



2021 GUIDE BOOK & DIRECTORY

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GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Engaged by God in a Living Faith: at Home, at Church, and in the World

Gethsemane Lutheran Church John D.F. Nelson, Senior Pastor Sarah Moat, Associate Pastor

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The pandemic created unique and unprecedented times. Never before, since the formation of the institutional church, has ministry been more creatively organic and free. Never before, since faith communities started gathering together in church buildings, have congregations been less dependent on a building, and instead, done church in their homes and out in the world. People felt isolated and alone, but it was a liberating experience for the church... because WE ARE the church!

Do you remember that song? "The church is not a building, where people go to pray; it's not made out of sticks and stones, it's not made out of clay. We are the church, the body of our Lord; we are all God's children, and we have been restored."

What has been restored is the realization that we don't need a building to "do church." We don't need a sanctuary to "be the church." The church is wherever we are. WE ARE the church – together – you and me.

Jesus told us, "Where ever two or three are gathering in my name, [physically or virtually] there I will be also." Maybe he did not know about the virtual part yet, but he knew the heart of the human spirit and that we could not stay apart. He knew we would find a way to connect with God and with one another, just as God does through the Holy Spirit.

This is our theme for the year. This empowers us. It means that even though everything we do will be different—from worship to Sunday school, confirmation to choir—we do not stop being church. If anything, it sets us free to try new things, reach more people, and be church in new and exciting ways.

We invite you to join with us while God does a new thing through the full body of Christ.

Pastor John

Check out our website at GLCONLINE.ORG to find ways you can "be the church!"

Watch Our Worship Services on Local Cable

Pre-recorded services are broadcast Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 8:00 AM in Hopkins, Minnetonka, Eden Prairie, Edina and Richfield. Watch on Comcast 15 or Centurylink 8111.

Visit our website at GLCONLINE.ORG



Mission of the Gethsemane Memorial Foundation: To provide a place where people can offer a legacy of faith through their financial gifts to aid in the fulfillment of the church's mission.

Each year the Memorial Foundation makes gifts to the congregation and local ministries that made a huge impact. These funds helped support unfunded capital improvements, new ministry events, granted college scholarships, made it possible for staff to further their training through continued education, and helped our Minneapolis Area Synod mission initiatives. Gifts to the Foundation indeed help us continue this legacy of outreach and mission for our congregation.

Consider including the Gethsemane Memorial Foundation in your estate and financial planning.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." James 1:17