



# *St. Thomas Lutheran Church News*

*June, 2017*

*XXXIX, Issue No. 6*

## *Farewell For a Time*

As I write, it is only six days until the sabbatical begins. So many lists. So little time.

Increasingly on my spiritual “list” is gratitude. I want to emphasize that somewhat. Perhaps this:  
**GRATITUDE!**

I am exceedingly grateful to all of you for this rare and blessed opportunity. I am especially grateful to Lilly Endowment and to our Congregation Council for their assiduous and generous support. I am ever grateful to God for this vocation that yields so many blessings.

Several people have come to me saying, “So, you’ll be gone for a year.” My usual response is “From your mouth to God’s ears!” But as I now stand on the edge of time away, I am filled with mixed feelings. Concern for all of you. Anxiety about being away. Thoughts of “When the cat’s away the mice will play.” Which is fine, so long as the playing doesn’t injure the beauty, cohesiveness, faithfulness, and mission-mindedness of this amazing assembly of the people of God called St. Thomas Lutheran Church. And, yes, joy at the prospects of what is to come.

No, I will not be gone for a year. I will be back in late September. My first Sunday back with you will be October 1<sup>st</sup>. We will gather that day again for a celebration of this 500<sup>th</sup> year of the Reformation and to celebrate the return of your prodigal pastor.

Please be faithful in worship, in giving, in service, and in loving one another in these few months. Welcome our preachers and presiders. Embrace them with your care and conversation. Listen attentively for the workings of the Holy Spirit in their words and in their way of being with you. Enjoy the places that are sacred to you in renewing ways.

And please pray for me, for those who serve in my absence, for the well-being of all, and for a safe and joyful return.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Lyle

Follow Pr. Lyle’s travels on his sabbatical blog. Go to the St. Thomas website and click on the hotlink

**Genius Loci**

Brochures regarding Pr. Lyle’s sabbatical are available on the Welcome Table.

## *From Our Interim Pastor Ellen Mills*



Some of you knew me when I joined St Thomas in 2000, but many of you are new to me. I am a second career pastor, which means that I have a strange story. When I moved to Bloomington in 1988, I was Episcopalian, had two small children, and had worked in accounting and planned to take the courses to become a CPA. As a CPA, I worked for Pi Lambda Theta, just up 3<sup>rd</sup> Street from St Thomas. In 2000, I left Trinity and joined St Thomas. That “should” have been the end of the story, only God was at work. In 2002, I started feeling a call. Pr. Joyce asked me if it was a call to ordained ministry, and I assured her that it was not. But it didn’t go away, and so in 2004 I entered seminary, first at CTS in Indianapolis and then at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where I got my degree. Finding a first call is much like a pro sports draft. We call it the “pastor draft.” In round 1 I was assigned to the region we are in, region 6. All was well. But in round 2, I was assigned to the North and West Lower Michigan synod instead of Indiana Kentucky, and when they did not find a fit for me, I wound up in Northeastern Ohio. For seven years I served two small town and rural churches in Tuscarawas County, south of Canton. I had no family in Ohio, and my son remained in Bloomington 6 ½ hours away, so in January I moved here to be closer to him. My daughter and her husband are both astronomers, and have been moving frequently as they finish post docs and look for faculty positions. I will be doing part of the coverage for Pastor Lyle while he is on sabbatical, and then I am anticipating doing a combination of interim ministry and accounting and remaining in Bloomington.



## *Greetings, St. Thomas Lutheran Church!*

My name is Amy Balcam, and I am joining the St. Thomas staff in July as your new Minister of Youth and Christian Nurture.

I am a licensed mental health counselor and a school psychologist. I have been working with children, adolescents, and their families for over 24 years! I am originally from Illinois, although I have spent much of my life in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. My family is proud of our Norwegian-American Lutheran roots (ask me about lutefisk and lefse)!

I have lived in Bloomington since 1999, and my husband, Drew, has lived in Bloomington since 2006. We married and joined our families in 2011. We have three teenagers at our house! My oldest stepson, Tate, will be a junior at Edgewood High School, and plays on the varsity basketball team. My son, Andrew, will be a junior at South High School, enjoys cycling, and is looking forward to getting his first car this summer. My youngest stepson, Quinn, will be attending Edgewood Junior High in the fall. He is an avid skateboarder and plays the drums.

One of the many things I love about our congregation is the emphasis on intergenerational involvement. My goal is to be of support and encouragement to all our families, in whatever way they are defined. We have many talented, thoughtful, loving people in this congregation, and I look forward to getting to know each of you better.

Our theme for the children and youth this coming school year will be based on Micah 6:8. As you may remember, Pastor Colleen highlighted this verse in one of her children’s times during worship, and spoke



about how important this verse is to our church. I look forward to exploring with you ways in which we can do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God in our daily lives.

I am very excited to be a part of the spiritual growth and connectedness of our congregation! Please feel free to contact me at any time. Open communication is very important to me, and I will always welcome your input. Let me know how I can be of service to you.



## *We Welcome New Members*

In addition to MayFest and Farewell to Pr. Lyle this past Sunday, we welcomed new members to St. Thomas. Please take time this summer to meet and greet each of them.

Add them to your St. Thomas Phone Directory:

Drew and Amy Balcam, Andrew, Tate & Quinn  
3853 S. Mill Stone Way (47401)  
812-325-3938

Amy: [aab0928@yahoo.com](mailto:aab0928@yahoo.com)

Drew: [drew.balcam@hotmail.com](mailto:drew.balcam@hotmail.com)

Dave and Jan Gerkenmeyer  
616 N Plymouth Rd. (47408)  
1-317-519-4742

[dgerkenmeyer@gmail.com](mailto:dgerkenmeyer@gmail.com)

Victoria Hoppes  
1578 S. Oakdale Dr. (47403)  
1-210-478-8354

[victoriahoppes@gmail.com](mailto:victoriahoppes@gmail.com)

Nathan Pratt  
1206 S Woodlawn Ave (47401)  
812-345-7473

[npratt9@hotmail.com](mailto:npratt9@hotmail.com)

Randy and Nancy Nye  
2134 S. White Tail Run (47401)

Randy's phone: 219-775-5125

Nancy's phone: 219-313-3856

Randy's email: [nye.randall@gmail.com](mailto:nye.randall@gmail.com)

Nancy's email: [nancynye@gmail.com](mailto:nancynye@gmail.com)





May 21 ended another great and eventful year for St. Thomas Sunday School. The theme for the 2016-2017 year was "Knit Together in Love." *"Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."* Ephesians 4:15-16. Along with this theme, the weekly tithes from the children were used to purchase a Knitter's Basket from Heifer International. The SCS families were so generous we exceeded our 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, alpaca, a sheep and an Angora rabbit.

In early 2017, we said goodbye to our beloved Pastor Colleen and the children sent her off with gifts of hugs, signed pictures and personal notes of thanks and encouragement...and, of course, a little stuffed llama!

During the year, the children participated in a fundraising project for Heifer, a traditional Last Supper, and Easter egg hunt, a seed workshop and many other fun activities. Our year concluded on May 21<sup>st</sup> with an end of the year celebration. We shared time together finger knitting, playing games and eating ice cream sundaes! It was a wonderful end to a great year!



## *Recycled Art Sale*

*Sunday August 13, Noon – 4:00 pm*

Once again neighboring congregations St Thomas Lutheran Church, Congregation Beth Shalom, and University Baptist Church, will join forces for a fundraising Recycled Art Sale. The date will be Sunday August 13, and the time will be noon to 4:00 p.m. at St Thomas. Our sale will focus on re-selling art that is no longer useful to you. This includes framed art-work, sculpture, ceramics, textiles, one-of-a-kind jewelry, art books, and more. Please start clearing off your walls, cleaning out your closets, attics, basements, and under your beds, to find artwork that needs a new home. Funds from the sale will benefit the St Thomas Spring Break 2018 North to South Delegation trip to our Sister Parish in Chichipate, Guatemala. Watch for the July newsletter to explain how and where to drop off items for the sale. Thank you on behalf of the Mission Committee, and Sister Parish.

Suzanne Halvorson  
Mission Committee

## *St. Thomas Mutual Ministry Committee*

The primary purpose of the Mutual Ministry Committee is affirming and strengthening the mission of the congregation and the ministry of the staff. The committee members accomplish this by listening, reviewing and communication concerns of the congregation and the staff. The committee also serves as a group where congregation and staff can express new ideas. This is all done in a confidential manner if requested.

Periodically, the committee visits with staff members to provide them an opportunity to express any concerns regarding their responsibilities at St. Thomas. If you have a concern or an idea and are not sure who to speak with, contact a member of the Mutual Ministry Committee.

Current members of the committee are:

Bruce Colston          David Ellies  
Susan Goldsworthy    Gene Laughman  
Mary Lou Nierzwicki   Kris Stewart



### *Community Garden Update*

Thanks to John Bush for all his time and effort in installing a rabbit fence in the garden. It looks great!

## *Just Friday at First United Church*

This summer on the fourth Friday of each month, May through August, the Just Friday discussion group will focus on aspects of climate change.

- **June 23:** Climate Change and What We Eat
- **July 28:** Climate Change and Our Daily Habits
- **August 25:** Climate Change and the Stuff We Own

Refreshments and discussion will follow. All are welcome.

The group meets 7-9 pm in the Roger Williams Hall at First United Church (2420 E. 3rd St.).

For more information see the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/events/131831184044385](http://www.facebook.com/events/131831184044385) or contact the organizer, Hopi Stosberg at [hopi@stosberg.com](mailto:hopi@stosberg.com)

**A family is looking for a responsible woman to live with their elderly mother.** This would be a free living space--large upstairs bedroom and bathroom suite in lovely wooded subdivision in northeast Bloomington--in exchange for being available evenings and overnight in case of an emergency. She has full time caregivers during the day and the housemate would have no responsibilities for cooking or housekeeping. There are 2 cats and the one duty would be to feed the cats in the evening. Please call the church office for further information.

### *Wedding Anniversaries*

6/1 Chris & Maren Foley	21 yrs
6/4 Walt Wood & Susan Krieg	34 yrs
6/7 Matt & Karol Anderson	9 yrs
6/10 Bob & Janet Ellis	61 yrs
6/15 Ron & Jean Brown	60 yrs
6/17 Lyle McKee & Marie Fleming	17 yrs
6/18 Drew & Amy Balcam	6 yrs
6/19 Mike & Debbie Witt	41 yrs
6/28 David & Karen Rohlfing	46 yrs

**A very sweet cat is looking for a good home. Please contact Vicki Polansky with your interest.**

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

### *June Birthdays*

6/1 Mark Carpenter  
 6/2 Gene Laughman, Peter Iversen  
 6/5 Lisa Shettertley  
 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 Sacha Arterberry, Tiffany Shupe  
 6/14 Lindsey Smith  
 6/20 Allison White  
 6/21 Rick Goldsworthy, Madelyn Shupe  
 6/23 Leah Knipstein  
 6/26 Braelyn Dimick, Helen Ingersoll,  
 Molly Wyatt  
 6/28 Brian Bourkland, Zoe Adams  
 6/29 Kathy McDonald

### *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:

- Pudding/jello
- Chili
- Treet
- Canned tuna
- Spam
- Canned chicken
- Canned and dried fruit

#### **Non-food items -**

Toilet paper  
 Women's underwear (size 2-11)  
 Baby wipes  
 Diapers (size 4, 5, 6)

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

## June & July 2017 Volunteer Schedule

	June 4*	June 11	June 18	June 25	July 2	July 9	July 16
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
ASST MINISTER	Ashley Ahlbrand	Lindsey Smith	Gail Seegert	R Hershberger	David Rohlfing	Kris Stewart	Kathleen Boggett
LECTOR	Mike Laros	Barb Unger	Nancy Mathews	Del Newkirk	Karen Rohlfing	Sonja Dorr Binder	ML Nierzwicki
ACOLYTE	Lily Rademacher	Madelyn Shupe	Matthew Schacht	E Goldsworthy	Max Arterberry	Natalie Schacht	A Goldsworthy
SERVER	Kent Unger	Martha Selk	David Ellies	Judy Bush	Jean Brown	Mary Sasse	Kris Frampton
USHERS	L/U Coyne	Gallien/Namy	F/ML Nierzwicki	J/M Doering	G/G Laughman	D/D Nixon	L/U Coyne
GREETERS	JoAnne Namy	Gail Seegert	Mary Sasse	C/S Arterberry	M/J Laros	Evelyn Niemeyer	K/B Unger
CRUCIFER	Kent Unger						
FLOWERS	J/S Pankow	D/A Balcam	Hulett/Knipstein	L/U Coyne	Kaye Hill	Hulett/Knipstein	
BREAD/WINE	M/C Braun	D/S Arnold	L/U Coyne	T/J Garl	G/G Laughman	D/K Rohlfing	J/S Halvorson
COUNCIL CO	Cindy Gallien	Dean Arnold	Cindy Gallien	Sam Eichmiller	Ashley Ahlbrand	Cindy Gallien	Cindy Gallien
ALTAR GUILD	Charles Sweet	Kim Filatrault	G Moehlmann	Dean Arnold	G Moehlmann	Gail Seegert	G Moehlmann
	Shirley Mingee	Gail Seegert	Cindy Gallien	Evelyn Niemeyer	Mary Sasse	Margaret Harter	Cindy Gallien
	Betty Smith	Betty Smith	Jan Sinn	Susan Lehr		Jan Sinn	
	June 4*	June 11*	June 18	June 25	July 2	July 9	July 16
	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM
ASST MINISTER	Gary Ingersoll	Mark Carpenter	Lyman Hitchcock	Claire Repsholdt	Tim Smith	Mark Carpenter	Gary Ingersoll
LECTOR	Carol Seaman	Jennifer Garl	Robin Hershberger	Susan Koutiel	Stephanie Biehn	Ashley Ahlbrand	Debbie Witt
ACOLYTE	Audrey Knipstein	Koral Dimick	Will Foley	M Boukiland	Zach May	Leah Knipstein	Sophia Watters
SERVER	Charles Sweet	David Daleke	Sharon Fawbush	Kathy McDonald	Katie Anderson	Gloria Hitchcock	Chris Ogan
USHERS	D/J Arnold	P/L May	McDonald/Hill	Baurle/Filatrault	Kaye Hill	P/L May	D/J Arnold
GREETER	Kim Filatrault	Katie Anderson	Margaret Harter	C/K McDonald	Ruth Rives	G Moehlmann	J/R Steele
CRUCIFER	Charles Sweet						



# June 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 Property Co 10:00 am
4 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15 Youth Group 5:30 pm	5 Community Band 7pm	6 Friday Musicale Board 9:30 am UClub Yoga 10 am Worship Com. 6:30 PRE Boot Camp 6:30	7 Swing Band 7 pm	8 PRE Boot Camp 6:30	9	10
11 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15	12 Community Band 7pm	13 UClub Yoga 10 am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	14 Jazz Band 7 pm	15 Finance Com 6 pm PRE Boot Camp 6:30	16	17
18 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15 Youth Group 5:30 pm	19 Community Band 7pm Spinners/Weavers 7	20 UClub Yoga 10 am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	21 Swing Band 7 pm	22 PRE Boot Camp 6:30	23	24
25 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15	26 Community Band 7pm	27 UClub Yoga 10 am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	28 Jazz Band 7 pm	29 PRE Boot Camp 6:30	30	