



GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH 



MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

August 2024

Volume #131 Issue #8

*“Sunshine Mixed
with a Little
Prickle – That’s
Life, That’s
Succulents!”*

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Pastor's Page

“The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched [Elijah], and said, ‘Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.’”
--2 Kings 19:7

Preparing for a journey means planning for enough fuel to carry you through—this includes calories for your physical body! When our high school youth group prepared to travel to New Orleans for the ELCA Youth Gathering in late July, we planned a daily amount of money to spend on food.

Sometimes we ate cheaper food, burgers or sandwiches, so we could save the money we budgeted for the day. A few times we decided to spend a little more money on a sit-down restaurant, so we could experience the local food culture. We got to sample some Cajun dining staples like gumbo, jambalaya, red beans and rice, etouffee and grits, muffulettas, and po-boys. We also got New Orleans specialties like fried pickles, and of course beignets from Café du Monde (we were all sprinkled with magical beignet dust: powdered sugar). The brave ones among us tried foods as exotic as crawfish and alligator!

All of the food we ate gave us energy so our bodies could keep going, walking many, many miles throughout the city for days on end. But these memorable meals of cultural culinary treasures—these fed our spirits and our imaginations, as the whole Gathering experience fed our souls as well. God feeds us in all of these ways!

On our last evening in New Orleans, we wanted to try one more recommended spot: Mother's Restaurant on Poydras Street, famous for their Cajun food and especially po-boy sandwiches. As we waited in the line that had already formed outside the building, our adult leader Gretchen saw an unfamiliar word on the menu—sandwiches served with “debris.” Since “debris” usually means “garbage,” Gretchen asked one of the servers what this meant. The woman server didn't answer Gretchen's question, but instead said, “Wait right here.” So we continued wondering and waiting.

Moments later, the woman server popped her head out the door and handed Gretchen a small, steaming hot plastic take-out container. “Here. This is debris,” she said. Gretchen was surprised, opening the lid to reveal fragrant savory shredded beef in au jus. The woman smiled, “Well, this is what you asked for!” Gretchen just said, “I love you!”

And I think the reign of God is like this: when there are no words to describe the wonders, you just have to smell and taste and experience it for yourself.

You can make it through this journey of faith! God will not fail to feed you and prepare you for every step of the way.

Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie

Worship in August

Sunday, August 4th, 2024

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

9:30am In-Person and Online Worship
10:30am Summer Lite Fellowship

Sunday, August 11th, 2024

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30am In-Person and Online Worship
10:30am Summer Lite Fellowship

Sunday, August 18th, 2024

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30am In-Person and Online Worship
10:30am Summer Lite Fellowship
10:30am Committee Meetings

Sunday, August 25th, 2024

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30am In-Person and Online Worship
10:30am Summer Lite Fellowship

***Sunday, September 1st, 2024**

Labor Day Weekend

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

9:30am In-Person and Online Worship
10:30am Summer Lite Fellowship

*Last Summer Single Service at 9:30am

Finance Report for June 2024

This is the June 2024 financial report. As you know, the congregation voted to approve a budget for 2024 that had a projected deficit of \$39,870. We estimated based on pledges and previous year giving that we would receive \$295,595 income with \$335,465 of expenses. Using the previous three years of data, we determined what percentage of our total income we get each month and use that to estimate about how much income we will receive. By the end of June we usually receive about 47% of our income. Based on this estimate, at this point in time, we expect to receive about \$323,149, which is \$27,554 more than we estimated. Good news! However, we estimate we will fall short by \$12,300 against expected expenses. This is better than last month, so good work everyone! But we still have a challenge. Our expenses are very close to the budget we approved. If you would like more details, the financial reports are posted on the council bulletin board in the hall way outside of sanctuary. If you would like to talk with someone, I am available to answer most of your questions. For the Council, Rick Schuessler, Secretary.

July Attendance

July 7th

83 In-Person 36 Online

July 14th

84 In-Person 32 Online

July 21st

64 In-Person 40 Online

July 28th

111 In-Person 21 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/Around the Church



July GLCW Luncheon

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

Date: Monday, August 26th

Time: 11:30 AM

Place: Ari's Restaurant
3101 Hampton

Hostesses: Dawn Schuessler and
Carol Frohlichstein

RSVP if you are able or unable to attend by August 23rd

**Dawn Schuessler
314-369-6989**



Pride Fest Information and T-Shirts

The Tower Grove Pride Festival is September 28th and 29th.

Gethsemane participates with other ELCA churches in the area to host a

booth during the event. Chris Schmidt is Gethsemane's representative. Volunteers are needed to stand at the booth – this counts as God's work. Our hands, time too. See Chris Schmidt for more information. We will share the volunteer sign-up sheet as soon as it is available. In the meantime, you are welcome to purchase a Grace & Peace & Love & Pride t-shirt for \$15. Orders may be placed through the church website. (Click on the link that says, "Order Your Pride T-shirt here!") After you fill out the order form you will be directed to a payment site. Shirts must be ordered and paid for by August 15th. You do not need to volunteer in order to order a t-shirt!



Isaiah 58 Back To School Supply Drive

Gethsemane has committed to donate 250 single subject, college ruled, spiral notebooks. These items must be at the church by Sunday, **August 25th**, so that they can be delivered to Isaiah 58 by September 3rd. These items will be used to fill backpacks for the 2025-2026 school year.

****Please let the office know if you have placed an order through Amazon or other store for delivery to the church. The boxes of spiral notebooks are too heavy to be delivered to the church and require us to pick them up at the post office. Advanced notice is appreciated.**



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

August Collection:

razors, shaving cream, lotion & lip balm

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.

Recycling Information Talk: On August 11th at 11am join Recycling Ambassador Chris Schmidt to learn about updated information regarding recycling in the St Louis region. This information is about dumpster and roll out cart usage. It will last about 30 minutes unless there are a ton of questions. Please join us to learn how to make our world a cleaner place! There will be snacks!



Connections Corner



✉: glcstlsocialmedia@gmail.com

☎: 314-518-6978 (ok to text)

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

Summer office hours: Tues –Thurs, 8:30am—3pm

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)



Evangelical
Lutheran
Church in America

**God's work.
Our hands.**

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
www.gethsemanestl.org

**Save the Date!
September 29th.**

God's work. Our hands. day of service will be on Sunday, September 29!

This year our day of service falls during the weekend of the Tower Grove Pride festival so there will be opportunities to help at the festival through

Gethsemane! We are also planning on another Little Free Pantry Blitz at Schnucks. Stay tuned for opportunities to sign up in August.

Do you have an organization that is near and dear to you? Do you know of an organization that could use a little boost of people power or resources? We are still looking for a few more projects to round out the day. There is an interest form on Gethsemane's website you can fill out or share with an organization and they can fill it out. The deadline to complete the form has been extended to August 15th.

Find Gethsemane on Social Media:

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

Facebook: Gethsemane Lutheran Church - ELCA, St. Louis, MO



August


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
				Vacation Bible School		
 4 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship	5	6 6:00am - 7:00pm Election 10:00am Bible Study	7 10:00pm Staff Mtg	8	9	10
		Kim on Vacation				
11 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship and Recycling Talk	12 1:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive	13 10:00am Bible Study	14 10:00am Staff Mtg	15	16 *Messenger info. due	17
		Aria on Vacation			Gretchen out for Funeral	
 18 9:30am Worship w/ Backpack Blessing 10:30am Fellowship and Committee Meetings	19 11:30am GLC Women's Luncheon	20 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	21 10:00am Staff Mtg	22	23	24
	Aria on Vacation			Amy on Vacation		
25 9:30am Worship w/ Rev. Richard Ashley 10:30am Fellowship 11:00am Worship & Music Mtg.	26 11:30am GLC Women's Luncheon 6:00pm North Hampton Neighbors Network Mtg.	27 10:00am Bible Study	28 10:00am Staff Mtg	29	30	31

September 1st is the last Summer Single Service at 9:30am.
 September 8th we will have two services with a Ministry Fair between the services.



Mark Your Calendar!

August 2024 Worship Leaders

	4th	11th	18th	25th	Sept. 1st
Greeter	Deb S.	Peggy L.	Rob S.	Rick Y.	Richard L.
Usher	Denise B,	Ted Y.	Richard L.	Bill S.	Cayce M.
Usher	Rob S.	Peggy L.	Nancy L.	Steve W.	Denise B.
Assisting Minister	Rick S.	Megan Y.	Carolyn S.	Phyllis S.	Natalie F.
Lector	Melissa T.	Rick Y.	John S.	Steve W.	Michael M.
Wine	Cat L.	Rentchler Family	Cat L.	Tepe/McFarlane Family	Stephen B.
Bread Baker*	Wisch Family	Yemm Family	Yemm Family	Natalie Fontana	
Blood Pressure	Melissa T.	N/A	Ted Y.	N/A	Joan W.
Fellowship Host	Available	Tulloch Family	Available	Available	Available
Altar Flowers	Cayce Morice	Rentchler Family	Breed Family	Schuessler Family	Williams/Wind Family
Camera	Gretchen Jenson				
Altar Guild	Flaxbart Family				
	Bauer Family				

* Bread Bakers have been assigned to a two-week rotation. Please use Gluten Free bread mix provided by the church.

It's That Time Again

Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, August 12
1:00pm - 5:00pm

Walk Ups are Welcome



To reserve your spot, go to the church website and click on "Blood Drive" in the green Current and Upcoming Events box.



**Sunday School Starts
Sunday, September
15th**

You can register your child(ren) now by going to the green Current and Upcoming Events box and clicking on the "1st Day of Sunday School" line. Students and their families will be invited to a Sunday School Open House on Sunday, September 8th, where they can see their classroom and meet their teachers.

Project Sanctuary

Great news! Project Sanctuary has received over \$1,000 in donations since our mission was mentioned in the weekly e-newsletter. Thank you so very much for your generous support! Please continue to spread the word to those who may find healing and acceptance during these sessions. Coming up, Project Sanctuary will have a booth at the Tower Grove Pride Festival Sept 28-29th. The practitioners will showcase sound healing and breathwork techniques. If you'd like to volunteer to help over the two days please reach out to Aria Thomé after service. 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!

What is Project Sanctuary? Project Sanctuary is a monthly breathwork and sound healing event hosted by trauma-informed practitioners for those marginalized communities who have experienced rejection by organized religion. The goal is to show these communities they are loved, accepted and worthy of God's full redeeming grace. Sessions are held in Gethsemane's sanctuary space. Facilitated by Aria Thomé and other trained practitioners.

Why is support needed? Project Sanctuary strives to offer the sessions at low to no cost to attendees. A grant from the *Lutheran Foundation* that provided the seed money for PS and helped cover costs is near depletion. As we find ways to continue supporting this mission, we ask for your support financially and by spreading the word about PS. Please consider a PS specific donation as part of your Sunday offering. A gift of \$45 covers attendance for 2 people but any amount is greatly appreciated. For more information please visit the church website and click on the ministries tab.

Youth Gathering 2024



Five youth and three adults left St. Louis for New Orleans in the wee hours of the morning on July 16th, embarking on a day long journey to New Orleans, LA.

These pictures are a fraction of the fun times we had while in the Big Easy. Additional pictures can be found on the back cover.

Here are what some of the participants had to say about their time:



“My favorite and most meaningful thing from the youth gathering would be the Mass Gatherings at the end of the day. Every time we went there I felt the love and spirit of God. It truly was beautiful seeing so many people come together and praise the Lord.”
~ Max

“I enjoyed the paint project working together in a way that is meaningful to the community. The mural juxtaposing beauty and waste was powerful. Synod day worship lifted and connected my spirit.”
~ Melissa

The kids will speak in church on Sunday, August 11th about their experiences at the Youth Gathering!

We hope you can make it!

Announcements & Anniversaries

Congratulations...

to Simone Richardson and big brother Miles upon the birth of Maddix Denver Richardson, who was born Monday, July 8th.

Condolences.....

To Mark Cutelli and family upon the death of his brother, John Salsman. John died on July 25th.

Thank You...

With a grateful heart, I want to acknowledge the incredible kindness and compassion shown to my family and me by the wonderful people of Gethsemane. During my wife's illness, even though she was not a member of the church, they welcomed her with open arms, demonstrating the true spirit of God's love. It's been four years since she passed, and I am still in awe of the love and support I receive from this remarkable community. Gethsemane truly embodies the teachings of Christ by putting their faith into action. Recently, I was able to attend church and was reminded of their selflessness and generosity. May God continue to bless the ministry of Gethsemane! - Mark Cutelli

Back to School means back to LuMin dinners! The sign-up is live on the website! Gethsemane is committed to providing food on September 15th, October 13th, November 10th and December 8th.

Sunday School begins on September 15th! Registration is live on Gethsemane's website. Registration is quick, easy and Sunday School is free!



August Birthdays

- 1 Ami Boehlje
Ella Rothgangel
- 4 Becky Rentchler
- 6 Reese White
- 7 Michael Schaller
- 8 Carleen Reinhardt
- 11 Grace Tullock
- 12 Alfred Gorvie
- 16 Callie Yemm
- 18 Courtney Baxter-Annis
- 19 Norm Hopfer
- 20 Jeff Lindgren
- 21 John McElwee
Josie Szyman
- 24 Mykaela Williams
- 26 Robert Lewis
- 27 Riley Boehlje
- 30 Lois Wind
- 31 Eleanor Mayhaus



August Anniversaries

- | | | | | | |
|----|--------------------------|----|----|----------------------------|----|
| 6 | Mark and Elke Overton | 31 | 21 | Roy and Mary Ruckdeschel | 53 |
| 12 | Adam and Becky Rentchler | 18 | 27 | Michael and Debra Schaller | 41 |
| 13 | Edward and Stina Roach | 41 | 28 | Todd and Ami Boehlje | 31 |
| 14 | Mike and Kim Elliott | 31 | 28 | Dan and Susan Flaxbart | 53 |

Dates to Remember

Coming Up:

Tuesday, August 6	MO Primary Election (6am-7pm)
Monday, August 12	Blood Drive 1-5pm
Saturday, September 7	St. Joan of Arc Homecoming
Sunday, September 8	Return to two services and Ministry Fair
Saturday, September 28	Tower Grove Pride Festival
Sunday, September 29	One service—God's work. Our hands.

Don't Forget

Every Wednesday -
Bulletin Items Due

Third Tuesday -
Church Council Meeting

Third Friday -
Messenger Articles Due

December First -
Budget Requests Due

One Month Prior to the Annual Meeting in January -
Committee Reports Due

SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

Primary Election 8/6 and Blood Drive on 8/12



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](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)

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 20th of each month.



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63109

Return Service Requested

A Month in Pictures



Vacation Bible School - 2024



Youth Gathering - New Orleans - 2024