

St. Thomas Lutheran Church News



November 2017
XXXIX Issue II

The Prodigal Returns in Thanksgiving

Okay. Well, not so prodigal perhaps. But that's the biblical image that occurred to me as I considered how to give thanks for being home again and being welcomed so graciously.

What a fine reception Marie and I experienced upon returning from time for renewal. Yes, we know it wasn't all about us, but coupling the celebration of my 35 years of ministry with the Reformation 500 commemoration dinner was delightful. It was a blessed event, especially because we could reconnect one-on-one with so many of you. That isn't easy on most Sundays. Thank you for the day, for the lovely cards and the sentiments contained in them, and the beautifully-crafted box in which to store them!

Returning also meant getting out again to see those who had been ill or unable to get around easily. I thoroughly enjoy those visits—phone calls too. I missed so many of you.

"Back in the saddle again" is, oddly, the song that makes its way into my spirit regularly. Not the Aerosmith version, but the ancient one from Gene Autry, circa 1939. I'm not much for country western music, but the sentiment fits. And the cantering pace of that ditty reminds me to take things at a manageable gait.

In these days, I want to echo the words of St. Paul in Philippians, chapter 1: "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now." (vv. 3-5)

Thanksgiving started early for me this year. May God continue to bless our celebrations of the Spirit at work among us—at Thanksgiving, in Advent, and always.

Grace, peace, and appreciation,
Pastor Lyle

Transformed by Grace, Faith and Love

"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints" (Colossians 1:3-4).

Through the faithful stewardship of the Body of Christ here at St. Thomas, we are able to proclaim the Gospel in both word and deed.

During our recent stewardship emphasis, ***Transformed by Grace, Faith, and Love***, we focused on how God transforms us so we are equipped and inspired to be faithful stewards. By grace, God calls us to be good stewards, and, through our God-given faith, we understand that God is the source of all good things. As recipients of this grace, faith, and love, we demonstrate our gratitude by faithfully receiving, managing, and sharing God's blessings.

God is totally committed to us. We ask that our members be willing to make a commitment to God through pledged giving. For those of you who have returned your pledges, thank you. For those who have not yet done so, we encourage you to pray about your blessings and how they may be shared for the mission of Christ at St. Thomas.

Pledge cards and Time & Talent Sheets may be returned at any time to the office, or you may place them in the offering plate on an upcoming Sunday. Additional forms are available on the Welcome Table.

Thank you, and may God continue to pour out blessings on you as you experience the joy of being God's steward.



Congratulation to Our Confirmands

The congregation congratulates Matthew Bourkland, Antonia (Nina) Daleke, Leah Knipstein, Lilly Rademacher, and Natalie Schacht on completing the requirements for our confirmation program at St. Thomas Church. They engaged in class work, retreats, memorization, and service to the congregation and community. They presented their confirmation testimonies at worship on Reformation Sunday, October 29th.

May God continue to bless each of them with wisdom, growth in faith, and a spirit of joyful service to their Lord and the Church.



All Saints Sunday

On All Saints Sunday (November 5th), we will remember in prayer those who have joined the Church Triumphant over the past year. We will remember Dorothy "Dottie" Mitchell, Lucille Ricketts and Evelyn James. Those in attendance at worship that day will have the opportunity to add the names of family and friends for inclusion in our prayers.



Benedictine Abbey of Göttweig

Worship & the Arts Concert, November 3, 7:30 pm

The Last Rose will feature Elena Kraineva, Viola d'Amore and Janet Scott, Harpsichord. Selected compositions from the unknown 18th-century manuscript, discovered in the Benedictine Abbey of Göttweig, will be performed for the first time in the United States. Also works by Scarlatti, Graupner, Casadesu, and DeBoer. *The recital is supported and is made possible by the Indiana Arts Commission.*



Congregational Meeting – November 12

Following the 11:00 A.M. Worship Service

Our Annual Congregational Budget Meeting is set for Sunday, November 12th following the late service that day. Regular worship services will be held at 8:30 & 11 am. The annual budget meeting will be at 12:30 in the Sanctuary. The 2018 budget and a recap of the Capital Campaign Fund are the only items on the agenda. We expect the meeting to be brief and no luncheon will follow.



Adult Forum for November

November 5 Living the Questions (session 2) "Taking the Bible Seriously" The authority one places in the Bible plays a critical role in one's worldview and understanding of the Christian life.

November 12 Pastor Lyle will lead a discussion on Open Communion.

November 19 Living the Questions (session 3) "Thinking Theologically" While family, education, social class, and geography all contribute to how we think about God, our experiences and perceptions along life's journey also shape our thinking. Being comfortable with ambiguity, metaphor, and uncertainty help us get the Divine "out of the box" and rethink theological ideas that have become barriers to our further spiritual growth.

November 26 Thanksgiving weekend – no adult forum



NOVEMBER 4

Sister Parish 2018 North – South Delegation

"Have you thought about traveling? Do you yearn to see new sights, hear new sounds, and create unforgettable memories and lasting relationships?"

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, than the March 2018 congregational trip to Chichipate, Guatemala is for you!

This March, Suzanne Halverson and Peter Iversen will be coordinating a trip guided by Sister Parish to visit our Sisters and Brothers who visited us in 2015.

Stay tuned for upcoming informational meetings or contact Suzanne Halverson (weavesuz@comcast.net) or Peter Iversen (peter.j.iversen@hotmail.com) with questions."

Thank you,

Peter

812-345-7486

God Creating Anew: Continuing the Reformation Advent 2017

Following the theme of the renewal program this summer, reflections will center on Advent themes related to the sabbatical focus: Consulting the genius of the place. Sundays and Wednesdays will be devoted to inspiration and conversation. Here are tentative topics:

- 12/3 & 6 The Blessings of Place (Gratitude)
- 12/10 & 13 Creation and Reciprocity
- 12/17 & 20 Gift vs. Commodity

Join in worship on Sundays at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. as well as on Wednesdays at noon and 7:00 p.m. We'll continue with the Haugen Vespers on Wednesdays, and we're working on lunch following the noon service. Final details will be published in the December newsletter.

This series picks up on our year-long commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and suggests ways to continue our reforming work.

Advent Evensong & Dinner Sunday, November 26

All ages are welcome for any or all of the evening. Come when you can, leave when you must!

There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to RSVP and also to help provide food and help with set-up, serving, and clean-up.

4:30 – Organ Prelude

5:00pm – Evensong Worship - A service of readings, scripture lessons, and canticles

5:45pm – Dinner

6:30pm – Family Project - create your own Advent craft to take home

7:30pm – Sending Blessing with take home spiritual resources for the whole season of Advent.



The Villages celebrate you!!

To Amy and the Youth Group of St. Thomas Lutheran,
Thank you so much for the Family Welcome Bags for foster families who are welcoming new children into their families! Our social workers visit each family a day or two after a new child moves into the home and now they will take one of your bags with them to give to each family. It gives the whole family a great activity to do while getting to know each other. It is very obvious that lots of attention, care and love went into decorating these. Thank you for sharing a bit of yourself in helping to take care of other children.

Deb Brewer and
the Bloomington staff: Caleb, Tammy, Stefanie, Margaret, Katelyn and Suzanne



St. Thomas Mission Endowment Fund Call for Proposals

The Mission Endowment Fund provides funding for special projects at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, local outreach, and missions beyond the local community. Distributions from the endowment are made quarterly and are for programs or projects not already supported by the congregation's budget. Any member of St. Thomas may submit a proposal by completing the paper or electronic forms available from the church office. If you have a project in need of funding, please submit an application by one of the quarterly deadlines: before the first day of February, May, and August, and November. If you have questions, please contact the office or David Daleke, Chair of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee.



Community Garden Fall Wrap-up

It's time to put the garden to bed for the winter! We will have a work session on Saturday, November 4 from 10-noon.

Interested in helping with the orchard's fall wrap-up? Contact Sonja at 812/332-7561.

In keeping with its mission, the St. Thomas Community Garden asks that at least 25% of produce be donated to Monroe County United Ministries (MCUM) or Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. This season's donations, so far, amount to 315 lbs.! See the STCG chart in the narthex for more information.



NOVEMBER 4

Wedding Anniversaries

11/26 Gary & Helen Ingersoll 51 yrs
11/27 Darrell & Kathleen Boggess 46 yrs
11/27 Jerry & Betty Smith 63 yrs

November Birthdays

11/1 Lyle McKee
11/4 Nick May, Victoria Hoppes
11/5 Andrew Watters
11/7 Kathleen Boggess, Susan Colston
11/9 Mary Thomason Smith
11/12 Lyman Hitchcock, Kris Stewart
11/16 Ron Ohslund
11/19 Chris Smith
11/20 David Polansky
11/22 Kaye Hill
11/23 Martha Seaman
11/27 Gail Bourkland
11/29 Jim Halvorson
11/30 Michael Larsen Natalie Schacht

November Pantry Needs For MCLM

Food: canned fruit (no pineapple)
baking mixes & pie crust mixes
canned veggies (esp. green peas &
potatoes)
soups – veggie, tomato, cream of chicken
or mushroom
dried beans and peanut butter


Cleaning Closet Items:
Underwear – men's sizes 32-36
Tube socks for winter

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

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



November 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Friday Musicale Board 9:30 am	2 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	3  The Last Rose Concert 7:30 pm	4 Property Co 10:00 Garden Clean up 10:00 Time Change 
5 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Living the Questions 9:45 am Youth Group 5:30 pm	6 IU Docents 10:00 am Book of Faith 7:00 pm Community Band 7pm Gables Neighborhood 6 pm	7 UClub Yoga 10am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	8	9 Cocoa & Canvas 7pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	10	11 Wedding 2:00 pm
12 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Adult Forum: Open Communion ANNUAL BUDGET MEETING 12:30 pm	13 Worship Co 6:30pm Community Band 7pm	14 UClub Yoga 10am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	15 Recital 6:00 pm	16 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	17	18
19 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Living the Questions 9:45 am Youth Group meets 5:30 pm	20 Community Band 7pm Spinners/Weavers 7 pm	21 UClub Yoga 10am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	22	23  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	24	25 Redman wedding
26 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am	27 Community Band 7pm	28 UClub Yoga 10am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	29	30 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm		

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2017

November 5 * November 12 November 19* November 26 December 3* December 10 December 17*

	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
ASST MINISTER	David Rohlfing	Lindsey Smith	Kathleen Boggess	Kris Stewart	Robin Hersberger	Gail Seegert	David Rohlfing
LECTOR	Pauline Caldwell	Judy Bush	ML Nierzwicki	Gail Seegert	Lynn Coyne	Mike Laros	Del Newkirk
ACOLYTE	Natalie Schacht	Max Arterberry	Matthew Schacht	Lilly Rademacher	Madelyn Shupe	Natalie Schacht	Max Arterberry
SERVER	Kent Unger	Gail Seegert	Martha Selk	Barb Unger	Gene Laughman	David Ellies	Jean Brown
USHERS	L/U Coyne	G/G Laughman	D/D Nixon	F/ML Nierzwicki	J/M Doering	Gallien/Namy	L/U Coyne
GREETERS	J/J Bush	David Ellies	JoAnne Namy	Evelyn Niemeyer	C/S Arterberry	M/J Laros	Mary Sasse
CRUCIFER	Kent Unger			Barb Unger			
FLOWERS	B/C Gallien	D/S Arnold J/S Halvorson	D/S Arnold	B/C Gallien	Melissa de Graaf		B/C Gallien
BREAD/WINE	D/S Arnold	M O'Connor	T/J Garl	L/U Coyne	D/K Rohlfing	J/S Halvorson	J/R Steele
COUNCIL CO	Dawn Bakken	Keith Knipstein	Cindy Gallien	Dean Arnold	Sam Eichmiller	Tom Sinn	Cindy Gallien
	Ashley Ahlbrand	G Moehlmann	Dawn Bakken	Mark Carpenter	Kim Filiatrault	Dennis Baurle	Ashley Ahlbrand
ALTAR GUILD	Barb Unger	Evelyn Niemeyer	Ute Coyne	Barb Unger	Shirley Mingee	Jean Brown	Gail Seegert
	Charlene Braun	Mary Sasse	Betty Smith	Pauline Caldwell	Charlene Braun	Betty Smith	Margaret Harter
	November 5	November 12*	November 19	November 26*	December 3	December 10*	December 17
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
ASST MINISTER	Ashley Ahlbrand	Gary Ingersoll	Lyman Hitchcock	Lindsey Smith	Tim Smith	Ashley Ahlbrand	Gary Ingersoll
LECTOR	G Moehlmann	Jennifer Garl	Mary Smith	Carol Seaman	Stephanie Biehn	Susan Koutiel	Ashley Ahlbrand
ACOLYTE	Molly Wyatt	Truman Daleke	Sam Polansky	Audrey Knipstein	Nina Daleke	Koral Dimick	Noah Smith
SERVER	Carol Seaman	Stephanie Biehn	G Moehlmann	Dean Arnold	Lyman Hitchcock	Sandy Arnold	Sharon Fawbush
USHERS	P/L May	Dean Arnold	Baurle/Filiatrault	McDonald/Ohslund	Kaye Hill	P/L May	Dean Arnold
GREETER	J/R Steele	L/A Madsen	M O'Connor	T/J Sinn	G Moehlmann	T/J Garl	Kari Esarey
CRUCIFER	Carol Seaman			Dean Arnold			