

St. Thomas Lutheran Church News

*March 2015
XXXVII Issue 3*

Living Well Our Final Days



As we enter Lent, I am mindful of the conversations we have held around the theme of “Living Well Our Final Days” during our series of Lay Care Visitor workshops this year. That title, crafted last summer, seems rather ominous in the face of our recent entry into Lent as well as the Holy Week yet to come.

Our mid-week Lenten services take their cue from a Lutheran liturgy entitled “The Way of the Cross.” That liturgy comes from a Lutheran hymnal few know about. It’s called “This Far By Faith” and was produced in 1999 as an African American resource for worship. The liturgy of “The Way of the Cross” calls us to consider our Lord’s living of his final hours leading to his crucifixion.

Our conversations at the three workshops thus far have been full of life, and I don’t intend that comment to be ironic. We have shared stories. We have discussed our hopes and dreams. We have talked about the values that guide our lives and our decisions regarding what we desire as we look to the end of our days. The conversations have been eye-opening and holy, if sometimes difficult.

So, what do we learn from the final stops of our Lord along his way of the cross? How does his approach to death inform our own? How does the example of Jesus translate into the potential in our lives both for Lenten reflection and for spiritual maturity as we consider our own death? Are we able truly to face our mortality?

I was struck in one of the video snippets we watched by the comment: “I am now persuaded that I am indeed going to die.” If we are able to face the transitory nature of our physical existence, what does that mean for us?

I am deeply impressed at the willingness of many among us to ask such questions honestly and openly and to struggle with what our faith in a God who dies means for the way we live our lives, including our final days. As our Lord teaches us about holy service, perhaps our lives may become more about sacrificial giving of self. As our Lord speaks truth in the face of those who claim to wield power, perhaps we may consider sharing the truths of our faith more openly. As our Lord takes up his cross, we may more faithfully take on our own. And as our Lord teaches us how to die, we may begin to think of our dying as an integral part of our teaching for those we leave behind.

What it means to live well our final days, or even to die well, is shaped by faith, by experience, by values, and much more. As we look more closely at the path of our Lord to his death in this season, I hope that we are all enriched in our understandings of the great mysteries of faith and life.

And I hope that many of you will be present at our final workshop on “Living Well Our Final Days.” You will have opportunities there to prepare the documents that may help to guide professionals and your family when you travel your own final way.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lyle

“Living Well Our Final Days.” Part 4 –On Sunday, March 15th we will be looking at legal and financial and service planning for our final days. Lunch will begin at 12:30 and the workshop at 1:00 a.m. This is Part 4 of “Consider the Conversation,” and is a caring community workshop sponsored by our Lay Care Visitors.



From the Associate Pastor's Desk:



We will spend the whole month of March in the season of Lent. At our midweek services we will continue to unpack the meaning of The Way of the Cross, a Lutheran approach to the stations of the cross. Together we'll spend intentional time reflecting on these final moments of Jesus' life.

I pray that you'll also spend some time with your family and friends, to reflect on the meaning that the cross has in our daily life. Copies of “The Way of the Cross: A Lenten Family Pilgrimage” are still available to pick up at church or to download online. One of the sections, A Way of Living, includes many ideas for participating in the four traditional Lenten practices: prayer, fasting, charity, and self-reflection. I've highlighted one from each section below.

Check out #stlcwayofthecross on Instagram or Facebook for photos of our members seeing The Way of the Cross in their daily lives. This is Pastor Colleen's #AshTag from Ash Wednesday.

Prayer: Pray for the ministry and mission of St. Thomas. Especially during the month of March lift up the Lutheran Campus Ministry at IU Spring Break Trip (week of March 14) and our Sister Parish visit from Chichipate, Guatemala (week of April 20).

Fasting: Fast from Netflix! Or try cutting out one episode to make time for family activities or personal reflection. Families might use the time to perform community service or simply spend time playing a game or making a craft. Individuals could also use the time to volunteer or perhaps to read a book on spirituality. (Connect Pastor Lyle or me for ideas to fit your interests!)

Charity & Service to Others: Spring break would be a great time to go through your family's closets and donate clothes that no longer fit or you haven't worn in a year. You could donate to Goodwill or Middle Way House (women's and children's clothing only). You could also sell them to Once Upon a Child, My Sister's Closet, Plato's Closet or Style Encore and donate the money to a charity of your choice.

Self-Reflection: Each day, share your highs and lows as a family. You could also write them in a journal, or send daily emails to family or friends that live far away.

I would love to hear about the ways that you are journeying through Lent this year. Also feel free to post on our Facebook page or photos on Instagram (#stlcwayofthecross).

Peace,
Pastor Colleen

First Communion Classes

All children who have not completed First Communion Classes are invited to participate with Pastor Colleen and Marissa on Sundays March 22nd and 29 after late service. A special invitation is extended to children who have reached the age of ten. Parents are invited to attend as well, since your child may have questions about the class. Even if your child has been communing for some time, we hope you'll come together and learn about the forgiveness, joy, and strength we receive at the Table of our Lord. Those who attend the classes will be recognized at our Maundy Thursday worship service, April 2nd at 7pm.

Children at St. Thomas are welcome to begin taking communion as soon as they can handle solid foods and as parent's consent. We affirm that they are an important part of our faith community. This class either prepares children to receive communion for the first time or helps those who are already receiving the sacrament to reflect on its meaning.



Youth Group News!

You're invited...

Easter Brunch 2015

April 5, 2015, 9-11am

Community Hall

Donations accepted for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering

Members are also invited to help by providing food in the form of ingredients or quiches! A sign-up chart will be in the narthex soon.

Questions? Want to help? Contact Pastor Colleen.

Invitation to Conversation for High School Youth & Families

Pastor Colleen will be holding special office hours on Sunday March 8, 22, and 29 to talk about high school formation. Youth and parents can come on their own or together. But she would like to check in with both. This is to be a time of brainstorming and gathering ideas. Pastor Colleen will be sending notes to the families to schedule times to talk.

If you are interested in volunteering with the youth, this would also be a great time to chat with Pastor Colleen about ways you could be involved!

Youth Group Dates:

March 8: Re-Scheduled Shrove Tuesday Youth & Family Pancake Dinner, 5:30-7:30pm. The same plan as before, pancakes, planning for Easter Brunch, and a "60 Second or Less Talent Show!" Parents and siblings are welcome!

March 22: Youth Group at St. Thomas, 5:30-7:30pm

Saturday, April 4: Easter Brunch Work Day, 1-4pm. Parents and youth are invited to come help prepare our biggest event of the year, Easter Brunch! We'll be cooking, setting up, and decorating.

Sunday, April 5: 2015 Easter Brunch! Serving from 9-11am in Community Hall.

April 19: Youth Group at St. Thomas, 5:30-7:30pm

Friday, May 8-Saturday, May 9, 7:30pm-9am: Youth Lock-in! More details to come.

May 17: Last Youth Group of the 2014-2015 School Year, 5:30-7:30pm.

Summer Dates:

-Youth are invited to help during Vacation Bible School! Please mark your calendars for June 14-June 18.

-Confirmation Camp: Students entering 8th and 9th grade are encourage to attend Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Hills July 12-17. Pastor Colleen will lead classes for part of the day, and then youth have the rest of the day for camp activities led by Lutheran Hills staff! It promises to be a fun and faith-filled week!



Adult Forums in March

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

March 8: Spiritual Growth Groups Meeting Time

March 15: Spring Break

March 22: Phase II: What Will We Do?, Conference Room: As many of you know, while we had a very successful capital campaign, we did not raise enough money to complete all of the projects included in our initial plans for Phase II. In its March meeting, the congregational council will be putting together two sets of numbers---the total pledged to the campaign and cost estimates from a local contractor---to produce a proposal of what we can do with the funds that we have raised. This forum will present the results of the council's discussion, so that the congregation has time to consider and to pray before we vote at the April congregational meeting. Please join council president Dawn Bakken for this important discussion.

March 29: Life After Retirement- An Open Conversation, Conference Room: Have you reached the stage of life that excludes earning a paycheck or other major responsibilities? Ever wonder how others are adjusting to or "doing" their retirement years? Even though this "Golden Stage" has many satisfactions, it also has some unique challenges. Come share your experiences and hear how others are dealing with this very special stage of life! Participate in an informal conversation. Tell your story. Share your joys and your frustrations. Get ideas as others talk about their lives. Be renewed!



Back 40 Work Day

Join us for our next Back Forty Work Day on Saturday, March 7 from 10am-2pm. We will be "opening" the existing garden bed by removing the tarps, and beginning to remove the good garden soil in preparation for filling raised beds. A poster of the proposed Labyrinth/Raised Bed design is on display in the narthex, along with a sign-up sheet for anyone wanting information or wishing to reserve a plot for the 2015 growing season. Questions? Contact Kaye in office.



Chichipate Delegation to be here in April

Good News! Sister Parish in Guatemala has announced that the visas have been approved for our five South to North delegates from Chichipate. This means that we have exactly two months to finish preparing for their visit to Bloomington April 20 – 27.

We have created an itinerary that we pray will be meaningful to our guest and hosts. The agenda includes an IU visit; an LCM evening including dinner and Bible study; a trip to Indianapolis; a picnic at Brown County State Park; a Downtown Bloomington tour; working in the garden at St Thomas; and several events at St Thomas that will include cooking, crafts, worship, and Sunday School activities.

We need your help. Please prayerfully consider how you and your family can help make our delegates welcome. We will need assistance with: housing, food, youth and adult projects at church, and transportation. There will soon be a Temple Talk and sign-up sheets in the Narthex. If you have a special interest in helping with any of the above activities, please contact Suzanne Halvorson. Her email is weavesuz@comcast.net.

The next Sister Parish Interest Group meeting will be on Tuesday March 10 at 5:30 pm. Please join us to learn more about this important St Thomas mission. If you are unfamiliar with Sister Parish you can learn more at www.sisterparish.org.

Suzanne Halvorson
Sister Parish Interest Group Coordinator



Campus Ministry seeking food/paper donations for Living Waters in Cherokee, NC

For this year's spring break trip Lutheran Campus Ministry at IU will be traveling down to Kure Beach Faith Center for a week of service in Wilmington, NC. On the way, we will be making a visit to our partner in mission, Living Waters Lutheran church in Cherokee, NC to worship with them (March 15th) and drop off needed items for their food pantry and community ministries.

Living Waters has requested donations of non-perishable food products and paper products of all kinds. LCM will be taking a trailer to accommodate space for the donations. If you would like to make a donation, please bring the food and/or paper items to St. Thomas and place them in the confirmation room (room 14) by Wednesday, March 11th. Thank you for your support and prayers!

Marissa Tweed
Pastoral Intern



LCM Annual Yard Sale

Lutheran Campus Ministry at IU will be hosting its annual yard sale at St. Thomas on Saturday, May 30 from 7am - 1pm. This is the perfect excuse to clean out your closets, unload any furniture that is taking up extra space, and repurpose all those items you have been saving for "someday". We will start receiving donations at the church on May 18. However, if you really need to get something off your hands right now, let us know and we will make arrangements to store it for you. (Contact LCM executive director, Jeff Schacht at jschacht@indiana.edu or 333-2474).

We are looking for gently used children's clothes, toys, and furnishings; household items, collectibles, sporting goods, antiques, furniture, and craft items. We will *NOT be* selling adult clothes, books for adults (unless they are recent bestsellers), or outdated electronics.

Volunteers are needed to assist with set-up throughout the week of Tuesday, May 26, and also on the day of the sale. Look for sign-up sheets with details about shift times in the narthex soon.

All proceeds from the sale will support ministry programming with IU students.

Changes to the Kroger Card Program: Introducing Kroger Community Rewards

One of the significant fundraisers for the Lutheran Campus Ministry throughout the year is the Kroger card program. Effective January 1, 2015, the Kroger card program dramatically changed. (If you have an existing Kroger card from LCM, you are free to spend the remaining amount currently loaded, but you can no longer reload the card.) Instead, Kroger has put in place a new program, Kroger Community Rewards, that still allows you to benefit LCM every time you shop at Kroger. Here's how: Go to <http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards>. Create an account. When prompted, enter your Kroger Plus Card number (if you don't have a Kroger Plus Card, you can sign up for one here as well). In your Account Summary, scroll to the bottom of the page, and under Community Rewards, add "Lutheran Campus Ministry at Indiana University." Now, every time you enter your Kroger Plus Card number at check out, LCM will benefit. How much we will benefit is unclear, but every little bit helps! Thank you so much for your support of the Lutheran Campus Ministry.



Save the dates!! Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 14 - Thursday, June 18, 5:30-8pm



Children from preschool to those entering 6th grade are invited to join us as we Splash in God's Word. This summer we will explore water-themed bible stories that spark our faith while enjoying games, science activities, crafts, music and more! Youth entering grades 7- 12, as well as adults, are invited to be part of our exciting leadership crew. Stay tuned to the weekly bulletin and signs in the narthex for more information about how to sign up to attend or help out. Questions? Contact Pastor Kelli Skram, Marissa Tweed, or Pastor Colleen Montgomery.

Lively Older Lutherans (LOL)

invite everyone to join them in Community Hall for lunch and conversation following noon Lenten Services beginning February 18 and continuing through each Wednesday of Lent. Look for a sign-up sheet in the narthex to let us know what food item you can bring. Kathy may be reached at 333-2214 or richard.zellers@comcast.net.



We Welcome New Members

On February 8, we welcomed through Holy Baptism Philip Emil Sveholm, infant son of Nicholas and Naomi Sveholm. Philip was born December 30, 2014.

And on February 15, we welcomed Elaina Rose Iversen through Holy Baptism. Parents, Peter and Leah and grandparents Jan and Tom Sinn were received by Affirmation of faith. We are delighted to have these new members in our congregation.

*Happy Birthday To Members
Celebrating In March*

3/1 Tim Johnson
3/3 Juan Carlos Rodriguez,
3/4 Dawn Bakken
3/5 Erica Goldsworthy, Jim Pankow
3/7 Bryce McKee
3/8 Debbie Moore
3/9 Eric Isaacson
3/10 Alex Shetterly
3/11 Birch Foley, Katcha Papesh
3/12 Dennis Delap, Margaret Harter
3/16 Margrethe O'Connor
3/17 Gretchen Wheeler
3/20 David Ellies, Gary Ingersoll
3/23 John Bush
3/25 Kay Isaacson (will be 94)
Anna Sloss
3/28 Renee Rich
3/30 Emily Garl

Our mailing address is:
St. Thomas Lutheran Church, ELCA
3800 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401
www.stlconline.org

Happy Wedding Anniversary

Edwin and Pauline Caldwell 3/3/82 33 yrs
John and Judy Bush 3/28/64 51 yrs

*MCUM Food Pantry
needs for March*

Canned Meats
Instant Cocoa
Peanut Butter
Dried Beans
Cooking Oil

Closet needs:
Deodorant, Adult Socks, Men's
Underwear (size small)

Unsubscribe from this list by emailing or update your preferences by emailing: kayehill@stlconline.org

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH -- APRIL

	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29	APRIL 2 -Noon	APRIL 3 -Noon	APRIL 5 - 8:30	
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	Maundy Thurs	Good Friday	Easter	
DEACON	Kris Stewart	K Boggess	Gail Seegert	Marissa Tweed				R Hershberger
LECTOR	Gail Seegert	ML Nierzwicki	Kent Unger	Mike Laros	H Ingersoll	Jan Ellis	Holy	Kris Stewart
ACOLYTE	Natalie Schacht	Zach May	G Wheeler	A Goldsworthy			Saturday	Madelyn Shupe
SERVER	Barb Unger	Martha Selk	Gene Laughman	Kent Unger			Worship	Barb Unger
USHERS	F/ML Nierzwicki	L/U Coyne	J/M Doering	G/G Laughman			See below	F/ML Nierzwicki
GREETERS	M/C Braun	B/K Unger	B/G Wheeler	Shirley Mingee				Bob Cutter
NURSERY	Tiffany Shupe	Misty White	Pauline Caldwell	Susan Krieg				
CRUCIFER				Kent Unger				Barb Unger
FLOWERS								
BREAD/WINE	F/ML Nierzwicki	R Hershberger	Katie Anderson	D/M Watters	C/M Foley		Deb Moore	D/S Arnold
COUNCIL CO	Maren Foley	John Bush	Dawn Bakken	S/M Eichmiller				John Bush
	Tim Climis	Dennis Baurle	Ashley Ahlbrand	Charles Sweet				Tim Climis
ALTAR GUILD	Ute Coyne	Bev Lingvai	Shirley Mingee	Jean Brown	Jean Brown			Shirley Mingee
	Charlene Braun	Betty Smith	Pauline Caldwell	Mary Sasse				Pauline Caldwell
	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29	APRIL 2- 7 pm	APRIL 3-7pm	APRIL 4 -8 pm	APRIL 5 - 11:00
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	Maundy Thurs	Good Fri	Holy Sat	Easter
DEACON	Julia Bourkland	M O'Connor		Marissa Tweed	Betty Smith	L Hitchcock	Eric Isaacson	Ashley Ahlbrand
LECTOR	Ashley Alhbrand	Maren Foley	R Hershberger	Jennifer Garl	Sarah Climis	G Hitchcock		David Daleke
ACOLYTE	R Bourkland	S Polansky	Birch Foley	Kenna Dimick	L Rademacher			Nina Daleke
SERVER	M O'Connor	Betty Smith	K McDonald	Dean Arnold	Judy Bush		Charles Sweet	Tim Climis
USHERS	Baurle/Filiatrault	D/S Arnold	Hill/Owens	Ohslund/McDonald	D/D Nixon	J/M Doering	Hill/Seaman	D/S Arnold
GREETER	B/J Smith	Deb Moore	J/R Steele	Ruth Rives	Mary Sasse	Gail Seegert	K Boggess	T/J Garl
NURSERY	Jane Warner	Kim Filiatrault	Margaret Harter	Lauren Wright				
CRUCIFER				Dean Arnold			Charles Sweet	Tim Climis

March 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00	2	3	4	5	6	7
Education Hour 9:45 Culture of Conversation Iona SGG 9:45	Community Band 7:00	U Club Yoga 10:00 Worship Co 6:30	Friday Musicale Board 9:30 am Lenten Worship Noon & 7 pm	Finance Co 6 pm Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm		Property Co 10:00 Back 40 Work Day 10 -2
8 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00	9	10	11	12	13	14
Education Hour 9:45 Congregation Council 12:30 Youth Group meets 5:30	Community Band 7 pm	U Club Yoga 10:00 Sister Parish 5:30 Mission Co 6:45 Quilters Guild 6 pm	Lenten Worship Noon & 7 pm	Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm		Spinners/Weavers till 4 pm
15 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00	16	17	18	19	20	21
No SCS today Consider the Conversation 12:30 Lunch, 1:00 pm workshop	Community Band 7:00 Spinner/Weaver 7:00 pm	U Club Yoga 10:00 Men's Group 7 pm	Lenten Worship Noon & 7 pm	Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00 First Communion Class 12:30	Community Band 7:00	U Club Yoga 10:00 Outreach Com 7 pm	Lenten Service at noon and 7 pm	Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm		Spinners/Weavers 9 -4
29 Palm/Passion Sunday Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 First Communion Class 12:30	30 Community Band 7:00	31 U Club Yoga 10:00	1	2 Maundy Thursday Services at noon & 7 pm	3 Good Friday Services at noon & 7 pm	4 Holy Saturday Easter Vigil at 8 pm