



# *St. Thomas Lutheran Church News*

*June, 2015  
XXXVII, Issue No. 6*

## *What Blessings!*

What a couple of months this has been! I have never witnessed such a full and blessed set of events and experiences compressed into such a tiny time-frame. Usually Easter is the end of a busy time—Lent. This year, it was only the beginning.

Chief among the blessings was the visit from our hermanamientos who came all the way from the remote Guatemalan village of Chichipate in the municipality of El Estor, department of Izabal. By the way, the Spanish word “hermanamientos” doesn’t have an exact cognate in English. It means something like “twinning,” and it implies that we are sisters and brothers—family. And more than that, family sharing the same gene pool—twins. Some might challenge that when gazing upon, say, Pedro standing next to me (He’s about half my height). But we are hermanamientos nonetheless!

What a glorious week it was. I particularly enjoyed our worship together and the Mayan ceremony they celebrated with us between services, but there were many highlights. Bowling was unfettered fun. The dinners and fellowship events were superb and well attended. The conversations were enlightening and endearing. And I offer here my sincere thanks to Suzanne Halvorson, who got us all organized. There are too many others to name here who offered abundant gifts and added joy, hospitality, and humor.

More recently, we held our St. Thomas Community Garden grand opening—on Saturday, May 16. The press to build beds, get fencing and gates completed, prepare forms, organize games, prepare publicity, etc., occupied the minds and hands of many among us. We now have nearly 30 beds available and more than 20 already reserved. At least three are claimed by folks from the community. Gratitude is due to a large contingent of folks for this project as well, from those who did the work of building to those who assisted in preparing forms to those who helped with the grand opening itself. Thank you all.

Throughout, we have enjoyed the regular presence of newborn babies at worship, receiving the sacrament of baptism. It is hard to keep track of how many—at least seven since the start of the year.

It was particularly glorious to hold the baptism of Willow Dimick on the same day we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Edith Unger, not to mention that was also the day of our worship with our friends from Guatemala! My favorite moment was when Edith wanted to see that tiny baby up close, bringing together two human beings with 100 years separating them.

And that’s just some of the church-related events. Many of you will know that I am a new grandfather as of May 9<sup>th</sup>. Maris Josephine McKee was born to my son, Bryce, and his wife, Megan. Maris is (an unprejudiced opinion, I assure you) gorgeous.

Megan, by the way, successfully defended her doctoral dissertation on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and graduated on May 8<sup>th</sup>. If Maris had arrived any earlier, something would have had to give. But all went smoothly.

Don’t call me grandpa; I’m not quite used to that yet. But I’m happy to have that title added to the mix.

We are all blessed indeed!  
Grace and peace, Pastor Lyle

# LCM YARD SALE

Saturday, May 30, 7:00 am - 1:00 pm  
at St. Thomas, in Community Hall

We are looking for donations of gently used items to fill up our sale tables, such as:

- Children's items (clothes, toys, etc.)
- Antiques & collectibles
- Current electronics
- Sporting goods
- Furniture
- Household items/décor
- Craft items
- Tools

*\*\*\*Please no clothes or shoes for adults, and no books unless they are children's books or current bestsellers.*

Donations may be dropped off at the church in Community Hall until Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at noon. Questions about items? Please contact Jeff Schacht at [jschacht@indiana.edu](mailto:jschacht@indiana.edu) or [\(812\)322-3306](tel:(812)322-3306).

We are also looking for volunteers to help sort items prior to the sale (no experience necessary) and to help in various capacities on the day of the sale. Please see the sign-up sheets in the narthex. Questions about volunteering? Contact Kelli Skram at [kskram@indiana.edu](mailto:kskram@indiana.edu) or [\(812\)322-3523](tel:(812)322-3523).

We greatly appreciate your donations and assistance as this sale helps provide important programming funds for campus ministry. Please stop on May 30<sup>th</sup> to shop the sale and invite your friends and neighbors to do the same!



## *From the Associate Pastor...*

For many of us, summertime means a change of rhythm from the rest of the year. Perhaps you travel to see family, or family comes to see you. Those tied to academics likely switch to a new pattern, whether it is less class or more organizing preparing for the next year. Children and youth enjoy some time off from school. They spend their days playing, going to camp, participating in sports and music, reading, or simply lazing around the house. Hopefully we all get outside a little bit more and partake in God's marvelous creation.

Summertime at church means the season after Pentecost and green banners until Reformation Sunday in October. It means breaks from committee meetings and Sunday School. It means VBS, lake parties, and gardening out back. It also means we'll be missing many of you as you travel here and there over the coming weeks. Please know that wherever you go, our prayers are with you!

But if you do happen to miss church while you're out traveling, consider taking a few minutes to have a faith check in with your family. You could share your highs and lows of the day, read a bible story together, and pray together. These simple moments can help you feel more connected to God and to one another. You'll be able to celebrate the ways God is at work in your family and places you visit. Below is a lovely prayer you could use before travel.

I look forward to hearing about all your summer adventures!

Peace,  
Pastor Colleen

O God, our beginning and our end, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage, you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea, and by a star you led the magi to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide us now as we set out to travel. Make our ways safe and our homecomings joyful, and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with our Lord Jesus Christ and the life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

# *Vacation Bible School*

**Sunday, June 14 – Thursday, June 18**

**5:30-8pm**

Come join us for a week of engaging with all sorts of WATER stories from the Bible. There will be Bible lessons, crafts, science, games, and more!

Registration is open for children preschool-entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Youth 7<sup>th</sup> grade and above can volunteer to help out.

We're also looking for adults to help lead the various activity stations and help with dinner. See the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



Save the date: VBS Work Day – Saturday, June 13, 9am-12noon. Please come help us decorate and get organized for an awesome week of Splashing in God's Word!



## *Sister Parish South to North Visit – This is what Sister Parish is all about*

Mission accomplished! It is with deep gratitude that I write to thank everyone involved with the very successful Sister Parish South to North Delegation from Chichipate, Guatemala.

The week was filled with activities that were geared at introducing Ana, Maria, Luis, Victor, and Pedro to their St Thomas family and to Indiana. It was also a blessing in that we were introduced to our delegates in a very personal way. They experienced a Bloomington day; an IU tour, bowling, LCM Bible study, and MCCSC visit day; a Lake Monroe picnic and St Thomas garden day; an Indy day; an IU baseball game; a Farmers Market, quilting, and a home dinner and movie day and night. This is what Sister Parish is all about.

Our delegates interfaced with many St Thomas members at the welcome dinner and farewell luncheon and that enriched us all. Anyone who experienced the Mayan ceremony and either of the St Thomas worship services on Sunday had to be deeply moved by the love and connection that happened during those transporting events. This is what Sister Parish is all about.

I want to send out thanks to everyone who helped in the planning and executing of the week's many events. There are so many who helped with food, transportation, coordinating events, and participating in events that made the week a success. The list is delightfully long and I fear that it would be incomplete if I tried to itemize it. I pray that your personal linkage richly blessed each of you. This is what Sister Parish is all about.

I do need to acknowledge the host families who opened their homes to the delegates. They are the Ingersolls, Iversens, Sinns, Catherine and Lily Rademacher, and Gail Seegert. I know from personal experience that sharing our homes and our hearts is a life changing experience. This is what Sister Parish is all about.

From here we are able to move forward with confidence and a deeper awareness of the Sister Parish relationship. It is now very personal, and we need to continue planning our next North to South delegation, as well as prayerfully consider an educational proposal for assistance with setting up a computer lab for the youth of Chichipate. This is what Sister Parish is all about.

If you are interested in joining our Sister Parish Interest Group, please watch the newsletter for the next meeting date. Relationship and solidarity --this is what Sister Parish is all about.

In gratitude,  
Suzanne Halvorson

## *Sunday School on break till Fall*

We are done with another incredible year of learning about God's love and what it means to live out our faith in our daily lives. Thank you to all the teachers, volunteers, and students for making this an incredible year.

Rev. Kelli Skram, Sunday School Director  
Debbie Nixon  
Sharon Fawbush  
Cindy Ohslund  
Misty White  
Stephanie Hulett  
Ronna Papesh  
Christiana Redman  
Tania Dimick

Marissa Tweed  
Tish Llewelyn  
Sarah Climis  
Megan Smith  
Sacha Arterberry  
Kathy McDonald  
Dana Barron  
Sarah Fogelman  
Naomi Sveholm



## *Congratulations to our graduate!*

Julia Bourkland graduates from Bloomington High School South on Saturday, May 30. She will attend Indiana University in the fall.



## *Welcome to Youth Group!*

The St. Thomas Youth Group is excited to welcome the rising seventh graders into our fold. We'll have the opportunity for fellowship and fun this summer! Parents of rising seventh graders, please keep an eye out for Pastor Colleen's emails.



## *Summer Meeting Dates*

Sunday, June 14-Thursday, June 18 – Youth are invited to help out with VBS. Contact Pastor Colleen, Rev. Kelli Skram, or Marissa Tweed.

Saturday, June 27 – Lake Party at Jane Warner's. Jane is graciously opening her home to us again. We'll meet at the St. Thomas parking lot at 1pm and caravan out together. We'll have the afternoon to boat and play, and then have dinner. Parents and siblings are invited to attend, but youth can come independently. More details to come about what to bring! Contact Pastor Colleen with questions.

Summer service days and movie nights: We're hoping to schedule a few opportunities for our youth to gather to do some community service and have some movie nights during the summer. Please send your summer travel schedule to Pastor Colleen so we can find some good dates.

Thank you to everyone who helped collect food for MCUM's Hunger Games: Taking the Odds Out of Hunger. We collected near 300 pounds of food! Thanks to all who donated, and special thanks to our friends from Chichipate, Guatemala who helped deliver the food to MCUM during their visit.



## *St. Thomas Community Garden*

The St. Thomas Community Garden, newly enlarged and re-designed, is up and growing! Gardeners from the congregation and community are busy preparing and planting their beds for a harvest that will feed not only their own households but our neighbors as well. Each participant covenants to donate 25% of their produce to Community Kitchen or Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

There's room for more! Raised beds are still being built and will eventually complete the path for a three-circuit labyrinth. Several ground-level beds are also available. Please see Kaye in the office for details on signing up. Suggested donation is \$10 for St. Thomas members and participants; \$20 for the community members.

Work days during the summer are May 30, June 20, July 11, and August 15.

Special thanks to Thrivent (\$500), ELCA World Hunger Appeal (\$1000), and the Mission Endowment Fund (\$1000) for their generous gifts. Visit the Community Garden page at [www.stlconline.wordpress.com](http://www.stlconline.wordpress.com), and watch for details on the "Blessing of the Harvest" this fall.



## *Help Local Children Go Back to School with Full Backpacks*

The Salvation Army estimates that 550 Monroe County school children come from households that can't afford to buy the student supply list for the coming school year. A group of local churches and businesses have been partnering to help meet this need by purchasing supplies and filling backpacks, and the STLC Mission Committee would like to make this service opportunity available to our members as well.

In June and early July, you will see collection baskets, a sign with a list of the needed school supplies, and a volunteer sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please bring your supplies to church by Sunday, July 19. If you are interested in helping distribute the backpacks on July 29, please put your name and email address on the volunteer sign-up sheet.



### **Hawaiian Hog Roast & Beer Garden Fest**

***Benefit for: St. Vincent de Paul Society***

**Friday, June 5th, 4:30-8:30 pm**

**St. Charles Borromeo Church grounds**

A LUAU theme with:

Great food, beverages, Justin Case Band, Lara Lynn Trio, Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffle....AND hula dancing lessons!

Order your tickets online at [bloomingtonsvdp.org](http://bloomingtonsvdp.org)

Ticket Presale: \$10/adult (at door \$12/adult);

\$6.00/child 6-12; 5 & under FREE

Please come, have a great time, and support this wonderful organization! The profit made will help clients through the summer and into the fall.

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

6/1	Chris & Maren Foley	19 yrs
6/4	Walt Wood & Susan Krieg	32 yrs
6/7	Matt & Karol Anderson	7 yrs
6/10	Bob & Janet Ellis	59 yrs
6/15	Ron & Jean Brown	58 yrs
6/17	Tim & Sara Johnson	15 yrs
6/17	Lyle McKee & Marie Fleming	15 yrs
6/18	Lyman & Gloria Hitchcock	55 yrs
6/27	Dennis & Carolyn Delap	23 yrs

## *MCUM Food Pantry Needs for June*

The pantry welcomes donations of all non-perishable foods, but we currently have a special need for the following:

### *Food Pantry*

Canned or dried fruit

Spam or Treet

Tuna

Canned Chicken

Chili

### *Cleaning Closet*

All-purpose spray cleaner

Floor cleaner

Body lotion

## *June Birthdays*

6/2	Gene Laughman, Peter Iversen
6/5	Lisa Shetterly
6/6	Gayl Laughman, Quinton Smith, Charles Sweet
6/7	Joel Arnold, Rich Weichert
6/8	Martha Selk
6/9	Sydney Arnold
6/10	Sarah Goldsworthy
6/11	Tiffany Shupe
6/14	Lindsey Smith
6/16	Dotty Mitchell, Isaac Smith
6/20	Allison White
6/21	Rick Goldsworthy, Madelyn Shupe
6/23	Leah Knipstein
6/26	Braelyn Dimick, Helen Ingersoll,
6/28	Brian Bourkland, Zoe Adams
6/29	Kathy McDonald

**Our mailing address is:**

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church, ELCA**

**3800 East Third Street**

**Bloomington, IN 47401**

**[www.stlconline.org](http://www.stlconline.org)**

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your preferences please email:  
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# June 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Community Band 7 pm	2 U Club Yoga 10:00 Worship Committee 6:30 pm	3 Day Lily group 6 pm Mission Committee 6:45pm	4	5	6 Property Co 10 am
7 Worship @ 8:30 & 10:15	8 Community Band 7 pm	9 U Club Yoga 10:00	10 Friday Musicale Board 9:30 am	11 Finance Committee 6 pm	12	13
14 Worship @ 8:30 & 10:15 VBS 5:30 pm	15 VBS 5:30 pm Community Band 7 pm	16 U Club Yoga 10:00 VBS 5:30 pm Men's Group 7 pm	17 VBS 5:30 pm	18 VBS 5:30 pm	19	20
21 Worship @ 8:30 & 10:15	22 Community Band 7 pm	23 U Club Yoga 10:00	24	25	26	27 Youth Lake Party
28 Worship @ 8:30 & 10:15	29 Community Band 7 pm	30 U Club Yoga 10:00				