

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024



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 Šakówiŋ, 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](mailto:pastor@gethsemanestl.org)  
[glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com)  
[gethsemane.choirs@gmail.com](mailto:gethsemane.choirs@gmail.com)  
[amycrousore@gmail.com](mailto:amycrousore@gmail.com)  
[gvborkowski@gmail.com](mailto:gvborkowski@gmail.com)  
[office@gethsemanestl.org](mailto: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](mailto:office@gethsemanestl.org)

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

*With One Voice Holy Communion Setting 4  
Advent Year C*

*Cradle and cross are inextricably connected on the fourth Sunday of Advent. Between a lovely tribute to the little town of Bethlehem and Mary's magnificent song of praise, the letter to the Hebrews reminds us in no uncertain terms that Christ's advent is for "the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."*

## GATHERING

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**PRELUDE:** *Voluntary and Fughetta on Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus*  
*Arr. by Charles Callahan*

*The congregation may stand as comfortable.*

### ADVENT CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

**P:** Blessed be the Lord, our God, Who guides our feet into the way of peace.

**C:** **Let us rejoice and be glad! Amen!**

**P:** Now is the time to bear fruit worthy of repentance. Let us, therefore, confess our sin in the midst of God's beloved.

*Silence for reflection*

**P:** Divine Peacemaker,

**C:** **we confess that we prefer to flee from our sins,  
pretending that our actions are just and good,  
while keeping others bowed down and powerless.  
We have waged war, not peace, in our communities;  
we have wronged our neighbors far and near.  
We have been weighed down by fear and division.  
We have courted disasters, clung to our oppressors.  
Refine us, O Lord of hosts; purify us like gold and silver.  
Make our love overflow.  
Come to us, O God,  
That your mercy would quicken within us.**

**P:** God looks upon us with favor, Even now calling us to rejoice always. For a righteous branch springs forth for us: Christ Jesus our Lord. Through the Holy Spirit of fire and rebirth We receive grace and forgiveness. We are strengthened through the promise fulfilled, To work for justice and peace in all the earth.

**Amen.**

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

**A:** God shows favor to us, leading us like a flock, sending us the Son to be the one of peace.

**C: Love shines, a light in the darkness.**

**A:** God has helped God's servants; God has acted with mercy according to the promise.

**C: Love shines, a light in the darkness.**

**A:** And so we magnify the Lord as the world is turned right-side up. We light the fourth candle on this wreath, a flame of peace-filled love lighting the way toward God's promise fulfilled.

*As the candles are lit, we sing:*

*Maranatha- Alleluia II, Berthier*

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### **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.

Lord, have mer - cy.

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

A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**A:** Let us pray. Stir up your power O God, and fill us now with your peace by your birth in our midst.

**C:** In Christ, our sibling, our neighbor, our friend, you call all of us, even the most vulnerable, to follow you. By your Spirit, quickly lead us closer to you, that we may soon live out your justice and peace in our communities. Amen.

*The congregation is seated.*

## MISSION MOMENT

Update from Church Council

## WORD

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### THE FIRST READING: MICAH 5:2-5a

*The prophet Micah, having pronounced judgment upon Judah, speaks of a future shepherd-king who, like David, will come from the small town of Bethlehem. (Ephrathah refers to the area around Bethlehem.) This king will restore Israel and bring peace. New Testament writers understood this passage to be referring to Jesus.*

<sup>2</sup>But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. <sup>3</sup>Therefore they shall be given up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of the ruler's kindred shall return to the people of Israel. <sup>4</sup>And the ruler shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his

God. And they shall live secure, for now the ruler shall be great to the ends of the earth, <sup>5a</sup>and he shall be the one of peace.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Luke 1:46b-55**

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

<sup>46b</sup>My soul proclaims the greatness | of the Lord,

<sup>47</sup>my spirit rejoices in | God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup>**for you, Lord, have looked with favor on your | lowly servant.**

**From this day all generations will | call me blessed:**

<sup>49</sup>you, the Almighty, have done great | things for me  
and holy | is your name.

<sup>50</sup>**You have mercy on | those who fear you,  
from generation to | generation.**

<sup>51</sup>You have shown strength | with your arm  
and scattered the proud in | their conceit,

<sup>52</sup>**casting down the mighty | from their thrones  
and lifting | up the lowly.**

<sup>53</sup>You have filled the hungry | with good things  
and sent the rich | away empty.

<sup>54</sup>**You have come to the aid of your | servant Israel,  
to remember the prom- | ise of mercy,**

<sup>55</sup>the promise made | to our forebears,  
to Abraham and his chil- | dren forever.

### **SECOND READING: HEBREWS 10:5-10**

*The author of Hebrews uses the image of religious sacrifice to convey the significance of Christ's coming. Through obedient acceptance of God's will, Christ allows his own body to become the greatest sacrifice of all, one through which we are made a holy people.*

<sup>5</sup>Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; <sup>6</sup>in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. <sup>7</sup>Then I said, 'See, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." <sup>8</sup>When Christ said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), <sup>9</sup>then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." Christ abolishes the

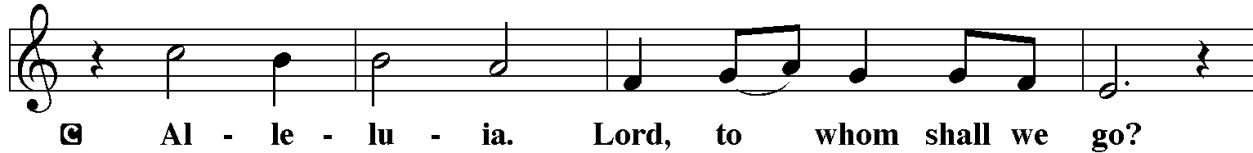
first in order to establish the second. <sup>10</sup>And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

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 1<sup>st</sup> chapter:  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## GOSPEL: LUKE 1:39-45

*Elizabeth, John's mother, and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are two women filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith. In Elizabeth's inspired greeting and Mary's song of praise we hear of a saving God who remembers, scatters, lifts up, and fulfills all things.*

<sup>39</sup>In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, <sup>40</sup>where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. <sup>41</sup>When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit <sup>42</sup>and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. <sup>43</sup>And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? <sup>44</sup>For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. <sup>45</sup>And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

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: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel***

**Hymn# 257**

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**P:** Let us confess our faith in the God who wages peace, in our hearts, through our hands and feet, with our voices.

**C: We believe in God, the source of peace in creation,  
ordering the heavens and the earth to reflect the fullness of shalom,  
calling all people to care for what has been gifted to us.**

**We believe in God, Word made flesh, Prince of Peace,  
Who teaches justice and mercy, Who brings new life to a broken world,  
Who leads through service, and guides our feet into the way of peace.**

**We believe in God, wild, wonderful Spirit, Who works through us,  
pushing us to change the world through loving-kindness,  
resistance to evil, and peace-full living;  
Who never leaves us alone; Who amazes us with unending love;  
Who calls us to echo shalom.**

**We believe in God, Who wages peace with us for all the world.**

### THE PRAYERS

**AM:** As we prepare for Christ's coming, waging the peace we long for, we humbly bring our hopes and our brokenness before the God of all peace.

*A brief silence.*

**AM:** ... God of peace,  
**receive our prayer.**

**P:** God of peace, receive our prayers and embrace us all in your love, in the name of Jesus Christ. **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

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

**MUSICAL OFFERING:** *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Arr. by Elliott Goodwin

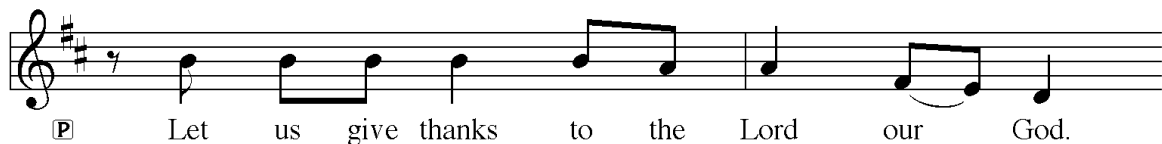
*The congregation rises in body or spirit.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

**AM:** Loving God, you are with us always. Thank you! Bless what we offer you. Create generous hearts in us. Guide us in the paths of Your peace.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



**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*

The musical score is written on five staves of a single treble clef. The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,'. The second staff continues with 'Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are'. The third staff contains 'full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The fourth staff contains 'Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the'. The fifth staff concludes with 'Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music features various note values including quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, along with rests and a triplet of eighth notes in the second staff.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
Lord God of pow'r and might, 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.

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**P:** 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.

**Amen.**

### 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 table is ready. Come to this table, you who have been here often, and you who have not been here in a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. You who are full of faith, and you who are full of doubt. All are welcome at God's table. Christ himself invites you to meet him here in this place of refuge.

*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, 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.

*Savior of the Nations, Come*

**Hymn# 263**

*Canticle of the Turning*

**Hymn# 723**

**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 ser - vant 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:** Jesus, Prince of Peace, we are strengthened by this meal together, send now the power of your Spirit that we become agents of Your love and peace for a weary world.

**Amen**

# SENDING

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## 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 love of God surround you, the grace of Jesus fill you, and the life of the Spirit bless you and give you peace.

**Amen**

**SENDING HYMN:** *Soon and Very Soon*

**HYMN# 439**

## DISMISSAL

**AM:** Go in peace. Share God's love.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE:** *Soon and Very Soon*

By Andrae Crouch, Arr. by Fred Bock

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**The flowers this week are given by the Moe Family**



<b>WORSHIP LEADERS</b>		
PREACHER/PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
GREETER	Lois Wind	Debbie Schaller
USHERS	Cayce Morice John Sanberg	Gary Borkowski Steve Walentik
ASSISTING MINISTER	Garrett Finazzo	Carolyn Schainker
LECTOR	Mike Schmidt	Anja Walentik
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Pastor Cheryl	
BREAD BAKER	Natalie Traylor Fontana	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	<i>Available</i>	
DONUT DRIVER	Lois and Jack Wind	
ALTAR GUILD	Leah Morrell	
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson	
WINE SPONSOR	Annis Family	

### **PRAYER REQUESTS:**

**Cindy Breed:** healing and guidance

**Barb Johnson:** healing and strength

**Family and Friends of Janet Hammer:** comfort and peace as they mourn her death

<b>Request for:</b>	<b><i>On Behalf of:</i></b>
Thanks for a normal mammogram, Scott (successful surgery); Mom and Dad (continued health)	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
The people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories; Lebanon, Syria, Ukraine; Sudan; Nicole and Haeman (healthy pregnancy); Ginny Olson (strength, healing); Don and Bonnie (peace and understanding); Jojo (healing and courage); all impacted by disaster; for peace and justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Family unity and healing for son Frank	<i>Kate Schejbal</i>
For healing of all complicated relationships this season	<i>Anonymous</i>
Elise Leal Henreckson (healing)	<i>Dell Roth</i>
Chris and Michael (healing, faith, perseverance)	<i>Schaller Family</i>
Remembering those who are alone during this holiday season.	<i>Chris Schmidt</i>
That those who feel like they have no family find one through Christ	<i>McFarlane/Tepe Family</i>
For Lily and her mom from Festus (Lily battling leukemia)	<i>Tulloch Family</i>
Peace in the Middle-east and the world.	<i>Franklin Family</i>
Prayers for Malakai who could use extra resources and support at this time.	<i>Jung Family</i>
Andy Hoppe and his family (recovery from pneumonia)	<i>Penny Family</i>

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Children's Christmas Program:** Thank you to all those who helped create and direct the Christmas Children's program last week, and to all of the children who performed.

**Pledge Cards can (and should) still be turned in!** Place in the offering basket, give to an Usher or send to the Church office. Pledges can also be made on-line – there is a link in the weekly enewsletter or go straight to the Gethsemane website. These pledges are critical for the Church Council to determine the budget for next year.

**COMMITTEES!** Committee Annual Reports are due to the Church Office ASAP.

**Congratulations** to Natalie Fontana who is now Natalie Traylor Fontana, upon her marriage to Bevin Traylor Fontana on December 6<sup>th</sup> at the courthouse in St. Louis!

**The Mitten Tree** is up and will remain in the narthex through the end of January. All donated hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves will be donated to those in need.

**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.

**Caring Casseroles!** See the enews for recipes and more information about the Caring Casseroles ministry. Casserole dishes can be found in the kitchen for you to take home and fill with a casserole. Help us stock our freezer to help those in need of a meal.

**Adult Forum** – Coming up on January 5 between services, join Garrett Finazzo as he updates us on MCU's latest efforts and how you can make your voice heard.

**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 January 12, February 9, March 23, and April 27. If you cannot provide food, they will accept monetary donations as well.

**LuMin St. Louis** announces our annual **Trivia Night** to be held on 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 opens January 1, 2025. You or your business can also sponsor a round of trivia. Contact Pastor Tina Reyes for details at [pastor.luminstl@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.luminstl@gmail.com).

**Flowers and Wine Sponsorship** The new 2025 sign up sheets for Altar Flowers (\$30) and Communion Wine/Juice (\$10) are available! If you sponsor flowers, please take an extra minute to write your flower dedication, if you have one, on one of the blue cards and put it in Eve Cooney's mailbox. Envelopes for sponsorship are also next to the sign up sheets for your convenience.



**The Messenger has a new digital format!** If you have any items to include for the January newsletter, please send them to Gretchen at [glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.org](mailto:glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.org) by **Dec 20**.

**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 Dec 22 - 29, 2024**

12/22 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</b> Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Hour, Worship Service: In-Person Vocal Choir Rehearsal
12/23 Monday	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
12/24 Tuesday	3:30 pm 4:00 pm	Christmas Eve Pre-Service Music Christmas Eve Service
12/25 Wednesday	10:00 am	Christmas Day Service of Lessons and Carols
Dec 24-Jan 2	All Weekdays	Church Office Closed
12/29 Sunday	9:30 am	<b>One Service Only (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)</b> <b>Lessons and Carols</b> Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube (No Vocal Choir Rehearsal)

### **Upcoming Dates to Consider**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>
Dec 24-Jan 1	All Weekdays	Church Office Closed
Sun, Jan 5	Between Services	Adult Forum – Fighting for Faith and Values – MCU (Metropolitan Congregations United) Update with Garrett Finazzo
Sun, Jan. 19	10 am	3rd Sunday Committee Meetings
Sun, Jan 26	9:30 am	One Service followed by Congregational Meeting

**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.

## WEEKLY THEME Advent 4: Quicken Quickly

In 1976, three young children died on a suburban street outside of Belfast. They were innocent casualties in violence that was sweeping Northern Ireland as the terrorist paramilitary IRA attempted to drive out the British. In the wake of the tragedy, three ordinary people, Betty Williams, Mairead Corrigan, and Ciaran McKeown, founded the Peace People movement. They organized marches and rallies to highlight the truth that violence cannot bring social justice.

We are often quick to conflict and misunderstanding. We are quick to speak but not to listen. But God's desire for all of humanity has always been peace, often working through ordinary people in ordinary places to wage it. God looks to Bethlehem, not Jerusalem, for a shepherd ruler. God comes to Mary to bear the Christ child. God anoints Elizabeth with the Holy Spirit, her child quickening within her to herald the good news that God's promises are coming to fruition.

God quickens peace among us. God draws us into community to work for peace. Together in faith we build a shared joy and expectation of what will be born in us, what will come to life in the love we share with each other. God's action and our action quickly combine and we see the truth of how peace is born through love: the proud are scattered, the mighty are cast down and the lowly lifted, the rich are emptied while the hungry are filled, and mercy becomes the way.





## 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.



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