

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH MESSENGER

A FAMILY IN CHRIST CARING FOR ALL PEOPLE

July 2021

Volume #128 Issue #7

**Saturday, July 31st
9am - 3pm**

Church Rummage

Sale

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Pastor's Page

*"May your reign come; may your will be done on earth as it is in heaven:
give us today the bread of Tomorrow."*

--Jesus (Matthew 6: 10-11, *The Inclusive Bible*)

After the kind of year we've had, how do we imagine the future? It feels like a trap, after so many plans have had to change because of this pandemic. And yet, we trust that God goes ahead of us, preparing a future and inviting us into it.

The pandemic is not yet over, and we still have reason to be cautious about our health and the health of our neighbors. But as faithful people, we can ask: what will God's reign look like in this strange world we're living in? How can we do God's will right now?

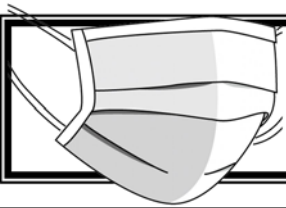
We have never stopped worshipping God on Sundays, the day of resurrection. We plan to continue our ministry of live-streaming worship long after this virus recedes into the past—it's too valuable as a source of connection for those experiencing hospitalization or needing to stay at home. We can even share Holy Communion this way—where can God *not* go? The Holy Spirit connects us with the Body of Christ, wherever we are. We have welcomed new members and plan to welcome more new church members later this year!

We have never stopped serving our neighbors. We continue gathering food and household items for people living in poverty, working with our partners at Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's. We still make prayer shawls for patients in hospice care, and we still host blood drives with the Red Cross (in fact, we'll have a blood drive here on July 19!). Some of us have gotten creative in sharing artwork and cards with one another as well (I've sure been grateful for the cards people have sent to welcome me over the past few months!).

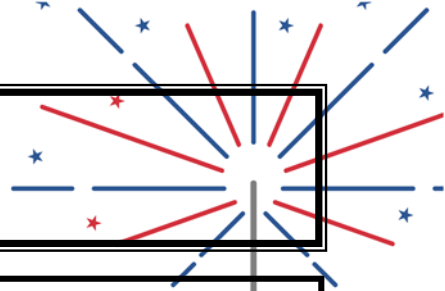
And we have never stopped learning. Our group studies for adults have moved online via Zoom. Children's sermons were shared by video for many months and now have returned to the Sunday worship service. We have an outdoor Vacation Bible School scheduled for Wednesday evening, July 14th and Saturday morning, July 17th—meeting at nearby Tilles Park—for kids as young as infants and up through elementary age, with other adults and high school-age youth helping out as leaders!

Even if some of our practices look different right now, we're doing the same ancient things that our ancestors have been doing for thousands of years. And God continues to form us as the Body of Christ in the world. Let us pray and seek God's vision for the future as well!

Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie



Worship in July



Sunday, July 4, 2021

Sixth Sunday of Pentecost

9:30am In-Person and Online Worship

10:30am Outdoor Fellowship

Sunday, July 11, 2021

Seventh Sunday of Pentecost

Christmas in July

9:30am In-Person and Online Worship

10:30am Outdoor Fellowship



Did you miss singing your favorite Christmas hymns last December? The office staff sure did. Join us July 11th for Christmas in July.

Sunday, July 18 2021

Eighth Sunday of Pentecost

All Request Sunday

9:30am In-Person and Online Worship

10:30am Outdoor Fellowship with **VBS singalong**

Sunday, July 25, 2021

Ninth Sunday of Pentecost

9:30am In-Person and Online Worship

10:30am Outdoor Fellowship

July Worship Leaders

Assisting Ministers:

- ♦ **July 4** Rick Schuessler
- ♦ **July 11** Lory Bowman
- ♦ **July 18** Megan Yemm
- ♦ **July 25** Carolyn Schainker
- ♦ **August 1** Gary Borkowski

Organists:

- ♦ **July 4 and 18** Ella Rothgangel
- ♦ **June 11 and 25** Johanna Erdman

Ushers:

- ♦ **July 4 & 11** Lee / Hopfer
- ♦ **July 18 & 25** Borkowski / Scanlan
- ♦ **August 1 & 8** TBD

Donut Pick Up:

McElwee Family

June Attendance

June 6

55 in-person 49 Online

June 13

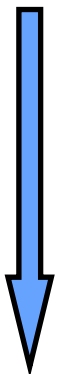
52 in-person 28 Online

June 20

56 in-person 20 Online

June 27

62 in-person 35 Online



All Request Sunday

Do you have a favorite hymn? Have you missed singing during the pandemic? We've got you covered. On Sunday, July 18th, you get to pick all the music. Simply send in your requests to the church office by 2pm on Wednesday, July 14th to enter the drawing. Please include hymn number and title.



Synod Assembly Notes



On June 4 and 5, the Central States Synod of the ELCA , which consists of churches in the states of Kansas and Missouri, held its annual assembly. The general theme this year was “United with Christ in Baptism: One Body-Many Members.” Gethsemane’s delegates-Pastor Cheryl, Eliza Sanders, and Steve Hetager-were three of 300 delegates meeting by Zoom from far-flung places all over the two states.

Synod bishop Susan Candea presided over the entire assembly, including the full worship service that began the assembly on Friday evening. “Great faith expands to include all” was the theme of her sermon. Our former pastor, Kendra Nolde, was a member of the planning team for this service.

The keynote address for the assembly was then delivered by Judith Roberts, ELCA Senior Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Among the topics she discussed was the concept of race as a social construct; that is, in reality all human beings ultimately come from Africa and share a common genetic heritage.

The Saturday morning session began with a musical presentation by students from Lutheran Campus Ministry at Kansas State University. Their presentation included encouraging delegates to participate in physical exercises and yoga in preparation for the day’s events, which included a long series of business items to be considered and voted on.

These items included nominations for synod offices, constitutional amendments, resolutions, compensation guidelines, and the synod budget. The resolutions, all of which passed, involved issues of conscience, global awareness, embracing the earth, child protection, racial justice, and thanksgiving for ministry,

The morning session also included a presentation by Pastor Kendra on Faithful Innovation Teams in congregations, a program that she has been involved in. It was interesting to note other familiar names among the delegates, including Pastor Carrie McElfresh (who has presided at Gethsemane), Pastor Jeff Lindgren, and former Gethsemane member Linda Lockhart.

The afternoon session included a presentation on Lutheran Disaster Relief, election results, and a short Sending Worship ceremony. Bishop Candea pronounced the assembly a success in spite of the difficulties involved in the virtual format, and she said that she expected next year’s assembly to be an in-person event.

Connections Corner



✉: connect@gethsemanestl.org

☎: 314-518-6978 (ok to text)

Twitter: @gethsemane_stl or @GretchenSTL17

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

Office hours: Mon –Thurs, 9am-1:30pm

**FAMILY
VBS in the
PARK**

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH - AT TILLES PARK

**JULY 14, 6-8PM
JULY 17, 9AM-12PM**



All are welcome to join us at Tilles Park for Family VBS in the Park! There will be fun activities for the whole family including age appropriate games, stories and crafts. Pr. Cheryl will lead a demonstration on Godly play that families can learn from and utilize at

home. The cost is free but registration is required. Those who register will receive updates and instructions on best practices. You do not need to attend both dates. Those who attend will learn a song or two that will be sung after worship on July 18 during Outdoor Fellowship. We are still accepting volunteers as well.

Ways to stay connected: Utilizing these resources can help you feel closer to Gethsemane!



Give Online
(Give + Mobile App)



Access the Church Directory
Online (Instant Church Directory)



Watch Worship Services
Online (YouTube)

Find Gethsemane on Social Media:

Website: www.gethsemanestl.org

Twitter: @gethsemane_stl

YouTube: gethsemanestl

Instagram: gethsemane_elca_stl

Pinterest: Gethsemane Lutheran Church

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



Around the Church



Rummage Sale

**Saturday, July 31
9am - 3pm**

We are still in need of volunteers weekly through the day of the sale to help price and sort items. Volunteers will be needed Saturday, July 24th to move items from the Sunday school classrooms to the fellowship hall, July 26th - 30th to help with final pricing, sorting, and displaying of items, and on July 30th and 31st to help with the sale. All volunteers and those who donate items for the sale may attend the pre-sale on July 30th. Please contact the church for more information.



\$2000 raised already!

Sunday School Update:

Sunday school families should watch their emails for information regarding the upcoming 2021/2022 school year!



amazon smile
You shop. Amazon gives.

This quarter, AmazonSmile has made a charitable donation to Lutheran World Relief, in the amount of \$2,656.23 as a result of qualifying purchases made by Gethsemane and other customers who have selected this charity. To sign up to support Lutheran World Relief or learn more about Amazon Smile and the charities they support, go to: smile.amazon.com.

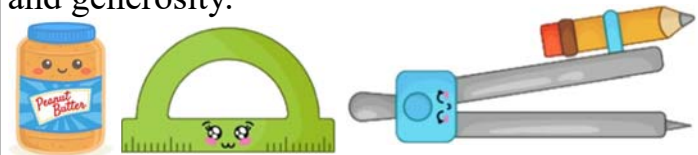


July:

It's back to school time!

This month we are collecting:

School Supplies (Specifically compasses, protractors and underwear and socks), Peanut Butter, Jelly, Cereal, Rolling Suitcases, Hygiene and non perishable food items. **School supplies need to be turned in by 7/13.** Thank you for your continued support and generosity.



Confirmation Update:

The Confirmation class will take a small break but will meet once or twice over the summer. Confirmation families should watch their email for the next meeting date and time.






Gethsemane will host a modified Vacation Bible School in July: Wednesday, July 14, 6-8pm **AND** Saturday, July 17, 9am-12pm. At Tilles Park and the entire family is

encouraged to attend either date or both dates. The cost is free and while registration is officially closed, if you are reading this and want to sign up, do it now! Volunteers are also needed! See page 5 for more details.

July 2021

Calendar of Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
4 Independence Day 9:30am Worship 10:30am Outdoor Fellowship	5 Office Closed	6	7 10:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	8	9 Office Closed	10
11 Christmas in July 9:30am Worship 10:30am Outdoor Fellowship	12 Summer Music 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Vocal	13  National French Fry Day	14 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm – 8:00pm VBS in the Park	15	16 Office Closed	17 9:00am – 12:00pm VBS in the Park
Kim on Vacation						
18 All Request Sunday 9:30am Worship 10:30am Outdoor Fellowship	19 2:00pm – 6:00pm  Blood Drive	20 *Messenger info. due	21 10:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	22	23	24 2:00pm Rummage Sale moving day
25 9:30am Worship 10:30am Outdoor Fellowship	26 Summer Music 6:00pm Bells 7:00pm Vocal	27	28 10:30am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Zoom Bible Study	29 7:00pm Worship Committee Meeting	30 5:00pm – 8:00pm Rummage Preview Sale	31 9:00am – 3:00pm Rummage Sale

Mark Your Calendars



Burgers and Smores

LuMin St. Louis invites you to a community BBQ and smores gathering to give thanks for the gift of campus ministry and its partners. Come for food and fellowship, visit the campus house, and enjoy a great summer night. (Vegetarian burger option)

Wednesdays, July 14th and August 25th from 5pm - 8pm. LuMin house: 7019 Forsyth Blvd.

Our next Red Cross blood drive is **Monday, July 19th** from **2:00pm to 6:00pm**. Registration links can be found on Gethsemane's website. The need for blood is really great right now. Please give if you can!



God's work. Our hands.
Save the Date: Sunday, August 29, 2021



Gethsemane Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Do you have a project or know of an organization that could use some help on "God's work. Our hands." Sunday? Let Gretchen know! Stay tuned to the website, e-news and social media to sign up for service projects on "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, August 29. The Bridge Bread truck and The Bridge Fair Trade shop will be at Gethsemane on that day as well!



LuMin Trivia Night

Plan to join LuMin this year for their biggest fundraiser. It's a night of fun, fellowship, and support for their ongoing mission to university students in the St. Louis area. The night begins with doors open at 5:30pm and play beginning at 6:30pm.

When: September 18th

Where: Bethel Lutheran Church - 7001 Forsyth Blvd



2022 ELCA Youth Gathering

Do you have a student entering 8th grade through their senior year this fall? Registration for the 2022 Youth Gathering will begin in September. An email was sent to eligible families.

Aria's Notes

by Gethsemane's Choir Director: Dr. Aria Thomé

Children's Choir

Gethsemane would like to restart its Children's Choir. Though we still do not have a definitive day when children would be able to safely participate, we are still collecting names of interested families and children to partake in making a joyful noise to the Lord! If you think your child might be interested, please send an email to gethsemane.choirs@gmail.com stating so. You'll stay up to date on when the children can safely rehearse and the children will occasionally be sent a video to keep connected to the music they hear on Sundays! As more names are collected and a definitive start date becomes known, the children will also be sent music they can work on to get a head start! Help us bring the voices of children back to Gethsemane.



Caring for Creation through Song

Did you know that the ELCA has a statement on Caring for Creation, and our biblically rooted role in doing so?

“Christian concern for the environment is shaped by the Word of God spoken in creation... We of the ELCA are deeply concerned about the environment, locally and globally, as members of this church and as members of society. Even as we join the political, economic, and scientific discussion, we know care for the earth to be a profoundly spiritual matter. As Lutheran Christians, we confess that both our witness to God's goodness in creation and our acceptance of caregiving responsibility have often been weak and uncertain”.

The statement:

“offers a vision of God's intention for creation and for humanity as creation's caregivers; acknowledges humanity's separation from God and from the rest of creation as the central cause of the environmental crisis; recognizes the severity of the crisis; and expresses hope and heeds the call to justice and commitment.”

This summer, our Hymn of the Day and Post Communion Canticle will often focus on Creation, and our care of creation. We do this to bring our Sunday actions (worship through song) into our daily actions (caring for creation). We build our repertoire as a singing congregation and become witnesses through our voices to care for our world so in need of our love.

Announcements & Anniversaries

Condolences...

We pray for the hope and comfort of the resurrection for Lisa Martin and Andy Martin upon the death of Lisa's mother and Andy's grandmother, Ellen "Angie" Martin. Angie died on Tuesday, May 25th.

We also pray for the family and friends of Deanna Brooker upon the death of her brother Bill Brown. Bill died on June 3rd.

Thanks...

To Sharon Salerno for donating a freezer for church use and to Mike E., Rich B., and Keith P. for moving it.

"Hello [Gethsemane], Just wanted to thank you again for the beautiful shawls. The ladies sure do quality work! Our hospital census is stabilizing a bit, so hopefully these will last a while longer. Thanks again and have a great weekend, Cathy" *St. Luke's Hospice*



As long as we are masked we can sing the hymns on Sunday morning! We continue to wear masks

because some children are not yet eligible to be vaccinated.



July Birthdays

- 1 Jackson Burgard
Rosalind Roberts
- 2 Stina Roach
Sharon Salerno
- 3 Jacob Boehlje
Ruth Johnson
- 4 David Hackmann
Rose Lubbes
Kendra Nolde
- 8 Barb Johnson
- 10 Rowan Elliott
- 11 Amelie Burge
Mike Schmidt
- 15 Noel Nahm
Chris Klein
- 17 Sarah Bohnert
- 19 Jocelyn Burgard
- 20 Mike Fenton
- 21 Jane O'Neill
- 23 Maryn Olson
- 24 Cynthia Marfisi
- 26 Adam Rentchler
- 27 Jean Chouquette
Lancelot Fordyce III
Megan Yemm

July Anniversaries

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|----|
| 1 | Ron & Lory Bowman | 32 |
| 6 | Bob & Cindy Tanner | 30 |
| 8 | Jennifer Meyer & Geoffrey Strom | 25 |
| 23 | Dan & Emily Szyman | 11 |
| 24 | Fred & Margaret Lenhart | 50 |
| | Caitlin & Can Sungur | 11 |
| 26 | Mike & Cindy Fenton | 35 |
| 29 | Jane & Matthew O'Neill | 36 |
| 30 | Bill & Mary Scanlan | 66 |



Tower Grove Pride has been rescheduled to **Saturday, Sept. 25** and Gethsemane has partnered with other RIC churches to host a booth. Watch for booth sign ups in the e-news and Gethsemane's website.

Then and Now

Gethsemane has a long history of hosting traveling youth groups. We actually had two groups scheduled for the summer of 2020, before the Pandemic hit and canceled everything. Here is a picture of a group who visited “then” and a picture of Boy Scout Troop 175 who spent the night in Gethsemane’s fellowship hall last Saturday, June 26th. They heard from another troop that they had to go to Ted Drews!



A Clown Troupe visits form Kentucky 2008

If you have a suggestion for a future “Then and Now” article, please contact the church 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 Mike Elliott
314-941-5219 opusmbe@gmail.com

Website: www.gethsemanestl.org

YouTube: [gethsemanestl](https://www.youtube.com/gethsemanestl)

Twitter: [@gethsemane_stl](https://twitter.com/gethsemane_stl)

Instagram: [gethsemane_elca_stl](https://www.instagram.com/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 us 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

