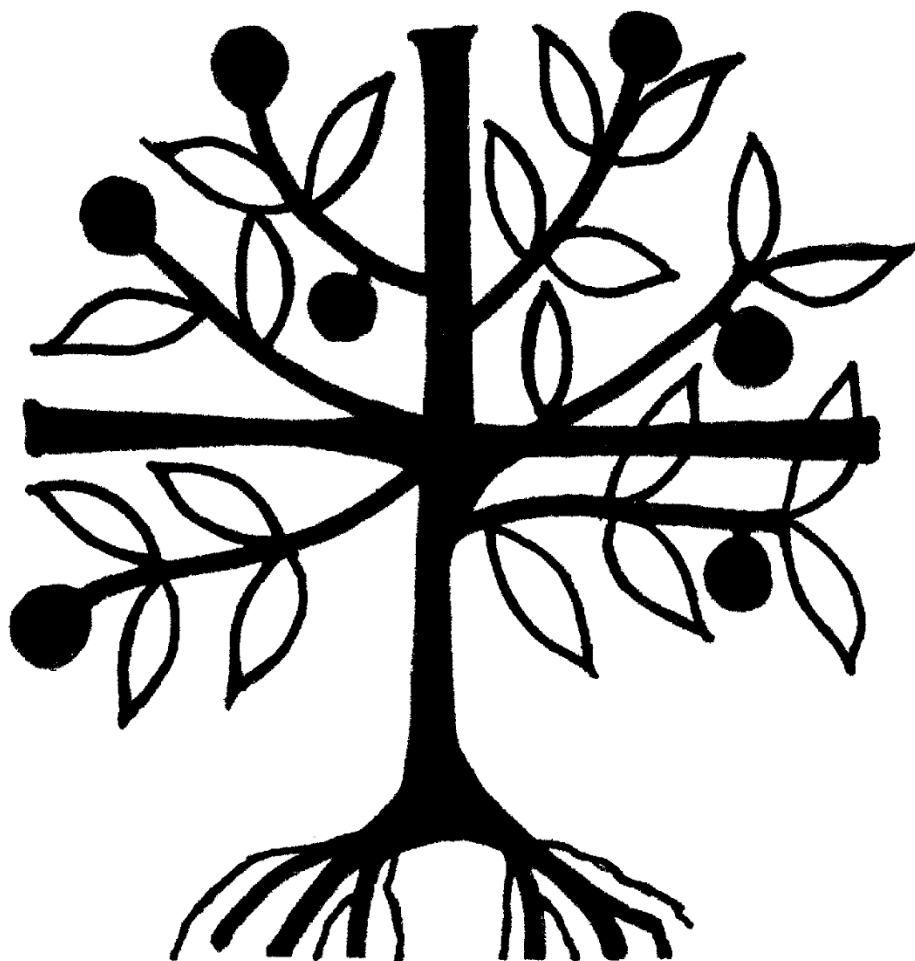


6th Sunday After Epiphany

February 16th, 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 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
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

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the “blessed are” and the “woe to” are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Be Thou My Vision*

Irish Ballad arr. by Hal Hopson

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.

GATHERING SONG *Jesus Shall Reign*

HYMN# 434

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: Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 17:5-10

These verses compose a poem that is part of a larger collection of wisdom sayings that contrast two ways of life. Life with God brings blessing; the power and vitality of God is active in our life. Life without God brings a curse, the power of death.

⁵ Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. ⁶ They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

⁷ Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸ They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.

⁹ The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? ¹⁰ I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: PSALM 1

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

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel ¹ of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats ¹ of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law ¹ of the LORD,**
and they meditate on God's teaching ¹ day and night.

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that ¹ do not wither;
everything they ¹ do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so¹ with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind¹ blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when¹ judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council¹ of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way¹ of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall¹ be destroyed.**

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 15:12-20

For Paul, the resurrection of Christ is the basis for Christian hope. Because Christ has been raised, those who are in Christ know that they too will be raised to a new life beyond death.

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that God raised Christ—whom God did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

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 6th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: LUKE 6:17-26

After choosing his twelve apostles, Jesus teaches a crowd of followers about the nature and demands of discipleship. He begins his great sermon with surprising statements about who is truly blessed in the eyes of God.

¹⁷ Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸ They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹ And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

²⁰ Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the dominion of God. ²¹ “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²² “Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son-of-Man. ²³ Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵ “Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶ “Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

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: *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

HYMN# 726

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: 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: *Come to the Table* by James Koerts and Duane Nichols

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

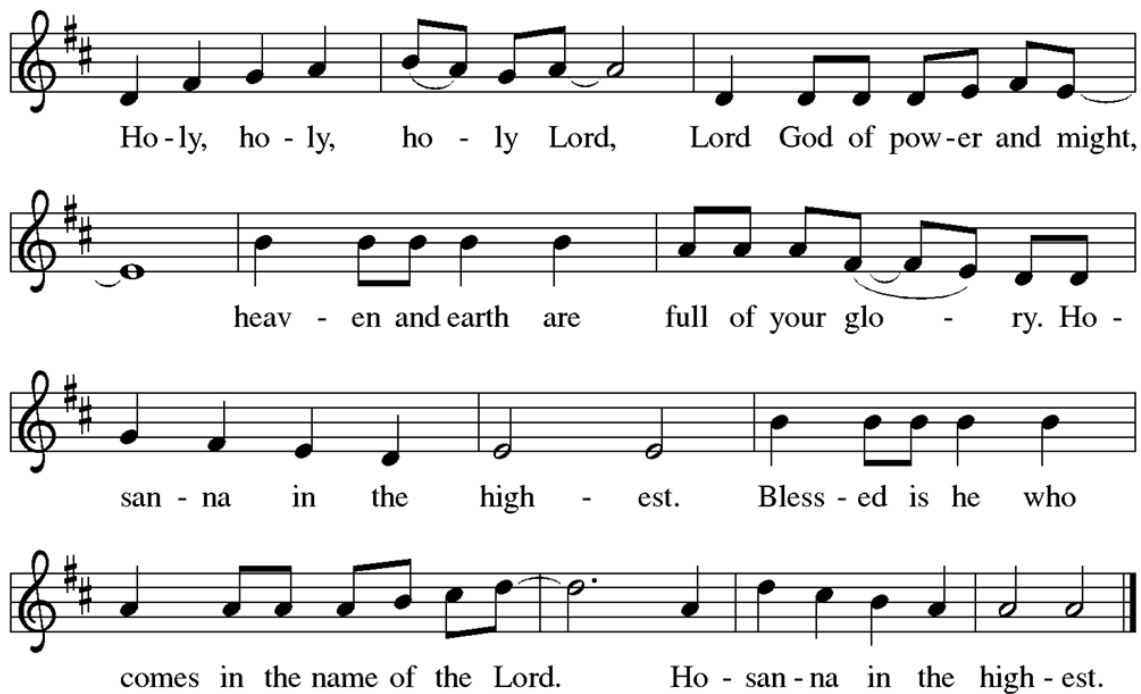
P: The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,
heav - en 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.

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*

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.

Canticle of the Turning

Hymn# 723

Let Not the Needy Be Forgotten

Let Not the Needy Be Forgotten

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Let Not the Needy Be Forgotten'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a bass clef staff. The lyrics 'Let not the need - y be for - got - ten. And let not the hope of the' are written below the treble staff. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment, with lyrics 'poor be stripped a - way.' below the treble staff. The music features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some chords in the bass line.

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957

Music: SANCTUARIES BLOOM, Bret Hesla; arr. Tom Witt, b. 1957

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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

Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise

Hymn# 205

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: *We Know that Christ is Raised*

Hymn# 449

DISMISSAL

AM: Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Alleluia*

By W. A. Mozart, Arr. by Hal Hopson

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**This week's flowers are given by Michael McFarlane and Melissa Tepe
in celebration of their 20th Wedding Anniversary**

WORSHIP LEADERS		
PREACHER/PRESIDER	Rev. Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	
GREETER	Lois Wind	Rob Schainker
USHERS	Cayce Morice Ted Yemm	Gary Borkowski
ASSISTING MINISTER	Richard Lima	Maryn Olson
LECTOR	Mike Schmidt	Barb Johnson
CHILDREN'S SERMON	Chris Schmidt	
BREAD BAKER	Sarah Bohnert	
FELLOWSHIP HOST	Wind Family	
DONUT DRIVER	Wind Family	
ALTAR GUILD	Leah Morrell	
CAMERA	Gretchen Jenson	
WINE SPONSOR	Tepe/McFarlane	

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Barb Johnson: Healing and strength

Mark Cutelli: Medical tests

Family and friends of Aria's Aunt, Mary Alice: comfort and peace as they mourn her death

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
Gaye Coleman (healing)	<i>Dawn Schuessler</i>
Friends and family of Peter Fox (Stephen's friend) as they mourn his death.	<i>Stephen Brown</i>
John (opportunities), Amirt Sai (Jobs), City of St. Louis	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
Elise Leal Henreckson (healing)	<i>Dell Roth</i>
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.	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Prayers in memory of Ronald Moxon	<i>Jung Family</i>
Deborah (friend) approaching end of life	<i>Jerry Koch</i>
Robert (strength and compassion), Riley and Alex (comfort on the death of their sister), the Hoppe family (continued health and love)	<i>Penny Family</i>
Healing prayers for son Frank and granddaughter Meagan (cancer)	<i>Schejbal Family</i>
Michael and Chris (continued prayers for healing, comfort and perseverance)	<i>Schaller Family</i>
Please keep our St. Louis children in your hearts and prayers as they go through this time of fear.	<i>Erika Starr- Hunter</i>
Matt Spicer (friend of Gethsemane), comfort and peace during terminal illness. Becky (cousin) recovering from injuries.	<i>Pastor Cheryl</i>

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Year-end Contribution Statements are in your mailboxes. Please pick yours up and save a stamp! Statements not picked up after today will be mailed.

The **January and February Big Ask** is Laundry Soap and Dish Soap. Please place donations for Big Ask items in the wooden cabinets 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.

Do you want to more about how Lutherans can support the **LGBTQIA+** community, or read what scripture has to say about it? Gethsemane will purchase resources published by Reconciling Works for any church members or friends wanting to know more. See samples of the resources and sign up to receive digital or paper copies in the foyer by the parking lot doors. Sign up through February and then we will place a bulk order.

Thank you to all who participated in the **Souper Bowl of Caring** last week! The Chief's won our Souper Bowl over the Eagles by the score of 105 to 28 canned goods and food items. This is great score for the neighbors who visit our Little Free Food Pantry for sustenance during lean times.

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

Help Wanted! There are so many ways to be of service at Gethsemane! The Worship Leaders Spring (March-May) sign up is available online (scan QR code). This is where you can express interest in being an Usher, Associate Usher, Greeter, Assistant Minister, Lector, Donut Driver, Fellowship Host, Altar Guild, Recycling Ranger, or Bread Baker! You choose which dates you are available, and you will be scheduled on one or more of those dates. Ushers, Assistant Ministers and Altar Guild members receive training, but the other positions are so simple they only require brief instructions. Please consider signing up for a few dates this spring!

Afraid that something might come up and you'd have to cancel? Don't be. There are always others here who can step in at a moment's notice and fill in for you, if needed. That's how we roll!



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.

Today, Feb 16, the **Fellowship Committee** will be meeting in between services at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall near the stage. Please attend if you can help with the chili/cookie cook off, or if you have ideas for future fellowship events, potlucks, etc. According to our Constitution, the fellowship committee has the fun responsibility for “Planning and organizing church fellowship activities through the year.” If this speaks to your heart, or you are a party animal, please consider attending next week!

Also today, the **Social Action Committee** will be meeting in the Library between services at 10 am. If you are interested in what Gethsemane does to help our neighbors, this is the committee for you!

Next week, Feb 23, the **Gethsemane Green Committee** will meet after the second service, at around 11:45 am in the chapel to discuss future projects.

The next **Gethsemane Women’s Luncheon** is on Mon, Feb. 24, 11:30 am at Las Fuentes Mexican Restaurant at 8025 MacKenzie Rd. RSVP to Joan Williams or on the Gethsemane Website by Friday, Feb 21.

Lumin Dinner and Jesus nights 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 dinner is April 27. If you cannot provide food, they will accept monetary donations as well.

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) next **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.

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 16-23, 2025**

2/16 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 10:00 am 10:30 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Hour, Sunday School ➤ Social Action meeting ➤ Fellowship Committee meeting Worship Service: In Person Vocal Choir Rehearsal
2/17 Monday	All Day 6:00 pm	President's Day Holiday Handbell Choir Rehearsal
2/18 Tuesday	10:00 am 6:30 pm	Bible Study Church Council Meeting
2/19 Wednesday	10:00-noon	Church Office Staff Meeting, phones unanswered
2/23 Sunday	8:30 am 9:45 am 11:00 am 11:45 am 4 - 7 pm 5:00 pm	Worship Service: In-Person and on YouTube Fellowship Hour, Sunday School Worship Service: In Person Gethsemane Green Committee mtg (Chapel) Get to Know Gethsemane Orientation NO Vocal Choir Rehearsal

Upcoming Dates to Consider

Date	Time	Event
Mon, Feb. 24	11:30 am 6:00 pm	Gethsemane Women's Luncheon at Las Fuentes Mexican Restaurant North Hampton Neighborhood Assn Mtg
Sun, March 2	11:45 – 2 pm	Gethsemane Chili and Cookie Cook-off! Just in time for Mardi Gras!
Wed, March 5	Noon 7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Worship Service (In Person and LiveStream on YouTube) Ash Wednesday Worship Service (In Person)
Sun, March 9	Between Services	Instant Church Directory workshop with Gretchen. Bring your phone and get help setting up the Instant Church Directory app!
Wednesdays, starting March 12	Noon	Midweek Lenten Prayer Services (In Person and Livestream on YouTube)
Tues, March 18	6:30 pm	Church Council 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.

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.



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“Blessed are you who are poor,
for the kingdom of God is yours.”



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

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