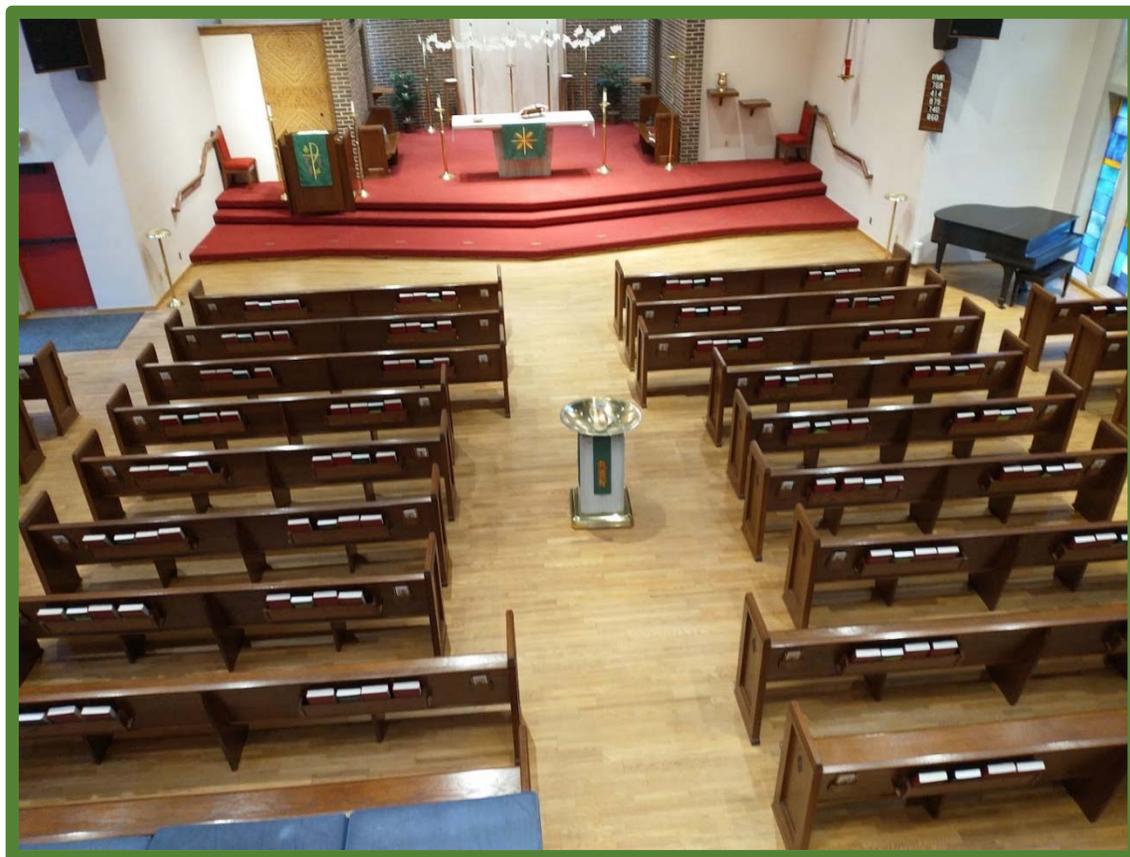


Third Sunday After Pentecost

June 13, 2021



Weekly in-person attendance is growing, so the pews have been returned to their pre-pandemic positions.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton - St. Louis, MO 63109

ELW Holy Communion Setting Four

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

GATHERING

PRELUDE: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

J. Bert Carlson

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

P: God, our provider,
help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

P: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, † the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*

Hymn # 807

GREETING:

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE: *Morning Has Broken*

Hymn # 556

PRAYER OF THE DAY

AM: O God, you are the tree of life, offering shelter to all the world. Graft us into yourself and nurture our growth, that we may bear your truth and love to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

The congregation is seated.

WORD

THE FIRST READING: Ezekiel 17:22-24

Tree imagery is used in a messianic prophecy to tell how the Lord will choose someone from Judah's royal family (the cedar tree) to reign over all creation. This tree will be planted on Mount Zion, the location of the holy temple.

²²Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. ²³On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. ²⁴All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 92 (Please sing responsively)

The righteous shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon. (Ps. 92:12)

¹It is a good thing to give thanks | to the LORD,
to sing praise to your name, | O Most High;

²**to herald your love | in the morning
and your faithful- | ness at night;**

³on the psaltery, and | on the lyre,
and to the melody | of the harp.

⁴**For you have made me glad by your | acts, O LORD;
and I shout for joy because of the works | of your hands.**

¹²The righteous shall flourish | like a palm tree,
and shall spread abroad like a ce- | dar of Lebanon.

¹³**Those who are planted in the house | of the LORD
shall flourish in the courts | of our God;**

¹⁴they shall still bear fruit | in old age;
they shall be | green and succulent;

¹⁵**that they may show how up- | right the LORD is,
my rock, in whom there is | no injustice.**

THE SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

Paul encourages believers to live by faith and not by sight. We do not consider Jesus from a human perspective but through the eyes of faith, believing he died for all and was raised. All who are in Christ are now in God's new creation.

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

¹¹Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. ¹²We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. ¹³For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore, all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if

anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 4th chapter:
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus frequently uses parables to teach ordinary people as they are able to hear and understand. Images of sowing and growing show the vitality of God's kingdom.

²⁶[Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground,²⁷ and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

³⁰He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation is seated.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: *As the Grains of Wheat*

Hymn # 465

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

THE CREED

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

Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you plant the seeds of faith in every nation. Enliven your church, so that the good news of your grace may root and grow throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Creator, even the trees, shrubs, and flowers delight in your goodness. From the depths of the soil to the highest mountain, bring forth new plants. Restore growth to places suffering drought. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Judge of nations, we pray for our leaders and those in power. Grant them the ability to regard those under their charge with humility, dedicating their lives in service to others. Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Divine comforter, you show compassion to those in need and provide relief to those who call on you. Bless all who suffer, especially people trapped in cycles of poverty and homelessness.

Lord, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Sovereign God, this house of worship belongs to you. We give thanks and pray for our church musicians. We dedicate to you the joyful noise that comes from this place; the cries of children, the melody of voice and instruments, and the songs from our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Today we pray especially for the Dougan family, Kevin, Troy, Jack, Kathy, Maryn, Angie, Dell, Mary, and those we name before you now either silently in our hearts or spoken from our lips... Lord, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

Amen.

THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another from their assigned spaces in the name of the Lord. Please **do not** move around the sanctuary at this time.*

Peace be with you.

The congregation is seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING:

During this time of offering, we ask that you remember the church's ongoing expenses and our ongoing need to be generous people of God. Offerings may be placed in the offering plate located in the hall next to the family mailboxes or mailed to the church. You may also visit our website at gethsemanestl.org to donate electronically. For those worshiping at home, this is a good time to gather together elements for Holy Communion.

MUSICAL OFFERING: *Seed, Scattered and Sown*

Dan Feiten

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

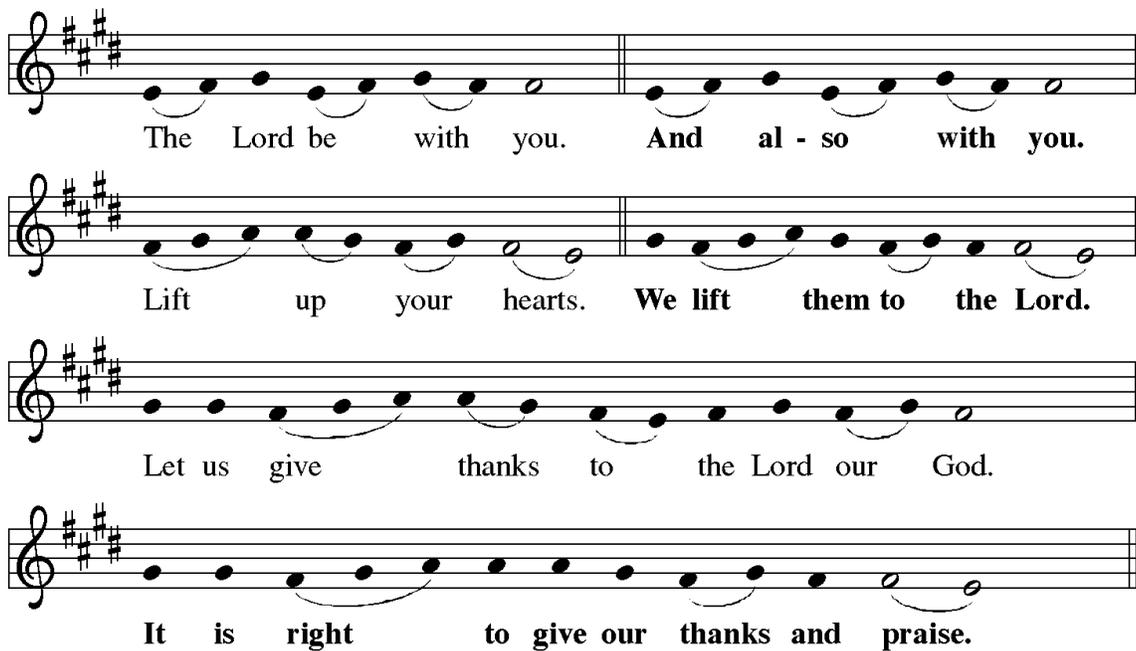
P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

Amen.

P: In this celebration of Holy Communion, Christ is truly present and gathers us together in one body, thru the mystery of the Holy Spirit. The chalice and basket here, dearly loved instruments of serving the sacrament, sit empty as a sign of our unity, for those partaking Christ's body and blood in their homes, as well as for us gathered here, using these small prepackaged cups of wine and a wafer. Jesus promises to be with us and we trust his promise.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n 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.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

The congregation is seated.

COMMUNION

(All who seek the Lord are welcome to receive the gift of God's grace. Those participating in in-person worship will find their Communion supplies in the Narthex outside of the sanctuary.)

P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all. Come!

P: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Lamb of God

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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.

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:

God of the Sparrow (Verses 3&4)

Hymn # 740

The congregation may stand as comfortable.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

AM: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and forever.

Amen

SENDING SONG: *We Plow the Fields and Scatter*

Hymn # 680

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ!

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: *Joyous Day*

John Leavitt

Please refrain from stopping for fellowship until you have exited the building.

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Worship Leaders

Pastor:	Cheryl Walenta Gorvie
Assisting Minister:	Lory Bowman
Organist:	Johanna Erdman
Choir:	Angie Fulton, Maryn Olson, Dawn Schuessler

CHURCH STAFF

Minister: Pastor Cheryl Walenta Gorvie	pastor@gethsemanestl.org	(903) 918-3992©
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Choir/Bell Choir Director: Dr. Aria Thomé	gethsemane.choirs@gmail.com	(480) 290-6369©
Council President: Michael Elliott	opusmbe@gmail.com	(314) 941-5219©

Today's flowers were given by the Scanlan Family in honor of Mary's brother Carl Dickey's birthday.

Gethsemane Lutheran Church Calendar
June 13 – 20, 2021

Today	9:30 am	Worship Service: In-Person and Streaming live on YouTube
	10:30 am	Outdoor Fellowship
	10:45 am	Youth Sing-Along
6/14 Monday	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Summer Bell Choir Rehearsal Summer Vocal Choir Rehearsal
6/16 Wednesday	10:30 am 7:00 pm	Staff Meeting Zoom Bible Study: Caring for Creation
6/18 Friday		Office Closed: Kim on vacation
6/20 Sunday	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:45 am	Worship Service: In-Person and Streaming live on YouTube Outdoor Fellowship Youth Sing-Along

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Zoom Bible Study: Please plan to join us Wednesdays in June, for an online discussion about the ELCA Social Statements. This month, the focus will be Caring for Creation. Discussions will start at 7pm. Go to the church website or see the Friday e-news for a link. This study will be recorded and made available to those who contact the church office.

Gethsemane Rummage Sale: Saturday, July 31. Due to the large volume of donated items, the last date to drop off donations has been moved up to June 13th. We need volunteers weekly 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, 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.

Make Music Day, St. Louis: We are excited to announce that Gethsemane will be participating in Make Music Day, St. Louis, on June 21st. Unfortunately, everything will be online again this year. If you have an instrument to play or a song to sing, you may record yourself and send to: office@gethsemanestl.org. to be added to Gethsemane’s “compilation.” If you need to use the sanctuary to record, or need help with the recording, please contact the office to schedule a time. The deadline to submit is June 17.

Family VBS in the Park: Gethsemane will host a modified Vacation Bible School in July on Wednesday, July 14, 6-8pm **AND** Saturday, July 17, 9am-12pm. VBS will be all outdoors and the entire family is encouraged to attend. The cost is free and the link to register or volunteer is on Gethsemane's website!

Summer Music: The bell choir and vocal choir will be having summer rehearsals over the summer! Bells at 6:00 pm and vocal choir at 7:00 pm on the second and fourth Monday of the month. All rehearsals will be open rehearsals, meaning those who are not already in one of the choirs are welcome to participate, or "try it on"! No experience necessary. You will be mentored along the way! Bell and vocal choir rehearsals will be held in the sanctuary. Masks must be worn and vocal choir members must be vaccinated to participate. Hope to see you there!

Wiggle Bag Ministry: The office is looking for help with Gethsemane's Wiggle Bag Ministry. What is a Wiggle Bag? These are the brightly colored bags filled with "quiet toys" for use by families with small children during worship services. The good news is that the bags are being used. The bad news is that we can't keep up with the needed maintenance to keep them clean and fun. Please contact the office if you can help. About 1 hour of time per week commitment.

The Big Ask: For June we are collecting shampoo, conditioner and bars of soap for our food pantry partners: Isaiah 58 and St. Anthony's. Items will be collected throughout the month at the church during worship and normal business hours. You can also purchase items online and have them sent directly to Gethsemane using the link on the church website. Non-perishable food items such as canned soup and vegetables, cereal, pasta, peanut butter, and jelly are always welcome. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Sunday Funnies:

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03-05-2012

A MUSTARD SEED OF FAITH, A KERNEL OF TRUTH, AND AN ACORN OF HOPE WAS HIS SECRET RECIPE FOR PLANTING CHURCHES



...for continuing to wear a mask during worship to protect our members and guests. We want everyone who chooses to join us to feel welcome and safe.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

Dougan Family – support through transitions

Jack Jaworski & Kathy Lee – continued health and strength

Kevin Kopplin – continued health and strength

Troy Mann – during his cancer treatments

Maryn Olson & Angie Fulton- support and comfort

Dell Roth & her mother Mary Roth – strength and healing

Request for:	<i>On Behalf of:</i>
My sister, Katrina (strength, peace)	<i>Denise Buehrer</i>
Phil and Joy (healing, peace)	<i>Gustafson Family</i>
Jack's son Kenny who was recently hospitalized	<i>Jaworski/Lee Family</i>
Gretchen's mom, Lyn Schmidt (understanding, support)	<i>Jenson Family</i>
Laura Pfeiffer-Thomson (healing, patience, strength), Julia Sodd (healing, patience, strength)	<i>Rodney Jones</i>
Sheila (recovery), Tyla and Robin (successful Breast Cancer treatment)	<i>Cat Leonard</i>
My cousins Beverly and Linda	<i>Moe Family</i>
Our family, especially, Maryn's dad, Phillip Olson (who is now receiving hospice care), Maryn's mom, Pastor Ginny Olson (who was recently diagnosed with breast cancer), John Shyrock (faith, strength as he faces cancer treatment)	<i>Maryn Olson and Angie Fulton</i>
Stacie, Diane, and Dorit (strength, healing)	<i>Dawn Schuessler</i>
Our brother Mike Walsh (comfort, healing)	<i>Schmidt Family</i>
My uncle, Bob, who is having major health issues with his heart and vascular circulation	<i>Deb Siewing</i>
Aria's mom, Margaret, who has recently returned to the hospital and dad, Alan, who is receiving care at home	<i>Dr. Thomé</i>
Mike and Liz (strength, healing)	<i>Yemm Family</i>
Art, Jim, Lorraine and Shirley	<i>Young/Kleine Family</i>

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, 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 straight, gay, lesbian, 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.



This Bulletin is 100% recyclable. If you would like to keep your copy, please do so. If you are done with your copy, please place it in the basket provided as you exit the sanctuary.