



# *St. Thomas Lutheran Church News*

*July, 2017  
XXXIX, Issue No. 7*

## *Arizona Memories*

From Pr. Lyle's blog. . .

June 18<sup>th</sup>

Second Cousin Janalyn – consummate host, lover of dogs, generative teacher, teller of stories, keeper of memory, renewed friend

Raspados – unique slush/sno-cone made with scraped ice (chunkier than Midwest sno-cones), layered with fresh fruit and ice cream or other concoctions. Delicious and refreshing during these 100+ degree days

Sonoran Hot Dogs – Americana meets Mexicana: hot dog wrapped in bacon, deep fried, placed in special rolls, topped with pinto beans, onions, cheese, mayo, mustard, jalapeno sauce, fresh tomatoes, grilled onions, grilled yellow pepper on the side

The Lush Desert – palo verde, saguaro, cholla cactus, ocotillo, mesquite, prickly pear, pinyon pine, saltbush, century plant, agave, juniper, mimosa, bougainvillea, and countless other blooming plants

To continue reading check out Pr. Lyle's blog here <http://geniusloci947.wordpress.com/>  
Lots of great pictures too.



## *The Long Green Season*

I say this mainly because of our church calendar. We have entered the time after Pentecost, also called ordinary time, and for weeks to come the paraments will be green. I also say this because I have been a gardener since I was a small child and the growing season is very important to me. And this summer I say it for a third reason: Pastor Lyle is on his sabbatical, a time of replenishment to nourish future growth, and we have our part to play. What is our part? Our part is to find ways of nourishment and growth for ourselves so that all of us will be ready for his return. Jesus used many images of the natural world around him to teach his disciples. I have to confess that I was a biology major in college, and this continues to be

one of the ways I see the world. Growth is healthy, natural, and expected, at least for plants. But how about us? Do we expect to grow? Or have we just assumed that we are spiritually formed at some point in our lives, and no further effort or change is expected?

One of the things that I have learned as I grow older is that our brains benefit from learning new things, whether that be information, or ways to move our bodies, or ways to see the world. Our brains can literally get in a rut, because one particular neural pathway is used over and over. We benefit from making new connections, even if they are awkward at first. So I would encourage you this summer – try something new. If you have used one form of daily devotions for years – try something different. Read a book from St Thomas' library. Pray as you walk in nature. Join in, or start, a small group. Read a book of the Bible you have never or seldom read. Try reading the Bible in a different translation, such as The Message. Have a conversation with someone who interests you. Volunteer for a local charity. What new thing is God calling you to this summer?

*Pastor Ellen*



## Bread for the World

On Sunday, July 2, there will be an opportunity for those in attendance at Sunday worship to join me in offering letters to fight hunger in our country and worldwide. After each service I will be in the narthex at a table with pens, paper, and stamps along with a simple, short sample letter to let our voices be heard to congress that we feel it is important not to cut the budget when it will lessen or curtail the feeding of the poor. Budget decisions will be made by the end of the summer, so this is a great time to let our voices be heard. I met with a gentleman from Bread for the World in May and he told a story of how he was asked to call our Senator Todd Young and urge him to vote on a bill to get it out of committee that was about hunger issues. The gentleman doesn't like to use the phone, and so he delayed. Finally at around 10pm the night before the vote, he called and left a message for Todd Young. He found out later, that that one phone call made a huge difference. Todd had not heard from any folks about this bill. Senator Young heard from the Bread for the World man, and since he heard from 1 constituent, he decided to go with the man who phoned. This doesn't often happen, but it can. Our voices and letters do make a difference!!

"We can also send a very quick email to a congressperson from [bread.org](http://bread.org). I am happy to show you how to do this as well. I will write out the steps to do this and have them on the table. You can very simply change a word or two and personalize the letter that is on line, and send it."

Please join me on Sunday, July 2, if you would like to make a difference on this issue.

Kari Isaacson Esarey

[kesarey@mccsc.edu](mailto:kesarey@mccsc.edu)



# Capital Campaign Update

Friends,

As they say at the Kentucky Derby, we are in the home stretch. In December, 2014, we began a financial journey that would last for the next 36 months. We had made ambitious plans to improve St. Thomas, both in spirit and in facilities. We called those plans Phase II. With the assistance of many persons, we have accomplished that goal. Does everyone remember the remnants of the fallen ceiling in the Youth Room?

Six months remain in the Capital Campaign. As it presently stands, we have received 83.3% of the pledged funding. We are nearing the finish line. We can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Many of you have completed your pledge. All I can say is "Bless You and Thank You!" Your generous gifts to St. Thomas are greatly appreciated.

Others have not yet completed their pledge. We are certainly thankful for the gifts that we have received. While we understand that situations change, we would ask that those pledges be completed if possible. If we do not receive 100% of our pledges, the shortfall will have to be rolled into our existing mortgage. As we have discussed in many forums, our plan was to fully fund Phase II and avoid any extra indebtedness.

I will end this with one thought: God has blessed each one of us with certain gifts. May we continue to bask in the grace of God and pray that we always use our gifts for the glory of God. Peace be with you.

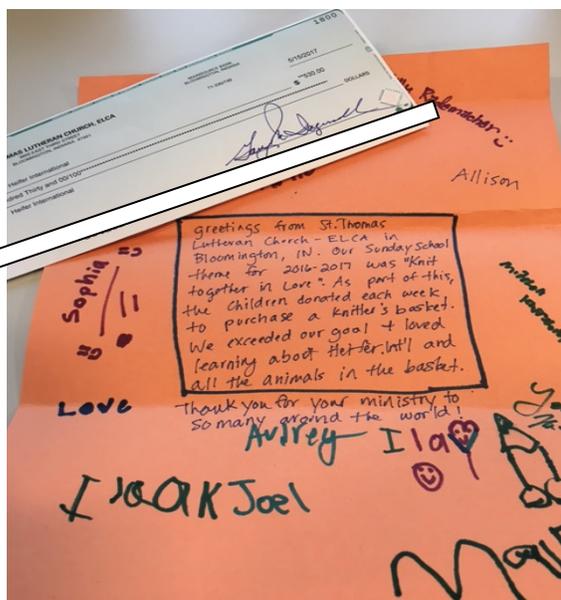
Dean Arnold,

Chair, Capital Campaign



## Sunday Church School 2016 -17 Offerings

The weekly tithes from the SCS children were used to purchase a Knitter's Basket from Heifer International in keeping with the 2016-17 theme "Knit together in Love". The SCS families were so generous they exceeded their goal of \$480 and had extra funds to purchase a beehive and a flock of chicks. The children and adults enjoyed learning about Heifer International and the animals in the basket... a llama, an alpaca, a sheep and an Angora rabbit.



# Call for Sunday School Support!

If you're interested in teaching, substituting, or finding a way to share your unique gifts with the Sunday School at St. Thomas please contact Amy Balcam at 812-325-3938 or aab0928@yahoo.com as soon as possible. Planning for the 2017-18 year is already underway.



## Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

You can still register online for LOM Summer Camp. In July there is:

Pilgrims camp for 1-3 grade

Performing Arts Camp (5-10 grade)

Hiking & Caving (7-11 grade)

Trail Blazers (7-9 grade)

Grandparent Pilgrim camp

Guitar Camp (6-10 grade)

Pioneers (4-6 grade)

Super Pilgrims (2-3 grade)



Registration forms are available on the Welcome table in the narthex.



## Recycled Art Sale

### Sunday August 13, Noon – 4:00 pm

Please bring your recycled art (framed artwork, one of a kind jewelry or clothing, art books, sculpture, pottery, textiles, etc) to St Thomas. Our fundraising sale for Sister Parish together with Congregation Beth Shalom and University Baptist Church will be held on Sunday, August 13 from Noon to 4:00 p.m. at St Thomas. Volunteers will be needed. If you are willing to volunteer for this event, please email Suzanne Halvorson at [weavesuz@comcast.net](mailto:weavesuz@comcast.net). When you drop off your artwork off, please stop by the office and Kaye or Susan will let you know where it will be stored. Also there will be a bit of paper work to fill out. Gracias!

Suzanne Halvorson

Peter Iversen

Mission Committee



## Sister Parish Update

It's hard to believe but the last face to face linkage between our brothers and sisters in Guatemala was in 2014 when they came north for a visit. This linkage, based on relationships, has lasted for 25 years!

This March a group from St. Thomas will be going down to Chichipate, Guatemala for a 10 day span. We will be warmly hosted by familiar faces. If you would like to visit the beautifully lush country of Guatemala with us we would like to welcome you to the team. Please email Peter Iversen ([peter.j.iversen@hotmail.com](mailto:peter.j.iversen@hotmail.com)) with your questions. To learn more about Sister Parish, please visit [www.sisterparish.com](http://www.sisterparish.com) or visit them at <https://www.facebook.com/Sister.Parish/>.

# A Thank You from ECHO

Dear St. Thomas Lutheran Church Family,

We are truly blessed by your generous gift of \$578.00 received on June 16. Thank you for partnering with ECHO to change the lives of so many.

It is a privilege for us to equip small-scale farmers and their families, around the world, with knowledge that can make a transformative difference in their lives – knowledge about plants, practices and appropriate technologies that are practical and reliable. YOU make this impact possible through your generous giving!

We are so grateful that you have chosen to provide the gift of knowledge to some of the people who need it most . . .and, that you grant us the privilege of being your ambassadors.

You have changed a life today with your wonderful gift. Thank you for being the hands and feet of God.

Blessings,

JoDee Hanssen  
Special Gifts Officer



## Missionary Visit

Karen Anderson, missionary in Chile and Director of the International School for Health Education (EPES), visited the synod office on Wednesday, June 14. We give thanks for and pray for God's blessings on her work in Chile.

### *MCUM Needs for July*

Food Items:

- Dried beans
- Mac & Cheese
- Garlic & onion powder
- Peanut butter
- Baking mixes ( Jiffy/ Bisquick)

Non Food Items:

- Dish soap, laundry detergent (medium size), wet wipes

### Greetings from

Former members Bob & Mary Egemo stopped by St. Thomas on Tuesday. They were delighted to see the growth and remodeling of the building. They send their greetings to everyone who still remembers them and would love to hear from you. There address is:

2127 Escobar Ave. , The Villages, FL 32159  
Phone # 1-352-750-9067

## Support Redistricting Reform

Join the League of Women Voters on  
Sunday, July 16, 2:00 pm for

### Bloomington's First Gerrymander Meander!

On Sunday, July 16 there will be a meander/walk that follows the gerrymeandered intersection of state house districts 60, 61, and 62.

The 1.8 mile meander begins at Childs Elementary School, 2211 S. High Street. There will be lots of information on reform efforts and cake and bottled water to refresh the participants!

Anyone who believes that fair representation and voter participation are important to our community is invited.

For more information about gerrymander please see the posters on the east and west end bulletin boards.



The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through advocacy and education.

## July Birthdays

- 7/1 Susan Koutiel
- 7/2 Reneé Steele
- 7/3 Janet Ellis
- 7/5 Mackenzie Colston
- 7/9 Tim Garl, Liam Raver
- 7/12 Pauline Caldwell
- 7/13 Marie Kosakowski
- 7/14 Samuel Polansky
- 7/15 Audrey Knipstein, Mitchell Knipstein,  
Sophia Watters, Misty White
- 7/19 Carl Ziegler
- 7/21 Shari Rogge-Fidler, Kari Esarey
- 7/22 Ute Coyne
- 7/25 Sophia Rust
- 7/27 Jaydene Laros, Dawn Smith
- 7/30 Natalie Johnson

## July Anniversaries

- |      |                            |          |
|------|----------------------------|----------|
| 7/1  | Jeff Schacht & Kelli Skram | 22 years |
| 7/2  | Mike & Whitney Raver       | 6 years  |
| 7/5  | Leif & Amanda Madsen       | 4 years  |
| 7/12 | Sam & Missy Eichmiller     | 31 years |
| 7/18 | Lyman & Gloria Hitchcock   | 58 years |
| 7/21 | Eric & Siri Klimpke        | 16 years |
| 7/26 | Dean & Sandy Arnold        | 31 years |

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



If you wish to unsubscribe from this list  
or update your preferences  
please email: [kayehill@stlconline.org](mailto:kayehill@stlconline.org)

# JULY 2017



SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

						1 Property Co 10:00 am
2 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15 Youth Group 5:30 pm	3 Community Band 7pm	4 <b>Church office Closed</b> 	5 Swing Band 7 pm	6 PRE Boot Camp 6:30	7	8
9 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15	10 Community Band 7pm	11 UClub Yoga 10 am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	12 Jazz Band 7 pm	13 PRE Boot Camp 6:30	14	15
16 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15	17 Community Band 7pm Spinners/Weavers 7pm	18 UClub Yoga 10 am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	19 Swing Band 7 pm	20 PRE Boot Camp 6:30	21	22
23 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15	24 Community Band 7pm	25 UClub Yoga 10 am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	26 Jazz Band 7 pm Mission Co 6:45 pm	27 PRE Boot Camp 6:30	28	29
30 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15	31 Community Band 7pm					

## JULY - AUGUST VOLUNTEERS 2017

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30	August 6	August 13
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
ASST MINISTER	R Hershberger	Kris Stewart	K Boggess	Lindsey Smith	Gail Seegert	David Rohlring	Kris Stewart
LECTOR	Judy Bush	Sonja Dorr Binder	ML Nierzwicki	Gail Seegert	Sacha Arterberry	David Ellies	Kent Unger
ACOLYTE	Max Arterberry	Natalie Schacht		Lilly Rademacher	Madelyn Shupe	Mathew Schacht	Natalie Schacht
SERVER	Jean Brown	Mary Sasse	Kris Frampton	K Boggess	Kent Unger	Gene Laughman	ML Nierzwicki
USHERS	G/G Laughman	L/U Coyne	D/D Nixon	F/ML Nierzwicki	Gallien/Namy	J/M Doering	G/G Laughman
GREETERS	M/J Laros	Mary Sasse	K/B Unger	Bob Cutter	G/G Laughman	J/J Bush	D/L Newkirk
CRUCIFER							
FLOWERS		Kaye Hill	Hulett/Knipstein	D/S Arnold			Erin Wyatt
BREAD/WINE	G/G Laughman	D/K Rohlring	J/S Halvorson	J/R Steele	R/J Brown	V Polansky	T/J Sinn
COUNCIL CO	Sam Eichmiller	Dawn Bakken	Cindy Gallien	Ashley Ahlbrand	Sam Eichmiller	Tom Sinn	Ashley Ahlbrand
	Dean Arnold	Charles Sweet	G Moehlmann	K Filiatrault	Dennis Baurle	Ashley Ahlbrand	Dean Arnold
ALTAR GUILD	Mary Sasse	Gail Seegert	Cindy Gallien	Jean Brown	Barb Unger	Evelyn Niemeyer	Ute Coyne
		Margaret Harter	Jan Sinn	Charlene Braun	Pauline Caldwell	Pauline Caldwell	Charlene Braun
	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30	August 6	August 13
	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM
ASST MINISTER	Tim Smith	Mark Carpenter	Gary Ingersoll	Lyman Hitchcock	R Hershberger	Tim Smith	Mark Carpenter
LECTOR	Stephanie Biehn	Ashley Alhbrand	Susan Koutiel	Kari Esarey	Marie Kosakowski	Margaret Harter	Vicki Polansky
ACOLYTE	M Bourkland	Leah Knipstein	Sophia Watters	Kenna Dimick	Truman Daleke	Birch Foley	Sam Polansky
SERVER	Gail Seegert	Gloria Hitchcock	Lyman Hitchcock	Gary Ingersoll	Chris Ogan	David Daleke	G Moehlman
USHERS	Kaye Hill	Baurle/Filiatrault	D/J Arnold	P/L May	McDonald/Ohslund	Kaye Hill	Baurle/Filiatrault
GREETER	Ruth Rives	G Moehlmann	J/R Steele	L/A Madsen	M O'Connor	Dennis Baurle	T/J Garl
CRUCIFER							