



GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH



MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

April 2024

Volume #131 Issue #4

everyday is

**EARTH
DAY**

Messenger Contents

Pastor's Page	2
Worship in April	3
Community Life.....	4
Around the Church	5
Connections Corner	6
Vacation Bible School.....	7
April Calendar	8
April Worship Leaders	9
Announcements	10
Anniversaries	10
Dates to Remember	11
Get Connected.....	11
Month in Pictures	12

Pastor's Page

*“Have you believed because you have seen me?
Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”*
--Jesus (John 20:29)

Where have you seen Jesus lately? This could happen any time of year, of course—who knows when the Holy Spirit will open your eyes to see the work of Jesus or open your ears to hear the Word of God? But in this season after Easter—seven weeks, or a week of weeks!—we’re paying special attention to those stories from Scripture where Jesus shows up and appears to people after he was resurrected.

Maybe it sounds weird to suggest that a long-dead human being might reappear on the earth, and to be fair, you’re not likely to catch sight of the physically resurrected Jesus, showing you his hands and the scars of his crucifixion.

But think back to the parable Jesus told (Matthew 25:31-46) about seeing him in the “least of these who are members of my family”—

“I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,
I was naked and you gave me clothing,
I was sick and you took care of me,
I was in prison and you visited me.”

Whenever you’re showing care for another person in such a situation, you are serving Jesus himself. You may even catch a glimpse of the person receiving that care! Consider this your chance to see Jesus.

Maybe you’ll see Jesus around the Little Free Food Pantry just outside the church building, or at the food pantry at Isaiah 58 or St. Anthony’s. Jesus might show up in the sanctuary as a person visiting worship for the first time, or maybe as someone participating in a healing ministry like Project Sanctuary. Maybe Jesus is served when you donate clothes or give money to a water well project somewhere in the world. Maybe you’ll see Jesus when visiting a homebound church member or someone who has been hospitalized. Maybe Jesus is present in a prison ministry or in a courtroom where someone stands accused unfairly.

Sometimes you’ll know for sure that you’ve seen the risen Christ, and sometimes you’ll just wonder. But the opportunity is always possible, wherever people are in vulnerable situations—Jesus Christ is present. You can see it.

You might even be the one bringing the presence of Christ when you care for someone else.

It’s not outside the realm of possibility. This is the season of resurrection, after all. Anything is possible.

Worship in April

Sunday, April 7, 2024
2nd Sunday of Easter

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship
 9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship
 10:00am Adult Forum
 11:00am In-Person Worship

Sunday, April 14, 2024
3rd Sunday of Easter

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship
 9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship
 10:00am Adult Forum
 11:00am In-Person Worship

Sunday, April 21, 2024
4th Sunday of Easter

8:30am In-Person and Online Worship
 9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship
 10:00am Committee Meetings
 11:00am In-Person Worship

Sunday, April 28, 2024
5th Sunday of Easter

10:00am In-Person and Online Worship
 11:00am Volunteer Appreciation Potluck
(No Sunday School)

Volunteer Appreciation Day

There is only one service on Sunday April 28th. Worship will be at 10:00am followed a volunteer appreciation potluck. Church Council will provide fried chicken. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Please note there will be **NO Sunday School** on this day.

Green Committee Pancake Breakfast and Movie Fundraiser

Don't forget to purchase your ticket for the Green Committee's Pancake Breakfast and Movie Night. They are hoping to raise funds to replace the current stove in the church kitchen with a newer model that does not use as much gas. Tickets can be purchased using the QR code found on their flyers or in person from a member of the committee. Volunteers are also needed the night of the event. See Eve Cooney with questions.

Attention Current and Future Worship Leaders

The new schedule availability survey for May through August is now available online. You will find a link to the survey in your Friday e-newsletter. Printed copies will also be available after Easter.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the form – it makes scheduling infinitely easier.

March Attendance

March 3rd

97 In-Person 39 Online

March 10th

97 In-Person 41 Online

March 17th

100 In-Person 27 Online

March 24th

156 In-Person 53 Online

Average Midweek Lenten

10 In-Person 20 Online

Don't forget to complete your weekly attendance form. We're counting on you! (We really are - the Synod requests an average Sunday attendance in our annual report)



Community Life

donate Request of the Month

Thank you for your continued support of Gethsemane's Food Pantry Partners: Isaiah 58 Ministries and St. Anthony's.



April Collection: Toilet Paper & Menstrual Pads

Remember, items placed on the food collection shelves will be divided between our food pantry partners. Food placed in the grocery cart will be used to fill Gethsemane's Little Free Food Pantry.



**Red Cross
Blood Drive**
Monday, April 8th
1pm - 5pm

MCU is Looking for Volunteers

MCU is hosting a booth at this year's event on April 20-21 at the Muny Grounds in Forest Park. Zoom training is available.

MCU is collecting signatures in support of the proper disposal of scrap tires. This is part of their cleanup plan that they will be presenting at the state capital in a few months. See your Friday e-newsletter for more information and to sign up.



Gethsemane is again serving as a polling location for the 2024 elections. We will be serving Ward 5, Precinct 6 on April 2nd, August 6th, and November 5th. The office will be open, but other activities may be canceled on those days.

LuMin is hosting "Jesus and Dinner" nights every Sunday. Gethsemane is helping on: **April 14th.**



See the website, weekly e-news, or the paper sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall to participate. They will need an entree, side dish, dessert, and someone to deliver. You are also welcome to join the students for their meal!

SAVE THE DATE

May 9, 2024 is Ascension Day in our church year. This year, it is also Give STL Day, powered by the St. Louis Community Foundation. LuMin St. Louis is one of the non-profit ministries that will benefit from your online donation to further our work in welcoming, empowering, supporting, and sending our young adults into the world with a deeper understanding of their faith journey.

Early giving begins April 24. And we'll update you when your dollar can go a little further with power hours. We are also challenging our alumni groups (by decade) to see which group donates the most to campus ministry.

Please take some time to rise up to our challenge of \$5000. More information, as well as a donation page is found at: www.givestlday.org/organization/lumin

Around the Church



April GLCW Luncheon

All women are welcome to join us at our next luncheon:

Date: Monday, April 22nd
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Favazza's on the Hill
Hostesses: Carolyn Schinker

RSVP: Please contact Carolyn:
cschinker@sbcglobal.net or
314.306.8461 by 4/19

Youth Church Lending Library

Introducing our new youth church lending library, coming soon! This exciting addition will offer a diverse selection of books for kids from early childhood through high school, providing age-appropriate exploration of God, spirituality, Christian love, religious holidays, and more. Our youth library aims to foster curiosity and understanding, offering resources for children and teens to explore their faith in a meaningful way. Available for lending twice a month between services and by appointment, we look forward to welcoming young readers to this enriching experience.



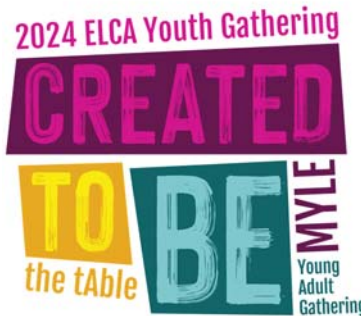
Adult Forum Topics

All adults are welcome to join us in the chapel between services at 10:00am for the following discussions:

April 7th - Menopause (Dr. Melissa Tepe)
April 14th - (Available)
April 21st - Member Care Team

If you have an idea for an adult forum, please contact the church office.

Youth Gathering Update



Thank you for your support during the Easter Breakfast! The youth and their families are so appreciative of

everyone's support. The closer we get the clearer the costs are becoming and we have slightly underestimated the how much we needed to raise, and while we are getting close to our goal, we do not want to leave the bank with a zero balance. We want the next group to have some money to get started just as the last group did for us.

Attention Class of 2024

Gethsemane would like to feature our high school and college graduates in next month's *Messenger*! If you have a graduate this spring, please send a short bio and picture to Gretchen at glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com by April 19th.

Congratulations!

Connections Corner



✉: glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com

☎: 314-518-6978 (ok to text)

*if you send me a friend request on Facebook I will accept you!

Office hours: Mon –Thurs, 10am—2:30pm

Ways to stay connected:

Utilizing these resources can help you feel closer to Gethsemane!



Give online
(Vanco Mobile App)



Access the Church Directory
Online (Instant Church Directory)



Watch Worship Services
Online (YouTube)

Building Connections at Gethsemane



A member recently approached me asking if there was a way for Gethsemane people to share and offer their resources with one another. For example, do you need a dog walker or pet sitter? Perhaps you might consider looking for someone you know before you go searching the internet. If there were someone at Gethsemane that were interested in doing that or already pet-sit for a living or a hobby they would see your request and reach out. Right before the pandemic we erected a giant billboard in the Fellowship Hall. This bulletin board has had a few updates since 2020 but it doesn't really serve a purpose right now other than to highlight the ways people volunteer at Gethsemane. Stay tuned to the Fellowship Hall bulletin board to add your information with other Gethsemane folks!

Also, special thanks to Marilyn McGuire for being persistent in requesting something like this. It really is a fantastic idea!

Website: www.gethsemanestl.org

YouTube: [gethsemanestl](https://www.youtube.com/gethsemanestl)

Instagram: [gethsemane_elca_stl](https://www.instagram.com/gethsemane_elca_stl)

Pinterest: [Gethsemane Lutheran Church](https://www.pinterest.com/GethsemaneLutheranChurch)

Facebook: [Gethsemane Lutheran Church - ELCA, St. Louis, MO](https://www.facebook.com/GethsemaneLutheranChurch-ELCA-St-Louis-MO)

Find Gethsemane on Social Media:



Vacation Bible School

We are so excited to announce the return of Vacation Bible School! All potty-trained four-year-olds to those currently in the 5th grade are welcome to join us for the return of Vacation Bible School at Gethsemane, July 29-August 2, 2024.

VBS will run from 9am-noon. We are once again offering after-care (aka VBS+) from 12pm-5:30pm! VBS+ will be run and supervised by Anja Walentik, a professional 1st grade teacher.



Cost for VBS only (9am-12pm) is \$30/child or \$60/two or more children.

Cost for VBS+ (9am-5:30pm) is \$100/child or \$200/two or more children.

To register, go to the church website or click on the link in the Friday e-newsletter. If you would like to volunteer, you can also go to the church website or click on the volunteer link in the Friday e-newsletter.

Congratulations First Communicants



Soren M.



Jacob W.

Lily G.

Oskar S.


Henry S.

Special thanks to Natalie Fontana for helping them with communion bread baking, and to Susan Newel, Shelly Morgan, Sharon Salerno, Ken Bauer, and Kim Elliott for making their banners.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>7</p> <p>8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00am Adult Forum 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Vocal Choir</p>	<p>1</p> <p>No Music Rehearsals</p>	<p>2</p> <p> Election 6:00am-7:00pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00am Staff Mtg*</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p> National Deep Dish Pizza Day</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>14</p> <p>8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00am Adult Forum 11:00am Worship 3:00pm C.V.S.L. Choir Concert 5:00pm Vocal Choir 5:30pm LuMin Dinner</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Tax Day 6:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00am Staff Mtg*</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>5:30pm Pancake Dinner and Movie 6:30pm C.V.S.L. Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>13</p> <p>1:00pm C.V.S.L. Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Project Sanctuary</p>
<p>21</p> <p> 8:30am Worship 9:45am Sunday School & Fellowship 10:00am Committee Meetings 11:00am Worship 5:00pm Vocal Choir</p>	<p>22</p> <p>11:30am GLC Women's Luncheon 6:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>16</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Mtg</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00am Staff Mtg*</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Messenger info. due</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>28</p> <p>10:00am Worship 11:00am Volunteer Appreciation Potluck</p>	<p>29</p> <p>6:00pm Bell Choir</p>	<p>23</p> <p>10:00am Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00am Staff Mtg*</p>	<p>25</p> <p>World Penguin Day </p>	<p>26</p> <p>National Pretzel Day </p>	<p>27</p>
 <h1>April</h1>						

*Office will be closed between 10am and 12pm.

April 2024 Worship Leaders

	7th		14th		21st		28th	May 5th	
	Early	Late	Early	Late	Early	Late		Early	Late
	John S.	Rick Y.	Richard L.	Keith P.	Lois Wind	Deb S.	Kate H.	Elizabeth P.	Rob S.
Greeter	John S.	Rick Y.	Richard L.	Keith P.	Lois Wind	Deb S.	Kate H.	Elizabeth P.	Rob S.
Usher	Bill S.	Riley B.	John S.	Peggy L.	Richard L.	Nancy L.	Richard L.	Cayce M.	Steve W.
Usher	Ted Y.	Gary B.	Bill S.	Riley B.	John S.	Peggy L.	Steve H.	Adam R.	Nancy L.
Assisting Minister	Megan Y.	Carolyn S.	Phyllis S.	Angie F.	Rick S.	Natalie F.	Amy R.	Becky R.	Gary B.
Lector	Olivia M.	Natalie F.	Rick Y.	Anja W.	Elizabeth P.	Steve W.	Michale M.	Adam R.	Angie F.
Children's Sermon	Lindsay Schuessler	Lindsay Schuessler	Pastor Cheryl	Pastor Cheryl	Lindsay Schuessler	Lindsay Schuessler	Chris Schmidt	Pastor Cheryl	Pastor Cheryl
Wine	Steve Brown		Steve Brown		Steve Brown		Tepe/McFarlane Family		Steve Brown
Bread Baker*	Yemm Family	Natalie Fontana	Natalie Fontana	Natalie Fontana	Richardson Family	Richardson Family	Wisch Family	Yemm Family	Yemm Family
Blood Pressure	Ted Y.	NA	NA	NA	TBD	TBD	NA	Joan W.	Joan W.
Fellowship Host	Schmidt Family	Wisch Family	Wisch Family	Wisch Family	Walentik Family	Walentik Family	Council	Wind Family	Wind Family
Donut Driver	John Sandberg	Rick Yakimo	Rick Yakimo	Rick Yakimo	Keith Paulson	Keith Paulson	Council	Wind Family	Wind Family
Altar Flowers	Breed Family	Aria Thomé	Aria Thomé	Aria Thomé	Elliott Family	Elliott Family	Marilyn McGuire	Williams & Rakey	Williams & Rakey
Altar Guild	Melissa DeVore		Melissa DeVore		Melissa DeVore		Nancy Luebke		Nancy Luebke
Camera	Gretchen Jenson		Gretchen Jenson		Gretchen Jenson		Gretchen Jenson		Gretchen Jenson

* Please use Gluten Free bread mix provided by the church.

Announcements & Anniversaries

Condolences

We pray for the hope and comfort of the resurrection for...

...the Christian/Repp family upon the death of Amy's father, Arthur C. Repp, Jr., who died March 27th.

...the Crotty family upon the death of Anne and Ed's daughter, Susan, who died March 16th.

...the family of Sharon Ryan, who died March 11th.

...the Fontana family upon the death of Natalie's father, Dennis Nazaro Fontana, who died March 9th.

Thank you...

...to all the volunteers who showed up on March 23rd for Gethsemane's annual spring cleaning day. Special thanks to Rich Brendel who organized the volunteers and provided guidance and nourishment.



April Birthdays

- 1 Henry (Huck) Hunsinger
John DeVore
- 8 Eldon Miller
- 9 Lillian Yemm
Sabrina Kohlberg
- 11 Deanna Brooker
Julie Wisch
- 13 Lillie Niebuhr
- 20 Kim Elliott
- 23 Ruth Hanson
Michael McFarlane
- 28 Todd Boehlje
Peggy Lewis
Shelly Morgan
Amy Crousore



April Anniversaries

- 28 Conrad and Susan Otto 51
- 28 Ted and Megan Yemm 23

Spring Flower Humor

- Q1: What is Spring's favorite kind of pickle?
- Q2: What is a baker's favorite garden?
- Q3: What do you call a well-dressed lion?
- Q4: Why couldn't the flower ride its bike?

The Property Committee is Looking for Church Mice



We have updated the available church repair options. A complete list is available in the hallway outside of the kitchen in the basement. There you will find pictures of the work that needs to be completed and instructions. Simply select a job you are interested in by taking the sheet and following the steps on the instruction sheet to learn more about the specific job, the equipment needed, and to schedule a time to complete the job. Please let the church office know when a job has been completed.

Dates to Remember

Coming Up:

Tuesday, April 2	Election
Monday, April 8	Blood Drive 1-5pm
Friday, April 12	Pancake Dinner and Movie Night fundraiser
Saturday, April 13	Collegium Vocale of St. Louis (CVSL) concert at Gethsemane
Sunday, April 14	LuMin Dinner and Jesus
Sunday, April 28	One Service @ 10am, Volunteer Appreciation Day
Sunday, May 26	Return of Single Summer Services

Don't Forget

Every Wednesday -
Bulletin Items By Noon

Third Tuesday - (starting in April)
Church Council Meeting

Third Friday -
Messenger Articles Due

December 2nd -
Budget Requests Due

Committee Reports are
due Friday, December 6th.

SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

Volunteer Appreciation Potluck , Sunday, April 28
following ONE service @ 10:00am



Get Connected @ Gethsemane

Gethsemane Lutheran Church

3600 Hampton Ave.,
St. Louis, MO 63109
Phone: 314-352-8050
Fax: 314-352-8051
Email Address:

office@gethsemanestl.org

Church Office Hours: 8:00am-2:00pm

Pastoral Care: Rev. Cheryl Walenta
Gorvie 903-918-3992
pastor@gethsemanestl.org

Council President Gary Borkowski
314-489-0937
gvborkowski@gmail.com

Website: www.gethsemanestl.org
YouTube: gethsemanestl
Instagram: gethsemane_elca_stl
Pinterest: Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Facebook: Gethsemane Lutheran Church -
ELCA, St. Louis, MO

eMESSENGER

Please consider helping us save a tree and save on the cost of paper and postage. This happens if you choose to receive your *Messenger* only by e-mail. Just send a message to:
messenger@gethsemanestl.org.

WEEKLY E-NEWS

If you are not receiving our weekly e-news and would like to receive it, let us know by sending us an email. Please make sure that you put our address in your address book so that your spam filters let it pass through!

MESSENGER NEWS

You can send your news and notes for the *Messenger* to **messenger@gethsemanestl.org**. There is also a *Messenger* drawer by the church office. For best results, news should be in by the third Friday of each month.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63109

Return Service Requested

Month in Pictures

