



# St. Thomas Lutheran Church News

July, 2018  
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## Returning to Essentials

Not long ago, one of our members (Suzanne Halvorson) sent me this devotion from Richard Rohr. With immigration and how to treat immigrants much on our nation's mind, it seems highly relevant. I share it with all of you:

"Hospitality is the practice that keeps the church from becoming a club, a members-only society. [Diana Butler Bass, A People's History of Christianity]

"Practical, practice-based Christianity has been avoided, denied, minimized, ignored, delayed, and sidelined for too many centuries, by too many Christians who were never told Christianity was anything more than a belonging or belief system. Now we know that there is no Methodist or Catholic way of loving. There is no Orthodox or Presbyterian way of living a simple and nonviolent life. There is no Lutheran or Evangelical way of showing mercy. There is no Baptist or Episcopalian way of visiting the imprisoned. If there is, we are invariably emphasizing the accidentals, which distract us from the very 'marrow of the Gospel,' as St. Francis called it. We have made this mistake for too long. We cannot keep avoiding what Jesus actually emphasized and mandated. In this most urgent time, 'it is the very love of Christ that now urges us' (2 Corinthians 5:14).

"Quaker pastor Philip Gulley superbly summarizes how we must rebuild spirituality from the bottom up in his book, *If the Church Were Christian*. Here I take the liberty of using my own words to restate his message...:

1. Jesus is a model for living more than an object of worship.
2. Affirming people's potential is more important than reminding them of their brokenness.
3. The work of reconciliation should be valued over making judgments.
4. Gracious behavior is more important than right belief.
5. Inviting questions is more valuable than supplying answers.
6. Encouraging the personal search is more important than group uniformity.
7. Meeting actual needs is more important than maintaining institutions.
8. Peacemaking is more important than power.
9. We should care more about love and less about sex.
10. Life in this world is more important than the afterlife (eternity is God's work anyway)."

These emphases are very important in these days when Christianity is being used by politicians in contorted and blasphemous ways. We Christians need to be clear about what we stand for, or we may fall for anything.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...And...You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Matt. 22:37, 39)

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Lyle

# Bishop Eaton's Response to the Supreme Court's Recent Decision to Restrict Travel

*Thus says the Lord: Act with justice and righteousness, and deliver from the hand of the oppressor anyone who has been robbed. And do no wrong or violence to the alien, the orphan, and the widow ... (Jeremiah 22:3).*

I am dismayed by the Supreme Court's recent decision concerning the president's authority to restrict travel into the United States. It applies to travelers from certain countries based on those countries' inability to provide information necessary for immigration vetting. Strong vetting procedures have already been authorized by Congress and reviews of applications for possible links to terrorism are also in place. Therefore, restricting all travelers from certain countries simply because they are citizens of those countries is deeply troubling. In the past, we have seen the sometimes horrific effects of excluding and marginalizing (or worse) whole classes of people based on their ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender identity or other characteristics.

Our social statement, "For Peace in God's World," provides theological guidance for the church to respond by offering wise words of caution:

Citizens need to give careful attention to how we in the United States perceive our national interest and interpret our national identity, since what states do depends in large measure on their views of their own interests and identity. Sin's power often makes itself felt in arrogant and self-righteous views of national identity, and in narrow, short-term, and absolute views of national interest.

We expect expressions of our nation's identity to build on the best of our traditions, to respect others' identity, and to open up paths for mutual understanding. For the sake of a greater good or for reasons of conscience, citizens may need to oppose a prevailing understanding or practice of national identity and interest.

With this court decision, we are again reaching a point where the assertion of "national security" by the executive branch of government results in the rejection of all other considerations in national policy discussions. Our social statement also reminds us: "In bondage to sin, we fall captive to fear." Jesus taught us to love one another. The social statement calls us to "a dynamic vision of difference in unity."

In a time ... when an idolatrous allegiance to one's own community endangers our oneness, we must voice with clarity the powerful vision of difference in unity. This vision calls us to engage differences, not to ignore or fear them. The hope for earthly peace challenges people to strengthen their own particular communities in ways that promote respect and appreciation for people in other communities, for all share a common humanity.

Let us recall that all people are created in God's image and, therefore, rather than have suspicion be our assumption, let us attribute to them honor and respect as God does.

God's peace,



The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



# Sister Parish Connections

## *A Visit to the Computer School*

By Ronna Papesh

Hello my St. Thomas friends. The Sister Parish Committee made it a goal to provide you regular updates and share some reflections from the 2018 North to South delegation trip. Last month, you heard from the 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class. This month, I'd like you to join me on my visit to the Computer School run by our Sister Parish in Chichipate, Guatemala.

I stepped into a small, bright-blue room with 11 computer terminals along the walls running software from a file server in the corner. High-school students, one to a computer, faced the computers while the young teacher, Heidi, stood in the middle of the room. After 3 days of being in a strange land, that room felt like home! The students were using the same software I use every day: Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint. Seeing it on the screens gave me an instant feeling of connectedness.

The snippet of the lesson I observed was very like those I've experienced in computer labs in Bloomington schools. While I could not understand the language, I understood what was happening. Heidi explained the task she wanted the students to perform, gave them some steps to follow, and had them begin their work. She walked around the room responding to questions and giving guidance. Very familiar.

What wasn't as familiar to me was the noise level in the classroom. There always seemed to be a great deal of activity and loud conversations happening just outside the room while the students worked away inside. Granted, we delegates contributed to the goings-on, since the porch in front of the typing and computer classrooms was our main meeting place. Yet the classroom doors remained open to encourage airflow while the teacher and students simply raised their voices to be heard over the din. I got the impression that the students found this perfectly normal.

Most US classrooms are either big enough, far enough apart, or enclosed to mitigate noise from outside. Otherwise, how could students focus? How could they follow directions? How could they learn? Well, the computer students I observed were clearly learning despite the commotion and snug conditions - maybe even because of the commotion and snug conditions. The students were immersed in their community even while sitting in front of a computer, working to develop a new skill. They knew everyone in that room, as well as everyone outside of it. Girls and boys alike heard from their community leaders and parents how important education is to their futures. They knew of some of the challenges their church family overcame to provide this service. They remember a time when there was no possible way for them to meet the government's technology requirements to continue their education.

Now their classroom is a hub for learning. It is a vehicle for community development. Many other teens and adults from their community and surrounding communities benefit from the computer classes. The students understand how important this classroom, these computers, and this teacher are to advancing their education and their community. So what if it is a little noisy? So what if there's a lot going on? The students are enthusiastically embracing the opportunities the computer school provides. Thanks be to God!

# "Backpack Blitz"



We are joining with other community churches in participating in the Salvation Army "Backpack Blitz". There is a box in the narthex to leave your collection of crayons, paper, pens, and backpacks during the month of July. These supplies will be matched up with other collection sites and used to fill the 600 backpacks for MCCSC children grades K-12.

## BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR LOCAL CHILDREN

Backpacks  
3 Ring binders 1" and 1 1/2"  
Construction Paper  
Colored Pencils – 12 count or less  
Compass  
Composition Books – wide ruled  
Copy Paper – white in ream  
Crayons – 24 count  
Erasers – pencil top and large pink  
Fiskars Scissors – round and pointed tip  
Five Pack Tab Dividers With Pockets  
Glue – Sticks, Elmers bottled & rubber cement  
Highlighters  
Index Cards

Ink Pens – Red, Green, Black  
Facial tissue  
Dry Erase Markers -Expo brand preferred  
Loose Leaf Paper – Wide Ruled  
Colored Markers – Thin tip  
Multiple Pocket Organizer or Trapper Keeper  
Page Protectors  
Pencil Pouch or Box  
Pencils – #2 Yellow  
Pocket Folders – regular, tabbed, and plastic  
Post-It Notes – plain 3"  
Presentation book  
Rulers  
Scotch Tape – Clear  
Sharpies – Black Fine Point & Extra Fine  
Spiral Notebooks – 70 pages or more wide ruled  
Spiral Notebooks – college ruled



## Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

You can still register online for LOM Summer Camp. In July there is:

Pilgrims camp for 1-3 grade  
Parent/Grandparent Pilgrim camp  
Performing Arts Camp (5-10 grade)  
Hiking & Caving (7-11 grade)

Trail Blazers (7-9 grade)  
Super Pilgrims (2-3 grade)  
Guitar Camp (6-10 grade)  
Pioneers (4-6 grade)



Registration forms are available on the Welcome table in the narthex.



## Pantry Shelves Are Almost Empty

As you know, St. Thomas supports MCUM/Monroe County United Ministries. MCUM, a local and long-standing nonprofit organization, provides emergency help, information, and education for people who struggle due to limited financial resources. Right now, the emergency food and hygiene pantry is at an all-time low.....they do not even have beans!! Please make a special effort and donate non-perishable items to the MCUM Pantry! Bring them with you on Sunday or any other time. There is a basket available behind the Welcome Table in the Narthex. Whatever you do will be so appreciated!! Questions....call Helen Ingersoll at 339.9610.



*The United Methodist Women of St. Mark's UMC cordially invite you to attend their yearly style show fund raiser for the Monroe County United Ministries.*

*Date: Wednesday, July 11*

*Place: St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Garton Hall  
100 N. State Road 46, Bloomington*

*Time: 2:00 p.m.*

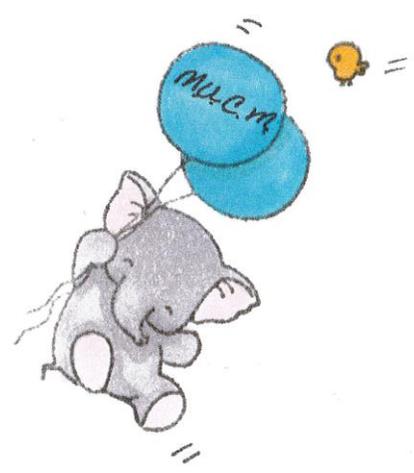
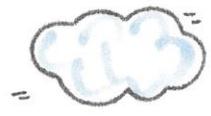
*Activities: Style Show of Chico's and Cristopher Banks  
Clothing*

*Afternoon tea of wonderful pastries and  
appetisers*

*Many chances to win door prizes*

*Purpose of the event: To collect free will offerings for MCUM  
and to make many new friends*

*We hope you'll be able to come!*



# Coffee with CASA July 25th

Join us for Coffee with CASA on July 25th from 7:30 – 9 a.m. at the Monroe County CASA office (201 N. Morton). Monroe County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) provides advocacy for children that are involved in abuse or neglect cases in the Monroe County court system. If you have ever considered becoming a CASA or Child Visit Monitor, now is the time! Join us over coffee and bagels to ask questions, talk to current CASA volunteers and learn more about what it is like to advocate for a child. For more information call 812-333-CASA or visit [www.monroecountycasa.org](http://www.monroecountycasa.org).



## MCUM Needs for July

### Food Items:

Dried beans, canned beans  
Mac & Cheese  
Garlic & onion powder  
Peanut butter  
Baking mixes (Jiffy/ Bisquick)

### Non Food Items:

Dish soap, laundry detergent (medium size), wet wipes

## July Birthdays

7/1 Susan Koutiel Hiller  
7/2 Renée Steele  
7/3 Janet Ellis  
7/5 Mackenzie Colston  
7/9 Tim Garl, Liam Raver  
7/12 Pauline Caldwell  
7/13 Marie Kosakowski  
7/14 Samuel Polansky  
7/15 Audrey Knipstein, Mitchell Knipstein, Sophia Watters, Misty White  
7/19 Carl Ziegler  
7/21 Shari Rogge-Fidler, Kari Esarey  
7/22 Ute Coyne  
7/25 Sophia Rust  
7/27 Jaydene Laros, Dawn Smith  
7/30 Natalie Johnson

## July Anniversaries

7/1	Jeff Schacht & Kelli Skram	23 years
7/2	Mike & Whitney Raver	7 years
7/5	Leif & Amanda Madsen	5 years
7/12	Sam & Missy Eichmiller	32 years
7/18	Lyman & Gloria Hitchcock	59 years
7/21	Eric & Siri Klimpke	17 years
7/26	Dean & Sandy Arnold	32 years

# JULY -AUGUST VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29	Aug 5	Aug 12
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
ASST MINISTER	Sonja Dorr Binder	Lindsey Smith	Kathleen Boggess	R Hershberger	David Rohlfing	Gail Seegert	Kris Stewart
LECTOR	David Rohlfing	Kris Stewart	Nancy Mathews	Karlyn Grise	Del Newkirk	Lynn Coyne	David Ellies
ACOLYTE	Matthew Schacht	Lilly Rademacher	Lilly Rademacher	Max Arterberry	Matthew Schacht	Lilly Rademacher	Irene Fogleman
SERVER	Kent Unger	David Ellies	Mary Sasse	Kathleen Boggess	John Bush	Jean Brown	Charlene Braun
USHERS	G/G Laughman	L/U Coyne	Gallien/	D/D Nixon	F/ML Nierzwicki	J/M Doering	G/G Laughman
GREETERS	Mary Sasse	Gail Seegert	L/U Coyne	D/L Newkirk	M/C Braun	K/B Unger	Evelyn Niemeyer
CRUCIFER							
FLOWERS	Margaret Harter	G Moehlmann	F/ML Nierzwicki	Kim Filiatrault	D/S Arnold		T/M Smith
	Elizabeth Ellison	D/A Balcam		Dennis Baurle			
BREAD/WINE	Mary Sasse	D/S Arnold	G Moehlmann	M/C Braun	Pauline Caldwell	Victoria Hoppes	Skram/Schacht
COUNCIL CO	Cindy Gallien	Tom Sinn	Dawn Bakken	Ashley Ahlbrand	Sam Eichmiller	Sam Eichmiller	Tom Sinn
	Dennis Baurle	Tom Sinn	Kim Filiatrault		Ashley Ahlbrand	Ashley Ahlbrand	G Moehlmann
ALTAR GUILD	Mary Sasse	Gail Seegert	Evelyn Niemeyer	Jean Brown	Barb Unger	Ute Coyne	Judy Torvie
	Mary Sasse	Margaret Harter	Jan Sinn	Charlene Braun	Judy Torvie	Pauline Caldwell	Charlene Braun
	July 1	July 8	July 15	July 22	July 29	Aug 5	Aug 12
	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM
ASST MINISTER	Mike Witt		Amy Balcam	Tim Smith	Lyman Hitchcock	Natalie Schacht	Mike Witt
LECTOR	G Moehlmann	Cindy Ohslund	Kari Esarey	Margaret Harter	Peter Iversen	Ashley Ahlbrand	Stephanie Biehn
ACOLYTE	Noah Smith	Leah Knipstein	Kenna Dimick	Molly Wyatt	Truman Daleke	Nina Daleke	Koral Dimick
SERVER	Gary Ingersoll	Chris Ogan	Ruth Rives	G Moehlmann	David Daleke	Carol Seaman	Drew Balcam
USHERS	Kaye Hill	Dean Arnold	P/L May	Ohslund/McDonald	Baurle/Filiatrault	Kaye Hill	Dean Arnold
GREETER	D/A Balcam	T/J Garl	D/K Rohlfing	Kari Esarey	Ruth Rives	Debbie Moore	Chris Ogan
CRUCIFER							