



St. Thomas Lutheran Church

March 2018
XXXX, Issue III

My Rock, My Fortress, My Strength

Psalm 31 is worthy of our contemplation as we move into the latter part of Lent and towards Holy Week and Easter. It begins with a beautiful statement of faith that bespeaks the intimate relationship of the writer with God.

In you, O Lord, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame;
in your righteousness deliver me.
Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily.
Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me. (vv. 1-2)

Although Martin Luther's "A Mighty Fortress" is based on Psalm 46, I can't help but also think of Psalm 31 when I sing it. "A mighty fortress is our God; a bulwark never failing" reflects the blessed confession of Psalm 31: "You are my rock, my refuge, a fortress to save me."

This is a truth that we delve into deeply during Lent. It is a profession of faith that begins to rise up in us during Holy Week. It is a joyous proclamation when we finally arrive at the fall of darkness during the Easter Vigil or at the rise of the Sun and the Son on Easter morning.

A portion of this Psalm is read on Palm/Passion Sunday. Have a look at verses 9 through 16. They could easily fall from the lips of our Lord on that Friday we call Good. Here are parts of that passage:

"my life is spent with sorrow, and my years with sighing;
my strength fails because of my misery....
I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;
I have become like a broken vessel.
For I hear the whispering of many—terror all around!—
as they scheme together against me, as they plot to take my life." (vv. 10, 12-13)

These suggest the events in the life of our Lord that we mark and meditate upon during Holy Week. And, like Holy Week, Psalm 31 ends with hope and strength, love and courage.

"O how abundant is your goodness that you have laid up for those who revere you,
and accomplished for those who take refuge in you...
Love the Lord, all you saints..."

Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the Lord.” (vv. 19, 23-24)

God is our rock and our fortress, the One in whom we take refuge in those times of trial as did our Lord. I imagine our Lord sheltered in the tomb with God between Good Friday and Easter, being altered in body and spirit, getting ready to break free with the unassailable power of resurrected life.

So for those who wait for the Lord, God is also our strength and our courage—our redeemer who abides with us as we roll away the stones in our lives, emerge from the tombs of our lives, and bring the light of justice, mercy, peace, forgiveness, and love into the world God so loves.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lyle



Practices of the Spirit: Lent 2018 Continues

Worship in Lent continues under the theme of “Practices of the Spirit.”

- + Sunday worship is at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- + Wednesday worship is a noon and 7:00 p.m.
- + Maundy Thursday worship is at 7:00 p.m.
- + Good Friday worship is at noon and 7:00 p.m.
- + The Easter Vigil is at 8:30 p.m.

Outward Practices

Sunday, 3/4	Simplicity
Wed., 3/7	Simplicity (continued)
Sun., 3/11	Solitude
Wed., 3/14	Submission
Sun. 3/18	Service

Corporate Practices

Wed., 3/21	Confession
Sun., 3/25	Worship
Thurs., 3/29	Guidance (Maundy Thursday)
Friday, 3/30	Review of Spiritual Practices (Good Friday)
Sun., 4/1	Celebration (Easter)



March 11th

Pray For Our Delegates to Guatemala

On this twentieth anniversary year of our relationship with Santo Domingo de Guzman Parish in Chichipate, Guatemala, we are sending our ninth delegation to visit with our “hermanamientos” –our “partner pairing” or “family pairing.” We have also hosted three delegations from Chichipate here in Bloomington, the last one in 2015. We will commission our delegates at the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, March 4.

We ask all members to keep our delegates and our sisters and brothers in Chichipate in your prayers. The delegates are: Peter Iversen, Caroline Hewitt, Gretchen Moehlmann, Ronna Papesh, and Katcha Papesh.



Milkweed Sowing Workshop Butterfly Conservation,

presented by the Park Ridge East Native Plants Group.

At this event, you will get started on your own butterfly garden by sowing milkweed seeds into milk jugs converted to “mini greenhouses.” Jugs and potting soil will be provided.

Five varieties of native milkweed seeds will be available at the workshop: Common Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, Marsh (Rose) Milkweed, Whorled Milkweed, and Prairie Milkweed. Planting milkweed is also a great way to help other pollinators, as your new wildflowers will be visited by a host of other butterflies and bees.

Kids are welcome at this free family event arranged by the Park Ridge East Native Plants Group.

Email your reservation to: PRENativePlants@gmail.com

Facebook: [PREnativeplantsgroup](https://www.facebook.com/PREnativeplantsgroup)



The St. Thomas Community Garden is gearing up for

2018--If you gardened last year and would like to continue this season, please

fill out the Garden Registration form in the narthex and submit it, along with your garden donation, to the church office or via the offering plate by March 4. New gardeners are welcome to sign up for information and to apply for open garden plots. Available plots will be assigned after March 4 on a first-come, first sign-up basis. Questions? Contact Kaye Hill at the office.





First Communion Classes

First Communion Classes are for children who are aged 10 or younger who have not yet participated in one of our yearly sessions. The class either prepares children to receive Holy Communion or helps children already receiving the sacrament to gain a better understanding. Parents (guardians, baptismal sponsors) are invited to attend as well, as children may have questions about the class.

Classes will be held on March 11 and 25, 12:30 – 1:30 p.m. in the Conference Room. Please bring along a light lunch.



HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

March 29th, Maundy Thursday Service, 7:00 pm
March 30th, Good Friday Services at noon & 7:00 pm
March 31st, the Great Vigil of Easter at 8:30 pm

Easter Festival Worship Services
April 1, at 8:30 & 11:00 am



Join us on April 1st from 9:30 am to 10:45 am for Easter Breakfast! Funds raised will be used for the youth trip to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas this summer!

Watch for a sign-up board or contact Amy Balcam at 928aab@gmail.com to bring supplies and be ready to join us in the annual Easter Brunch traditions led by St. Thomas Youth. Nothing says Easter Brunch like quiche!

Easter Flower Land



Please sign-up on the chart in the narthex. Donations of any amount are welcomed and will provide flowers for the sanctuary on Easter morning and for the church gardens. If you would like to purchase a lily and take it home after the 11 a.m. service, the cost is \$12.00. Please write "lily" on the envelope. All who would like to contribute may sign up **NO LATER THAN PALM SUNDAY, March 25**, so that flowers can be purchased in adequate time. Envelopes are provided and may be placed in the offering plate.



Sunday Church School News

March 4th - ALL Sunday Church School classes (Godly Play - 6th) will meet in Heritage Hall for a time of music and movement for the first 15 minutes of class. We hope to make this "Gathering" a regular thing.

March 11th - Intergenerational Sunday School for 1-6th graders in Heritage Hall.

March 18th - Spring Break - No Sunday School

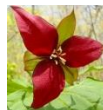
Friday, March 23rd - 5:30 - 8:30 STLC Family Game Night

We'll take the "bored" out of board games!

Join us from 5:30 - 8:30 (arrive when you can, leave when you must) for games and a light dinner (hotdogs, chips and veggies).

All ages (and friends) are invited and it will be a lot of fun! Bring your favorite game to share or try something new.

April 1st - Easter - No Sunday School - Make plans to enjoy Easter Brunch hosted by the STLC youth group between services.



Youth Group News

March 11, 9:45 am: NO CLASSES for Confirmation and High School - Happy Spring Break!

March 11, 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm: Youth Group at STLC (this is the start of Spring Break for most schools, so we'll meet if youth are in town!).

March 18, 9:45 am - NO CLASSES for Confirmation and High School

March 24: "March for Our Lives" in Indy

March 25, 5:30 - 7:30 pm: Youth Group at STLC

March 31, time TBD: Easter Brunch Prep!

Annual Program Meeting

The Annual Program Meeting of the Congregation is scheduled for Sunday, April 29^h following the 11:00 worship service. Please make plans to attend.

Committee reports for the previous year will be presented. Election of council members is also on the agenda. Dean Arnold having completed two 3 year terms will be leaving Council. Due to personal reasons Mark Carpenter and Keith Knipstein have resigned from council. We are seeking four candidates to fill new terms. If you are interested in serving the church in this way, please contact the church office or Dean Arnold.



Hello, and Happy Spring to you all!

Flurries. That was the dominant impression of our December through mid-February.

Flurries of visits (early December): a Thanksgiving gathering in Bratislava with the other ELCA missionaries in Central Europe followed by a week-long visit from Nick's parents.

Flurries of tests: in Slovakia, it is tests rather than participation or homework that make up the bulk of the final semester grade. In the English Department, 20% of the class grade is a cumulative final test simply called Big Test. It's made up of about 150 questions and an essay, one completed in December and the other in January.

Flurries of grades: with tests comes a lot of work for teachers. :) We graded Big Tests for over 200 students (about 30 tests per teacher), as well as any class-specific tests (like 5-8 minute oral tests with all of my 56 conversation class students) and makeup work (which came in until the last minute, especially writing assignments). First semester grades were due January 26.

Flurries of workshops (well, only 2, but week-long workshops each time): in December, I co-planned and co-led a workshop on reading for exams for fifth year students and in early February, I co-led a writing workshop for third year students.

Flurries of celebrations: Christmas, our ninth anniversary, our son's third birthday, New Year, Nick's birthday.

Finally, flurries of snow: periodic snows kept the ground in our mountain valley (mostly) covered through mid-February. (The skiers have been happy!)

We were relieved to have a break from the flurries during our week-long "Spring Break" the last full week of February.

Blessings to you and hope your flurries have been manageable!
Nick and Naomi Sveholm



Happy Wedding Anniversary

Edwin and Pauline Caldwell 3/03/82 36 yrs
John and Judy Bush 3/28/64 54 yrs

MCUM Food Pantry Needs for March:

Cereal, crackers, soup, canned carrots or mixed vegetables, Ramen noodles, pasta sauce, baking mixes

Cleaning Closet Needs

Bar soap, razors, tampons and pads, laundry detergent, diapers size 4, 5, & 6, all purpose cleaners

Church Women United

Part time maintenance position available—
Work Saturday and possibly fill in as needed
Hours: 7:30 am – 7:30 pm
Contact Opportunity House at 812-336-2443

**SPRING
FORWARD**
MARCH 11, 2018

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

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

Happy Birthday to Members Celebrating in March

3/1 Susan Mari
3/3 Dan Seeger
3/4 Dawn Bakken
3/5 Erica Goldsworthy, Jim Pankow
3/8 Debbie Moore
3/11 Birch Foley, Katcha Papesh
3/12 Margaret Harter
3/13 Debbie Witt
3/16 Margrethe O'Connor, Siri Thompson
3/20 David Ellies, Gary Ingersoll,
Jo Anne Namy
3/21 Willow Dimick
3/23 John Bush
3/25 Kay Isaacson (will be 97)
Anna Sloss

Learn More About What's Happening In Public Education:

4th Annual Harmony School – Deborah Meier Institute for Democracy and Equity Symposium

Thursday, March 22 and Friday March 23 - FREE

Thursday Evening March 22, 7- 8:30 pm
Harmony School, 909 East 2nd St.

Panel discussion about the documentary film "Backpack Full of Cash" with facilitation and comments from:

Debbie Meier, Deb Fish, Cathy Fuentes-Rohwer and Terry Daugherty

Co-sponsored by IU Harmony-Meier Institute and Indiana Coalition for Public Education Monroe County

Friday, March 23, 10:00 -11:15 AM

IU School of Education Auditorium

What does it mean to (learn) teach at this historical moment? Looking back 50 years to 1968 and forward from 2018

Panelists: **Debbie Meier**, Senior Scholar, NYU




David Pace, Professor Emeritus, Department of History

Jennifer Martin, 2017-18 Armstrong Teacher Educator

Paul Farmer, BHSN Science Teacher, President of Monroe County Education Assoc.

Olivia Paul, Undergraduate Student, INSPIRE Living-Learning Center Peer Leader

MARCH 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	2	3 Property Committee 10 am
4 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Living the Questions 9:45 a	5 IU Docents 10 a Community Band 7p	6 UClub Yoga 10am Worship Co 6:30 p	7 Friday Musicale 9:30 Wednesday Lenten Service noon & 7p	8 Friday Musicale rehearsal 3 p Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	9 Friday Musicale Concert 7 pm	10
11 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Intergenerational SCS 1-6 grades Pipers Society 4 pm	12 Community Band 7p	13 UClub Yoga 10am Book of Faith 7 p	14 Wednesday Lenten Service noon & 7p	15 No Choir Rehearsal	16	17 Spinners/Weave rs workshop 9 am
18 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Living the Questions 9:45 a	19 IU Docents 10 a Community Band 7p	20 UClub Yoga 10am	21 Wednesday Lenten Service noon & 7p	22 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	23 Family Game Night 6 pm	24
25 PALM SUNDAY Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Youth Group 5:30 pm	26 Community Band 7p	27 UClub Yoga 10am	28	29 MAUNDY THURS  Worship Service at 7 p	30 Good Friday  Worship Services at noon & 7 p	31 Vigil of Worship Service at 8:30 pm 

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH - APRIL 2018

	March 11	March 18*	March 25*	Maundy Thurs*	Good Friday	Holy Saturday	Easter Sunday*
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	March 29, 7:00 p	March 30, noon	March 31, 8:30P	April 1, 8:30 am
ASST MINISTER	Kris Stewart	Gail Seegert	Kathleen Boggess	Lyman Hitchcock	Amy Balcam		David Rohlfing
LECTOR	Kent Unger	Barb Unger	Mike Laros	Mary Smith		Karen Rohlfing	Sacha Arterberry
ACOLYTE	Matthew Schacht	Natalie Schacht	Max Arterberry	Nina Daleke			Lilly Rademacher
SERVER	Barb Unger	ML Nierzwicki	Barb Unger	Martha Selk			Kent Unger
USHERS	D/D Nixon	Gallien/	L/U Coyne	G/G Laughman			F/ML Nierzwicki
GREETERS	M/C Braun	L/U Coyne	Bob Cutter	Mary Sasse			M/J Laros
CRUCIFER			Barb Unger			David Rohlfing	Kent Unger
FLOWERS	No Altar Flowers during Lent						
BREAD/WINE	Skram/Schacht	M O'Connor	D/K Rohlfing	P Caldwell			G/G Laughman
COUNCIL CO	Tom Sinn	Cindy Gallien	Tom Sinn				Sam Eichmiller
ALTAR GUILD	Ashley Ahlbrand	Ashley Ahlbrand	G Moehlmann	G Moehlmann	Dawn Bakken		Dean Arnold
	Mary Sasse	Evelyn Niemeyer	Jean Brown	Cindy Gallien			Barb Unger
	Carole Kirsch	Pauline Caldwell	Charlene Braun	Jan Sinn			Carole Kirsch
	March 11*	March 18	March 25*		Good Friday*		Easter Sunday*
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM		March 30, 7 pm		April 1, 11:00 am
ASST MINISTER	R Hershberger	Lindsey Smith	Lyman Hitchcock		Amy Balcam		Ashley Ahlbrand
LECTOR	Margaret Harter	Ashley Ahlbrand	Carol Seaman		Debbie Selk		Stephanie Biehn
ACOLYTE	Kenna Dimick	Molly Wyatt	Truman Daleke		Audrey Knipstein		Sam Polansky
SERVER	Carol Seaman	Drew Balcam	Dean Arnold				Mitchell Knipstein
USHERS	Ohslund/McDonald	Baurle/Filiatrault	P/L May		Dean Arnold		D Arnold/K Hill
GREETER	G Moehlmann	Ruth Rives	Deb Moore		Gail Seegert		R/N Nye
CRUCIFER			Dean Arnold				Mitchell Knipstein