



GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH 



MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

July 2024

Volume #131 Issue #7



I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE
THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD
THE GOOD SHEPHERD
THE TRUE VINE
THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

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Insert Contains July
Calendar and list of July
Worship Leader
Assignments

Pastor's Page

*"I will thank you because I am marvelously made;
your works are wonderful, and I know it well."*

--Psalm 139: 14

In mid-July, I'll be traveling with 15,000 other youth to New Orleans, Louisiana for the ELCA Youth Gathering. I bet you're jealous already!

For real. Living in St. Louis has probably prepared our group pretty well for the heat and humidity we'll encounter in New Orleans, and we know there's a schedule though we don't have all the details yet. This journey will be an adventure in faith-building. None of these youth have experienced an ELCA Youth Gathering before.

Some of us older folks have experienced a youth gathering. I went to New Orleans as a high school student, too, and I'll never forget the experience of worshipping with thousands of other Lutherans—staggering for a girl from East Texas who frequently had to explain my faith practices like infant baptism and confirmation classes to my Southern Baptist classmates (and provide convincing evidence that Lutherans are Christian and not a cult).

In the evening Mass Gatherings, we came from all over the United States with a common purpose to learn, celebrate and live out our faith in God with our unique Lutheran accent. This kind of thing doesn't happen every day, and it's worth it to invest years of planning and energy for fundraising and taking time from a busy summer—all to make time for God, to make space in one's life for God to work.

Because God will be working, in us and among us. The theme this year is "Created to Be," with a focus on exploring identity and discipleship, how God creates us as unique individuals, calls us to discern our gifts and our joy for serving, and loves us into becoming who we are created to be.

I can't wait to witness young people experiencing worship on such a large scale, trying new ways to serve, and even encountering the challenges of loving one another while tired and cranky. While meeting with the group of youth from the St. Louis area who will travel together by bus in a few weeks, we discussed bus etiquette, including the consequences of leaving a mess for someone else (cleaning fees will be assessed, for one thing), how to attend to personal hygiene (yes to showers and deodorant; no to body sprays), and using the bus's toilet (only for emergencies).

It made me wonder how Jesus and his disciples negotiated these kinds of care practices necessary for human bodies. Did they have to discuss when to take bathroom breaks while traveling? Who carried their stuff? Who packed the snacks? We don't know a lot of stories about these details.

What we know from Scripture is that the disciples were humans they traveled with Jesus, also a human, and somehow they made it work. Experience tells me that traveling with Jesus will help the rest of us make it work, too.

These awkward, vulnerable spaces are where the Holy Spirit loves to play, creating community as she goes. Pray for all of us on this holy pilgrimage! And may God bless your travels this summer as well!

Worship in July

Sunday, July 7th 2024

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sunday, July 14th, 2024

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sunday, July 21st, 2024

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sunday, July 28th, 2024

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

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

Sunday, August 4th, 2024

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

*Assuming there is a host. At the time of printing there is no host signed up.

Finance Report for May 2024

Starting this month, the church council decided to use the monthly newsletter to update the congregation on the financial state of the congregation. 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. As of the end of May we usually receive about 39% of our income. Based on this estimate, at this point in time, we expect to receive about \$316,827, which is \$21,232 more than we estimated. Good news. However, we will fall short by \$18,668 against expected expenses. So, we have 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 hallway 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.

June Attendance

June 2nd

86 In-Person 32 Online

June 9th

80 In-Person 40 Online

June 16th

89 In-Person 29 Online

June 23rd

87 In-Person 46 Online

June 30th

70 In-Person

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, July 22
Time: 11:30 AM
Place: Las Fuentes Mexican Restaurant
8025 MacKenzie Rd. (63123)
Hostesses: Debbie Schaller
RSVP if you are able or unable to attend by July 19
314.640.3028

Save the Date! September 29th.

It's time to start thinking about the *God's work. Our hands.* day of service! 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!

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?

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 is August 1st.



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

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
www.gethsemane.org

Vacation Bible School at Gethsemane! July 29-August 2, 2024

We are excited to welcome 21 kids to VBS this year! We have room for a few more volunteers so sign up soon to make sure you get a t-shirt!

VBS 9am-noon
VBS+ 9am-noon+12pm-5:30pm

Follow along with us during the week by checking out Facebook and Instagram as we learn the five "I Am" Statements of Jesus!

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donate

Request of the Month

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

Peanut Butter and Jelly

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.



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.

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)

ELCA the tAble July 13-16 ELCA Youth Gathering July 16-20

This is the month! Please pray for the three adults and six youth that are travelling to New Orleans with 15,000 of our closest friends as we dive deeper into our faith and experience New Orleans culture and camaraderie! Thank you to everyone who has donated to our various fundraisers.



To follow along with our journey you can check out Gethsemane's social media platforms, Instagram and Facebook or search using **#glcNOLA24**

There is one more meeting left before the big event. July 7th here at Gethsemane following worship.

There is still time to donate Liquid IV (Hydration powder packets) which will be added to disaster relief packs. Please have them delivered directly to New Orleans: Christ the King -- Accompaniment 1001 W Esplanade Ave, Kenner, LA 70065, or bring them to church before July 14 and we will deliver on your behalf. Let the Good Times Roll!

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



Announcements & Anniversaries

Congratulations...

to Eliza Clair Bartholomew Kerner upon her baptism on Sunday, June 9th. Her parents are Roderic Kerner and Hailey Bartholomew.

to Zachary Edwards Penny upon his baptism on Sunday, June 23rd. His parents are Elizabeth and Steven Penny. His grandparents are Rev. Cindy Ford Breed and Rev. Dr. T. Edwards Breed.

Condolences.....

to Nora Nelson and her family upon the death of her father, Gert Kriese on June 26.

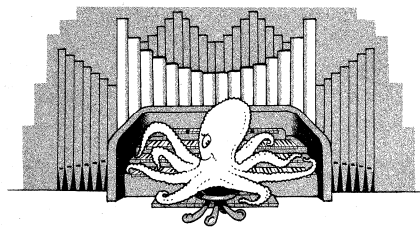


July Birthdays

- 1 Rosalind Roberts
- 2 Stina Roach
Sharon Salerno
- 3 Jacob Boehlje
- 4 Kendra Nolde
- 8 Cindy Breed
Barb Johnson
Missy DeVore
- 10 Rowan Elliott
- 11 Mike Schmidt
- 13 Tina Reyes
- 15 Noel Nahm
Ciera McElroy
- 17 Sarah Bohnert
- 20 Mike Fenton
Shelly Star-Hunter
- 21 Jane O'Neill
- 23 Maryn Olson
- 26 Adam Rentchler
- 27 Jean Chouquette
Megan Yemm

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

Your family is invited to an introduction to the pipe organ on Sunday, July 14 from noon to 2pm. Gethsemane's organist, Amy Crousore, will introduce the "King of Instruments" and share her vast knowledge of the instrument she loves. Those in attendance will meet in the sanctuary and then move to the balcony to try the organ, see the inside mechanisms, and look at the pipes. Pizza will be provided to all in attendance. The cost is \$5 in advance or \$10 at the door. See the Friday e-newsletters or the Gethsemane website for more information.



July Anniversaries

- | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|----|-------------------------|----|
| 10 | John and Melissa DeVore | 31 | 24 | Fred & Margaret Lenhart | 53 |
| 16 | Britt & Julie Wisch | 8 | 26 | Caitlin & Can Sungur | 14 |
| 17 | John Sandberg & Celeste Vossmeier | 42 | 29 | Mike & Cindy Fenton | 38 |
| 23 | Dan & Emily Szyman | 13 | 30 | Jane & Matthew O'Neill | 41 |
| | | | | Bill & Mary Scanlan | 69 |

Dates to Remember

Coming Up:

July 4	Office Closed
July 16-20	ELCA Youth Gathering
July 29-Aug, 3	Vacation Bible School
Sunday, September 8	Return to two services and Ministry Fair
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

ELCA Youth Gathering AND Vacation Bible School!



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
Instagram: gethsemane_elca_stl
Pinterest: Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Facebook: Gethsemane Lutheran Church - 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



**Celebrating
Gethsemane's Youth**

