

17th Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2024

The Season of Creation



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

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

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ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

Three weeks ago we heard Peter's confession of faith as told in John's gospel. This week we hear Mark's version, when Peter says, "You are the Messiah." In John, the stumbling block is Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh, given for the life of the world. In Mark too the scandal has to do with Jesus' words about his own coming death, and here Peter himself stumbles over Jesus' words. But Jesus is anointed (the meaning of messiah) in Mark only on the way to the cross (14:3); so we are anointed in baptism with the sign of the cross.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Adagio in G minor*

Tommaso Albinoni

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin and come to God for healing.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues. The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: God promises to forgive our iniquity and to remember our sin no more. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, the source of eternal healing, your sins are forgiven.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Lift High the Cross*

Hymn# 660

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE:

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

Hymn# 771 (verse 1 only)

God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

The congregation is seated.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today's reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God's steadfast love.

⁴The Lord God has given me a trained tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning the Lord God wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸the one who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand in court together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ^{9a}It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 116:1-9

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

¹I love the LORD, who has ¹heard my voice,
and listened to my ¹supplication,

²**for the LORD has given ¹ear to me**
whenever ¹er I called.

³The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave ¹came upon me;
I came to ¹grief and sorrow.

⁴**Then I called upon the name ¹of the LORD:**
"O LORD, I pray you, ¹save my life."

⁵Gracious is the ¹LORD and righteous;
our God is full ¹of compassion.

⁶**The LORD watches o-¹ver the innocent;
I was brought low,¹ and God saved me.**

⁷Turn again to your rest,¹ O my soul.
for the LORD has dealt ¹well with you.

⁸**For you have rescued my ¹life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my ¹feet from stumbling;**

⁹I will walk in the presence ¹of the LORD
in the land ¹of the living.

SECOND READING: JAMES 3:1-12

This text uses various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my dear family, for you know that we who teach will face stricter judgment. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is mature, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small part of the body, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our bodily parts as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of life, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse people, made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth comes a blessing and a curse. My dear family, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my dear ones, yield olives or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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 Mark, the 8th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MARK 8:27-38

This story provides the turning point in Mark's gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.

²⁷Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi, and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" ²⁸And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." ²⁹Jesus asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." ³⁰And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. ³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son-of-Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. ³²Jesus said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ³⁴Jesus called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son-of-Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

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: *Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song*

Hymn# 808

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.

THE PRAYERS

AM: Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

AM: ... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

P: We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

THE PEACE

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

P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another.

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 *Ignite My Heart*

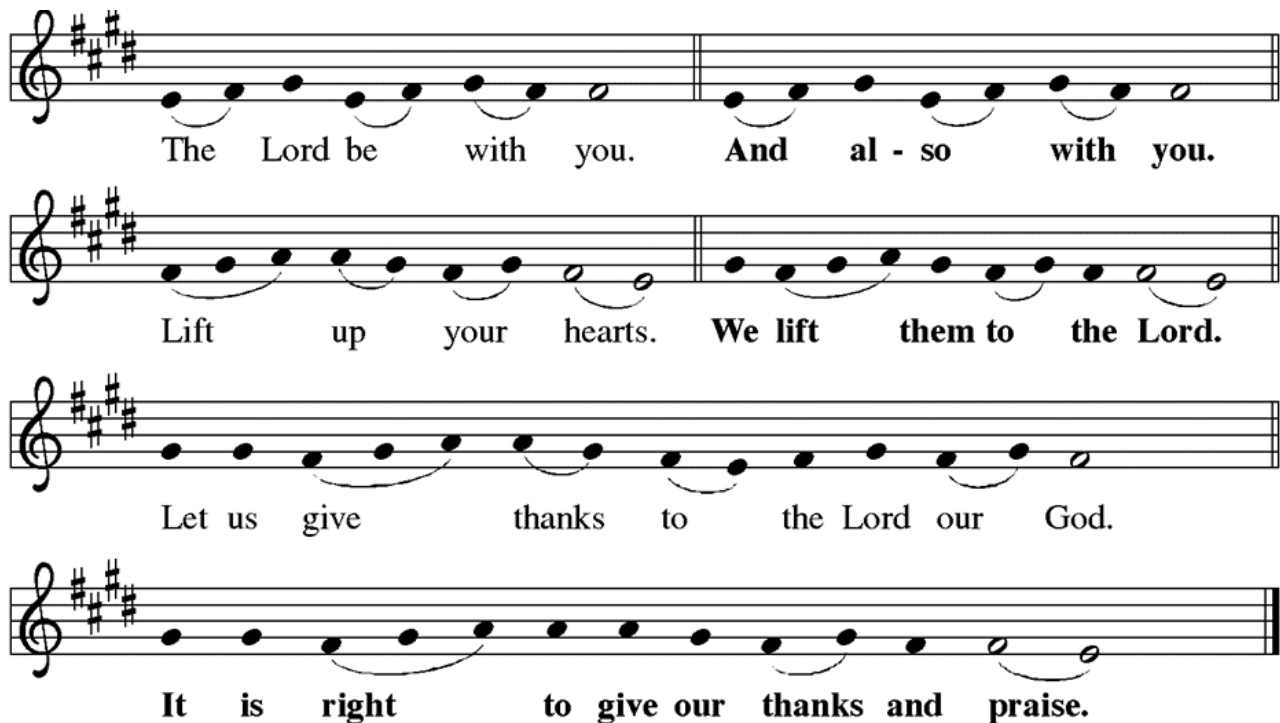
Kenneth T. Kosche

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

AM: Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS:

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

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: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

The congregation is seated.

All who seek the Lord are welcome at Christ's table to receive the gift of God's grace! Those not receiving the bread and wine are welcome to come for a blessing. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.

MUSIC DURING DISTRIBUTION:

Lamb of God

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

Oh Jesus, I Have Promised

Hymn# 810

The Summons (Will You Come and Follow Me)

Hymn# 798

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: Holy God, you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table. Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

These are ways we welcome all to nurture a community of harmony, healing, and justice.

BLESSING

P: God all mighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace.
Amen

SENDING HYMN: *The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing*

Hymn# 531

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Follow Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Lift High the Cross*

Arr. by James Holloway

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Today's flowers are sponsored by Grace Tullock

WORSHIP LEADERS		
PREACHER/PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
GREETER	Lois Wind	Peggy Lewis
USHERS	John Sandberg Adam Rentchler	Rob Schainker Denise Buehrer
ASSISTING MINISTER	Rick Schuessler	Gary Borkowski
LECTOR	Melissa Tepe	Carolyn Schainker
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Chris Schmidt	
BREAD BAKER	Natalie Fontana	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	Wisch Family	
DONUT DRIVER	Wind Family	
BLOOD PRESSURE	Ted Yemm	
ALTAR GUILD	Bauer Family	
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson	
WINE	Stephen Brown	

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Sunday School begins today! Classes are for children ages 3 (and potty trained) through 5th grade and Confirmation classes are for students in 6th-8th grade. Students meet at 9:45am - 10:45am between the 8:30am and 11:00am worship services. Registration is recommended so you are sure to receive email updates. Sunday School is free!

Let's celebrate Kim! Please join us after the early service today for a special Fellowship hour. We will enjoy cake and honor Kim Elliott and her almost ten years of service and ministry as Gethsemane's Office Manager, and wish her all the best in her new job at SLU!

Social Action Team Meeting: The Social Action Team meets this Sunday (Sept 15) at 10am in the library. All are welcome! This month, we'll plan for the Little Free Pantry drive (Oct 5) and Thanksgiving drive (Isaiah 58), update our Reconciling in Christ program commitments, discuss logistics (Pantry trash collection), and share invites (Sept 20 racial justice seminar through LuMin). Join us! *P.S. -- sign-ups for the Lutherans for Love and Pride booth at Tower Grove Pride Fest are now open. Sign up online to help set up or staff the booth on Saturday, Sept 28 or Sunday, Sept 29 and show support and love for our community! You can do this as part of God's work. Our hands. too!*

LuMin meals return! Please see the sign-up sheet on the Sanctuary doors, or online to sign up to provide meals to the Dinner and Jesus nights at LuMin (Lutheran Campus Ministry). The dates Gethsemane has signed up for are: **9/15**, 10/13, 11/10, and 12/08. Detailed instructions are on the sign up.

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!



Request of the Month: This month, we are collecting diapers! Did you know that St. Anthony's, one of our social ministry partners, receives 60,000 diapers each year from the St. Louis Area Diaper Bank? That's 5,000 diapers each month for families with babies and young children! As a Diaper Bank partner, St. Anthony's needs to do a diaper drive annually, and this is our opportunity to ensure St. Anthony's continues to receive their monthly diaper distribution. So how many diapers can we collect at Gethsemane during September? Let's try for 5,000+! All sizes are welcome and appreciated, but there is always a need for larger sizes and training pants (i.e. Pull-Ups). Gethsemane's donations will be delivered to St. Anthony's on September 25, just in time to help (re)fill the warehouse on September 27. Items may be placed on the shelves of the collection unit located in the main hall next to the Council corkboard and family mailboxes

God's work. Our hands. Our annual day of service this year will be on Sunday, September 29th immediately following one 9:30 am worship service. (It's the 5th Sunday of Sept.) We will

once again bring back old favorites and will also participate in the **Tower Grove Pride Fest** with Lutherans for Love and Pride. Sign-ups are in the Fellowship Hall and online.

Volunteers Needed at The Project Sanctuary booth at the Tower Grove Pride Festival Sept 28 and 29th. Can you give 1-2 hours of your time between 11am to 5pm either day? If so, come join the fun. Our booth will be interactive with sound healing demos, giveaways, a kids activity and more. Please let Aria Thomé know if you can help spread the word and mission of Project Sanctuary. We welcome all voices, ideas and skills to the Project Sanctuary team that meets monthly, typically on Monday nights. If you are interested in sharing your talents, please join us! For more information, please visit the Project Sanctuary page on Gethsemane’s website.

Egg Cartons: We are collecting egg cartons again for St. Anthony’s food pantry. Please place your empty, clean cartons **in** the box next to the grocery bag collection and empty pill bottle collection tub near the hall to the office.

Little Free Food Pantry: Thank you for your continued support! There is an increased need for cereal, jars of peanut butter, and canned meals like SpaghettiOs, chili, and soup. We are also looking for new or gently used umbrellas and rain ponchos. Please consider picking up an extra item or two the next time you go shopping. Donations may be placed directly into the Little Free Pantry on Pernod or left in the cart in the hall by the church mailboxes.

**Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
September 15 – September 22, 2024**

9/15 Today	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 11:00 am	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship to celebrate Kim Elliott and 1st day of Sunday School! Social Action Meeting Worship Service: In-Person
9/15 Tonight	5:00 pm	Vocal Choir Rehearsal
9/16 Monday	6:00 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal
9/17 Tuesday	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study Church Council Meeting
9/18 Wednesday	10:00 am	Staff Meeting
9/22 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Hour and Sunday School Worship Service: In-Person Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Sept. 23	11:30 am 6:00 pm	Women's Luncheon at Las Fuentes North Hampton Neighbors Meeting
Sept. 28-29	10 am-6 pm	Tower Grove Pride Fest
Sept. 29	9:30 am 10:30 am	One service (5 th Sunday) "God's work. Our hands." day of Service
Sept. 30	1-5 pm	Blood Drive
Oct. 5	10 am - 6pm	Little Free Food Pantry Blitz!
Oct. 12	9 am – 2 pm	Church Work Day

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.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Cindy Breed: relief from pain

Barb Johnson: healing, comfort, and strength

Margaret Lenhart: recovering from pneumonia

Tatum Family

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
Parents (continued health); City of St. Louis; Farmers of the world	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
Bonnie and Don (peace); Ginny Olson (strength, stamina); Nicole and Haemin (healthy pregnancy); the people of Gaza and the Occupied Territories, Sudan and Ukraine; all impacted by disaster; for peace with justice in our world.	<i>Maryn Olson</i>
Margaret Lenhart (healing and strength); Gary Jenson (healing)	<i>Gretchen Jenson</i>
Michael, Chris (comfort, healing, peace)	<i>Schaller Family</i>

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
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