

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace and in hope-filled expectation. Watch; wait; pray; dream.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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We invite all **members, guests and visitors**
to join us for coffee and doughnuts after worship
in the Walter Eckman Fellowship Hall downstairs.



Today's flowers were given by the Natalie Fontana
with love and beautiful memories of Hanna Abigail.

WORSHIP LEADERS		
PASTOR	Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
ORGANIST	Ella Rothgangel	
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Lindsay Schuessler	
GREETER	Cayce Morice	Natalie Fontana
USHERS	John McElwee and Cayce Morice	Adam Renthcler and Riley Boehlje
ASSISTING MINISTER	Fred Tatum	Carolyn Schainker
LECTOR	Rick Schuessler	Ami Boehlje
MUSICIANS	Linus and Matthew Christian	
ALTAR GUILD	Flaxbart Family	
BREAD BAKER	Natalie Fontana	
WINE	Rosemarie Lubbes	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	Moe Family	
DONUT PICK UP	Tepe Family	

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Today is Commitment Sunday! Please place your 2023 pledge card in the glass vessel located in the narthex by the ushers. Stickers have been provided for you to seal your card closed. Did you forget your card? No worries, you can pick one up today in the narthex or fill it out online by visiting the gethsemanestl.org. If you would like to watch or rewatch any of the three “Sounds of Gethsemane” Mission Moments, check out Gethsemane’s website!

WE DID IT. THANK YOU! We would like to thank everyone for their support of our adopt a family drive for St. Anthony's. All 40 individuals were adopted. Please place your gifts in the church library. We are still collecting blankets and \$25 gift cards from local stores to be divided between St. Anthony's and Isaiah 58 through next Sunday, December 11th.

Blood Drive! The next Blood Drive at Gethsemane is Monday, December 12, from 1:30pm-5:30pm. Sign up to donate through Gethsemane's website.

Interested in Joining Gethsemane? We are planning a new member orientation for those who are interested in joining Gethsemane (or just curious about what makes this church special) on Sunday, December 11th from 4-7pm. Please indicate your interest on the attendance form in your bulletin or contact the church office to reserve your place. Dinner will be served and childcare is available upon request.

The Mitten Tree is up and ready to be filled with donated mittens, hats, and gloves. All items will be split between our friends at Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's. They are in need of items in all sizes and styles. If you like it, we are sure someone else will too.

The choirs are looking to expand their presence in this year's Christmas worship services. If you would like to add your voice or ring for the Christmas celebration, please contact Aria.

Midweek Advent Plans: This Wednesday (December 7th) we are continuing to celebrate Advent with a family friendly meal and worship service. Please plan to join us Wednesday nights during Advent in the fellowship hall for a shared meal and brief service based on the Holden Evening Prayer service and each week's theme. We will provide the foundation of each meal and ask that you bring something to share. This is low stress, so keep it simple. Regardless of what you are able to share (a bag of salad, a pizza, a container of brownies, a bag of clementines or carrots) we'll be happy to see you.

Little Free Pantry Planning Meeting next Sunday, December 11th at 9:50 am in the church library. We are so excited to get started on this project. We have received support from both of our Food Pantry partners and they have offered some great advice. Please bring your ideas and questions so that we can end the meeting with firm plans for moving forward early next year.

Help spread Christmas Cheer! The Gethsemane Christmas elves are busy getting Christmas gift bags ready for members of Gethsemane who are unable to get out and about, and we need help delivering them! The gifts will be at the church in the library beginning on December 11th along with names and addresses. If you take a gift for delivery, you simply need to initial the list. Our goal is to have all the gifts delivered before Christmas. Please talk to Gretchen for more details.

Poinsettia Sales: Don't forget to order your poinsettias before December 12th. Donations may also be made in honor of any of our mission projects including the organ fund, Project Peanut Butter, St. Anthony's, and Isaiah 58. All plants are \$15 and can be picked up any time between December 26th and January 2nd. Order forms are available online and in the narthex.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
December 4 - 11, 2022

Today Second Sunday of Advent	8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Coffee Hour and Sunday School Worship Service: In-Person
12/5 Monday	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal Vocal Choir Rehearsal
12/6 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
12/7 Wednesday	10:00 am 6:00 pm	Offsite Staff Meeting Midweek Advent Service
12/11 Sunday Third Sunday of Advent	8:30 am 9:45 am 9:50 am 11:00 am 4:00 pm	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Coffee Hour and Sunday School Little Free Pantry Discussion Worship Service: In-Person New Member Orientation

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Monday, December 12 th	1:30 pm – 5:30 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Sunday, December 18 th	11:00 am	Children's Christmas Program

WEEKLY THEME

Advent 2: Great Expectations - Life Expectancy

When you cut down a tree, you think it's the end. The tree, we assume, cannot thrive from a dead stump. We needed that tree gone for some reason—it may have been unhealthy; it may have been a threat to our dwelling; it may have obscured our view. What happens when the tree, which is dead and gone, just won't give up?

John the Baptizer tells us that the axe is lying at the root of the trees that do not bear fruit. Into the fire those trunks and branches will go. Again, it sounds like the end. But is it? This is not an all-consuming fire; rather, this is a purifying fire of life. It is something new. Out of the former comes God's way of life for us: the wolf lying down with the lamb; the child playing with the asp; the God of creation raising up children from stones. Our patterns and behaviors become life expectant...shoots burst forth from dead stumps.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Damien Gustafson – healing and back pain relief
Neil Gustafson – strength and pain relief
Kevin Kopplin – continued health and strength
Kathy Lee – continued healing as she recovers in rehab
Troy Mann – healing and strength
Maryn Olson – as she starts a new job
Susan Otto – freedom from pain, continued healing as she recovers in rehab
Elizabeth Penny – healing after recent surgery
Adayah Tatum
Fred Tatum – pain relief for back
Joan Williams – strength and freedom from pain

Request for:	On Behalf of:
Pam Murphy (healing), Peggy Adams (healing)	<i>Jean Chouquette</i>
Donald Jenson (strength, comfort)	<i>Mark Cutelli</i>
The Berghorn family on the loss of a husband and dad	<i>Barb Johnson</i>
Grayson and Annabelle (continued successful healing)	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
Darlene's sister (strength, healing) as she goes through chemo and radiation treatments for cancer	<i>McElwee Family</i>
Marie (healing, strength, comfort), Ginny Olson (comfort, peace, strength); those who mourn; all impacted by gun violence, for peace and justice in our world	<i>Olson/Fulton Family</i>
Nephew Bryan (strength, healing after surgery)	<i>Phyllis Saathoff</i>
Venie, Mary Ann, and Ruth (strength, healing)	<i>Scanlan Family</i>
Prayers for a healthy and safe pregnancy	<i>Lindsay Schuessler and Brian Williams</i>
The family and friends of Bobby Silverstein	<i>Unsicker Family</i>
Lois Wind (guidance, healing, freedom from pain)	<i>Joan Williams</i>
Mike, Liz, and Allison (healing, comfort)	<i>Yemm Family</i>

*Note: Prayer requests will remain in the bulletin for two weeks. After that time, they will be removed.
Simply resubmit or update your request as necessary.*

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, 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 straight, gay, lesbian, 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.

