



# St. Thomas Lutheran Church

February 2017  
XXXIX, Issue II

## Farewell and Godspeed to our Associate Pastor, Colleen Montgomery

Pastor Colleen's final Sunday with us is February 5, 2017. She will preach and preside at communion. And we will bid her "Farewell and Godspeed" in a special rite during worship. Pastor Colleen has accepted a new call to become pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wytheville, Virginia.

Join the congregation for these special worship services and for a reception in Pastor Colleen's honor.

### Schedule:

- 8:30 a.m. – Worship with "Farewell & Godspeed"
- 9:45 a.m. – Reception in the narthex
- 11:00 a.m. – Worship with "Farewell & Godspeed"
- 12:15 p.m. – Reception in the narthex

Let's make this a gracious day of celebrating Pastor Colleen's ministry among us as we wish her every blessing and pray for her new ministry.



# Epiphany Sparks New Mission

The season of Epiphany celebrates the revelation of Christ to all nations as represented by the magi who come to worship Jesus, marked liturgically on January 6. The season extends to the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday—the Transfiguration of our Lord. So, Epiphany is all about the mission of Christ in the world—how Christ is made manifest in various ways and places.

In short, Epiphany is intended to help us reflect upon and be engaged in Christ's mission in the world, continuing the work begun with the magi.

Why does this seem so relevant at this particular time? Well, it has to do with several matters. We lift up in prayer our mission partners during this season. We anticipate a mission trip to The Lutheran Church of the Living Waters in March. And we bid a fond farewell to one of our closest and beloved mission partners in early February.

Colleen Montgomery is the mission partner to whom I refer. I don't suppose that most folks think of her in this way, but I do. She came to us as a student, training among us for mission and ministry. She moved immediately thereafter into work as our Minister of Youth and Christian Nurture. And then we chose as a congregation to extend to Colleen a call for her to serve as our Associate Pastor. It was a call from God, affirmed by the people of St. Thomas, and authorized and effected by the Holy Spirit through the church at her ordination held here in December of 2014.

These steps on the path of Pastor Colleen, ordained minister and missionary of the Lutheran Church, have been significant, joyful, and spiritually profound. We have nurtured her through the power of the Holy Spirit, and we have been nurtured by her in that same Spirit. We have grown together in mission and ministry. We have shared deeply and enjoyed liturgical and programmatic blessings. We have planted seeds together, cared well for them, and watched in wonder as the blessings of good fruit have sprung up among us.

And now this partner in mission and ministry has responded to the Holy Spirit's call to be in mission elsewhere. Pastor Colleen will begin a new pastorate in a new mission field in early March—at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Wytheville, Virginia.

I believe that this is a matter for celebration. Yes, of course it is hard for us to see one who has grown and served with us for a season depart. Pastor Colleen will be sorely missed. But we may also celebrate the mutual ministry we have shared, the give and take, the growth in grace. And we may see the Holy Spirit active for the good of the mission of the Church in making fuller use of this servant of Christ's gifts in a new place.

We may embrace this as a new epiphany, a new expression of and manifestation of Christ's mission in the world. As we welcomed her as a gift from God, so now we send her as a gift from God to be engaged anew in Christ's mission in the world, continuing the work begun with the magi.

We wish Pastor Colleen farewell, Godspeed, and every blessing.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Lyle



# From the Associate Pastor's Desk...

Friday night worship at Camp Lutherlyn was the emotional and spiritual closing of the week life-changing adventures in faith. This is the camp where I worked and still attend with my family each summer. The central component of the worship service was the time of affirmation. Counselors would individually affirm their campers, telling them what gifts from God we saw in them and how we saw God working through them. Affirmations included physical touch, naming the relationship, sharing of the affirmation, and an individual prayer. This is the best way I know how to say goodbye. So close your eyes, imagine we're all sitting in those beloved orange sanctuary chairs, and receive this affirmation.

I didn't know that I could love in the way that I love you until I became your pastor. Being your pastoral intern and minister of youth and Christian nurture were incredible experiences, but something really changed for me on December 12, 2014. Beyond mere investment in my formation as a leader for the church, you invited me to yours. What an amazing affirmation of my call and our shared ministry! Being your pastor has been one of my life's greatest joys. Thank you for calling me to this journey here and traveling the way together. Each of you, from the youngest to the oldest, has special place in my heart.

I have witnessed countless gifts from God alive in this congregation as a whole and inside of you individually. Our body is complex, dynamic, and beautiful. Here are the two I experience as most central.

*You are passionate.* Nothing is really done half-way at St. Thomas. You are a people that go all in. You go all in for worship, for formation, for mission, for each other. You are secure in your ministry and mission and you work to live out God's love in a myriad of ways both at St. Thomas and the community. You are also passionate about your other interests as well, athletics, arts, outdoor adventures, education, and activism. (The list goes on.) You bring joy, skill, and the light of Christ in all these places as well. You are invested in your faith, your church, your families, and the world. I pray that your passion drives you to continue to grow in faith, love, and commitment for justice for all God's people and creation.

*You are open and curious.* Despite being a highly educated congregation, one where faith formation is a priority for all ages, you still are hungry to learn more, engage more, and to try new things. You know that there are stories of God's beloved creation and creatures that you still haven't heard. You listen, you learn, and you respond. You have beloved traditions, but you're willing to make changes, adapt, and embrace new elements. I pray that you continue to be open and curious, that you listen deeply to each other and the world around us, and that you are always open to how God might be leading you in a new way.

I have so many prayers for you and for your future here in Bloomington, and wherever God might call you. I pray that God's love for you and for all the world is always at the core of your identity, the forefront of your mind, and the guiding light for your actions. I pray that you always feel God's forgiveness, especially when you feel the most unforgivable. I pray that you find joy in your life together, in the most obvious places, the most tedious places, the most tender places, and the darkest places. I pray that you remember that we are all connected in Christ, and I'm so thankful that we got to be so closely connected for these years. Amen.

I hope to see many of you in worship on February 5<sup>th</sup> to say "see you later" in person. However, you won't be able to be there that day, feel free to reach out or send a note. You're always in my heart and in my prayers.

Peace in Christ, now and always,  
Pastor Colleen



# Clergy Renewal Update

A small portion of the clergy renewal program for Pastor McKee will take place in February. Members will recall that the congregation was awarded a \$50,000 grant to cover expenses for the renewal program, including pastoral coverage during Pastor McKee's time away—primarily this coming summer.

The grant comes from Lilly Endowment to support reflection and renewal, including travel, scholarly research, and immersive experiences with various cultures and traditions. The grant seeks to offer funding to pastors and congregations for “what makes your heart sing.”

One portion of the renewal program that was funded involves Pastor McKee expanding his woodworking skills. He will attend a week-long workshop at the John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina that will teach the advanced use of both power and hand tools under the title “Build an Arts and Crafts Bookcase.” Pastor McKee hopes that his honed skills will assist his work in constructing a kitchenette in his basement using wood milled from lumber harvested from his property.

The course is set for February 19-25. Pastor McKee will spend some time in nearby Cherokee, North Carolina prior to the course. He will preach at our partner congregation, The Lutheran Church of the Living Waters, on Sunday, February 19.

While this activity is not a part of the core of the clergy renewal program, it is certainly part of doing what is dear to his heart. And it provides an opportunity to visit with Pastor Jack Russell and the people of Living Waters.



## Food Collection for Living Waters

Living Waters Lutheran Church in Cherokee, North Carolina has asked that we donate “meal stretchers” that Pastor McKee can transport when he goes there to preach on Sunday, February 19. Good options include things like hamburger helper, tuna, and spam.

The Living Waters pantry served 143 families on January 25<sup>th</sup> and they can use all the help they can get. There will be a designated place for your contributions in the narthex.



## February 2017 Adult Forum

February 5: Farewell and Godspeed to Pastor Colleen: There will be a reception between services and after late service to say “see you later” to Pastor Colleen. This will be her final Sunday at St. Thomas.

February 12: Rick Steves' Luther and the Reformation viewing, Conference room, hosted by Kim Filiatrault. From the DVD, “Along with the Renaissance, the Protestant Reformation represented the growing pains of a Europe evolving from the Middle Ages into the modern age. Today, on the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this pivotal event in European history, Rick Steves travels in the footsteps of Martin Luther—distilling the story of that

bold monk, the chaos of the Reformation, and the larger political, economic, and theological context into an engaging, inspiring, and enlightening hour.” Come for the film and snacks!

February 19: Reflections on the Women’s March on Washington, Conference Room. Come to see pictures, hear stories and reflections, and next steps about the Women’s March on Washington.

February 26: TBD



## Youth Group Schedule, Winter 2017

February 5, 5:30-7:30pm - Regular youth group at St. Thomas

February 19, 5:30-7:30pm - Regular youth group at St. Thomas

Tuesday, February 28, 5:30-7:30pm – Shrove Tuesday Dinner & 60 Second or Less Talent Show.

March 5, 5:30-7:30pm - Regular youth group at St. Thomas

March 19, 5:30-7:30pm - Regular youth group at St. Thomas

April 2, 5:30-7:30pm - Regular youth group at St. Thomas

Saturday, April 15 – Easter Brunch Work Day

April 16 – Easter Brunch



The St. Thomas Youth are proud to share that we are participating in the 2017 Souper Bowl of Caring!

[tacklehunger.org](http://tacklehunger.org) 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 5, 2017 after each church service.



## Faith Forte

Parents and toddlers continue to meet in Heritage Hall the 2nd Sunday each month during the Sunday School hour. We sing songs led by Debbie DeWitt and enjoy each other's company. All are welcome!



## Intergenerational Fiber Arts Group

Knitting for the young with the Intergenerational Fiber Arts Group: We plan to meet in February (TBD) to begin teaching any children interested in knitting or how to continue their ongoing projects. Please let Leah Iversen know if you and/or your child are interested! Keep your eyes out for a date in the Weekly Bulletin. Leah: 812-320-2017, [leahbethsinn@hotmail.com](mailto:leahbethsinn@hotmail.com)



## Kroger Shoppers - Support Rose House:

If you shop at Kroger, you can enroll your Kroger shopping rewards card each year in January and ensure that a percentage of your purchases will be directed to Rose House throughout the calendar year. Visit [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards) and select Rose House (Lutheran Campus Ministry at IU) as recipient of your donation - if you do not yet have an account, you must first create one with Kroger. If you have enrolled your card in the past, please remember that you must re-enroll your card each year after January 1 in order for your donations to continue to go to Rose House. When signing up, you'll need to have your card number and our NPO number with Kroger: 11060. You will need this number when you walk through the steps of registering your card.



## Capital Campaign Update

The Capital Campaign, begun in December 2014, yielded pledges/gifts totaling about \$365,000. Given to date is \$265,107.15 (73%). Thanks for your dedicated giving!



## St. Vincent de Paul

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

Your generous support during 2016 enabled our society to help the people in need living in Bloomington and Monroe County with financial assistance and distribution of donated furniture.

Our Vincentian volunteers, 70 plus , assisted over 700 clients financially with energy bills, rent, rent deposits, transportation, auto repairs, clothing, and other basic items. General financial aid was over \$90,000. We also assisted over 1100 clients with furniture. Some of these needed many items to have the necessities to live a basic comfortable existence. We collected and distributed over 7,000 donated items with an estimated value of over \$250,000.

Special designated donations of \$40,000 allowed us to assist special needs of appliances, rent deposits, bed bug remediation, and auto repair. We were able to process and distribute over 260 washers and dryers to over 130 families.

Our St. John the Apostle Conference will celebrate our 25th anniversary in February. Our growth over these years was possible because of the continued support of St. Charles, St. John, St Paul, St Thomas Lutheran, Sherwood Oaks, and many other generous benefactors.

SVDP appreciates your continued funding and furniture donation support.  
President, Ron Kofmehl

*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                        |
| 2/3  | Dave Belbutoski                     |
| 2/4  | Eliot Smith                         |
| 2/5  | Mary Rust                           |
| 2/6  | Marian Baughman, Elizabeth Gaskins  |
| 2/8  | Julia Bourkland                     |
| 2/9  | Sara Fawbush Johnson, Amanda Madsen |
| 2/10 | Antonia Daleke<br>Matthew Schacht   |
| 2/11 | Darrell Boggess                     |
| 2/17 | Ronna Papesh                        |
| 2/18 | Gretchen Mundy, Lia Marsh           |
| 2/20 | Bob Ellis                           |
| 2/23 | Kay Eagleman, Erin Wyatt            |
| 2/24 | Isaak Fogleman                      |

*MCUM Food Pantry Items  
for February:*

Canned, fresh, or dried fruit  
Canned or fresh vegetables – onions, diced tomatoes  
Brown Rice  
Instant oatmeal

Cleaning Closet Needs

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

Our mailing address is:  
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, ELCA  
3800 East Third Street  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
[www.stlconline.org](http://www.stlconline.org)

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

## February - March 2017 Volunteer Schedule

February - March 2017 Volunteer Schedule						
	FEBRUARY 5	FEBRUARY 12	FEBRUARY 19	FEBRUARY 26	ASH WEDNESDAY	MARCH 5
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	Noon, March 1	8:30 AM
ASST MINISTER	Gail Seegert	Kris Stewart	Robin Hershberger	Kris Stewart	Gail Seegert	David Rohlfing
LECTOR	David Ellies	Kent Unger	ML Nierzwick	Lynn Coyne	Pauline Caldwell	Sacha Arterberry
ACOLYTE	Joel Arnold	Natalie Schacht	E Goldsworthy	Max Arterberry		Lilly Rademacher
SERVER	Martha Selk	Gail Seegert	Mary Sasse	Del Newkirk	Kaye Hill	Judy Bush
USHERS	D/D Nixon	L/U Coyne	G/G Laughman	J/M Doering		F/ML Nierzwicki
GREETERS	G/G Laughman	Bob Cutter	David Ellies	J/J Bush	Ruth Rives	L/U Coyne
CRUCIFER						
FLOWERS	G/G Laughman	G/H Ingersoll	Jean Brown	D/S Arnold	Lent begins -- no flowers on the Altar	
	St. Thomas		Karen Cline			
BREAD/WINE	Charles Sweet	J/B Smith	L/U Coyne	G/G Laughman	D/K Rohlfing	J/S Halvorson
COUNCIL CO	S/M Eichmiller	Dean Arnold	Cindy Gallien	S/M Eichmiller		Tom Sinn
	Dennis Baurle	G Moehlmann	Ashley Ahlbrand	Kim Filiatrault	ML Nierzwicki	G Moehlmann
ALTAR GUILD	Jean Brown	Cindy Gallien	Evelyn Niemeyer	Ute Coyne	Mary Sasse	Evelyn Niemeyer
	Susan Lehr	Susan Lehr	Betty Smith	Jan Sinn		Pauline Caldwell
	FEBRUARY 5	FEBRUARY 12	FEBRUARY 19	FEBRUARY 26	ASH WEDNESDAY	MARCH 5
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	March 1, 7:00PM	11:00 AM
ASST MINISTER	Mark Carpenter	Ashley Ahlbrand	Gary Ingersoll	Claire Repsholdt	Lyman Hitchcock	Mark Carpenter
LECTOR	Vicki Polansky	Jerry Smith	Stephanie Biehn	Jennifer Garl	Margaret Harter	Peter Iversen
ACOLYTE	M Knipstein	Nina Daleke	Sophia Watters	Noah Smith		Audrey Knipstein
SERVER	Ruth Rives	Sandy Arnold	Margrethe O'Connor	Gloria Hitchcock		Betty Smith
USHERS	Kaye Hill	McDonald/Ohslund	Baurle/Filiatrault	P/L May	D/S Arnold	Kaye Hill
GREETER	B/J Smith	Deb Moore	Katie Anderson	Margaret Harter	Shirley Mingee	C/K McDonald
CRUCIFER						

# February 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> Friday Musicale 9:30 am SIREN 10:00 Mission Co 6:45 pm Swing or Jazz Band 7:00 pm	<b>2</b> Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Bach rehearsal 1 pm
<b>5</b> Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45am Farewell/Godspeed 10:00 am Bach Cantata 2:30 pm Youth Group 5:30 pm	<b>6</b> Community Band 7pm	<b>7</b> UClub Yoga 10am Worship Com. 6:30 pm	<b>8</b> Mission Co 6:45 pm Swing or Jazz Band 7:00 pm	<b>9</b> Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45am Faith Forte 10:00 am	<b>13</b> Community Band 7pm	<b>14</b> UClub Yoga 10am	<b>15</b> Mission Co 6:45 pm Swing or Jazz Band 7:00 pm	<b>16</b> Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Finance Co 6 pm	<b>17</b> Student Piano recital 7pm	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45am Pipers Society 4pm Youth Group 5:30 pm	<b>20</b> Community Band 7pm	<b>21</b> UClub Yoga 10am	<b>22</b> Mission Co 6:45 pm Swing or Jazz Band 7:00 pm	<b>23</b> Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Bach rehearsal 1 pm
<b>26</b> Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45am Bach Cantata 2:30 pm	<b>27</b> Community Band 7pm	<b>28</b> UClub Yoga 10am Youth Shrove Tuesday Dinner & 60 Second Talent Show 5:30 pm				