



# *St. Thomas Lutheran Church News*

*September, 2017  
XXXIX, Issue No. 9*

## *September Brings a New Season of Creation*

***Worship themes focus on the Spirit, a deep impulse breathing life into creation, suffering with creation, and renewing all creation.***

Sept. 3 – Forest Sunday: This Sunday we worship with the forests of Earth, remembering that God created humans from Earth and planted a forest garden to be a home with the rest of their kin in creation.

Sept. 10 – Land Sunday: We worship with the land, soil, and land creatures. Scripture proclaims Christ as the second Adam who came to overcome the sin and death caused by Adam, including the curse imposed on Earth.

Sept. 17 – Wilderness Sunday: We worship with the wilderness, with the creations and the creatures of the wild. Just as Jesus experienced life in the wilderness, we too have an opportunity to worship with all God's wild life.

Sept. 24 – River Sunday: We worship alongside the rivers and with all the water life residing around them.

***Our thanks to our supply preachers and presiders—Rev. Ellen Mills, Rev. Don Jones, and Deacon Jeff Schacht, who have agreed to make use of these themes.***



## *A Second 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 second 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."

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

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Lyle

P.S. I'll see you on the first Sunday of October.



### ***The Home Stretch***

September is the final month of Pastor Lyle's sabbatical, and we will focus on creation. Each Sunday worship will have a theme: forest, land, wilderness, and rivers. As Pastor Lyle has travelled through varied terrain to see how the land affects the people and the way they farm, we have a chance to ponder God's creation as well. Perhaps you visited different terrain this summer. Were you aware of God at work?

It is also harvest time in that extraordinary garden on the hill behind the church. At this moment, my one tomato plant has provided 30 tomatoes for me and 30 for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. And summer is not over yet. What have you been tending this summer? Hope? Patience? Curiosity about what is around or ahead of you? Even though January is the beginning of the year for most people, September has long been the beginning for me. Sunday School has begun, school has started, and we are all invited to learn and grow.

*Pastor Ellen*



## *Come Join Us!!!!*

As we enter this season of harvest, the Adult Choir is hoping to harvest a few new singers. This year, you may notice a few more orange chairs on the north side of the sanctuary. For various reasons, we have lost ten choir members this fall. (We are hoping that many of them might be able to return in the spring) However, in loss, there is also the opportunity for new growth. If you enjoy singing, if you have ever thought about joining a choir, if you are looking for a way to become more involved in this community of faith, God has opened the door for you! We WANT you to join us! We NEED you to join us! In this 500th anniversary year of the Reformation, please come join in praising God through that which Martin Luther proclaimed as God's greatest gift to us -- the beauty and power of music.

Peace in Christ,  
Chuck Prestinari



## *Calling Child Singers for the Children's Choir*

The St. Thomas Children's Choir (K-6) announces its 2017 Fall Season under the direction of Melissa de Graaf. 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 beginning on September 10th. 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. Please contact Melissa de Graaf if you have any questions: send a text to 954-668-0122, or email [mjdegtraaf76@gmail.com](mailto:mjdegtraaf76@gmail.com).



## *5 Ways to Lend a Hand to LCM-IU*



- 1) Do you get groceries at Kroger? Go online and connect your Kroger Plus card with LCM-IU.
- 2) Shop Amazon? Select LCM for Amazon Smile.
- 3) LCM needs fifteen volunteers to help clean up a section of Memorial Stadium from 7-10 a.m. on *Sunday, Oct. 15*. This fund raising activity concludes with some a.m. LCM tailgate fun!
- 4) Volunteer to provide lunch or goodie bags for students.
- 5) LCM-IU's annual appeal letter this is coming fall. Keep an eye on your mailbox!

LCM board members will be on hand between services and following late worship on *September 17 & 24* to help you sign up and answer any questions.

Thank you for your unwavering support of this mission outpost on campus!

## *Attending to Scripture in the Anthropocene*

"Anthropocene" - have you heard this word? In *Nature*, a top-ranked scientific journal, earth scientist Clive Hamilton writes:

*"[It arises]...from the new discipline of Earth-system science. Earth-system science takes an integrated approach, so that climate change affects the functioning of not just the atmosphere, but also the hydrosphere, the cryosphere, the biosphere and even the lithosphere.... [the] human imprint on the global environment has now become so large and active that it rivals some of the great forces of Nature in its impact on the functioning of the Earth system."*

Our Sunday Bible readings in September offer us a group of unusual stories. During Adult Forum time, Biblical storyteller Pamela Grenfell Smith invites you to listen and reflect on these stories with her as people of the Anthropocene Age. What happens when we pay careful attention? How do they sound to us now?

September 3 - **Attending to Adam and Eve in the Anthropocene**

September 10 - **Attending to Cain and Abel in the Anthropocene**

September 17 – *No Adult Forum*

September 24 - **Attending to Noah in the Anthropocene**



## *St. Thomas Youth want YOU!*

We are blessed to have an active youth group at St. Thomas! We are also blessed to have dedicated adults and parents who help support our youth group by helping during the group get-togethers, providing meals, and providing transportation. A BIG thank you to Peter Iversen, Ben Eichmiller, and Victoria Hoppes, as well as many other folks who are currently helping in youth ministry or have helped in the past.

We would like to extend an invitation to other adults to become a part of our youth ministry, even if it's only occasionally. The Search Institute, in their list of 40 Developmental Assets that build resiliency in youth, lists as #3 that a youth has a better chance at building resiliency if they have "support from three or more nonparent adults" (<http://www.search-institute.org/content/40-developmental-assets-adolescents-ages-12-18>).

We'd love for you to join us and invest in our youth! Please contact Amy Balcam at [928aab@gmail.com](mailto:928aab@gmail.com), or (812) 332-5252, if you are interested in volunteering or finding out more.

**"God's work. Our hands." Sunday  
Sept. 10, 2017**  
**SAVE THE DATE**

One of the projects that St. Thomas will be doing for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday on September 10th will be to create "Welcome Kits" for new foster families. As part of the kit, we will be including a board game. Would you be willing to donate a new board game? We are looking for games such as Chutes & Ladders, Candyland, Guess Who?, etc. We will be putting together 10 kits. If you'd like to contribute a board game, please put in in Amy's office (Pastor Colleen's old office). We will donate our completed kits to The Villages. Thank you!

## *Youth Group Schedule*

September 10, 3:30 - 5 pm: Youth & Families participate at STLC in God's Work Our Hands project.

September 17, 5:30 - 7:30 pm: Regular Youth Group at STLC

September 22-24: Confirmation Retreat at Lutheran Hills for 7th & 8th Grade

October 15, 5:30 - 7:30 pm: Youth Group Movie Night at the Knipstein's!

October 22, 5:30 - 7:30 pm: Regular Youth Group at STLC

November 5, 5:30 - 7:30 pm: Regular Youth Group at STLC

November 19, 5:30 - 7:30 pm: "Thanksgiving"/Gratefulness at STLC

December 3, 5:30 - 7:30 pm: Advent Vespers & Dinner for Youth Group and their families

December 17: 5:30 - 7:30 pm: Christmas Celebration for Youth Group at STLC or Amy's house

January 3 (TBD): Youth Group outing at Paoli Peaks



## *Reading for Reformation*

Last winter, St. Thomas held a Fortress Press book fair and received a free copy of every book on display. Those books still sit on a display shelf in our library, in pristine (unread) condition. As part of this year's celebration, the Reformation 500 Committee invites you to pick up a book or two—read about Luther's career and thought, read one of Luther's original writings, or read about ecumenical reformation movements underway in the modern church. We'll have our little Reformation library on a (more visible) table in the narthex for two or three Sundays, along with a reading guide providing summary reviews of each book to help you choose. Let's empty the table and start Reading for Reformation. Next month: a challenge to write your own book review!



## *Mission Fair*

The Mission Committee is sponsoring our annual Mission Fair on Sunday, September 19, from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. The fair allows members who volunteer for or are passionate about a non-profit charitable organization to spread the word to the rest of the congregation. Each group has space at one of the tables that will be set up in the narthex. There is no fundraising at the fair. Participants can display information about their group, distribute literature, and put out signup sheets to recruit volunteers or to provide further information. If you would like to participate, please contact Dawn Bakken, Mission Committee member, at [debakken@msn.com](mailto:debakken@msn.com) no later than Sunday, September 12.

## Art REsale

Warm thanks to everyone who contributed to the ART REsale event last Sunday. St Thomas raised over \$1000.00 for our Sister Parish North to South Delegation fund. It was a delight sharing this event with our neighbors Congregation Beth Shalom and University Baptist Church. Special thanks go to Kaye Hill who was our on site coordinator of work coming in, and to Dawn Bakken who orchestrated a grant from Thrivent for advertising. I appreciate all who volunteered their time and items to make this event a true collaborative success.

Gracias  
Suzanne Halvorson



# Oktoberfest! Sunday, October 1 at 12:30 pm

On the menu: fried chicken, German sausages, red cabbage, mac and cheese, broccoli salad, German potato salad, fried biscuits, apple butter, beer, lemonade, iced tea, and cake. Catering by Schnitzelbank Restaurant. Plus, door prizes!

## Responding Today to the Call to Reformation

*In January, at Hotdish Heaven, the Reformation 500 Committee invited us to reflect on our theological roots in the people, places, and experiences that taught us the faith.*

*At Mayfest, we reflected on the holiness of the places we live in, care for, and love today.*

*At Oktoberfest we'll welcome Pastor Lyle and Marie home, celebrate Pastor Lyle's 35 years of ordained ministry, and begin a season of shared reflection on our call as a reforming church for our time.*

**Gifts will be gathered for New Hope Family Shelter - Details soon!**



# *Transformed by Grace, Faith and Love*



The theme for this year's stewardship emphasis is ***Transformed by Grace, Faith, and Love***. We will begin this emphasis on Sunday, October 8. As God's people, we have been given the high honor of being God's stewards. As stewards, we are called to manage faithfully all that we've been entrusted with according to God's will and to God's glory. Because of God's generous gifts of grace, faith, and love, we are empowered to serve well and faithfully. We are the vehicles of God's work in the world, as the ELCA tagline reminds: "God's Work. Our Hands." Each week during this three-week emphasis, we will be focusing on one of the three holy forms of love: grace, faith, and love.

In week one, our focus is on God's steadfast love, which scripture calls grace. God's grace comes to us through Jesus, not because of what we deserve but entirely because of God's unfathomable love for us. We receive it freely through the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord. Such amazing grace, then, motivates us to be God's stewards—returning love for love, grace with faith. The power of God's grace in our lives compels us in gratitude to use our time, talents, and money in ways that glorify God.

In week two, we are reminded that it is through faith that we have access to God's grace in a new relationship. Through faith, grace bears fruit. Not only does faith connect us fully to God and give us peace with God (Romans 5:1), James and others in scripture note that faith produces works (James 2:18). Faith leads to action. Through faith, we are empowered to fulfill God's purposes. Our deeds as stewards are evidence of our faith.

The third week we focus on the virtue of love. Love is the relationship of grace and faith flowing out into the world. "*Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another... if we love one another, God lives in us and God's love is perfected in us*" (1 John 4:11-12). God's love prompts our faith and our love, extended towards others and creation in giving freely of our time, talents, and treasures.

Please pray that we will all be more fully ***Transformed by Grace, Faith, and Love***.



## *The Sveholms Have Arrived in Slovakia*

On August 18, we left our teacher training in Slovakia's capital, Bratislava, and drove through the mountains in a car full of the things we'd brought from home to make our new lives. We stopped for a late lunch in a traditional Slovak restaurant, where we ate a spiced mutton stew with fried cheese, bought wild blueberries from a vendor, and watched a herd of sheep pass by. Our son was delighted by the pony at the restaurant, who tickled his leg with its tongue.

After lunch, we followed a road lined with green trees and entered our new city, Tisovec. It's a small city, about 5,000 people, smallest of the ELCA teaching posts in Central Europe. Yet it boasts one of the best high schools in Slovakia, a bilingual Lutheran boarding school which draws students from around the country. The school celebrated its 25th year last year. Most subjects are taught in both Slovak and English, and while I will be teaching English conversation and writing, Nick will be teaching history, geography, and civics.

The city is a flurry with preparations. The teachers have had a few meetings this week, but workshops start in earnest next week and students arrive the following week. High school lasts five years here and the first year students begin with a several day team-building trip to meet the other 50-60 students in their grade. We've been meeting various co-workers, all of whom have been delighted and charmed by our almost 3-year-old (he has been shaking hands with everyone and saying "dobrý deň" and "nice to meet you"). We're exploring the city and settling in this week, enjoying the scenic surroundings and stocking our apartment with the last few things we know we'll need, including a drying rack and a step stool. I have a feeling our little one will miss Cheerios and I will miss fluffy towels, but we're pleased to have Skype, good chocolate, friendly neighbors, and the prayers and support of our communities back home.

Thank you. Ďakujem. God's blessings to you.

Naomi Sveholm

[nas@holdenvillage.org](mailto:nas@holdenvillage.org)

*(Nick and Naomi Sveholm, with their son, visited St. Thomas on July 22 - they were members here during Nick's graduate studies at IU. Both of them will be teaching for a year in Slovakia as representatives of ELCA's Global Mission program. They've asked the people of St. Thomas to contribute towards their deployment expenses; **if you'd like to contribute, just mark SVEHOLM on the memo line of your check to St. Thomas.**)*



City of Tisovec



Church in Tisovec

## *September Birthdays*

9/2 Haley Garl, Sandy Pankow  
9/5 Barb Unger  
9/7 Kris Frampton  
9/8 Richard Zellers, Mia Arterberry  
9/9 Andrew Goldsworthy  
9/11 John Steele  
9/12 David Nixon, Melissa Watters  
9/13 Jeff Schacht  
9/15 Lois Selk  
9/18 Arno Risner  
9/20 Gloria Hitchcock  
9/21 Marilyn Harder  
9/23 Matthew Bourkland  
9/26 Lissa May  
9/28 Amy Balcam

Congratulations to  
Lynn & Ute Coyne on their  
46<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary,  
September 10th

## **MCUM Food Pantry Needs for September**

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

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

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[kayehill@stlconline.org](mailto:kayehill@stlconline.org)

# VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2017

	Sept 3*	Sept 10	Sept 17*	Sept 24	October 1 *	October 8	October 15*
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
ASST MINISTER	Lindsey Smith	Gail Seegert	Robin Hershberger	Kris Stewart	David Rohlfing	Lindsey Smith	Kathleen Boggess
LECTOR	Pauline Caldwell	Lynn Coyne	Judy Bush	Mike Laros	Del Newkirk	Barb Unger	David Ellies
ACOLYTE	Max Arterberry	Lilly Rademacher	Madelyn Shupe	Matthew Schacht	Max Arterberry	Natalie Schacht	Lilly Rademacher
SERVER	Gene Laughman	Barb Unger	Martha Selk	David Ellies	Judy Bush	Jean Brown	Mary Sasse
USHERS	Gallien/Namy	F/ML Nierzwicki	J/M Doering	G/G Laughman	D/D Nixon	L/U Coyne	Gallien/Namy
GREETERS	Gail Seegert	JoAnne Namy	Evelyn Niemeyer	C/S Arterberry	Mary Sasse	M/J Laros	K/B Unger
CRUCIFER							
FLOWERS	F/ML Nierzwicki	Karen Cline	Moehlmann/Risner	A/D Balcam		T/J Sinn	
BREAD/WINE	M/J Laros	M/C Braun	R Hershberger	Katie Anderson	Chris Ogan	C/K McDonald	Pauline Caldwell
COUNCIL CO	Sam Eichmiller	Sam Eichmiller	Cindy Gallien	Dean Arnold	Ashley Ahlbrand	Keith Knipstein	Cindy Gallien
	Kim Filiatrault	Dennis Baurle	G Moehlmann	Mark Carpenter	Tom Sinn	Kim Filiatrault	Dennis Baurle
ALTAR GUILD	Shirley Mingee						
	Betty Smith						
	Sept 3	Sept 10*	Sept 17	Sept 24*	October 1	October 8*	October 15
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
ASST MINISTER	Lyman Hitchcock	Tim Smith	Ashley Ahlbrand	R Hershberger	Gary Ingersoll	Lyman Hitchcock	Ashley Ahlbrand
LECTOR	Sandy Arnold	Peter Iversen	Helen Ingersoll	Cindy Ohlsund	Debbie Moore	Kathy McDonald	Chris Ogan
ACOLYTE	Koral Dimick	Will Foley	M Bourkland	Leah Knipstein	Will Foley	Kenna Dimick	Birch Foley
SERVER	Mark Carpenter	Carol Seaman	Betty Smith	Chris Ogan	Sharon Fawbush	Katie Anderson	David Daleke
USHERS	McDonald/Ohslund	Baurle/Filiatrault	Kaye Hill	D/S Arnold	McDonald/Ohslund	P/L May	Baurle/Filiatrault
GREETER	T/J Sinn	Deb Moore	Katie Anderson	B/J Smith	Margaret Harter	Ruth Rives	C/K McDonald
CRUCIFER							



# September

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Property Co 10:00
3 <i>FOREST SUNDAY</i> Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Adult Forum – Biblical Storytelling	4 Community Band 7pm	5 Altar Guild 5:00 pm Worship Com. 6:30 UClub Yoga 10am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	6 Friday Musicale 9:30	7 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	8	9 Bach rehearsal 1:00 pm
10 <i>LAND SUNDAY</i> Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Adult Forum – Biblical Storytelling Bach Cantata 2:30 pm	11 Community Band 7pm	12 UClub Yoga 10am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	13	14 Finance Co 6pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	15	16
17 <i>WILDERNESS SUNDAY</i> Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Mission Fair in narthex 9:45 am Congregation Council 12:45 pm	18 Community Band 7pm Spinners/Weavers 7 pm	19 UClub Yoga 10am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	20	21 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	22	23
24 <i>RIVER SUNDAY</i> Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Adult Forum – Biblical Storytelling	25 Community Band 7pm	26 UClub Yoga 10am PRE Boot Camp 6:30	27	28 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	29	30