Presentation of Our Lord February 2nd, 2025



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 Šakówin, 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

Music Director: Dr. Aria Thomé

Organist: Amy Crousore

Council President: Gary Borkowski Office Manager: Eve Cooney

pastor@gethsemanestl.org glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com gethsemane.choirs@gmail.com amycrousore@gmail.com gvborkowski@gmail.com office@gethsemanestl.org

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 6

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: Of the Father's Love Begotten

13th century Plainsong Arr. by Charles Callahan

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,

→ one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **C:** Amen.

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In + Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: Amen.

KYRIE Front of Hymnal page 165

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *This is the Feast* Front of Hymnal page 169-170

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, 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: MALACHI 3:1-4

This reading concludes a larger section (2:17—3:5) in which the prophet speaks of the coming of the God of justice. Malachi looks for that day when the wondrous power of God will purify the priestly descendents of Levi who minister in the temple at Jerusalem.

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to the temple. Indeed, the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 84

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

O | Lord of hosts!

¹ How dear to me | is your dwelling,

² My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.

³Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may | lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king | and my God.

⁴ Happy are they who dwell | in your house!

They will always be praising you.

- ⁵ Happy are the people whose strength | is in you, whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.
- ⁶ Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a | place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.
- ⁷ They will climb from | height to height, and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.
- ⁸ Lord God of hosts, | hear my prayer; give ear, O | God of Jacob.
- ⁹Behold our defend- | er, O God; and look upon the face of | your anointed.
- 10 For one day in your courts is better than a † thousand elsewhere.

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents $^{\mid}$ of the wicked.

- ¹¹ For the Lord God is both sun and shield, bestowing | grace and glory; no good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk | with integrity.
- 12 O | Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their | trust in you!

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 2:14-18

Jesus shared human nature fully so that his death might be for all humans a liberation from slavery to death's power. Here the writer uses the image of priestly service in the temple as a way of describing the life and saving death of the Lord Jesus. He is the high priest who offers his life on behalf of his brothers and sisters.

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that Jesus did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore Jesus had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: LUKE 2:22-40

This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us. Through it all, we see the light of God's salvation revealed to the world.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸ Simeon took Jesus in his arms and praised God, saying,

- ²⁹ "Lord, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
- ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
 - ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
- ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."
- ³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."
- ³⁶ There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow

to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When the parents had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

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: Of the Father's Love Begotten

HYMN# 295

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.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Gary Borkowski (Pres.), Julie Wisch (VP), Rick Schuessler (Secretary), Betsy Bartholomew, Richard Brendel, Missy DeVore, Garrett Finazzo, Richard Lima, Cayce Morice, Debbie Schaller

THE PRAYERS

AM: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

AM: . . . God of grace,

hear our prayer.

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **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: Nunc Dimittis arr. by Aria Thome'

The congregation rises in body or spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER

AM: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

Amen.

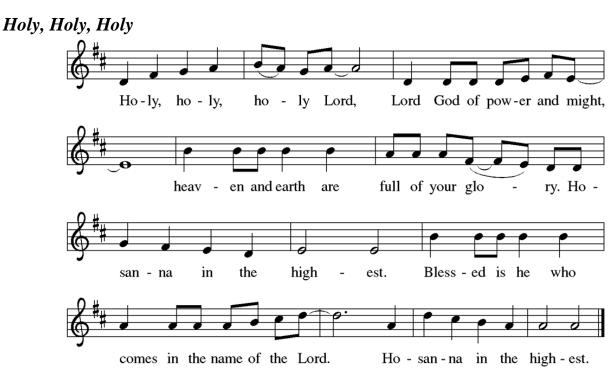
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

- P: Lift up your hearts.
 We lift them to the Lord.
- P: 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, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

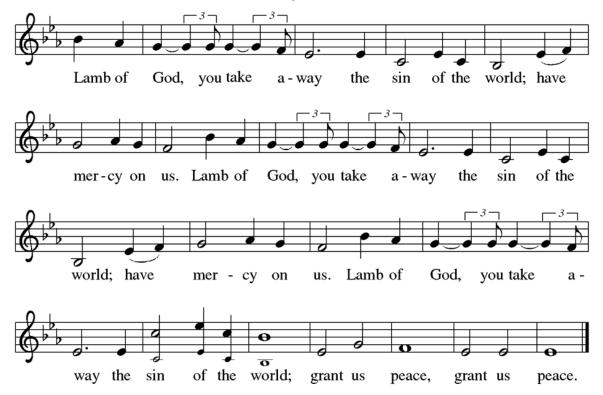
COMMUNION

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

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



Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent Angels from the Realms of Glory Hymn# 490 Hymn# 275

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, Let Your Servant

Hymn# 313

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

These are ways we welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice. The congregation may stand as comfortable.

BLESSING

P: The Spirit of the triune God + bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN: Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

Hymn# 545

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Angels from the Realms of Glory*Arr. by Hal Hopson

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License SAS007854. Worship songs are reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-704953. Used by permission. Copyright ©2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. These materials have been prepared by Augsburg Fortress for provisional use. Citations from Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations based on Readings for the Assembly © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress; NRSV Bible © 1989 and NRSV Bible © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Adapted and edited by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw. May be reproduced with a SundaysAndSeasons.com subscription for non-sale local use by worship leaders from September 1, 2022, through November 30, 2025.



The flowers this week are given by the Jenson family in memory of Gretchen's cousin Landon who would be celebrating his 31st birthday today.



WORSHIP LEADERS				
PREACHER/PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie			
GREETER	Lois Wind	Rob Schainker		
USHERS	Adam Rentchler	Steve Walentik		
	John Sandberg			
ASSISTING MINISTER	Rick Schuessler	Carolyn Schainker		
LECTOR	Richard Lima	Gary Borkowski		
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Pastor Cheryl			
BREAD BAKER	Megan Yemm			
FELLOWSHIP HOST	Needed			
DONUT DRIVER	Rentchler Family			
ALTAR GUILD	Leah Morrell			
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson			
WINE SPONSOR	Tepe/McFarlane			
BLOOD PRESSURE	Tedd Yemm			

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Cindy Breed: Good recovery from surgery

Barb Johnson: Healing and strength

Mark Cutelli: Medical tests

Request for:	On Behalf of:
California, Farmers of the World, Mom and Dad (continued health), Sai (peace), Mark (loss of home in California fire)	Cat Leonard
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories, Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine, Sudan and Myanmar; thanksgiving for the arrival of baby James; Ginny Olson (healing and strength); Don and family as they mourn Bonnie's death; Sister Marie Orf (healing and strength); Marcelle (successful treatment); Jojo (healing and courage); all impacted by disasters; for peace with justice in our world.	Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton
Maggie Blossfeld (sister) - Hope, comfort, strength	Bartholomew Family
Marc and Melissa	Jung Family
Andy Hoppe and his family (healing from pneumonia)	Penny Family
Healing prayers for son Frank and granddaughter Meg (cancer)	Schejbal Family
Our daughter Molly and her fiance' Lui who live in LA and are currently safe from fire, but know many who have lost homes. Please pray for them to find a way to help without being overwhelmed by survivors' guilt.	Schmidt Family
Matt Spicer (friend of Gethsemane), comfort and peace during terminal illness	Pastor Cheryl

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The **January and February Big Ask** is Laundry Soap and Dish Soap. Please place donations for Big Ask items in the <u>wooden cabinets</u> near the shopping cart. These items are shared between St. Anthony's and Isaiah 58. Items placed **IN** the shopping cart go to our Free Food Pantry.

Adult Forum Today Join Eve Cooney in the chapel at 10 am today, to hear about the recommendations and report that we received from the Audubon Society's **Bring Conservation Home** program regarding our "South Lawn" (the lawn area near the parking lot.) The BCH program helps citizens make their spaces more wildlife friendly through planting native trees and plants that help pollinators, birds and other wildlife. We hope to plant trees this spring!

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY! Join us in the spirit of giving during this year's Souper Bowl of Caring on Feb. 9! Your generosity can make a world of difference for those in need within our community. We encourage everyone to donate canned food or make a monetary donation to Gethsemane's Little Free Pantry. Drop off your donations at the specially marked boxes by the sanctuary doors through Sunday, February 9th and be a champion for our neighbors!

Our Pantry is especially in need of the following items: **SPAM!** Spaghetti sauce in cans (not jars), Vienna sausages, Canned chicken, Ramen noodles, and cereal.

MCU is holding a virtual training on Zoom called **Civil Rights for Immigrants** (**CRI**) - **Rapid Response Network Training.** The training will be held this Thursday, Feb 6, 7-9pm on Zoom. Learn how Gethsemane can work with other St. Louis congregations to build a Rapid Response Network that can quickly react to ICE raids of churches, workplaces, and other once-protected spaces. The registration link for this free training can be found in this week's e-newsletter.

Lumin Dinner and Jesus nights return in January! Gethsemane has signed up to provide meals to the college students who attend the Lumin Dinner and Jesus night at the Lumin house near the Wash U campus. Sign-ups can be found online or in the fellowship hall. The next dinners are February 9 (NEXT WEEK!) and April 27. If you cannot provide food, they will accept monetary donations as well.

Don't forget about the **LuMin St. Louis** Trivia Night to be held next Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 6:00 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church on Forsyth. The price is \$25 pp and a table of 8 is \$200. Registration is open on the LuMin website! You or your business can also sponsor a round of trivia. Contact Pastor Tina Reyes for details at pastor.luminstl@gmail.com.

Summer is almost here (just a few more months)! And that means it is time to start thinking about **Vacation Bible School**! There will be a planning meeting on Feb 5 at 5:30 pm at the Bread Co. in Webster Groves, and we welcome anyone's help. Please contact Gretchen if you would like to help plan, or just want to be kept informed about future meetings or volunteer opportunities.

Get to Know Gethsemane! Are you not yet a member and interested in learning more about Gethsemane? We're hosting a free discussion and dinner (which also serves as our New Member Orientation) on **Sunday, February 23rd from 4:00-7:00 PM**—let us save you a space at the table! Sign up on the back of your green worship insert or use the link in the recent e-newsletter.

We also need help hosting this event! If you are willing to help with dinner or another aspect of the event, please contact any church staff member.

The 2025 Chili Cook-Off and Cookie Bake-Off is Sunday, March 2nd, just in time for Mardi Gras! Sign-up sheets are available on the doors to the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. You can also complete the brief questionnaire on the back of your attendance form or contact the church office to enter the competition. You do not need to compete to enjoy all the chili and cookies. Simply join us in the fellowship hall immediately following the second service on March 2. This is a free family friendly event. We hope you can join us.

Blessing Bags are available near the main doors of the church. These are available for all to take and give to anyone you meet who may need the items.

The Messenger has a new digital format! If you have any items to include for the March newsletter, please send them to Gretchen at glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.org by February 21.



Thursday e-newsletter! Gethsemane is using Constant Contact to send the weekly e-news on Thursdays. If you would like to be included, please click this QR code to fill out a form indicating that you would like to be added to the list. Also, be sure to check your spam or junk folders!

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar February 2 - 9, 2025

2/2 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Hour, Sunday School ➤ Adult Forum: South Lawn Project with Eve Cooney
	11:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship Service: In-Person Vocal Choir Rehearsal
2/3 Monday	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
2/4 Tuesday	10:00 am	Bible Study
2/5 Wednesday	10:00 am 5:30 pm	Church Office Staff Meeting VBS Meeting at Bread Co. in Webster Groves
2/6 Thursday	7-9 pm	MCU Rapid Response Network training on Zoom. See enews to register.
2/8 Friday	6:00 pm	Lumin Trivia Night
2/0 Sunday	8:30 am 10:45 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Hour, Sunday School, Member Care Valentines
2/9 Sunday	11:00 am 1-3 pm 5:00 pm	Worship Service: In Person Confirmation Class in the Fellowship Hall Vocal Choir Rehearsal & LuMin Dinner

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Mon, Feb 10	1:00-5:00 pm	Red Cross Blood Drive
Sun, Feb 16	Between Services	Committee Meetings – Fellowship, Social Action
Mon, Feb 17	All Day	President's Day Holiday
Sun, Feb 23 4:00-7:00	4:00 7:00 pm	Get to Know Gethsemane – Orientation for new
	4.00-7.00 pm	members and anyone curious
Sun, March 2	11:45 – 2 pm	Gethsemane Chili and Cookie Cook-off! Just in
		time for Mardi Gras!

Blood Pressure (BP): First and third Sunday of each month in the fellowship hall. **Women's Luncheon:** Fourth Monday of every month. *Except for Holidays.

Gethsemane is a Reconciling in Christ Congregation Affirmation of Welcome

Christ's welcome knows no boundaries! Therefore, our welcome knows no boundaries and we invite all people to full participation in the life of the congregation.

We at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Saint Louis embrace...

People of any race or ethnicity...

People who are male, female, transgender, intersex or any other gender identity...

People of any age...

People wherever they are, or wherever they have been, on their faith journeys...

People who are single, married, widowed, divorced, separated or partnered...

People who are gay, lesbian, straight, bisexual, or any other sexual orientation...

People with a variety of political perspectives...

People who have, or had, addictions, phobias, abortions, or a criminal record...

People who are homeowners, renters, living with parents, or homeless...

People who are fully-abled, disabled, or of differing abilities...

People of differing educational backgrounds...

People of any socio-economic condition...

People not mentioned above, all of whom are created and loved by God!

As we celebrate and seek to preserve the beautiful, amazing diversity of God's creation, we pledge to ourselves and to all others that we will strive to live as a reconciling people in our life together and in our outreach to the world. We are committed to being a radically loving and welcoming community of faith.

Sunday Funnies: The Sunday Flock is printed with permission through Pastoral Center.







Scan here to donate to Gethsemane's African American Spiritual Reparation project.

This Bulletin is 100% recyclable. If you would like to keep your copy, please do so. If you are done with your copy, please place it in the basket provided as you exit the sanctuary.