



GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH 



MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

June 2024

Volume #131 Issue #6

"As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest, cold and heat,
summer and winter, day and night,
shall not cease."

Genesis 8:22

Messenger Contents

| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Pastor's Page..... | 2 |
| Worship in June | 3 |
| Community Life | 4 |
| Connections Corner | 5 |
| Around the Church | 6 |
| Good News | 7 |
| June Worship Leaders | 8 |
| June Calendar | 9 |
| Announcements | 10 |
| Anniversaries | 10 |
| Dates to Remember | 11 |
| Get Connected | 11 |
| Month in Pictures | 12 |

Pastor's Page

"Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."
--Jesus (Mark 3:35)

Summer is often the season for family reunions—maybe you will get together with your kinfolk sometime soon. It's a treasure to visit with family members and hear the stories of your ancestors, look at old photographs, or visit the significant places. Something about these ancestors tells you something about who you are, which is precious. But there's a limiting factor with families: determining who is in or out or who's a blood relative and who "just married in to the family."

Jesus really messes with our understanding of family when he says things like "Where are my mother and brothers?"...while in the presence of his mother and siblings. How disrespectful! Does Jesus care nothing about Christian family values?!

It's almost like Jesus wants to blow apart our concept of family. It's almost like lineage and inheritances and family traditions are not meaningful to him. It's almost like he wants us to notice our connections by way of baptism rather than biological connections through blood or DNA. It's almost like the reign of God values humans—and human families—in a whole different way.

I think this is why I started questioning why we make such a big deal out of Mother's Day and Father's Day, when parenthood is so complicated a task and even more complicated as an identity. How can we celebrate parents without reinforcing gender roles in unhelpful ways? This year, I shifted the focus of the blessings we say as part of worship, considering some of the tasks represented by parenting but without the gendered language.

On the day acknowledged as Mother's Day, I crafted a prayer of gratitude for our ancestors—looking back in time at the people who raised us (or the people who are currently raising us), including parents, grandparents, ancestors we never met, as well as all those other leaders like teachers and coaches and mentors who have shaped us to become who we are. We should care about where we come from.

On the day our culture celebrates as Father's Day, our prayer of gratitude will be for all those people who care for children, who look out for the needs of the youngest ones among us, including parents of course, but also day care workers and camp staff and citizens who pay property taxes that fund schools and others who advocate for children's rights. We should care about the future and who will come after us.

How do these blessings and celebrations sound to you? How do you celebrate your own family of origin? How do you celebrate the family that God creates among us in baptism?

The simple fact is that we truly need each other, created by God in our uniqueness and called by God to live our vocations faithfully! Brother, sister, sibling in Christ—the Holy Spirit makes us one. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie

Worship in June

Sunday, June 2nd 2024

Second Sunday of Pentecost

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

Sunday, June 9th, 2024

Third Sunday of Pentecost

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

Sunday, June 16th, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Pentecost

Father's Day

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

Sunday, June 23rd, 2024

Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

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

Sunday, June 31st, 2024

Sixth Sunday of 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. If you are interested in signing up you can indicate your interest on your attendance form, sign up when you grab your refreshments, or contact the church office.



Synod Assembly

This year's event will be held June 6 - 8 in Olathe, Kansas. The theme is Spirit Breathed; Spirit Blown. Pastor Cheryl, Chris Schmidt, and Mike Schmidt will represent Gethsemane at the ELCA Synod Assembly. Please keep our representatives in your prayers.

May Attendance

May 5th

93 In-Person 23 Online

May 12th

94 In-Person 24 Online

May 19th

119 In-Person 25 Online

May 26th

49 In-Person 28 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.)



What Are These?

Have you recently noticed the new reserved signs for mobility-impaired members and visitors? Just like on mass transit, everyone is welcome to sit in these seats, but if someone in a wheelchair or using a walker enters, we ask that you move so that they and their family can have that space. The pews have been arranged to allow for more space and access to exits in the case of an emergency.



Community Life

donate Request of the Month

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



June Collection:

shampoo, conditioner, and bar soap

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.

Egg Cartons

Gethsemane is once again collecting egg cartons for St. Anthony's Food Pantry. Please place your clean, empty cartons in the box by the hall to the office. Thank you!



NOHA

North Hampton Neighborhood Association

GLC has become partners with the NOHA and is now the official meeting place for the association's monthly gatherings. Meetings occur the 4th Monday of each month, except for June and December (no meeting). Offering a space for these valuable meetings exemplifies GLC's purpose, welcoming all to nurture a community of harmony, healing and justice. In addition to covering immediate neighborhood issues (crime reports, service updates, library updates etc.), each meeting is attended by the Alderman and an area police officer. Special guest presenters have included representatives from Metro Security, St. Louis Area Agency on Aging and the St. Louis Circuit Attorney.

Interested in partnering with GLC and NOHA? We need a few individuals willing to be liaisons and be available to open and close the building the evening of the meetings. If interested, please reach out to any church council member.



Tower Grove Pride isn't until September 28-29, but if you'd like to volunteer to work at our fun booth please mark your calendar now to keep the dates open! This is different than the big corporate Pride event that will be held downtown in June. Our coalition of Lutheran RIC churches is called Lutherans For Love And Pride and they'll be hosting the booth. This year Gethsemane will just need to have volunteers at the booth for 2 hour shifts. We'll be updating the t-shirts and you'll have a chance to buy one when the date gets closer. For now, I ask that you **MARK YOUR CALENDAR** for September 28-29. Questions? Ask Chris Schmidt or anyone else you know who has worked at the festival in the past.

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.

Even though September is months away, 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. is a day where we, Gethsemane, can give back to the community as a way of living out Jesus' commandment to love one another.

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



Around the Church



June GLCW Luncheon

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

Date: Monday, June 24

Time: 11:30 AM

Place: Favazza's on the Hill

Hostesses: Kate Hartz and Chris Schmidt

RSVP if you are able or unable to attend by June 21

Please contact Chris Schmidt at 314.452.1931

You Have Our Ear

Do you have a question, idea, comment, or complaint that you want to share with the Gethsemane's Council members? You now have two new ways to communicate with a council member.

One: You can share your concerns and ideas on the back of your weekly attendance form. Please include your contact information if you want a response.

Two: You can leave a voice mail by selecting option 4 when you call the church office. A council member will monitor the messages and make sure your comments are addressed.



Adult Forum Topics

All adults are welcome to join us in the chapel after worship at 10:30am for the following discussions:

June 2nd - St. Louis Area Agency on Aging

June 9th - Available

June 16th - Member Care Committee

June 23rd - Available

June 30th - Available

If you have an idea for an adult forum, please contact the church office.

Youth Gathering: The six youth and three adults travelling to NOLA for the Youth Gathering are getting excited for their trip! Thank you for supporting this *krewe*! They are given the unique opportunity to lean into their faith and help those in need. One thing that is an assurance about New Orleans is that there will be another hurricane or natural disaster at some point in the future. To be better prepared to help those affected we are asked to provide an in-kind offering of hurricane relief supplies. Our region has been asked to provide Liquid I.V. To have it directly sent to New Orleans, please use the link found on our website. You may also purchase the packets and physically bring it to the church by July 14.

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

We are still taking registrations!

Campers are 4yo-rising 6th graders and volunteers are rising 7th graders-adults.

For more info and to register visit:

gethsemanestl.org/glcvs2024 before 6/15 as rates will rise by \$50/child and to guarantee a t-shirt.

VBS 9am-noon (\$ 30 /child)*

VBS+ 9am-noon+12pm-5:30pm (\$100/child)**

VBS is open to anyone, so tell your friends!

*max fee is \$60 - if you register 3 or more kids your fee would be \$60

** max fee is \$200 - if you register 3 or more kids your fee would be \$200

Good News



Congratulations to the Paulson family who celebrated two college graduations, a wedding, and a move to Memphis last month. Mitchell graduated with a degree in Osteopathic Medicine from A.T. Still University in Kirksville, MO mid May and was matched with a UTH SC Saint Francis Family Medicine Residency. Katie also graduated in May and was matched with an UTH SC Orthodontics Residency. They were married May 25th in Fayetteville and are now moved into their new home in Memphis.

Best of luck to the new couple and blessings to Keith and Jennifer as they enjoy their retirement.

Little Free Food Pantry Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone who has helped us with donations of food and money, including those who secured Thrivent grants for our cause. We are excited to share that we applied for and won a \$750.00 Social Ministry Grant from the Central State Synod. This money will be used to purchase shelving, a computer tablet, and supplies to better organize our storage and allow us to use your donations for food.

Little Free Food Pantry Thank You! Part Two.

If you attended church on Sunday May 26th, you would have heard about the thank-you letter we received in May. Here is the letter:


“Familia Ramirez Flores: agradecidos por las comidas que ponen gracias”

Translation:



“Ramirez Flores family: Grateful for the meals you give. Thank you.”

Your donations make a difference. Thank you for supporting our efforts.

June 2024 Worship Leaders

| | | | | | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|  | 2nd | 9th | 16th | 23rd | 30th | July 7th |
| Greeter | Peggy L. | Cayce M. | Rick Y. | Norm H. | Kathleen M. | Mary S. |
| Usher | Cayce M. | John S. | Adam R. | Richard L. | Ted Y. | Steve W. |
| Usher | Gary B. | Rob S. | Denise B. | Peggy L. | Nancy L. | Bill S. |
| Assisting Minister | Phyllis S. | Rick S. | Becky R. | Carolyn S. | Gary B. | Angie O. |
| Lector | Marilyn M. | Phyllis S. | Barb J. | Chris S. | Maryn O. | Lindsay S. |
| Children's Sermon | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Wine | Hartz Family | | | | | |
| Bread Baker* | Wisch Family | | Richardson Family | | Yemm Family | |
| Blood Pressure | Ted Yemm | N/A | | N/A | N/A | |
| Fellowship Host | Member Care | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD | TBD |
| Altar Flowers | Available | Available | Barb Johnson | Penny Family | Bauer Family | Breed Family |
| Altar Guild | Denise Buehrer | Deb Schaller | | | | |
| Camera | Gretchen Jenson | | | | | |
| | | | | | Linus Christian | Gretchen Jenson |

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

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|  June | | | | | | |
| 2 9:30am Worship 10:30am Adult Forum: St. Louis Area Agency on Aging | 3 | 4 10:00am Bible Study | 5 10:00am Staff Mtg* | 6 | 7 | 8 6:00pm Project Sanctuary |
| 9 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (?) 11:00am Youth Gathering Mtg. | 10 | 11 10:00am Bible Study | 12 10:00am Staff Mtg | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 30am Worship 30am Committee Meetings | 17 | 18 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Council Mtg | 19 Juneteenth: Office Closed | 20 10:00am Staff Mtg | 21 *Messenger info. due | 22 |
| 23 9:30am Worship 10:30am Fellowship (?) 2:00pm – 4:00pm Youth Gathering Mtg. at Forest Park | 24 11:30am GLC Women's Luncheon | 25 10:00am Bible Study | 26 10:00am Staff Mtg | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:30am Worship 10:30am | 1 | 2 | 3 12:00pm Staff Mtg |  Office Closed | | 6 |
| Kim on Vacation | | | | | | |
| Gretchen on Vacation | | | | | | |

Announcements & Anniversaries

Thank You

... to Gethsemane's Sunday School teachers and substitutes! Your dedication to the youngest among us is awe inspiring and we value and appreciate you so much! Special shout out to two long-time teachers who are stepping down to make room for others: Ami Boehlje and Ella Rothgangel. * Round of Applause* If you are interested in teaching or learning more, please see Gretchen Jenson (page 5) any Sunday morning or send her an email.

.... To everyone who has supported the Youth Group as they get ready to attend the Gathering next month. As part of their journey they have been asked to bring in-kind donation of Liquid I.V. (a hydration drink that comes in packets.) Please see the website to learn more and to get a direct link to have your donation shipped directly to New Orleans.

.... To everyone who participated in April 30th Volunteer Appreciation lunch. You will find some pictures on the back.

... To Barb Johnson for updating the bulletin board. You will notice the theme of honoring your father and mother for Mother's and Father's Day. On Sunday June 16 you will have an opportunity to write a special note of thanks for a father or father figure in your life. Stay tuned!



June Birthdays

- 3 Dell Roth
- 4 Cheryl Bauer
Petra McElroy
- 10 Denise Buehrer
- 12 Roy Ruckdeschel
- 13 Kate Hartz
- 14 Chloe Tatum
Rosemary Tatum
- 16 Jonathan Flaxbart
- 22 Lea Wisch
- 23 Oskar Starr-Hunter
- 25 Robyn Wobbe
- 27 Claire Szyman
- 30 Will Kelly

June Anniversaries



| | | | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|----|----|------------------------|----|
| 4 | Nick & Sabrina Kohlberg | 8 | 22 | Eldon & Jean Miller | 62 |
| 12 | Steve & Anja Walentik | 14 | 23 | Cindy & Ed Breed | 40 |
| 13 | Ella Rothgangel & Christopher Nahm | 14 | 24 | Sarah & Tom Unsicker | 24 |
| 17 | Mitchell & Ciera McElroy | 7 | 29 | Ken & Cheryl Bauer | 56 |
| 19 | Brent & Gretchen Jenson | 25 | 30 | Robert & Maggie Schurz | 7 |

Dates to Remember

Coming Up:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Sunday, June 16 | Father's Day |
| Wednesday, June 19 | Juneteenth (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 HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

The Synod Assembly is an annual event that occurs in June. Gethsemane sends two members as representatives along with Pastor Cheryl. If you would like to attend in the future, please contact Pastor Cheryl, the council, or the office.

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

