

St. Thomas Lutheran Church News

*September 2016
XXXVII I Issue 9*



September Brings a Season of Creation

Worship Themes Focus on Wisdom (with special roles for children)

Sept. 4 – Ocean Sunday: We join the Psalmists and call the sea to roar with songs of praise, and with our Creator, we rejoice with whales, dolphins and other sea creatures.

Sept. 11 – Animal Sunday: We worship with the entire living family on Earth. We celebrate birds, animals, reptiles, and all living creatures.

Sept. 18 – Storm Sunday: We worship with the storm. We sing with the winds, the clouds, and the thunder. We wonder at the power of storms and the fierce expressions of the elements.

Sept. 25 – Universe Sunday: We worship with the entire universe, conscious that the universe is a vast sacred space. The special focus for this service is the spiritual impulse or presence that permeates the universe that scripture calls Wisdom!



Season of Creation – This September

What is the Season of Creation?

The Season of Creation is an optional season for the church year begun early this century. For the most part, the seasons of the church year follow the life of Jesus: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. The remainder of the church year encompasses Pentecost Season, which celebrates life in the Holy Spirit.

God is celebrated throughout the entire church year. And God the creator, Christ the redeemer of creation, and the Holy Spirit as sustainer of life are integral to worship throughout the church year. Of course, caring for creation is a vital dimension of every worship service. This series offers a few opportunities for making creation even more integral to worship and is offered as an alternative to/expansion of our usual “Giving Thanks for the Harvest” service usually set near the end of September.

A Special Focus in the Church Year

There is no focus in the church year on God the creator, no opportunity to reflect in a concentrated way on the foundations of redemption and sanctification, namely, the very creation itself that is redeemed and

sanctified. For centuries, our theology, our ethics, and our worship have been oriented in two dimensions: our relationship with God and our human relationships with one another.

Now it is time to turn our attention to God's relationship with all creation and our relationship with creation (and with God through creation) in the context of our liturgy. The experience of a Season of Creation through four Sundays in the church year alone will not bring the transformation in consciousness we need to address the ecological problems we face today in God's creation. Yet unless we can see what worship can be like in a season devoted fully to Creator and creation, we will probably not adequately incorporate care for creation into worship throughout the rest of the year. A Season of Creation has proven to be valuable in its own right. Yet we also need the Season of Creation to wake us up and show us another way to do worship *all the time*.

I pray that this season of creation will help us to see worship as involving all of creation in offering praise to God. As Psalm 148:5 invites: "Let all things praise the name of the Lord, because they were created at God's command." And I look forward to the special involvement of our children.

Join us in prayer and praise with all of creation this September.

Grace and peace, Pastor Lyle



From the Associate Pastor's Desk, ..

Thanks to everyone who participated and helped make our Kick-Off Sunday great! Both Sunday School and youth group are back in full swing. I'm so excited about the coming year, and hope that our children and youth caught some of this energy. As always, I'm around for questions and ideas.

Peace,
Pastor Colleen



Greetings St. Thomas Family,

You are warmly invited to attend a
Service of Holy Communion with
Rite of Ordination for
Marissa Tweed Harrison



St. Thomas Lutheran Church
3800 East 3rd St.
Bloomington, IN 47401
September 17, 2016, 1pm

The program year is off to an exciting start! Sunday school is resuming, kids are heading back to school, regular routines might be falling back into place. Perhaps some cooler weather is on the horizon...maybe. It's certainly a time of transition.

The last few months have been quite the time of transition for me as well. On May 15th, I graduated from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. On June 4th, Trey and I were married at the Lutheran camp where we met in 2011. And the very next day, June 5th, two congregations in the Indiana-Kentucky synod voted to call me as their pastor. Yeah!

I have been called to St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Camden, IN and Faith Lutheran Church in Logansport, IN. Thanks be to God! Both churches are within one hour of Purdue University where Trey is earning his PhD in Mechanical Engineering. Last weekend we moved into a rental house in a small town called Flora, a few miles away from the churches. It is an exciting time, and we are full of gratitude and anticipation.

Being called to serve as pastor of a congregation (or congregations) also means having the privilege of being ordained. I am excited and honored to invite you to my ordination which will take place at St. Thomas on Saturday, September 17th at 1pm. I would love to see you there!

In this time of transition, I find myself looking back at what has been, looking forward at what will be, and experiencing so much gratitude for the time I spent at St. Thomas during my internship year. Thank you again for the ways you impacted my life, taught me about ministry, and touched my heart.

I look forward to seeing you on Sept 17th,
(Soon-to-be Pastor) Marissa Tweed Harrison



Welcome to our New Adult Choir Director

We are very pleased to announce that Dr. Charles Prestinari, a new faculty member at the Jacobs School of Music at I.U., has accepted the position of Adult Choir Director here at St. Thomas Church. Dr. Prestinari completed his Bachelor of Music Education, Master of Music in Choral Conducting, and Doctor of Music in Choral Conducting at Indiana University and brings with him many years of experience as conductor of church and professional choirs and as a church organist. We welcome him with enthusiasm and we give thanks to God.



From Our New Choir Director

It was a great joy this past Sunday, August 28, to worship with you and lead the Adult Choir for the first time. I was a student at Indiana University from 1994 (when I began as a freshman music education major) through 2004 (when I finished by doctoral course work in choral conducting). I grew up in New Jersey, but have long considered myself an adopted Hoosier. It is wonderful to be back home in southern Indiana!

Much has changed in Bloomington since I last lived here in 2004 – new businesses, new buildings, new roads, and of course, a lot of new faces. At times, walking on campus, I feel like a freshman once more. It is comforting to know that some things remain as they were, most especially the tradition of a vibrant music program at St. Thomas. For the past several years, the music program under the leadership of Juan Carlos Zamudio Rodriguez and Mike Powell has soared. I am honored to have the opportunity to follow Juan Carlos as Adult Choir Director and build on that tradition of excellence in musical leadership.

Each September, the start of a new academic year brings new faces, new challenges, and new opportunities to our community. In this season of new beginnings, I invite all who love to sing to join the Adult Choir. In addition to the joy of making music and singing God's praise, the choir provides a wonderful opportunity to make closer connections with other members of our faith community. Although some experience in reading music is helpful, ALL are welcome. Whether you have sung in choirs all of your life, or you have, till this point, only sung in the shower or along with car radio, I hope you will join us as we glorify God through the gift of music.

Our worship centers around hearing and responding to God's word. It is my hope that the music you experience each Sunday – anthems, hymns, psalm settings, liturgical responses, instrumental music – will enhance your worship and provide you with myriad ways to experience God's work in the world. I look forward to getting to know each of you and to worshipping with you in the months and years ahead!

Peace,
Charles Prestinari



An Update from LCM-IU

Our campus and Bloomington communities are alive again with students ready to learn and grow. Once again, Lutheran Campus Ministry at IU is on campus to walk with young people fulfilling their vocation as students.

At Rose House, students have a place they can call 'home' while at IU. Students find...

- A space to just be and be known. There is no pressure to perform well on evaluations. There are no professors or peers to impress. Students can be themselves; getting to know one another and finding out where God is alive and working through them.
- A close-knit community that makes this large, intimidating campus feel a little smaller and more manageable.
- A launching pad that sends these beloved children of God out to serve the campus, the Bloomington community, and the world.

The St. Thomas community has always been a key ministry partner. The prayers you lift up; the food you provide for students; the time you commit tending to property and other needs. All these things breathe life into this ministry.

In these times we are also mindful of the financial support you give this ministry. Campus ministries everywhere have always operated creatively on shoestring budgets. These past few years, however, have seen particular funding challenges not just here in Bloomington, but across the country. Our own Indiana-Kentucky Synod funds a considerable portion LCM's ministry. Mission support to the synod's budget has decreased over \$1M in the past 10 years so that the synod is no longer able to fund campus ministry as it has in the past. In the past six years alone LCM-IU has seen its operating grant from the synod decrease by over 20%. This decline in funding has, in turn, required LCM to cut its budget significantly over multiple years.

The LCM board of directors has devoted countless hours working to address these funding challenges and anticipated future deficits. Despite diligent efforts to creatively raise funds and steward well all available resources, the board has recently determined it cannot continue to staff the ministry with a full time rostered leader. The first visible sign of this shift will be that, beginning September 1, Pastor Kelli will no longer serve as part of the campus ministry team. While Jeff currently remains on staff to serve the IU community at just under full time, the board continues to discern the future shape of the ministry. As it does, we ask for your prayers and your continued partnership in this ministry with young adults on campus.

In Christ,
Jeff



Welcome New Children's Choir Director

St. Thomas member Melissa de Graaf is delighted to be taking on the role of children's choir director. She has a long and varied musical background, as a music professor at the University of Miami, as a youth choir director, and leading a music and movement program for preschoolers at her former church in Florida. She has been a stay-at-home mom this past year, as well as a Girl Scout troop leader. Melissa is looking forward to making music with the kids!



Calling Child Singers for the Children's Choir

The St. Thomas Children's Choir K-6) announces its 2016 Fall Season (under the direction of our new choir director, Melissa de Graaf. So, your children are warmly invited to come and join us. We rehearse the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month from 9:00am until 9:45am. We sing on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the 11:00am service. There are instruments or something special that may be added to our songs most months. Please come join us for the fun. We would love to have you.



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:

Sept 18 Oct 9 Oct 23
Nov 20 Dec 4



Youth Group Schedule

September 18, 5:30-7:30pm – Regular youth group at St. Thomas

Friday, September 23- Sunday, September 25 – Confirmation Retreat at Lutheran Hills for 7th-9th graders.

Saturday, October 1 – CROP Walk. More details TBD

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.

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

December – Christmas Caroling. More details TBD



High School Sunday School Wants to Visit YOU!

Peter Iversen, our high school teacher, has worked hard to develop a new approach to Sunday School for our teens that gets the class both out of the church building and out of Sunday mornings. This is a relationship-building, hospitality-centered, meeting-teens-where-they-are-at approach. The class will meet twice a month in congregation members' homes. Peter will provide the discussion; all that members would have to provide is a place to be and some snacks. This is an incredible way to get to know the youth of the church, to share sparks of your own faith with them, and show them how much the St. Thomas community cares about them. If you're willing to host or have questions, please contact Peter Iversen: peter.j.iversen@hotmail.com



Bloomington Refugee Support Network Meets

Thursday, September 22, 2016 , 7:00 p.m.
Unitarian Universalist Church (2120 Fee Lane).

This meeting is open to all who are interested in supporting refugee settlement in our community. Our Mission Committee is involved and welcomes others.



Adult Education Series Continues (Living the Questions 2.0)

We continue our “Living the Questions” study with Part II: Honoring Creation. The first session is set for Tuesday, September 13 at 7:00 pm.

Living the Questions is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers. Living the Questions creates an environment in which participants not only interact with one another in exploring the best of today’s theological thought, but together strive to explore what’s next for Christianity. Sessions feature many of today’s leading religious voices.

Copies of session materials will be available in the office on the preceding Sunday and in class.



Sunday morning Bible Study

Starting September 11 (the first Sunday after Labor Day) 9:45 - 10:40 AM in Room 11 and continuing every Sunday that the Sunday School meets.

Martin Luther gained new insights through his reading of the Scriptures. He translated the Scriptures into the language of his people so that they also could gain new insights. His reading changed his life and the life of our Church. In our Bible Study, we read the Scripture together and share insights and questions. We will start this year reading the Gospel according to Mark.



St. Thomas Annual Mission Fair, Sunday, September 18

The Mission Committee is sponsoring our annual mission fair this year on September 18. This is an opportunity for members to inform each other about some of their favorite local, national, and international charitable groups. In past years, we have filled the narthex with tables and we hope to do the same this year. As per previous years, no one will be collecting funds or making any kind of sales or membership pitch---just offering information about their passion and commitment for the volunteer work they do outside the church. To reserve table space, please contact Dawn Bakken, debakken@msn.com.



Our Mission Book Club Continues September 21

Please join members of the Mission Committee to talk about another book intended to enrich both your own personal commitment to charitable giving and to inform our congregation’s mission work. Last spring, a group read Robert Lupton’s *Toxic Charity*, which produced an interesting conversation about St. Thomas’s various outreach programs. This fall, we’ll take a different look at what makes a successful charity and how

so many programs fall short, reading *A Path Appears: Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity* by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. Two copies of the book, along with reading guides, are available on the counter in front of Kaye's desk in the main office. The book can also be purchased in paperback or Kindle edition. We will meet at the home of Jan and Tom Sinn, 4019 E. Bennington Blvd., 7 p.m., Wednesday, September 21.



Our church is having a Reformation 500 Bookstore!

The 500th anniversary of the Reformation is fast approaching! Do you want to learn more about Martin Luther, his writings, and their impact on Christianity? Do you want to reflect on the ongoing impact of the Reformation today? Stop by our Reformation 500 Bookstore to shop for engaging books on the Reformation for readers of all ages and interests! Save up to 50% plus receive free shipping on all Bookstore titles.

Stop by the narthex on Sundays, Sept. 11 or 18 or during office hours on weekdays between Sept. 11 and Sept. 24 to order fascinating books on the Reformation for you and your family.

Our Bookstore is sponsored by Augsburg Fortress, the publishing ministry of the ELCA. The books will include bestselling biographies like *Luther the Reformer* as well as an atlas of the European Reformations, a graphic novel for young readers, and primary sources from The Annotated Luther series.



Living Each Day as a Steward!

C.S. Lewis said, "There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done,' and those to whom God says, 'All right, then, have it your way.'" As redeemed children of God, of course, we desire to belong to that first category. We long to live each day as stewards who earnestly pray, "Thy will be done." As God's stewards, we are devoted to using all that we are and have to the glory of God. We are God's stewards each and every day.

During three Sundays in October (9th, 16th, and 23rd), we will be offering brief presentations and materials related to our stewardship theme, living each day as a steward. We will consider how the Holy Spirit, working through Word and Sacrament, transforms us to be more like our Chief Steward, Jesus, who willingly poured out his life in giving and serving. Just as Jesus faithfully served God by serving us, we are to use our lives and gifts in grateful and faithful service to God by serving others. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

As your pastors, we ask that each of you pray diligently about the ways you may live more faithfully as God's stewards. We are praying for you, that you grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord that you might be strengthened in faith both for eternity and for a fruitful life here on Earth.

May God grant us strength and wisdom to be the faithful stewards that we are called to be.

Pastor Lyle and Pastor Colleen



Save the Dates (March 11-16, 2017) for our Re-set Trip to Living Waters

Our planned July trip to visit Living Waters Lutheran Church in Cherokee, North Carolina, had to be cancelled due to last-minute complications for two of our four delegates. Please consider coming with us as we re-plan traveling down to North Carolina during IU/Monroe County schools' next spring break from

Saturday, March 11, through Thursday, March 16, 2017. We'll have lots of fellowship and fun, learn about Cherokee culture, and work alongside Pastor Jack and Lisa Russell and their parishioners to paint and improve their church home. Look for more information later this fall.



News from the Garden

Garden Work Day Saturday, September 3, from 10-noon. We will weed the paths and center herb bed, spread leaf mulch for the new wildflower bed on the west edge, and create a gravel base around the north hydrant. Other ideas are welcome! Bring whatever tools you can, including wheelbarrows or buckets, shovels, pitchforks. We will also put our heads together about future tasks, such as addressing the brush pile.

Harvest Celebration and Seed Share Sunday, September 25 from 5-7 PM in Community Hall. All are invited to this year-end fest! We will have a pitch-in meal featuring locally sourced ingredients, and our seed-savers will share their harvest of vegetable and flower seeds.

Canning Bee

We're hosting an old-fashioned canning bee on Saturday, October 8 from 9-noon at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, 3800 E. Third, Bloomington. Bring your produce, jars, lids, rings, canner if you have one (water bath or pressure-type), paring knife, big bowls and other supplies. Beginners welcome - we'll help you figure out what to bring and walk you through the process. We will be canning according to guidelines published in the latest edition of the Ball Canning Book - if you're interested in having your own copy, preview and order at <https://www.amazon.com/All-Ball-Book-Canning-Preserving/dp/0848746783>. Space is limited to 6 participants. For more information and to register, contact Paula Perron at communityseeds474@gmail.com.



Intergenerational Fiber Arts Group

Come Saturday, September 27th from 10 am - 12 pm with the projects you are working on or wish you were working on to collaborate, motivate, and enjoy company and craft. We will chat more about what we want the group to look like and enjoy some treats. Hope to see you there! Leah Iversen (812)320-2017

Congratulations to
Lynn & Ute Coyne on their
45th wedding anniversary,
September 10th

September Birthdays

9/2 Haley Garl, Sandy Pankow
9/5 Barb Unger
9/7 Kris Frampton
9/8 Richard Zellers, Mia Arterbery
9/9 Andrew Goldsworthy,
Mary Krupinski
9/11 John Steele
9/12 David Nixon, Melissa Watters
9/13 Jeff Schacht
9/15 Lois Selk
9/18 Isaiah Dilger, Arno Risner
9/20 Gloria Hitchcock
9/21 Marilyn Harder
9/23 Matthew Bourkland

MCUM Food Pantry Needs for September

Canned fruits & vegetables
Salad dressing
Chicken or tuna in a pouch
Black pepper Salt
Rice (10lb bags or larger)
Household needs: Laundry soap,
bleach and trash bags

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

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

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER VOLUNTEER 2016

	*SEPTEMBER 4	SEPTEMBER 11	*SEPTEMBER 18	SEPTEMBER 25	*OCTOBER 2	OCTOBER 9	*OCTOBER 16
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
DEACON	Lindsey Smith	David Rohlfing	Gail Seegert	Kris Stewart	R Hershburger	Lindsey Smith	K Boggess
LECTOR	David Ellies	ML Nierzwicki	Dana Barron	Bob Cutter	Gail Seegert	N Montgomery	Barb Unger
ACOLYTE	Natalie Schacht	Madelyn Shupe	Zach May	E Goldsworthy	M Arterberry	M Schacht	L Rademacher
SERVER	Jean Brown	Barb Unger	Gene Laughman	Judy Bush	ML Nierzwicki	Mary Sasse	Gail Seegert
USHERS	G/G Laughman	J/M Doering	L/U Coyne	F/ML Nierzwicki	D/D Nixon	F/ML Nierzwicki	J/M Doering
GREETERS	M/J Laros	Jean Brown	Shirley Mingee	C/S Arterberry	J/J Bush	L/U Coyne	Mary Sasse
CRUCIFER							
FLOWERS	ML Nierzwicki Susan Krieg		G Moehlmann				
BREAD/WINE	R Hershburger	Mary Sasse	Jean Brown	M/C Braun	D/S Arnold	M O'Connor	Mary Sasse
COUNCIL CO	Ashley Ahlbrand	Cindy Gallien	Cindy Gallien	Dean Arnold			
	S/M Eichmiller	G Moehlmann	Dennis Baurle	Kim Filiatrault			
ALTAR GUILD	Gail Seegert	E Niemeyer					
	Susan Lehr	Betty Smith					
	SEPTEMBER 4	*SEPTEMBER 11	SEPTEMBER 18	*SEPTEMBER 25	OCTOBER 2	*OCTOBER 9	OCTOBER 16
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
DEACON	Gary Ingersoll	Betty Smith	M O'Connor	Lyman Hitchcock	Ashley Ahlbrand	C Repsholdt	Gary Ingersoll
LECTOR	Vicki Polansky	Jennifer Garl	Kathy McDonald	G Moehlmann	Debbie Witt	Susan Koutiel	Mark Carpenter
ACOLYTE	Truman Daleke	Nina Daleke	Sophia Watters	Sam Polansky	M Bourkland	M Knipstein	Birch Foley
SERVER	Pauline Caldwell	L Hitchcock	Sharon Fawbush	Betty Smith	M O'Connor	Haley Garl	Sandy Arnold
USHERS	D/S Arnold	P/L May	Baurle/Filiatrault	McDonald /Oshlund	K Hill	D/S Arnold	P/L May
GREETER	J/R Steele	Ruth Rives	Deb Moore	Katie Anderson	Karen Blaisdell	B/J Smith	G Moehlmann
CRUCIFER							

September 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	2	3 Property Co 10 am Bach Rehearsal 1:30
4 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 <u>Ocean Sunday</u> Education Hour 9:45am Culture of Conversation 9:45 Bach Cantata 2:30pm	5 Community Band 7pm	6 UClub Yoga 10am Altar Guild 6 pm	7 Swing Band 7pm	8 Finance 6:00 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	9	10
11 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 <u>Animal Sunday</u> Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Education Hour 9:45am	12 Delta Kappa Gamma 4pm Living the Questions 7pm Community Band 7pm	13 UClub Yoga 10am	14 Jazz Band 7 pm	15 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	16	17 Marissa Tweed Harrison ordination 1 pm Reception following
18 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 <u>Storm Sunday</u> Children's Choir Rehearsal 9am Mission Fair in the Narthex 9am Education Hour 9:45am PRENA Annual Mtg 3pm Youth Group 5:30 pm	19 Community Band 7pm Spinners/Weavers 7pm	20 UClub Yoga 10am	21 Mission Book Club 7pm, Sinn Home Swing Band 7 pm	22 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	23 Confirmation Retreat for 7 th – 9 th grade at Lutheran Hills	24 Confirmation Retreat for 7 th – 9 th grade at Lutheran Hills Intergenerational Fiber Arts Group 10 -12
25 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 <u>Universe Sunday</u> Education Hour 9:45am Harvest Celebration & Seed Swap 5pm	26 Community Band 7pm	27 UClub Yoga 10am Lace Guild 7 pm	28 Jazz Band 7 pm	29 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	30	

