



St. Thomas Lutheran Church

April 2018
XXXX, Issue IV

Happy Easter
Worships Services are at 8:30 and 11:00 am
Easter Breakfast at 9:30 to 10:45 am

Alleluia!

Like me, I hope you have refrained from saying that word up there in the title during all of the days of Lent. Yes, I have sung it a few times, but only in preparing for the celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord at Easter. But I haven't spoken it.

There is something quite refreshing and spiritually nourishing about this. Lent is filled with possibilities that may not seem easy or desirable, but I love them all. Engaging in self-examination. Taking time to learn more about and enter more deeply into the many spiritual practices that have helped Christians be more faithful over the centuries. Postponing gratification. Putting off celebration. Avoiding the use of that quintessential word of glorified exclamation—"Alleluia!"

All of these Lenten exercises help to make the Easter Vigil and Easter Day far more powerful. How glorious it is at the Easter Vigil when the evening falls upon an already darkened sanctuary. The lights go up, the flowers come out, the banner is dropped into place, the paraments are displayed, the communion ware is placed on the altar, and we sing for the first time in forty-seven days, "This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!" It is one of the highest and best moments in the year!

We again let pass from our lips a word that is fraught with meaning and significance, drawn from its scriptural use. The word, often rendered "Hallelujah," is found only in the book of Revelation (Come study that book with us in our Tuesday evening bible studies!). Literally meaning, "Praise Yahweh" or "Praise the Lord," "Hallelujah" spans the Psalms. It's all over the place. And, of course, Psalms are hymns of praise (with considerable lament thrown in).

At Easter, again, we get to shout with a loud voice that biblical word that has long been missing from our liturgical repertoire. Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! Alleluia!

May the praise of our God be often upon our lips and in our hearts throughout this blessed season of Easter—a full 50 days of praise!

Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give God the glory. (Revelation 19:6-7)

Grace, peace, and praise—Alleluia!
Pastor Lyle

Congregational Meeting – April 29, 12:30 p.m.

Our Annual Program Meeting of the congregation is set for April 29 following the 11 a.m. worship service. We will elect Congregation Council members; receive reports from the pastor, staff, officers, and committees; and take action on recommendations from the Council regarding the disposition of the 2017 budget surplus of \$29,247.71.

Recommendations for 2017 Budget Surplus

We are again faced with the distinct pleasure of determining how to steward a budgetary surplus. After our benevolence commitments, bills, and other obligations were satisfied, there remained a surplus of **\$29,247.71** in 2017 contributions.

When the members of the council received this news at the January, 2018 meeting, they immediately decided to ask all committees and staff for recommendations. Initial proposals were reviewed in February, and at the March meeting (3/17/18), the council voted to forward the following set of recommendations to the congregation. Please note that we are providing this in advance of the Program Meeting set for April 29th, so that congregation members may have an opportunity to ask questions and reflect upon the matter—before the congregation is asked to approve the recommendations at the meeting:

Indiana-Kentucky Synod Benevolence (10%):	\$2,900
Mission Benevolence (e.g., Sister Parish, Living Waters)	\$1,400
Worship & the Arts:	\$1,600
Worship (new green banners, vase storage):	\$1,600
Organ Chamber HVAC system	\$11,000
Christian Education Support:	\$1,300
Hospitality (meals/outreach, food cart)	\$1,350
Property (Heritage Hall lighting, Wi-Fi thermostats)	\$5,620
TOTAL	\$26,770

Since some expenditures are estimated, the council recommends this lower number. The council proposes that the remainder, if any, be placed in a restricted fund for distribution at the council's discretion.

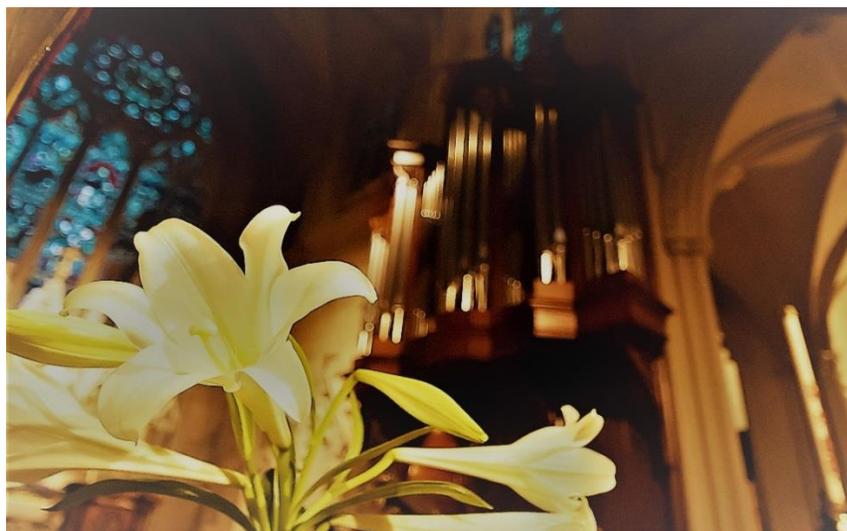


New Member Classes

Classes for people who are considering uniting with St. Thomas will begin on Sunday, April 22 between services (9:45 – 10:45) in Rooms 16/17. 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. We'll set a time for receiving new members as we near the end of the classes.

If you are already a member, you are also welcome to attend. It's a good refresher if you haven't attended in a while. Bring your questions!

Please join us as we celebrate the love of Christ through music, with two Worship and the Arts series offerings for the Easter season!



My Lord, My Hope, is Risen: A Hymn Festival celebrating Christ

Sunday, April 15, 2018

4:00 pm

Sanctuary, St. Thomas Lutheran Church

The hymns we sing each week in worship 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.

On Sunday, April 15, organist Mike Powell will lead us in a hymn-sing centered on themes of the Easter season. The program will include many hymns that are well-known and loved by our congregation, along with several newer hymns, and some hymn arrangements for organ solo.

Spring Choral Concert: Fauré Requiem

St. Thomas Adult Choir

Sunday, May 6, 2018

4:00 pm

Sanctuary, St. Thomas Lutheran Church

On Sunday afternoon, May 6, at 4pm in the Sanctuary, the Adult Choir will present its annual Spring Concert. Joining the choir will be guest musicians from the Jacobs School of Music. The program will feature Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*, presented in its original 1893 version, scored for soloists, choir, chamber orchestra, and organ. Also on the program will be several smaller choral works, along with the reading of related scripture lessons.

The best-known of Fauré's works, the *Requiem* is a shortened setting of the Catholic Mass of the Dead. Fauré's work is dominated from beginning to end by a faith in eternal rest and consolation, an eternal rest possible only through the saving love and grace of Jesus Christ.

We hope you will join us for the presentation of this profoundly moving choral masterwork. May this concert bring peace and time for reflection amidst the joy of Easter!

April Adult Forums

April 1: Happy Easter! No Forum, Join us for Easter Breakfast!

April 8: Living the Questions

April 15: Living the Questions

April 22: Creation Care Presentation, in honor of Earth Day

April 29: Attending to Scripture in the Anthropocene: Lot and the City of Sodom



A Review of States of Grace

Guest post on the IU Cinema by **Doug Bauder, Director of Indiana University's LGBTQ+ Culture Center.**

Free tickets available now at the IU Auditorium Box Office.



This April 9th at the IU Cinema, come view the film *States of Grace* and, following the screening, meet the amazing Grace Dammann and her friend, Helen Cohen, who directed this film. Grace is a pioneering AIDS physician and a longtime resident of a renowned Zen Center. Her story has drawn praise from medical schools, disability advocates, LGBTQ communities and spiritual leaders across the country.

Here's what director Helen Cohen says about the film:

"A revered HIV/AIDS physician who signed more than a thousand death certificates during the height of the epidemic, Dr. Grace Dammann's life changed forever when another driver crashed head-on into her car during a routine commute across the Golden Gate Bridge. After seven weeks in a coma and twelve surgeries, she miraculously regained consciousness with her cognitive abilities intact. Her body, however, was left shattered. After spending more than a year in rehabilitation hospitals, Grace returns home to continue her slow recovery process.

The film follows her for four years as she struggles to come to terms with her injuries and find meaning in her radically transformed life. Family roles are turned upside down as Grace's longtime partner becomes her primary caregiver and the only able-bodied person in their household, taking care of both Grace and their disabled teenage daughter. Grace's initial euphoria at having survived that accident gradually gives way to profound boredom and bouts of suicidal despair at the reality of lifelong dependency sinks in. But her Buddhist practice and deep commitment to serving others manage to sustain her. To everyone's amazement, Grace eventually returns to work as the first wheelchair-bound physician at her former hospital, using her experience as a patient to design and direct an innovative pain clinic treating San Francisco's poorest residents."

Plan now to join us for an evening that will give you a new understanding of the word "hope" and a deep appreciation for the amazing resources which each of us has within us to overcome adversity.



Doug Bauder has served as Director of IU's LGBTQ+ Culture Center since 1994. He is currently the co-chair of Bloomington United and formerly served on Bloomington Human Rights Commission, IU's Commission on Multicultural Understanding, and MLK Day Commission. He is also the proud father of two and "Gramps" to six grandkids.



Marilyn & John's Cookie Jar

Timing is everything! Several weeks ago, the youth of St. Thomas decided that we should honor the cookie and soda ministry that John and Marilyn Harder have provided for the congregation for many, many years. It was only in January that John gave up that ministry due to health issues; and we received word on Friday, March 23rd that John had died peacefully that morning. The entire congregation grieves the loss of this faithful, exuberant, caring Christian who was so enamored of the Sermon on the Mount.

It is regrettable that John will not be able to enjoy the new cookie jar pictured here, created lovingly and donated by Jim Halvorson. The cookie jar will be displayed in the narthex in April, along with a "Thank You" poster that members are asked to sign as a gift to Marilyn.

The cookie jar will hold cookies for the St. Thomas children for years to come, now in John's memory and in honor of Marilyn. May God bless Marilyn, the family, friends, and our congregation as we grieve. And may this ministry they initiated among us continue to bless our children.



Congratulations

Congratulations to Irene Fogelman and Marcus Westphal who completed the First Communion Classes! We're thankful to celebrate Eucharist with you! You are an important part of the body of Christ!



Youth Group Bake Sale

Thank you to everyone who has donated items, money, and purchased baked goods at the STLC Youth's Bake Sale! We will continue the bake sale for a couple of Sundays in April, after Easter. You are helping fund the youth's trip to Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering this summer! Thank YOU!



April Youth Group Events

April 8: 5:30 - 7:30 pm at STLC: Plan for Lock-In in May!

April 22: TBD: Possibly Movie Night at the Knipsteins!

Christ is Risen!

While Christmas is my favorite family holiday, Easter is my favorite church holiday. The traditions of candlelit carols which so many love (me included) make way for new life and experimentation. Easter memories for me are beautiful and varied. Ducking through a tomb entrance to enter the sanctuary, which slowly brightens with divine light; my first Argentine asado (barbecue); Easter vigils at Holden Village, St. John's Abbey in Minnesota, and Sibiu Romania, all culminating with celebratory feasts in the tired hours of the night; climbing a (very small) mountain to watch the sun rise over Seoul; Romanian-Hungarian-German-Latin prayers and blessings in the same service; decorating the sanctuary with lillies while singing Jesus Christ is Risen Today (with brass, of course), followed by egg bake.

Nestled in the beginning of spring, Easter fits. The new life in the world makes the most sense after the dark days of winter, the stark solemnity of the Last Supper and the Seven Last Words. Only after a season without Alleluia can we say it and truly live it. Easter comes as Bloomington bursts into flower, as the days grow longer.

In Tisovec, the melting snow from the mountains fills the river and chases away the ducks our son has been feeding a few times a month all winter. The smell of manure drifts through the town when the wind is right. Snowdrops and greenery peek out of dull ground. Smoke disappears from chimneys and coats become sweatshirts. The sneezes and sniffles of spring allergies punctuate the days. Our son begins to wake at 5:30 with first light (thankfully the time change has pushed that later, at least for now). His little brother stirs in my womb (anticipated arrival mid-summer). High school seniors' behavior warrants a short lesson on the word "senioritis" after they finish the first part of their English Maturita (the big high school graduation exam). The world comes to life again. Our savior has risen.

Alleluia!

Naomi and Nick Sveholm



St. Vincent de Paul Thank You Reception

On Sunday, April 22 (had been originally scheduled for February 11), volunteers with St. Vincent de Paul will hold an appreciation reception in our Narthex between services as a "thank-you" for financial contributions and donations of furniture and appliances. St. Thomas continues its commitment to partner with St. Vincent de Paul in their efforts to provide emergency financial assistance, furniture, and appliances to those in need in our community. Hope to see you there!

2017 St. Vincent de Paul accomplishments: 3138 people helped, 1844 households served, 815 bus tickets provided, 323 major appliances distributed, 4902 pieces of furniture delivered, and \$111,980 in financial assistance given out.

April Birthdays

4/3 Max Arterberry, Marti Doering, Tom Sinn
4/4 Irene Fogleman
4/5 Lynn Brown, Carole Kirsch, Koral Dimick
4/6 Sarah Ratzburg
4/7 Nancy Mathews
4/10 Craig McDonald
4/11 Lyra Dimick
4/12 Sam Eichmiller
4/13 Charlotte Thompson-Klimpke
4/14 Susan Goldsworthy
4/15 William Foley, Drew Balcam
4/16 Suzanne Halvorson, Zach May, Mary Peters
4/17 Lillian Rademacher
4/18 Judy Bush
4/20 Kelli Skram
4/22 Sophia Lipe
4/25 Sonja Dorr Binder
4/26 Truman Daleke
4/30 Missy Eichmiller

April Anniversaries

Ron & Cindy Ohslund 4/3 28 years
Paul & Yvonne Leber 4/19 20 years

MCUM Food Pantry Needs for April:

Mixed canned fruit, assorted canned fruit (no pineapple please)
Dry beans

Closet needs: window, bathroom, and floor cleaners

Men's & women's deodorant

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



May Newsletter deadline:
Monday, April 23

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

April - May 2018 Volunteers

	April 8	April 15*	April 22	April 29*	May 6	May 13*	May 20
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
ASST MINISTER	Gail Seegert	Kris Stewart	K Boggess	R Hershberger	Gail Seegert	David Rohlfing	Kris Stewart
LECTOR	Del Newkirk	Lynn Coyne	Judy Bush	Kris Stewart	Matt Marsh	David Ellies	John Bush
ACOLYTE	Natalie Schacht	Max Arterberry	Matthew Schacht	Lilly Rademacher	Natalie Schacht	Matthew Schacht	Max Arterberry
SERVER	Gene Laughman	K Boggess	Mary Sasse	John Bush	Jean Brown	Charlene Braun	David Ellies
USHERS	J/M Doering	L/U Coyne	Gallien/	D/D Nixon	G/G Laughman	F/ML Nierzwicki	J/M Doering
GREETERS	K/B Unger	G/G Laughman	E Niemeyer	J/J Bush	David Ellies	Carl Ziegler	Gail Seegert
CRUCIFER							David Ellies
FLOWERS		Karlyn Grise	Kris Stewart	R/N Nye			G Moehlmann
BREAD/WINE	Chris Ogan	M/J Laros	L/U Coyne	J/S Halvorson	T/M Smith	J/R Steele	T/J Sinn
COUNCIL CO	Tom Sinn	Cindy Gallien	Sam Eichmiller	Sam Eichmiller	Ashley Ahlbrand	Dawn Bakken	Tom Sinn
	Dennis Baurle	Dawn Bakken		Kim Filiatrault	G Moehlmann		Dennis Baurle
ALTAR GUILD	Mary Sasse	Gail Seegert	Cindy Gallien	Evelyn Niemeyer	Shirley Mingee	Ute Coyne	
	Susan Lehr	Betty Smith	Pauline Caldwell	Margaret Harter	Carole Kirsch	Betty Smith	
	April 8*	April 15	April 22*	April 29	May 6*	May 13	May 20
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
ASST MINISTER	Tim Smith	Lindsey Smith	Lyman Hitchcock	Amy Balcam	Gary Ingersoll	Ashley Ahlbrand	Lindsey Smith
LECTOR	Chris Ogan	Noah Smith	Sandy Arnold	Peter Iversen	Karen Rohlfing	M O'Connor	David Daleke
ACOLYTE	Irene Fogleman	Koral Dimick	Leah Knipstein	Noah Smith	Kenna Dimick	Molly Wyatt	Truman Daleke
SERVER	Debbie Moore	Sharon Fawbush	Gary Ingersoll	Chris Ogan	Ruth Rives	G Moehlmann	Mitchell Knipstein
USHERS	Oshlund/McDonald	Baurle/Filiatrault	P/L May	Dean Arnold	Kaye Hill	Ohslund/McDonald	Baurle/Filiatrault
GREETER	A/D Balcam	M O'Connor	Kari Esarey	B/J Smith	T/J Garl	Ruth Rives	Deb Moore
CRUCIFER							Mitchell Knipstein



APRIL

HAPPY EASTER

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Easter Breakfast 9:45 am	2	3 UClub Yoga 10am Worship Co 6:30 p	4 Sister Parish 6:30 pm	5 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	6 Dixieland Band 7 pm	7 Property 10 am Rotary 10:30 Bach Rehearsal 1p
8 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Living the Questions 9:30a Education Hour 9:45 am Bach Cantata 2:30 p	9 Community Band 7p	10 UClub Yoga 10am	11	12 Finance Co 6 p Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	13	14 Fiber Arts 10 a
15 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Hymn Sing 4:00 p	16 Community Band 7p Spinners/Weavers 4 p	17 UClub Yoga 10am Book of Faith 7 p	18	19 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	20	21 Garden Work Day 10 a Forgotten Clefs 1p
22 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am SVdP Reception 10 a Forgotten Clefs 2:30 p	23 Community Band 7p Mauss rehearsal 4:30 p	24 UClub Yoga 10am Gilbert/Sullivan 5p	25	26 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	27 Mauss Recital 5p	28
29 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Annual Congregational Meeting 12:30 p	30 Community Band 7p					