

St. Thomas Lutheran Church News

*August, 2016
XXXVIII, Issue No. 8*



Finding Hope in a Troubled World

Occasionally Facebook yields useful material. One of my friends recently posted a sermon by a Lutheran pastor, Nadia Bolz Weber. The subject is the parable of the Good Samaritan.

I find her insights inspiring in these days of repeated blows to our sense of the goodness of humanity, our hope for the world, and our faith. I am, of course, severely editing this for length:

“...I was understandably dreading office hours this week because I just didn’t feel like I had any wisdom...(A visitor) shared what Stephen Gould wrote in an op-ed soon after the 9-11 terrorist attacks:

“Good and kind people outnumber all others by thousands to one. The tragedy of human history lies in the enormous potential for destruction in rare acts of evil, not in the high frequency of evil people. Complex systems can only be built step by step, whereas destruction requires but an instant. Thus, in what I like to call the Great Asymmetry, every spectacular incident of evil will be balanced by 10,000 acts of kindness, too often unnoted and invisible as the “ordinary” efforts of a vast majority.

‘We have a duty, almost a holy responsibility, to record and honor the victorious weight of these innumerable little kindnesses, when an unprecedented act of evil so threatens to distort our perception of ordinary human behavior

“...Look at this story again. The entire focus of the story of the Good Samaritan, was not on the violence or the idiocy. The focus of the story was mercy and lovingkindness. The robbers get about a dozen words but the Samaritan gets the rest of the story. Because it is not the parable of the Robbers. Amen? It’s the parable of the Merciful Samaritan. And yet this week I was afraid to look away and see any good because to do so felt perilously close to pretending that the violence wasn’t bad...

“Evil might have the news cycle. But it does not have the victory. The darkness does not get to have our hearts, it does not get to fill our minds, it does not get to steal our joy. And looking for the love, the light, the kindness in the world around us is not the same as pretending that evil isn’t evil...

“Omar Mateen, the Orlando nightclub shooter was one man. His act of terrorism and murder and hate had a devastating effect on so many lives and the city of Orlando. But you cannot tell me that the evil of one man won when in response millions of people all over the world marched in support and love for those effected... What Omar Mateen intended for evil, God used for good...

“So as an act of defiance tonight, we will surround the names of those who died this week with words of lovingkindness. We will write down every act of kindness and generosity that we can remember happening

this week... Because this world is not a parable of Robbers. This world is a parable of God's light which scatters darkness..."

As we grieve and recover with the world from so many acts of violence, may God's light and the lovingkindness of a multitude scatter the darkness brought by a few.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lyle



From the Associate Pastor's Desk, ..

The Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Occasional Services for the Assembly invites us to open each academic year with the following words:

O God, everything you do is wonderful, and I know it well.
Teach us your ways, O God.

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light on my path.
Teach us your ways, O God.

Jesus, said, Let the children come to me.
Teach us your ways, O God.

On August 21, we'll switch to our academic year worship schedule, kick off another year of learning in the Lord, begin regular youth group meetings, and start to welcome new and old IU students. Through all of the activity of another year, I pray that God can always help us to keep our ears and hearts open to the Spirit's movement in the world, that God's light always leads us in the ways of justice and love, and that we always strive to teach our children in Christ's way. I hope that you will keep all of the following faith formation opportunities in your prayers and maybe even find a new way to connect this year!

Peace,
Pastor Colleen



Sunday School 2016-17

All families are invited to attend our Sunday School Kick Off: Knitted Together in Love on Sunday, August 21, at 9:45am. Come meet your teachers and classmates and learn about our mission project, Heifer International! Check out their website here: www.heifer.org. Activities and refreshments for all ages!

Regular Sunday School and confirmation classes begin on Sunday, August 28, at 9:45am. Please note: high school classes will be scheduled at a different time this year; we'll be in touch with families directly.

Teachers this year are:

Sunday School Coordinator: Stephanie Hulett

Godly Play: Debbie Nixon, Sharon Fawbush, Tish Llewellyn

1-3: Cindy Ohslund, Misty White, Sacha Arterberry

4-6: Dana Barron, Christiana Redman, Ronna Papesh

Confirmation (7-8): Pastor Colleen Montgomery, Pastor Lyle McKee

High School: Peter Iversen

Substitutes: Gretchen Moehlmann

Ways you can support this ministry: Pray for our students and teachers, faithfully bring your children/grandchildren to class, serve as a substitute, serve on the education committee, help plan special projects.



Youth Group

The St. Thomas Youth Group is for our 7th-12th grade students. We gather twice a month for fellowship, service, and learning. Pastor Colleen is the primary organizer, but many other beloved adults and parents help the ministry thrive. The fall schedule is below.

Fall 2016 Youth Group

Youth group events are open to all youth, 7th-12th grade. We are always looking for more adults to help lead and to prepare dinner for us. Contact Pastor Colleen if you are interested in helping.

-August 14, 1:30-6pm – Volunteering at MCUM’s Each One Feed One. We’ll carpool from church and then help sort the donations on-site at MCUM. Pizza for dinner back at church!

-August 21, 5-8pm – Youth Group Kick-off at Iverhaven. We’ll carpool from church and head out to the Iversen’s home for dinner, team building, and opening worship.

-September 11 – Youth are encouraged to participate in the congregation’s God’s Work, Our Hands Day of Service activities.

-September 18, 5:30-7:30pm – Regular youth group at St. Thomas

-Friday, September 23- Sunday, September 25 – Confirmation Retreat at Lutheran Hills for 7th-9th graders.

-Saturday, October 1 – CROP Walk. More details TBD

-October 9, 5:30-7:30pm – Regular youth group at St. Thomas

-October 23, 5:30-7:30pm – Regular youth group at St. Thomas

-November 6, 5:30-7:30pm – Dinner Church & Family Game Night. It’s a pitch-in dinner with a special worship service in the style of St. Lydia’s, Brooklyn. After dinner we’ll play a life-sized board game.

-November 20, 5:30-7:30pm – Regular youth group at St. Thomas

-November 27, 4:30-7:30 – Advent Vespers & Dinner. The whole family is invited for a special worship service to kick off the Advent season, a congregational meal, and then Advent-themed games.

-December 4, 5:30-7:30pm – Regular youth group at St. Thomas

-December – Christmas Caroling. More details TBD



Adult Faith Formation

There are many ways for adults to engage in learning about their faith. Some of the opportunities are listed below.

Sunday Bible Study – A group meets each Sunday in room 11 to read and discuss the Bible.

Adult Forum – A set of presentations is scheduled each month. If you would like to lead a forum, contact Pastor Colleen. Adult Forums will begin in September.

Living the Questions 2.0 – Led by Pastor Lyle, this group meets every other Tuesday evening during the school year to explore different theological questions. The first session will be Tuesday, September 13, 7pm.

Spiritual Growth Groups – There is a variety of small groups focused on a particular interest or demographic. Current groups include:

- Locavores – A group interested in sustainable agriculture practices and eating locally grown food.
- Lively Older Lutherans – Our retired group that gathers for fellowship throughout the year.
- Iona Prayer – A group that engages in prayer from the Iona Community in Scotland.
- Pub Theology – Pastor Colleen leads a monthly discussion on a lectionary reading. Open to young adults, 22+ older.
- Living History – A group that works to record our congregational history and stories of members.

Ways you can support these ministries: Attend one or more of these lively groups, keep all teachers and students in your prayers, lead an adult forum, start a new spiritual growth group



Big Thanks to Kelli Skram!

For the past two years, Kelli Skram has served as our Sunday School Coordinator. From helping to plan teacher training, recruiting volunteers, and organizing offering pick-ups, to fielding countless emails, and even attempting to walk on water, Kelli's efforts, prayers, and dedication have helped make Sunday School and VBS amazing. She has been a huge support to me, and her mentorship and encouragement have been invaluable. Please help me in thanking Kelli for all she has done!

Peace,

Pastor Colleen



Knit
Together
In Love

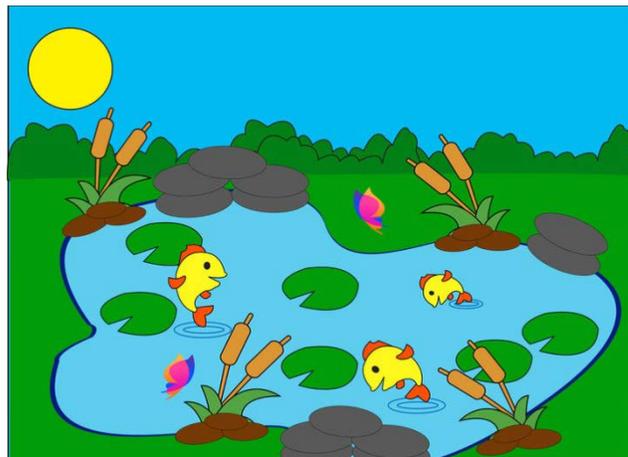
Sunday School Kick-Off

August 21, 9:45-10:45

Wade into Worship in the Prayer Pond.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Matthew 19:14

Our sanctuary is flooded with the presence of God's holy waters and images of this water in action. The baptismal font welcomes us in our sacred place and invites us to remember that we are beloved children of God. Shells, thought to be a part of the ancient baptism ritual, mark the sides of the font and droplets of water, droplets of grace, trickle down. Several of our banners include baptismal images as well as fish to remind us of God's abundance and Christ's call to be fishers of people. Our stained glass windows tell the story of creation, beginning with the deep waters, the formless and void. The beloved squid shines as an example of all aquatic life that God brought into existence.



We welcome all into the body of Christ through the waters of baptism, young and old alike. Among the promises we make for ourselves or for our children are "to live with the baptized one among God's faithful people, to bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, ...to nurture them in faith and prayer." (ELW pg 228) The assembly promises to support the baptized one and the family. The installation of the Prayer Pond, in the corner of our sanctuary, is a new way that the assembly can live out their promise to our littlest ones and their families.

The purpose of the Prayer Pond is to offer a welcoming and accessible worship space for our children (0-3). It is furnished with a tranquility pond rug, coordinating table and chairs, and soft animals that can be found in any pond. In time, there will be quiet books and soft books, a chair for rocking babies, and a small collapsible play gym for infants. While the children play there, they will be worshipping at the same time. Their ears will hear the songs, the prayers, the holy words of God while their hands hold onto a little fish or a beloved squid. Their presence with us in the sanctuary enables us to be a fuller representation of the body of Christ. Our worship and witness is full with their bodies and their voices, exclamations of joy and cries of sadness alike.

The Prayer Pond is one of several efforts that the St. Thomas assembly uses to help children wade into worship. Worship bags are available outside of the sanctuary for preschool to early elementary-aged children. Each bag features toys and books on a theme. The nursery (unstaffed) is available to parents during worship or after. The narthex is also a space for parents to take little ones. Speakers are located in both the nursery and the narthex to hear the service. The shared aim of all of these efforts is to help children and parents encounter God during worship, in an age-appropriate and reverent way. The parents and children can select how they would like to use, or not use, these offerings as it best fits their faith and familial piety.

As we move forward with the installation, blessing (on August 7), and implementation of the Prayer Pond, please keep the process in your prayers. If you have suggestions, concerns, or ideas, please contact Pastor Colleen. Many of the developments in the assembling of our Prayer Pond have been shaped by shared concerns and ideas. Pastor Colleen would also like to thank the incredible women of The Young Clergy Women Project for their guidance, insight, and sparks of creativity; Kris Stewart, Haley Garl, Dawn Bakken for sewing donations; and the Early Childhood Ministry, Education Committee, and Worship Committee for being sounding boards and cultivators.

We'll see you soon in worship to gather around water and word, bread and wine. The body of Christ, is more joyous, more complete and full because of your presence.

I'm going on a journey, and I'm starting today.

My head is wet, and I'm on my way.

Christ's mark is on me; it's on you too;

It says he loves me, and he loves you too.

ELW 446 I'm going on a journey



Intergenerational VBS was a blast!

We had a blast at our intergeneration VBS this summer at St. Thomas. A total of ten families and six other adults participated over the course of our three events. We learned about how we are to live out our faith and helped New Hope Family Shelter get ready to welcome families into their facilities. We had a hot night of cool snacks and even better company where Wall-E and EVE showed us how love and recycling can save the world. We learned that God's hope finds us, even on our very worst days.

Thanks to all those who helped this undertaking be a success: Stephanie Hulett, Gretchen Moehlmann, Ruth Rives, Gene Laughman, Sandy Arnold, Pauline Caldwell.

Pastor Colleen & Kelli Skram

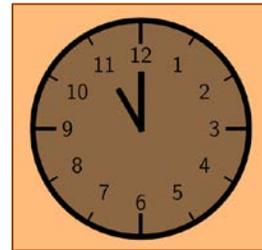


News from the St. Thomas Community Garden

The garden is in full fruit and flower. Despite a persistent rabbit presence, a bountiful harvest is on! Take a walk to the garden, enjoy the labyrinth, and see what's growing. Sunday morning is a great time to visit, when you'll find gardeners of all ages tending their plots.

Here's some news and a few tips as we head into the middle of the growing season:

- The Labyrinth Information box has been installed just outside the main gate. There you will find basic information and guidance for walking this meditative path. Thanks to Tim Kirsch for his stunning custom construction, the Iona Spiritual Growth Group for providing the guides, and to Pastor Lyle for installation.
- Have you noticed the new flower bed in the southwest corner of the garden? That's "Grandma's Corner", created by John Bush in memory of his mom. After an initial rabbit attack, the plot of Black-eyed Susans will soon be blooming there. Thanks, John, for brightening this corner.
- In the opposite corner is the expanded altar flower garden tended by Carol Seaman, Gail Seegert and friends. Be sure to walk over and see what's growing. The cedar fencing is another gift from John.
- A new bird house and carpenter bee house were also recently installed.



Return to Fall Schedule

Sunday, August 21 with

Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Education Hour at 9:45 am

No matter where you garden, now's the time to think about saving seeds and planting fall crops.

Seed-Saving: If you have heritage/non-hybrid plants, you can save seeds for next year. The key, whether flowers or veggies, is to let the fruit get completely ripe or the seed pods completely dry before harvesting. To save tomato seeds, let one or two of your best fruits ripen on the vine. Harvest the fruit and remove the seeds. Separate the seeds from the membrane by fermentation: Place the seeds in a cup of water, cover and leave in a warm spot for a few days. Watch for mold! When a film of fuzz forms over the water, your seeds are ready to rinse and spread on wax paper to dry. When completely dry, put them in an envelope labeled with the variety name, date, and any other details you want to remember, and store in a cool, dark place until next season.

Help yourself to any seeds you find in the herb garden, except the Sweet Annie (smells heavenly and, when dried, its seeds figure prominently in floral arrangements).

Note that some plants take two years to go to seed, such as carrots and broccoli. Come to Seed Saving 2.0 with Roger Hartwell to learn more. We'll keep you posted on those details.

Fall Planting: Between now and mid-August you can plant fall crops. These are plants that prefer to ripen in cooler weather. Beets, turnips, kale, and peas are all great candidates for fall cropping.

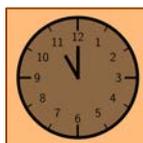
Please be sure to latch the gate if you're the last to leave the garden. The mechanism tends to resist - just check that the catch is engaged.



2016 grad Marissa Tweed finalist for David H.C. Read Preacher/Scholar Award

A few days before receiving her master of divinity degree from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, Marissa Tweed learned that she was one of three finalists for the David H.C. Read Preacher/Scholar Award. Tweed was one of 20 students from 16 theological schools across North America who submitted materials for the award. Tweed and the other finalists received a \$1,000 award and warm congratulations from the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in New York City, which administers the competition. This was the final year of the award.

"The application process for the H.C. Read scholarship is intense and the competition stiff. We heartily congratulate Marissa on her hard work and gifted abilities for exegesis and the preaching moment that resulted in her being awarded this ecumenical and prestigious award," said Jan Rippentrop, Axel Jacob and Gerda Maria (Swanson) Carlson Chair in Homiletics, and Tweed's preaching professor this year. Tweed is a graduate of the University of Florida, Gainesville. She planned to attend medical school but a strong call to pastoral ministry led her to seminary. She is assigned to the Indiana-Kentucky Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, where she has received a call as pastor to a two point congregation.



Return to Fall Schedule Sunday, August 21

with Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Education Hour at 9:45 am

Do you (or someone you care for) have a disability or special need that you want first responders to be aware of? Register in the Special Needs Registry! It is important for a responder (a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician) to know that a resident has a visual, hearing, mobility condition or other needs. Once you voluntarily register, when someone from your residence calls 911, dispatch employees will know about your needs and be better able to provide appropriate services. We have forms available in the office if you let us know.

August Anniversaries

Peter & Leah Iversen 8/2/2008 8 years
Jim & Marti Doering 8/5/1985 31 years
Brian & Gail Bourkland 8/7/1993 23 years
John & Marilyn Harder 8/9/1958 58 years
Kent & Barb Unger 8/27/1967 46 years

August Birthdays

8/2 *Ron Brown*
 8/4 *Karl Teskey*
 8/7 *Bruce Colston, Lucille Ricketts, Harrison Wyatt*
 8/12 *Evelyn Niemeyer*
 8/13 *Gretchen Moehlmann*
 8/20 *Jennifer Garl*
 8/23 *Alex Nixon*
 8/24 *Ben Eichmiller*
 8/25 *Rebecca Dilger*
 8/26 *Kaleb Rich*
 8/29 *Doug Bauder, Marie Briddell, Debbie Nixon, Cindy Ohslund, Dorothy Soudakoff*
 8/31 *Justin Rust*
 8/31 *Leila Watters*

August food Items for MCUM

Cooking oil

Sugar

Ramen noodles

Non-food items

Adult toothbrushes, Children's toothpaste

Toilet bowl cleaner

August 12-14

Save
The
Date



Each
One
Feed
One

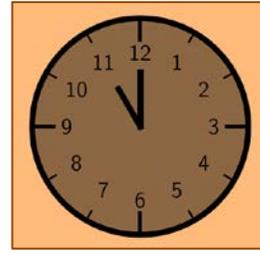


One weekend • 8 tons of food • 1,400 Monroe County residents fed

If you wish to Unsubscribe from this list
or update your preferences
please email: kayehill@stlconline.org



Our mailing address is:
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, ELCA
3800 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401
www.stlconline.wordpress.com



Return to Fall Schedule
Sunday, August 21
with Worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am
Education Hour at 9:45 am

AUGUST -- SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS 2016

	AUGUST 7	AUGUST 14	AUGUST 21	*AUGUST 28	SEPTEMBER 4	*SEPTEMBER 11	SEPTEMBER 18
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
DEACON	Lindsey Smith	Kris Stewart	Gail Seegert	K Boggess	Lindsey Smith	David Rohlfing	Gail Seegert
LECTOR	S Dorr Binder	P Caldwell	Bob Cutter	Lynn Coyne	David Ellies	ML Nierzwicki	Dana Barron
ACOLYTE	L Rademacher	Matthew Schacht	E Goldsworthy	Max Arterberry	Natalie Schacht	Natalie Shupe	Zach May
SERVER	Martha Selk	Shirley Mingee	David Ellies	Kent Unger	Barb Unger	Jean Brown	Gene Laughman
USHERS	J/M Doering	L/U Coyne	G/G Laughman	D/D Nixon	F/M Nierzwicki	J/M Doering	L/U Coyne
GREETERS	E Niemeyer	Mary Sasse	B/K Unger	David Ellies	M/J Laros	Jean Brown	Shirley Mingee
CRUCIFER							
FLOWERS		Erin Wyatt		K/B Unger			Gretchen Moehlman
BREAD/WINE	R Hershberger	M/J Laros	Chris Ogan	M O'Connor	G/G Laughman	Mary Sasse	Jean Brown
COUNCIL CO	S/M Eichmiller	Cindy Gallien	John Bush	Dean Arnold	Ashley Ahlbrand	Cindy Gallien	Cindy Gallien
	Charles Sweet	A Ahlbrand	Dennis Baurle	Kim Filiatraut	S/M Eichmiller	G Moehlman	Dennis Baurle
ALTAR GUILD	Jean Brown	Cindy Gallien	Ute Coyne	Evelyn Niemeyer	Gail Seegert	Evelyn Niemeyer	
	Carole Kirsch	Mary Sasse	Charlene Braun	Charlene Braun	Susan Lehr	Betty Smith	
	AUGUST 7	AUGUST 14	AUGUST 21	AUGUST 28	*SEPTEMBER 4	SEPTEMBER 11	*SEPTEMBER 18
	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
DEACON	M O'Connor	A Ahlbrand	L Hitchcock	Claire Repsholdt	Gary Ingersoll	Betty Smith	M O'Connor
LECTOR	Peter Iversen	Maren Foley	David Daleke	Deb Moore	Vicki Polansky	Jennifer Garl	Kathy McDonald
ACOLYTE	Sam Polansky	Mitchell Knipstein	M Bourkland	Leah Knipstein	Truman Daleke	Nina Daleke	Sophia Watters
SERVER	David Daleke	Chris Ogan	Stephanie Biehn	Gary Ingersoll	Katie Anderson	L Hitchcock	Sharon Fawbush
USHERS	P/L May	McDonald/Ohslund	Baurle/Filiatraut	D/S Arnold	Kaye Hill	P/L May	McDonald/Ohslund
GREETER	J/R Steele	T/J Garl	M O'Connor	C/K McDonald	Ruth Rives	Chris Ogan	Deb Moore
CRUCIFER							

August 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Community Band 7pm	2 UClub Yoga 10	3 Friday Musical Board 9:30 am Jazz Band 7 pm	4	5	6 Property Co 10 am
7 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15	8 SIREN 5:30 pm Personnel Co 7:00 pm Community Band 7pm	9 UClub Yoga 10	10 Swing Band 7 pm Mission Co 6:45 pm	11	12	13
14 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15 MCUM Each One Feed One 1:30 pm	15 Community Band 7pm Spinners/Weavers 7 pm	16 UClub Yoga 10	17 Jazz Band 7 pm	18 Finance 6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	19	20
21 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Installation of SCS Teachers Education Hour 9:45am SCS Kick off 9:45 am Youth Group Kick-off 5pm Children's Violin Recital 3:00	22 Community Band 7pm	23 UClub Yoga 10	24 Swing Band 7 pm	25	26	27
28 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45am Confirmation Class 9:45 am	29 Community Band 7pm	30 UClub Yoga 10	31 Jazz Band 7 pm			