



# *St. Thomas Lutheran Church News*

*October 2016  
XXXVII I Issue 10*

## *Blessing of Creatures*

As a conclusion for our Season of Creation and in celebration of St. Francis of Assisi (commemorated on Oct. 4), a “Blessing of Creatures” will take place during both worship services on October 2. Feel free to bring creatures in portable containers and house-broken ones on leashes. Pictures of other animals are welcome. Those bringing animals should sit near the patio doors and may feel free to worship from that space, weather permitting. Those with allergies might wish to sit near the organ or organ chamber and are encouraged to take their medications in advance.



## *Spiritual Growth Group Fair*

Sunday, October 2 there will be sign-up sheets for existing SGG groups and blank sheets for new ones on display in the narthex. Join in, suggest new ones, and grow our education and mission opportunities.



## *Celebrating the Chichipate Computer Lab— A Sister Parish Development Project*

I stopped by one of our Sunday School classes recently and became involved in a conversation about the new Computer Lab in Chichipate. It became clear to me that folks aren’t as aware as they might be about the reasons for this new ministry. I hope this article will help to clarify.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see pictures of some of our friends at Santo Domingo de Guzman Parish in Chichipate, Guatemala. They are celebrating the opening of the new “Computer Lab,” established through funding provided by their sisters and brothers of St. Thomas. The amount we provided was \$5,291.00, sent through the Sister Parish office.

Some of you will remember that we established a “Typing School” in 1998. The Computer Lab builds on that ministry. Here is some background.

Chichipate, founded in 1945 and legally constituted in 1980, has two primary schools. The Typing School has supplemented the primary education programs of the town and more than 400 students have graduated with a certified diploma. This diploma, until recently, was the only requirement beyond basic primary education for students to continue their education. Because the country required typing skills for higher education, without the Typing School students were denied access to further education as well as productive employment.

New educational reforms in Guatemala now require both typing skills and basic computer skills. So, the Q'eqchi' people have had a pressing need for access to computers locally. Attending urban schools is prohibitively expensive due to the high cost of classes and transportation. The new Computer Lab, opened only last month, provides this essential access, opening up educational opportunity and providing a vehicle for economic development.

The Computer Lab is overseen by a trained instructor from the community, and it is coordinated by the Chichipate Sister Parish committee. The community and tuition support the instructor, internet costs, and maintenance.

The objectives of the Computer Lab are to:

- provide access to internet and computer classes,
- certify students in computer skills, in order to have better opportunities of entering higher educational institutions and work, and
- reduce the costs of access to computer courses for students.

The Computer Lab is housed in the same building as is used for the Typing School. The expectation is that 75 students will receive computer classes, graduate, and receive diplomas of completion each year.

I thank God for all of you and for your generosity in giving towards this and other mission projects through St. Thomas. We have been a part of Sister Parish since 1992, and our relationship with Chichipate extends back to 1998.

May this new extension of our ministry bring new capacities and greater options to our beloved sisters and brothers in Guatemala. And may God be praised for this opportunity to serve God's people in a place of considerable need.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Lyle



## *From the Associate Pastor's Desk...*

On Sunday, October 9, the Sunday School will host its first Intergenerational Day for the 2016-2017 year. This is the first time we'll be having such an event during the school year. What's that about, you ask? Keeping reading!

### Who is invited?

EVERYONE is invited. Children, youth, families, college students, young adults, middle adults, Lively Older Lutherans, married adults, single adults, early church goers, late church goers. ALL are welcome!

### What is an Intergenerational Day?

Intergenerational Days are special days scheduled throughout the Sunday School year when all ages are invited to come together for an hour of programming, faith development, or a service project.

### Where will it happen?

Our first Intergenerational Day will be here at St. Thomas.

When will it happen?

Sunday, October 9, from 9:45-10:45am. Also known as, Education Hour!

Why has the Education Committee decided to have these days?

Intergenerational Days are scheduled for days when Sunday School has a lighter attendance, usually the first Sunday of a MCCSC break. On these days, the Sunday School classes often combine. This year we decided to invite the whole church! We also hope to keep some of the energy from this summer's Intergenerational VBS going and to help build energy for next summer too.

Who should I contact if I have questions or if I'm interested in hosting one?

Me, Pastor Colleen!

Our prayer is that this will be a meaningful time for all ages to connect, learn, and grow in faith together. The October 9 event will focus on learning more about the 12 cornerstones of Heifer International, our Sunday School offering project for the year. We'll learn more about how these values shape their work to raise awareness and resources to fight against world hunger and poverty. Hope to see you there!

Peace,  
Pastor Colleen



*From Our Choir Director*

Martin Luther once stated, "Music is God's greatest gift. It has often so stimulated and stirred me that I felt the desire to preach." As part of his goal of restoring true worship, Luther insisted that hymns be sung in every worship service. He felt strongly that hearing the Word of God and then uniting as a congregation to offer thanksgiving in song could open hearts and minds. This emphasis on congregational participation in worship became a hallmark of the Reformation.

Our church is a diverse body consisting of people from many different cultural, familial, economic, and educational backgrounds. In addition, when we come to worship each Sunday, we are each at a different point on our faith journey. Through the singing of hymns, we become one. The hymns we sing are offerings to God. They reflect our thanks and praise, our prayers and hopes, our fears and concerns, our faith and love, our history as a community of believers, and the assurance of God's covenant with us. More than 250 times in Scripture, we are called to sing. This is not an element of scripture that requires discernment to understand what God is trying to tell us. Singing in worship is not a choice; it should not be dependent on "feeling like it." We are commanded to lift our voice in song. We come each Sunday and listen attentively to the sermon; we pray with sincere devotion. May we be equally devout in our musical praise.

On Sunday, October 30, we will commemorate the 499<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the posting of Luther's *Ninety-Five Theses* on the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg. As we begin this year of celebration marking 500 years of the Protestant Reformation, I encourage each of you to join in the singing of hymns and liturgical responses with joy and conviction. God has given us the power to communicate through song. Let us never forget to share God's greatest gift – the gift of music.

Soli Deo Gloria,

Charles Prestinari

## A Thank You from Pastor Marissa

Dear People of St. Thomas,

Thank you for helping to make my ordination service and celebration so incredibly moving and meaningful. It was an honor and a delight to be ordained at such a special place in my journey of pastoral formation. Thanks to all of you who attended the service and all of you who sent your thoughts and prayers. Special thanks to those who participated in the worship service with leadership roles, the choir for their magnificent music, the many hands that prepared the beautiful reception, and the abundance of congratulations and well wishes from so many of you. Thank you for your kindness and support. Your presence surrounded me, strengthened me, and blessed me. May the love and grace of God that I have experienced through you continue to transform lives here in Bloomington and beyond.

Fondly,  
Pastor Marissa



## Chichipate Computer Lab

On August 23rd our Brothers and Sisters in Chichipate shared, "Recently, the committee was able to buy the computer lab equipment and will be installing the equipment in the coming days. They are expected to turn in a report once the project has finished the installation phase.

The community and committee would like to give thanks to St. Thomas for their support and look forward to being able to organize a north to south delegation in the coming months."

And then on September 07th, they updated us by rejoicing, "This past weekend the computer lab project was blessed by St. Guzman parish priest and elders. The community and committee send their profound gratitude to the St. Thomas community and ask that you keep the community of Chichipate in mind."

The Mission Committee of St Thomas would like to thank our congregation for its continued support of our Sister Parish linkage through prayers and financial offerings. It is a blessing to be able to help the youth of Chichipate, Guatemala, furthering their education with the new computer lab we have provided for them. We are looking forward to planning a North to South delegation in the near future. If you have an interest in this, please contact any member of the Mission Committee.

Gracias!



## Living Each Day as a Steward!

Please look for devotions and other items related to our stewardship program in coming weeks. A letter, pledge card, and "Time & Talent" sheet should have arrived by snail mail already.

Commitment Sunday is October 23rd. Please return your pledge card and Time & Talent sheet on that day; simply place them in the offering plate as it is passed at worship. Additional pledge cards and "Time & Talent" sheets are available on the Welcome Table in the narthex.



## "Simply Giving" makes Giving Simple!!

"Simply Giving" is a service provided by Thrivent, a financial services company affiliated with Lutheran churches. This service automatically withdraws money from your checking or savings account and sends the money to St. Thomas. You are in total control of how much is withdrawn and how often the money is withdrawn. You may start it at any time and stop it at any time. You can set it up to withdraw weekly, twice a month, monthly, or any other schedule. As an added benefit, there is no charge to you.

Many of our members use this service. It is a great way to be certain that your offerings still get to St. Thomas to support the ministries even if you happen to be out of town. Setting it up is easy – simply call the church office.



## New Members Class

Pastor McKee will lead a class for new members beginning on Sunday, October 2nd following the 11:00 a.m. worship services (12:30 – 1:30 p.m.) in the Conference Room.

The sessions will provide Lutheran perspectives on scripture, the sacraments, worship, and the Church, as well as offer information about opportunities to learn and serve at St. Thomas.



## October 2016 Adult Forums

October 2: Culture of Conversation, Sanctuary: Join Pastor Lyle for an open conversation about the ministries and missions of St. Thomas.

October 9: Intergenerational Day! All ages are welcome to come and learn more about our Sunday School Offering Project: Heifer International. Location: TBD.

October 16: Guatemala's Civil Water: Yesterday's Crimes Today, Conference Room, Peter Iversen

October 23: Biblical Storytelling, Pamela Grenfell Smith, Conference Room. Pamela Grenfell Smith will offer an ultra-quick introduction to biblical storytelling as a path into scripture. She writes, "When I tell a story I receive it differently, I sense it differently, I understand it differently. Giving voice to scripture has become an important part of my life."

October 30: Eco-Reformation 2017, Dawn Bakken, Conference Room. As we begin our year-long commemoration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, come join in a conversation about how creation care and healing can be a part of this year of learning, worship, reflection, and reformation. We'll watch a brief video about Lutherans Restoring Creation and then have an open discussion of ideas.

## Thursday Noon Prayers at the Spirit Window

At noon on Thursdays during October there will be an hour of prayer time at the spirit window in Heritage Hall. We'll use a simple structure that invites everyone to choose speech or silence. If that's your lunchtime, it's fine to bring your lunch. If you have children, bring them along - it's a big room and we'll find quiet activities for them. Questions? Speak with Pamela Smith, [narthex@baba-yaga.org](mailto:narthex@baba-yaga.org) / 323-1817.



## Youth Group Schedule

October 9, 5:30-7:30pm – Regular youth group at St. Thomas

October 23, 5:30-7:30pm – Regular youth group at St. Thomas

November 6, 5:30-7:30pm – Dinner Church & Family Game Night. It's a pitch-in dinner with a special worship service in the style of St. Lydia's, Brooklyn. After dinner we'll play a life-sized board game.

November 20, 5:30-7:30pm – Regular youth group at St. Thomas

November 27, 4:30-7:30 – Advent Vespers & Dinner. The whole family is invited for a special worship service to kick off the Advent season, a congregational meal, and then Advent themed games. More detail TBD

December 4, 5:30-7:30pm – Regular youth group at St. Thomas

December 18, 5:00 – 7:30 pm – Christmas Caroling. More details TBD



## Looking for Chefs!

The youth group is always looking for chefs to cook dinner for us at our regular youth group gatherings. If you're willing to cook, please contact Pastor Colleen. Following are available dates:

Oct 9 and 23, Nov. 20, and Dec. 4



## Prayers and Best Wishes to Our Confirmands

Congratulations to Erica Goldsworthy, Mitchell Knipstein and Zachary May on completing the requirements for our confirmation program at St. Thomas Church. These young people have engaged in class work, retreats, memorization, and service to the congregation and community. They will present their confirmation testimony at worship on Reformation Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup>.

May God continue to bless Erica, Mitchell and Zack with wisdom, growth in faith, and a spirit of joyful service to the Lord and the Church.



## Clergy Renewal Grant Awarded to St. Thomas

The congregation received notice in late August that St. Thomas was awarded a grant of \$49,942 for our Clergy Renewal Program. This grant will fund a number of activities for Pastor Lyle and for the congregation next year under the theme of "Consulting the Genius of the Place." Both pastor and congregation will consider next steps related to creation care. A significant portion of the grant is set aside to provide additional pastoral service during the renewal period, primarily through expanding Pastor Colleen's responsibilities, as well as to fund congregational events and activities.

The Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program for Indiana Congregations at Christian Theological Seminary (CTS) seeks to strengthen Indiana congregations by providing opportunities for pastors to step away briefly from the persistent obligations of daily parish life and to engage in a period of renewal and reflection. Renewal periods are not vacations, but times for intentional exploration and reflection, for regaining the enthusiasm and creativity for ministry, for discovering what will make the pastor's heart sing.



## ELCA Churchwide Assembly Key Actions

CHICAGO (Aug.16, 2016) – Voting members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) approved a number of key actions during the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly held in New Orleans Aug. 8-13. The assembly is the highest legislative authority of the church. The 945 voting members:

- Elected William B. Horne II of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Clearwater, Fla., vice president of the ELCA. Horne was installed during closing worship Aug. 13.
- Accepted the "Declaration on the Way," a unique ecumenical document that marks a path toward greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans. At the heart of the document are 32 "Statements of Agreement" that detail where Lutherans and Catholics do not have church-dividing differences on topics about church, ministry and the Eucharist. The document also presents the differences that remain.
- Approved AMMPARO – the ELCA's strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities. The ELCA developed this strategy based on commitments to uphold and guarantee the basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families; to address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America's Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit; to work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; to engage as a church with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation and its causes; and to advocate for migrant children and their families.
- Approved the Ministry of Word and Service roster. Beginning Jan. 1, 2017, ELCA associates in ministry, deaconesses and diaconal ministers will be a single, unified roster of Ministry of Word and Service. The accompanying constitutional amendments related to the roster were also considered and approved by the assembly.
- Approved the 2017-2019 budget proposal. The budget includes a 2017 current fund spending authorization of \$65,296,005 and a 2017 ELCA World Hunger spending authorization of \$24.8 million; a 2018 current fund income proposal of \$64,057,220 and a 2018 ELCA World Hunger income proposal of \$25 million; a 2019 current fund income proposal of \$64,151,175 and a 2019 ELCA World Hunger

income proposal of \$25 million; and authorizes the Church Council to establish a spending authorization after periodic review of revised income estimates.

- Approved various memorials – or proposals – from the ELCA’s 65 synods. In addition to memorials considered “en bloc,” the assembly separately approved the following: deepening relationships with historic Black churches; toward a responsible energy future; repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery; peace with justice in the Holy Land; justice for the Holy Land through responsible investment; African Descent Lutherans; call to discernment on U.S. foreign and military policy; welcoming refugees; and supporting military personnel, veterans and their families.
- Elected members to serve on: Church Council, Portico Benefits Services, Mission Investment Fund, Augsburg Fortress, Committee on Appeals, Committee on Discipline and Nominating Committee.
- Adopted amendments to the ELCA Constitution, Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions.

We offer gratitude to Judy Bush, Secretary of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod and one of the delegates representing our synod at the national assembly.



## Pipes Spooktacular at St. Thomas



The sixteenth annual Pipes Spooktacular will be held Friday, October 28, 7:00pm at St. Thomas. Sponsored by the IU organ department and the Bloomington chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the Spooktacular is a family-friendly event featuring spooky organ music, costumes, candy, and even singing Pumpkin Carols!

Wear your best costume and come early for a good seat -- the Spooktacular has become one of Bloomington's most popular Halloween traditions!



### REMINDER

Sunday, October 2 from 9:45-10:45 AM. Community Garden meeting to review the 2016 season and make adjustments for next year. If you have suggestions or feedback but cannot attend, please give your comments in writing to the office before then.

Saturday, October 8, 9:00-Noon. Old-Fashioned Canning Bee. Beginners welcome. For information and to register, contact Paula Perron at [communityseeds474@gmail.com](mailto:communityseeds474@gmail.com). Space is limited.



## *October Anniversaries*

Shawn & Gwen Caudill 10/4 13 years  
Rance & Sharon Fawbush 10/6 43 years  
David & Debbie Nixon 10/14 27 years  
Isaac & Megan Smith 10/20 2 years  
Mike & Jaydene Laros 10/23 45 years

## *October Birthdays*

10/4 Karol Anderson, Bailey Arnold,  
Deborah O'Brien  
10/5 Dan Rademacher  
10/6 Walt Wood  
10/9 Leah Iversen, Frank Nierzwicki  
10/10 Charlene Braun,  
10/13 Kathy Zellers  
10/14 Bob Cutter, Ron Peters  
10/16 Beth Berns  
10/17 Mary Sasse  
10/18 Paul Leber, Jan Sinn  
10/19 Marta Deibert  
10/21 Lynn Coyne, Isaac Wyatt  
10/22 Robin Hershberger  
10/24 Debbie Selk  
10/26 Shirley Mingee, Christiana  
Redman, Jerry Smith  
10/27 Karen Cline  
10/28 Sharon Fawbush  
10/29 Rachel Bourkland, Rey Kante,  
Nina Ost  
10/30 Tish Llewellyn,  
10/31 Stephanie Hulett

## *MCUM Food Pantry Needs*

- canned meats (salmon, beef stew, salmon, etc.) fruit juices, coffee, and other beverages
- baking mixes (cornbread, pancake, etc.)
- canned and dried fruit
- canned vegetables (carrots, greens, potatoes, etc.)

**Cleaning Supplies:** laundry soap, general household cleaners, sponges & scrubbies, bleach, mops, trash bags

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

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

# OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2016 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

	*OCTOBER 2	OCTOBER 9	*OCTOBER16	OCTOBER 23	*OCTOBER 30	*NOVEMBER 6	NOVEMBER 13
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
DEACON	R Hershberger	Lindsey Smith	K Boggess	Gail Seegert	David Rohlfing	Robin Hershberger	Kris Stewart
LECTOR	Gail Seegert	N Montgomery	Barb Unger	Kent Unger	Sacha Arterberry	Mike Laros	Judy Bush
ACOLYTE	M Arterberry	M Schacht	L Rademacher	A Goldsworthy	Natalie Schacht	Madelyn Shupe	E Goldsworthy
SERVER	ML Nierzwicki	Mary Sasse	Gail Seegert	Martha Selk	Shirley Mingee	David Ellies	Kent Unger
USHERS	D/D Nixon	F/ML Nierzwicki	J/M Doering	L/U Coyne	G/G Laughman	D/D Nixon	F/ML Nierzwicki
GREETERS	J/J Bush	L/U Coyne	Mary Sasse	JoAnne Namy	Bob Cutter	G/G Laughman	Evelyn Niemeyer
CRUCIFER					Barb Unger	David Ellies	
FLOWERS							
BREAD/WINE	D/S Arnold	M O'Connor	Mary Sasse				
COUNCIL CO	S/M Eichmiller	Cindy Gallien	Ashley Ahlbrand	Cindy Gallien	Ashley Ahlbrand	S/M Eichmiller	Cindy Gallien
	Tom Sinn	Charles Sweet	G Moehlmann	Dean Arnold	Dennis Baurle	Ashley Ahlbrand	G Moehlmann
ALTAR GUILD	Shirley Mingee	Ute Coyne	Cindy Gallien	Cindy Gallien	Evelyn Niemeyer	Gail Seegert	Ute Coyne
	Pauline Caldwell	Charlene Braun	Betty Smith	Susan Lehr	Carole Kirsch	Pauline Caldwell	Charlene Braun
	OCTOBER 2	*OCTOBER 9	OCTOBER 16	*OCTOBER 23	*OCTOBER 30	*NOVEMBER 6	NOVEMBER 13
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
DEACON	Ashley Ahlbrand	C Repsholdt	Gary Ingersoll	Lyman Hitchcock	Betty Smith	M O'Connor	C Repsholdt
LECTOR	Debbie Witt	Susan Koutiel	Mark Carpenter	Jerry Smith	Haley Garl	Stephanie Biehn	Kari Esarey
ACOLYTE	M Bourkland	M Knipstein	Birch Foley	Kenna Dimick	L Knipstein	Truman Daleke	Sophia Waters
SERVER	M O'Connor	Haley Garl	Sandy Arnold	Ruth Rives	Glory Hitchcock	Kathy McDonald	David Daleke
USHERS	K Hill	D/S Arnold	P/L May	McDonald/Ohslund	Baurle/Filiatrault	Kaye Hill	D/S Arnold
GREETER	Karen Blaisdell	B/J Smith	G Moehlmann	Baurle/Filiatrault	Kari Esarey	Haley Garl	T/J Sinn
CRUCIFER					Claire Repsholdt	Claire Repsholdt	

# October 2016



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
						Property Co 10:00
2 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00	3	4	5	6	7	8
<b>BLESSING OF THE CREATURES</b> SGG Fair in the Narthex Culture of Conversation 9:45 Community Garden Meeting 9:45 New Member Class 12:30	Community Band 7pm Communication Co 7 pm	UClub Yoga 10am Worship Com. 6:30 pm	Mission Co 6:45 pm Jazz Band 7 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm		
9 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00	10	11	12	13	14	15
Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Intergenerational Sunday 9:45 New Member Class 12:30 Youth Group 5:30 pm	Community Band 7pm	UClub Yoga 10am	Swing Band 7:00 pm	Finance Co 6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm		
16 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00	17	18	19	20	21	22
Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Education Hour 9:45am Congregation Council 12:30 Pipers Society 4:00 pm	Community Band 7pm Spinners/Weavers 7pm	UClub Yoga 10am	Jazz Band 7 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm		Bach Rehearsal 1:30 pm
23 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00	24	25	26	27	28	29
Education Hour 9:45am New Member Class 12:30 Bach Cantata 2:30pm Youth Group 5:30 pm	Community Band 7pm	UClub Yoga 10am	Swing Band 7:00 pm	Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	Pipes Spooktacular 7 pm 	
30 Reformation Sunday	31					
Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Confirming 3 youth at 11:00 New Member Class 12:30	Community Band 7pm					