



# *St. Thomas Lutheran Church News*

*February 2015  
XXXVII, Issue No. 2*

## *Anticipating Lent*

Lent comes early this year. Ash Wednesday is on February 18. In anticipation of Lent, the Worship Committee has selected a theme for our mid-week worship services (noon and 7:00 p.m.). The theme is “The Way of the Cross,” adapted from what have come to be known as “The Stations of the Cross.”

Now, you may think that this is an entirely Roman Catholic theme. But there is a long-standing tradition within protestant congregations, including Lutheran, related to these stations. In fact, there is a related worship service called “The Way of the Cross” in our Lutheran hymnal called “This Far by Faith” which will inform our worship. Instead of the Roman fourteen stations that one may see lining many Roman Catholic naves, we recognize eight. Those eight are the ones with clear biblical references, and they provide the bases for our Lenten reflections this year.

The Stations of the Cross refer to the various events in the final hours of Jesus’ life as a structure for prayer and meditation (also called the Via Crucis or Way of the Cross). These events encompass Jesus’ journey carrying his cross from the Judgment Hall of Pilate where he was condemned to death to the site of his execution on Golgotha (Calvary).

As part of their acts of devotion, early Christian pilgrims to Jerusalem retraced the route of Jesus as he carried his cross to his death. As the practice developed, the starting point for this journey through the streets of Jerusalem began in the ruins of the Fortress of Antonia that originally housed Pilate’s Judgment Hall, now incorporated into the Ecce Homo Convent. It concluded at the ancient Church of the Holy Sepulcher that marks the traditional site of Golgotha and the tomb of Jesus. The route later (16<sup>th</sup> century) came to be called the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Sorrow. Along the way, various points on the journey (stations) are associated with specific events recounted in the gospels.

The Way of the Cross is still a popular devotional practice, both in congregations and as pilgrimages in Jerusalem. Be sure to see the details of our plans for following Christ’s journey to the cross later in this newsletter.

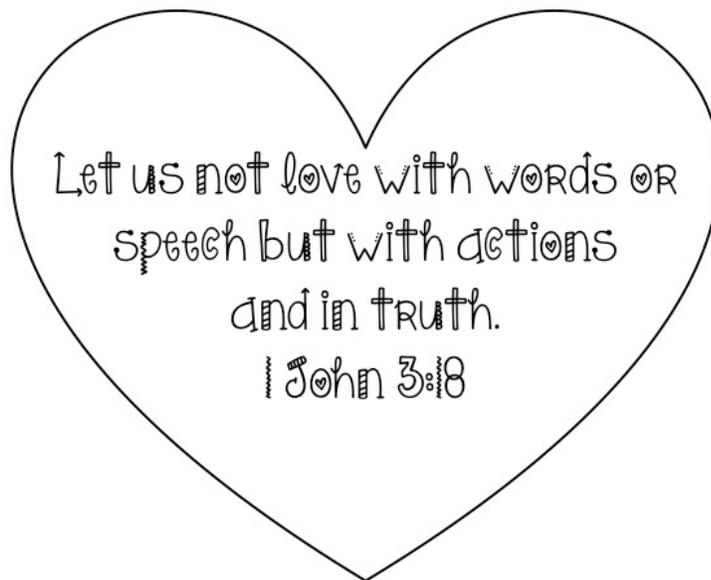
Grace and peace, Pastor Lyle

## *From the Associate Pastor's Desk...*

Last year in my February newsletter note, I shared my love of Valentine's Day and included a valentine for you from God. As it turns out, I still love Valentine's Day and wanted to share another commendation to love for our community.

Just like last year, I will say that every day is a wonderful day to remember, celebrate, and embrace God's love for us! God loves us unconditionally and thoroughly no matter what we do. However, in the chaos of daily living we can lose sight of this love. I hope that this Valentine's Day, you can take pause and remember God's love for you and share this love with those in your life.

The Valentine Verse I selected this year comes from 1 John and encourages us to live out God's love in our actions. Sometimes our words can seem empty, tired, or lacking in enthusiasm. Acts of love and truth can breathe life into our words the same way God lovingly breathed life into us. Sharing actions of love may include setting aside time to spend with family or friends, donating time or money to a local charity, loving the earth by re-invigorating your recycling efforts at home, or letting a friend know you are praying for her/him. I invite you to print out the valentine below, color it, and hang it somewhere you will see it to remind you to love all of God's creations with your actions.



This February will also mark the beginning of our Lenten journey. The pastoral and music staffs are currently planning meaningful mid-week services called "The Way of the Cross". Each week we will reflection on one of the eight Lutheran stations of the cross. I hope that you and your families will join us in this discipline. Also in the coming weeks I will be sharing a special Lenten devotional booklet for families. My prayer is that this resource will enliven the way to mark Lent at home.

As always, I am available for conversation about prayer requests, youth and family ministry, educational ministry, and anything else you would like to chat about!

Peace,  
Pastor Colleen Montgomery

## *Following “The Way of the Cross” in Lent*

During Lent, we follow the path of our Lord along the Way of Sorrow as he carries his cross from his place of condemnation to his place of death. Please join us as we reflect on these events recounted in scripture and their significance for our journeys of faith.

Mid-week worship is at noon and 7:00 p.m., beginning on Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18	Christ is condemned to death
Mid-Week Lent 1, Feb. 25	Jesus takes up his cross
Mid-Week Lent 2, March 4	The cross is laid on Simon of Cyrene
Mid-Week Lent 3, March 11	Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem
Mid-Week Lent 4, March 18	Jesus is stripped of his garments
Mid-Week Lent 5, March 25	Jesus is nailed to the cross
Maundy Thursday, April 2	Jesus dies on the cross
Good Friday, April 3	Jesus is laid in the tomb



## *An Update on the Capital Campaign*

### **and Phase II Plans from the Council President:**

Every family in the congregation should have recently received a letter from the capital campaign steering committee informing you about the gifts and pledges received to date. Where do we go from here? By the time the council meets again on February 8, we will have an update from Jeff Knauer, our campaign consultant, as to what the final numbers will be for the campaign. Council has also requested that Entheos Architects provide us with a breakdown of the costs of various segments of the Phase II construction and renovation. At our meeting, we will work to put these two things together and produce a recommendation to the congregation as to what we can do with the funds that you have committed. Please expect another newsletter update in March and an announcement of an informational forum sometime in March or early April so that everyone in the congregation can be part of the decision-making process.



## *Caring Community Workshop – Part 3*

Join in the continuing conversation on “Living Well Our Final Days.” Part 3 is set for February 15 following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. We’ll begin with lunch at 12:30 and begin the workshop at 1:00 p.m. This will be Part 3 of “Considering the Conversation,” and is a caring community workshop sponsored by our Lay Care Visitors. Sign-up in the Narthex beginning February 1<sup>st</sup>.

## *February 2015 Adult Forum*

February 1, Culture of Conversation, Sanctuary: Join Pastor Lyle for an open conversation about the ministries and missions of St. Thomas.

February 8: Spiritual Growth Meeting Time

February 15: Open! Have an idea? Contact Pastor Colleen

February 22, Know the 10 Signs, Kelly Litster: This workshop will be presented by the Alzheimer's Association. If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it's time to learn the facts. Early detection of Alzheimer's disease gives you a chance to begin drug therapy, enroll in clinical studies and plan for the future. This interactive workshop features video clips of people with Alzheimer's disease.



## *Next Book of Faith: Ruth*

The next Book of Faith study will be the book of Ruth, and it will be led by our Pastoral Intern, Marissa Tweed. Join us beginning Monday, January 26th at 7pm in the Conference Room. Books are available for pick up in the church office.



## *Youth Group February and March Schedule*

Sunday, February 8: Youth group @ St. Thomas, 5:30-7:30pm

Tuesday, February 17: Shrove Tuesday Youth & Family Dinner, 5:30-7:30pm. See details in article and email.

Sunday, March 8: Youth group @ St. Thomas, 5:30-7:30pm

Sunday, March 22: Youth group @ St. Thomas, 5:30-7:30pm



*The St. Thomas Youth are proud to share that we are participating in the 2015 Souper Bowl of Caring!*

Souper Bowl of Caring uses the energy around our nation's biggest sporting event to mobilize and inspire youth to fight hunger and poverty. All the across the country, churches and schools will take up collections and give 100% of the donations to local charities. We will report our total collected to Souper Bowl of

Caring so our contribution can be added to the national total. This year we will be donating to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

We will collect donations on February 1, 2015 after each church service.

# *Shrove Tuesday Youth & Family Dinner*

**Tuesday, February 17, 5:30-7:30pm**



Youth and their families are invited to celebrate the most glorious pancake holiday of the whole year: Shrove Tuesday! We'll prepare our stomachs, hearts, and spirits for the season of Lent. For dinner we'll have pancakes! Pastor Colleen is obsessed with pancakes, so you can be sure that this will be an awesome evening.

In addition to eating pancakes, we'll have a "60 Second or Less Talent Show!" During the Lenten season we strive to be reflective and repentant. Laughing a lot before Lent begins helps! ALL members of your family are invited to share a talent. This can be music, humor, demonstrating an athletic skills, sharing/creating an artistic piece, poetry or dramatic reading.

Pastor Colleen is also creating a family Lenten devotional booklet called The Way of the Cross. We'll go through the booklet together to help prepare your family to share a faithful season of Lent.

If you and your family want to come, please let Pastor Colleen know by Wednesday, February 11. We will need help with set-up, clean-up, and with a host for our talent show. Contact Pastor Colleen if you would like to help.



## *News from our Fifth and Sixth Grade*

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class had a busy fall under the guidance of teachers Christiana Redman, Dana Barron, and Ronna Papesh. We began our year by constructing a large keystone arch, with each member of our class represented by one "stone" and Jesus Christ as the keystone piece. This reminded us that each of us has important and valuable gifts to bring to the body of Christ and that Jesus is our cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20). We invite you to visit our classroom to see the colorful result on our wall!

Using the Spark curriculum from Augsburg Fortress, we spent the last few months exploring some of the great Old Testament stories. We read about God's creation (Genesis 1:1-2:4) and discussed how we can care for it, participating in a scavenger hunt at the congregational Mission Fair. We then went on a journey with Abram when he was called by God to leave his homeland (Genesis 12:1-9), practiced hospitality with Abraham and Sarah as they received angel visitors (Genesis 18:1-15), wrote some of the Ten Commandments in our own words (Exodus 20:1-17), and knocked down walls with Joshua in Jericho (Joshua 6:1-20). We also read about Noah's Ark, Isaac's Blessing, Freeing the Israelites from Slavery, and the Red Sea Crossing.

In December and January, we developed a board game around the Christmas story. We compared the different versions of Christ's birth in the four Gospels and designed the rules and pieces of a game to help us learn and remember the details. On January 25, we will host a party in which we play the game with our parents.



## *Please Pray for Our Sister Parish Delegation:*

We hope that by the time you read this our five delegates from Chichipate, Guatemala, will have received their visas to come to Bloomington in April. In the next few weeks, you will be hearing more about a movie night in March and a forum in April to prepare us for their visit. While we wait and they prepare, the Sister Parish Interest Group asks that you keep the delegates and all of the people of Chichipate and the Sister Parish organization in your prayers.



## *From our Intern*

The end of February marks 6 months of internship, and what a marvelous 6 months of learning, sharing, and growing it has been! The Internship Committee, Pastor Lyle, and I will all be completing 6 month internship evaluation forms to be submitted by the end of this month.

During our Internship Committee meetings we have discussed topics such as preaching, teaching (confirmation, campus ministry, and Book of Faith), pastoral care/visitation, and self-care practices. It has been both a joy and a blessing to work with all of you in this chapter of growth and development in my formation as a pastoral leader.

As we head into Lent I am even more aware of the small moments in which we are able to connect with each other in the midst of busy schedules and agendas: Over a cup of tea/coffee in the narthex before worship, exchanging hellos in the church office, praying together at the beginning of committee meetings. These small encounters can be, and many times for me are, the building blocks of meaningful community together. I look forward to connecting further with you soon!

Marissa Tweed



## *Volunteers Needed: LCM Sunday Lunch Program*

One of the things students miss most while away at school is home-cooked meals. At St. Thomas, we try to make our students feel at home by providing lunch almost every Sunday of the school year. If you are interested in providing a lunch for the LCM students this Spring, email Ashley Ahlbrand at [aaahlbra@indiana.edu](mailto:aaahlbra@indiana.edu).



## *Easy Giving: The LCM Grocery Card Program*

A couple of months ago, I gave a Temple Talk about a significant fundraising program for the Lutheran Campus Ministry - the Grocery Card Program. This program allows you to contribute to LCM *without actually spending any extra money*. All we ask you to do is modify the way you pay for your groceries. Here's how it works: **Marsh** and **Bloomingfoods** offer non-reloadable gift cards, which you can order by emailing Ashley Ahlbrand at [aaahlbra@indiana.edu](mailto:aaahlbra@indiana.edu). Tell Ashley the amount you want on your card, and she will have it for you the

following Sunday at church. Orders are due to Ashley by 5 PM Tuesday. Every time you get a Marsh or Bloomingfoods card from us, those stores pay LCM 5% of the amount of the card (so for a \$100 card, LCM gets \$5).

**Kroger** also offers a rewards program, but the format for its program is changing. We will announce further details in the coming months.

Although 5% does not sound like much, it adds up. This year alone the Grocery Card Program has contributed **\$2,926.73** to LCM! If you have any questions about the Grocery Card Program, or you would like to order a grocery card, please email Ashley Ahlbrand at [aaahlbra@indiana.edu](mailto:aaahlbra@indiana.edu). Thank you for your support of the Lutheran Campus Ministry.



## *Mission Endowment Fund Call for Proposals*

The Mission Endowment Fund provides funding for special projects at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, local outreach, and missions beyond the local community. Distributions from the endowment are made quarterly and are for programs or projects not already supported by the congregation's budget. Any member of St. Thomas may submit a proposal by completing the paper or electronic forms available from the church office. If you have a project in need of funding, please submit an application by one of the quarterly deadlines: before the first day of February, May, and August, and November. If you have questions, please contact the office or David Daleke, Chair of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee.



## *Lutheran Hills Camp in Brown County, IN Needs Volunteers.*

Hi, my name is Sam Roberts. I am the resident manager at the Lutheran Hills Camp in Brown County and I am reaching out for volunteers to help with mowing grass at the camp. We would love to have a rotation of volunteers come in to help mow our many, many acres of grass. In exchange, we would offer free fishing and tent camping for anyone willing to help. We are located approximately 35 - 40 minutes from St. Thomas.

Unfortunately, since this is large equipment you must be 18 or older to help.

Thank you so much for your help!

Sam Roberts  
Lutheran Hills  
317-796-3100

*Happy Birthday To These Members  
Celebrating In February*

If we don't have your birthdate, please call the church office so we may include you!

- 2/2 Yvonne Leber, Brian Wheeler  
2/3 Dave Belbutoski  
2/4 Debra Schmidt, Eliot Smith  
2/6 Marian Baughman, Elizabeth Gaskins  
2/8 Julia Bourkland, Tim Climis  
Rachel Wheeler  
2/9 Sara Fawbush Johnson, Amanda Madsen  
2/10 Antonia Daleke  
Matthew Schacht  
2/11 Darrell Boggess  
2/17 Ronna Papesh  
2/18 Gretchen Mundy  
2/19 Shaun Caudill  
2/20 Bob Ellis  
2/22 Monet Lahn  
2/23 Kay Eagleman  
2/24 Isaak Fogleman

*Two Worship and the Arts  
Concerts in February*

On Sunday February 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm a concert featuring newly transcribed Ecuadorian music of the 18<sup>th</sup> century will be performed by the Ensemble Lipzodes and directed by Juan Carlos Arango.

On Sunday February 22 the Bach Cantata Project will perform a concert directed by Sarah Huebsch with a lecture by Daniel Melamed.

*MCUM Food Pantry Items  
for February:*

Canned fruit, dried fruit and applesauce  
Baking mixes, Peanut butter, Fruit Juice

Cleaning Closet Needs

Baby wipes, baby shampoo  
Cleaners – windows, bathroom, floor  
Shaving cream

**Our mailing address is:  
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**Unsubscribe from this list or update  
your preferences by emailing:  
[kayehill@stlconline.org](mailto:kayehill@stlconline.org)**

## Feburary - March 2015 Volunteer Schedule

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 18	February 22	March 1	March 8
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	Ash Wednesday	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
DEACON	R Hershberger	Gail Seegert	R Hershberger	M O'Connor	Marissa Tweed	Kathleen Boggess	Kris Stewart
LECTOR	David Ellies	Judy Bush	Lynn Coyne	Pauline Caldwell	Bob Cutter	Nancy Mathews	Gail Seegert
ACOLYTE	A Goldsworthy	Gretchen Wheeler	Lilly Rademacher		Erica Goldsworthy	Madelyn Shupe	Natalie Schacht
SERVER	Shirley Mingee	ML Nierzwicki	Mary Sasse		Gail Seegert	Jean Brown	Barb Unger
USHERS	F/ML Nierzwicki	G/G Laughman	G/G Laughman		J/M Doering	D/D Nixon	F/ML Nierzwicki
GREETERS	G/G Laughman	Evelyn Niemeyer	Carl Ziegler		M/C Braun	M/J Laros	J/J Bush
NURSERY	Pauline Caldwell	Susan Krieg	Susan Krieg		Tiffany Shupe	Pauline Caldwell	Tiffany Shupe
CRUCIFER			David Ellies				
FLOWERS	G/G Laughman			No Altar Flowers during Lent -----			
BREAD/WINE	Evelyn Niemeyer	D/K Boggess	Mary Sasse	Marie Briddell	M/J Laros	M/C Braun	F/ML Nierzwicki
COUNCIL CO	John Bush	Dawn Bakken	John Bush		Cindy Gallien		
	Maren Foley	Tim Climis	Dennis Baurle		Ashley Ahlbrand		
ALTAR GUILD	Gail Seegert	Cindy Gallien	Beverly Lingvai	Mary Sasse	Ute Coyne	Evelyn Niemeyer	Ute Coyne
	Carole Kirsch	Susan Lehr	Pauline Caldwell		Mary Sasse	Carole Kirsch	Charlene Braun
	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 18	February 22	March 1	March 8
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	Ash Wednesday	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
DEACON	Tim Climis	Ashley Ahlbrand	Gary Ingersoll	David Rohlfig	Marissa Tweed	Julia Bourkland	Julia Bourkland
LECTOR	Lyman Hitchcock	Debbie Selk	Kathy McDonald	Charles Sweet	Deb Moore	Carol Seaman	Ashley Alhbrand
ACOLYTE	Birch Foley	Nina Daleke	Monet Lahn	Kenna Dimick	Hannah Ringquist	Matthew Bourkland	Rachel Bourkland
SERVER	Deb Owens	Carol Seaman	Sandy Arnold	Lyman Hitchcock	Katie Anderson	Stephanie Biehn	M O'Connor
USHERS	P/L May	Baurle/Filiatrault	D/S Arnold	Hill/Owens	Ohslund/McDonald	P/L May	Baurle/Filiatrault
GREETER	Kathy McDonald	Katie Anderson	Kim Filiatrault	Gail Seegert	Marie Briddell	Karen Blaisdell	B/J Smith
NURSERY	Cindy Ohslund	Jane Warner	Haley Garl		Lauren Wright	Cindy Ohslund	Jane Warner
CRUCIFER			Charles Sweet				

# February 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 <b>Worship @ 8:30 &amp; 11:00</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7
Education Hour 9:45	Community Band 7:00	U Club Yoga 10:00 Worship Co 6:30 Mission Co 6:45	Friday Musicale Board 9:30 am	Finance Co 6 pm Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm		Property Co 10:00
8 <b>Worship @ 8:30 &amp; 11:00</b>	9	10	11	12	13	14
Education Hour 9:45 Congregation Council 12:30 Ensemble Lipzodes 4:00 pm Youth Group meets 5:30	First Call 10:00 am Community Band 7:00	U Club Yoga 10:00 Quilters Guild 6 pm		Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm	Recital 5:30 pm	
15 <b>Worship @ 8:30 &amp; 11:00</b>	16	17	18 <b>Ash Wed</b>	19	20	21
Education Hour 9:45 Consider the Conversation 1:00 pm	Community Band 7:00 Spinner/Weaver 7:00 pm Community Band 7:00	U Club Yoga 10:00 Men's Group 7 pm	Worship at noon and 7 pm	Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm		Bach Rehearsal 1:00 pm
22 <b>Worship @ 8:30 &amp; 11:00</b>	23	24	25	26	27	28
Education Hour 9:45 Bach Cantata 2:30 pm	Community Band 7:00	U Club Yoga 10:00	Lenten Service at noon and 7 pm	Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm		

**ST. THOMAS  
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in covenant with

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**Linked with "Sister Parish"**

Iglesia Santo Domingo de  
Guzman, Chichipate Parish of  
San Pedro, El Estor, Izabal,  
Guatemala

## Our Mission

We are a Christ- centered community that lives, shares  
and celebrates God's grace with all people!

## Vision

To nurture a mission centered community that  
values the faith, gifts, and ministry of all God's people  
calls and prepares us to live our faith in daily word and action  
equips and sends disciples for outreach  
works together as a body to extend and strengthen  
the church of Christ Jesus  
practices responsible stewardship of all creation

## Core Values

Community centered on Christ Jesus  
God's Grace                      God's Word and Sacraments  
Communication                  Compassion                  Diversity

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU are  
Reconciling in Christ Ministries of Lutherans Concerned.**

February

