



St. Thomas Lutheran Church News

*February 2016
XXXVIII, Issue No. 2*

Ashes to Ashes

Scholar Karoline Lewis comments on the meaning of Lent:

“If it means giving up things, constant reminders of how worthless and temporary I am, any glorification of suffering, then it means nothing to me. If it means embracing the importance of self-reflection when it comes to your identity as a disciple, who you believe Jesus to be, what...the cross really means to you, how you understand the meaning of the resurrection, and that you take the resurrection forward to the meaning of the ascension, then Lent has meaning to me.”

What does Lent mean to you? If you haven't answered this question in recent years, then maybe that's why Lent may seem less than appealing. The goal of Lent is not to get through it in order to arrive at Easter. It is about finding ways to make this liturgical season of forty days meaningful to you.

Although tradition has encouraged it, we don't have to berate ourselves with our inadequacies. We don't have to think of ourselves as worthless souls, whose only redemptive value is in what God sees in us. We don't have to give up all kinds of things, things that actually give us joy. Maybe we could embrace things, do more of the things that matter to us. Perhaps this could become a different and perhaps more holy kind of Lent.

You are invited into your own imaginations for and commitment to this season that are shaped by your own place in life and place in faith and not what you may perceive the church needs you to think or ponder or contemplate.

This season needs to be about you as much as it needs to be about the church. Why Lent? Why this season? What difference does it make to you and for you?

Perhaps our reflections on the lives of Reformation women will help us form answers to these questions. We just might be inspired by how the gospel and the cross have shaped other lives.



Grace and peace,
Pastor Lyle

The Women of the Reformation Show Up for Lent

During Lent, we hear about and from several of the women who helped mightily to establish the churches and traditions of the Reformation. As we anticipate the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 95 Theses by Martin Luther on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg (October 31, 1517), our special services turn to Reformation themes.

Please be present to learn from and be inspired by the women of the Reformation, little known but of considerable substance. Their lives reflect the meaning of the cross.

Mid-week worship is at noon and 7:00 p.m., beginning on Ash Wednesday.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10	Katharina von Bora – Lutheran Matriarch
Mid-Week Lent 1, Feb. 17	Argula von Grumbach – Debater (Bavaria)
Mid-Week Lent 2, Feb. 24	Elisabeth von Brandenburg/Elisabeth von Braunschweig - Exiled Mothers, Reforming Rulers
Mid-Week Lent 3, March 2	Katharine Schutz Zell – Publisher (Stasbourg)
Mid-Week Lent 4, March 9	Marie Dentiere – Lightning Rod (Swiss)
Mid-Week Lent 5, March 16	Jeanne d’Albret – Politician, and Marguerite de Navarre – Diplomat (French)
Maundy Thursday, March 24	Reneé de France – Friend of Huguenots
Good Friday, March 25	Olimpia Fulvia Morate – Scholar (Italian)



Worship and the Arts Presents Pianist Marta Menezes

Please join us on Friday, February 19th at 7:00 PM for a piano recital at St. Thomas. The recital is sponsored by the Worship and the Arts concert series, and will be presented by Marta Menezes.

Menezes is one of the most promising Portuguese pianists of her generation. She was first prize winner of the Beethoven Competition at the Royal College of Music (London, 2013) and of the International Piano Competition, Nice - Côte D'Azur "Simone Delbert-Février" (2013). She performs recitals regularly in countries such as Portugal, Spain, France, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Italy, Germany, Cape Verde and in the United States.

Marta completed her Masters of Music in Performance with the highest grade at the Lisbon Superior Music School in 2009. She then moved to London, where she finished her Master of Performance with distinction at the Royal College of Music. In 2014, Marta started her Doctor of Music at Indiana University (USA), under Arnaldo Cohen. Her first CD was released in 2015 and has recently been awarded the prize Global Music Awards - Silver Medal for Outstanding Achievement, in the categories *classical piano* and *emerging artist*.

Her program will include works by Robert Schumann, Frederick Chopin, and Portuguese composers Seixas and Fragoso. We hope you will be able to join us for this exciting event!

From the Associate Pastor's Desk..

As a new church season approaches, I usually begin reflecting on the hymns, colors, and major themes that accompany the season. I write and preach on this topic fairly regularly. But this year, as Lent and eventually Easter appear on the horizon, I'm all about the FOOD! (I know I really shouldn't be this excited as Lent approaches.) Here are some examples:

Shrove Tuesday = Pancakes, sausage links, and canned peaches. Almost every Shrove Tuesday of my childhood was spent in my church basement enjoying these amazing food items. After dinner, we would write our name on a small construction paper cut out that would go on a banner to be hidden away for all of Lent and then unfurled on the cross on Easter morning. See the adorable picture below.

The youth and their families are invited to come to our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and 60 Second or Less Talent Show on Tuesday, February 9 at 5:30pm. It is a sort of pancake potluck. Families are invited to bring their favorite pancake mix or topping. I adore bacon pancakes. We'll eat lots of pancakes, and then marvel at the talents and skills we have. Talents can include: music (instrumental or vocal), demonstration of athletic skills, presentations of visual art, jokes, sharing of written word (poem, essay), magic, dance, or anything else. The talent may last longer than 60, but the idea is to have time for everyone to share!

As for food and Lent, I suppose the usual approach is to give some sort of sinful food up. Chocolate. Diet soda. White bread. I prefer to focus on taking on a spiritual practice to help draw closer to God during the reflective time of Lent. If you feel that giving up sweets brings you closer to God, go for it! I will hold you in prayer as you do it. This year for Lent I will again be doing a Praying Color Prayer Path from this website:

<http://prayingincolor.com>. I will share a link to the 2016 path on the church's facebook page when it is published.

Easter = CANDY. Okay, that is eight year old Pastor Colleen talking. Easter, especially St. Thomas, means delicious brunch. The youth have already begun to gear up for this year's spectacular meal that will occur on March 27, Easter Sunday, 9:30-11:30am. A sign up a sheet is available in the narthex for donations of baked items, quiche ingredients, fruit, baked goods, and beverages. Donations of your time and energy would be greatly appreciated as well!

I look forward to celebrating these final Sundays of Epiphany with you and then beginning our annual journey to the cross with all the meals, prayers, and opportunities to engage our faith along the way.

Peace,
Pastor Colleen



Pastor Colleen and older brother Chris and cousins Ben and Nate on Easter Morning. Each of the colored Easter lilies on the banner had someone's name on them from the Shrove Tuesday dinner.

February 2016 Adult Forum

Feb 7: Culture of Conversation, Sanctuary: Join Pastor Colleen for an open conversation about the ministries and missions of St. Thomas.

Feb 14: Contact Pastor Colleen if you have a topic you would like to share!

Feb 21: Bridges of Hope by Paul Fogelman and Jan Owens, Conference Room. The purpose of Bridges of Hope is to educate faith communities about mental illness so that they can create stronger safety nets and welcoming communities of faith for people affected by mental illness. This is a part of the National Alliance on Mental Illness and Faithnet.

Feb 28: Contact Pastor Colleen if you have a topic you would like to share!

There are many open slots for the month of April if you have a topic you are interested in learning more about or sharing! Please contact Pastor Colleen with any ideas or suggestions!



Winter 2016 Youth Group Schedule

Tuesday, February 9, 5:30-7:30pm – Shrove Tuesday Pancake Family Potluck and 60 second or less Talent Show! Bring your families' favorite kind of pancake and your special talent to share.

Sunday, February 21, 5:30-7:30pm – Youth group at St. Thomas

Sunday, March 6, 5:30-7:30pm – Youth group at St. Thomas

Wednesday, March 16, 7-9pm - Midweek Worship & Movie. The youth are invited to attend the midweek worship service, and then stay for a movie! (Maybe a movie marathon since it is spring break...)

Saturday, March 26 – Easter Brunch Work Day from 1- 4 pm

Sunday, March 27 – Easter Brunch from 9:30 – 11:00 am



Souper Bowl of Caring February 7th

The youth will again be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. "Since 1990, young people have been leading the charge and inspiring others to collect dollars and food in the weeks leading up to the Big Game. Teaming up with local partners, these groups give 100% of donations to local charities, changing the nation's largest weekend of football into the largest weekend of caring." (from their website) Last year, youth across the country helped raise over \$8 million to directly help fight hunger in their communities. Our youth will be collecting donations after both worship services on February 7 and will be supporting MCUM! Questions, contact Pastor Colleen.



You're Invited

Easter Brunch 2016

March 27, 9:30-11:30am

All are invited to join the youth for our annual Easter Brunch. This is a lovely meal of homemade quiche and other brunch goodies. It's a special time of fellowship and joy as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord.

There is lots to do to prepare for Easter Brunch, and the youth are looking for help in the following ways. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Colleen.

Donation of fully baked quiches (sausage, ham, veggie) or French toast casserole

Donation of quiche ingredients: eggs, uncooked sausage, hashbrowns, full fat cheese, diced ham, etc.

Donation of pastries, fruits, beverages

Donation of your time and energy to help prepare on March 26 or serve on March 27



From Pastors Colleen and Kelli:



Thank you to everyone who made the Christmas play so special! The children were excellent actors and actresses as they shared this special interpretation of the nativity story. Thank you to those who helped with scenery, costumes, the program, and music. We couldn't have done it without you! As always, the support and flexibility of the Sunday School team is deeply appreciated. We hope and pray that it was a meaningful experience for all!



Mission Committee Sponsors a New Book Discussion

A Mission Book Discussion, Monday, March 7: How Can we Work Toward True—Not Toxic—Charity? The Mission Committee is sponsoring a discussion of Robert Lupton's book *Toxic Charity: How Churches and Charities Hurt Those They Help—and How to Reverse It*. The author has spent more than four decades in urban ministries and offers us a chance to examine our assumptions and practices and to consider how our congregation is carrying out mission work in the community and the world. Copies of the book will be available on the counter in the main office. Please join us on Monday, March 7, at 7 p.m. at Dawn Bakken's house (2906 E. Daniel Street) for light refreshments and an interesting discussion. Carpooling will be available from the church parking lot at 6:45 p.m.



Computer Lab for Chichipate

In July of 2015, St. Thomas was able to send a joyful communication to our Sister Parish congregation in Chichipate, Guatemala announcing that funding for their proposed educational computer lab had come through. If everything goes to plan, the supplies for the computer lab should be delivered and installed this year!

We wrote, "There is great news that will hopefully help your New Year be brighter... the funding necessary for the Computer Lab project has been secured! Equipment and supplies should be in place in your computer lab in 2016! It is our shared hope in Christ that we can do all things through Him who strengthens us. It is He who looks out for the needs of the children in Chichipate, in Bloomington and the whole world."

Brian Tyler, who many of you met on the 2015 South to North visit, quickly replied. He wrote, "This is great news!! Of course, I always love being the bearer of good news...In the meantime, I will give the news to Luis and other committee members. Members in the Chichipate community are very excited and always praying for news of delegation travel, I am certain that any date that St. Thomas proposes the community and committee will be glad to accept."

So, we are pleased that at the New Year the relationship between Santo Domingo de Guzman and St. Thomas is healthy and active!



We're Planning a Trip to Living Waters

The Mission Committee is planning a trip to Cherokee, North Carolina, to visit, worship, and work with our partners at Living Waters Lutheran Church. We will probably spend four days in Cherokee, working with Pastor Jack and Lisa Russell and members of their congregation to paint and repair the interior and exterior of their church. We will also have the opportunity to worship with them and learn more about the Cherokee culture.

Our current plan is to rent a large passenger van as well as a vacation house where everyone can stay and be able to share meals. We are looking—after we receive final confirmation from Living Waters—at departing Bloomington Saturday morning, May 14. We will worship at Living Waters on Sunday, May 15, and have free time in the afternoon. After work days on Monday through Wednesday, we will head home on Thursday, May 19 and return to Bloomington early that evening. Look for more information in coming weeks. If you have questions, please contact Dawn Bakken or another member of the committee.



Mission Endowment Fund Call for Proposals

The Mission Endowment Fund provides funding for special projects at St. Thomas Lutheran Church, local outreach, and missions beyond the local community. Distributions from the endowment are made quarterly and are for programs or projects not already supported by the congregation's budget. Any member of St. Thomas may submit a proposal by completing the paper or electronic forms available from the church office. If you have a project in need of funding, please submit an application by one of the quarterly deadlines: before the first day of February, May, and August, and November. If you have questions, please contact the office or David Daleke, Chair of the Mission Endowment Fund Committee.



News from the Garden:

What is seed-saving? How do I do it? Why does it matter?

Learn the basics at *Seed-Saving 101*, a conversation and workshop led by local expert, Roger Hartwell. The event takes place Saturday, February 27 from 9 AM-Noon at St. Thomas. In this interactive workshop, participants will discuss the many benefits of home-based seed saving, from economics to ethics to flavor! They will leave with basic techniques for saving popular garden seeds such as tomatoes, peppers, beans and squash.

There is no charge for this event. Registration is appreciated but not required. For information and to register, contact Paula Perron at communityseeds474@gmail.com. or call 812-935-7424. Adults and family groups welcome! *Seed-Saving 101* is the first in a series of learning labs for 2016. Future topics include *Small-Space Gardening* and *Food Preservation*.

~~~~~

The days are getting longer and seed catalogues are arriving in the mail. It must be time to sign up for space in the St. Thomas Community Garden! The 2016 Registration Form, Garden Covenant and Organic Guidelines are now available at <https://stlconline.wordpress.com/community-garden/>. If you are a returning gardener, let us know if you'd like the same space or spaces. The garden opens April 15.

# Capital Campaign/Construction Update

The Capital Campaign, begun in December 2014, yielded pledges/gifts totaling about \$365,000. Given to date is \$215,725 (59%). Thanks for your dedicated giving!

The construction work is now virtually completed for Phase 2. Here are the highlights:

- The two west “hut” roofs, which leaked badly, replaced with a single, well-insulated, gable roof
- A new drive up and graded sidewalk for easier handicap accessibility
- Old storage room removed from south of the narthex and a new one constructed to the north of the Youth Room
- A new stained glass window in Heritage Hall
- Fully renovated kitchen, with new dishes and glasses
- New flooring and paint in Community Hall
- New exit to Prayer Garden at south of narthex
- New patio at south of narthex, tying the sanctuary to the Prayer Garden
- Paid off the solar panels (installed 2013), LED lights in sanctuary (installed 2012)
- Purchased one-half acre of property south of Heritage Hall
- Upgraded electrical infrastructure (new 400-amp panel in old mechanical room)

The one remaining item—sealing and striping the parking lot—will be done when weather permits.

## *Happy Birthday To These Members*

### *Celebrating In February*

If we don't have your birthdate, please call the church office so we may include you!

2/2 Yvonne Leber

2/3 Dave Belbutoski

2/4 Debra Schmidt, Eliot Smith

2/6 Marian Baughman, Elizabeth Gaskins

2/8 Julia Bourkland

2/9 Amanda Madsen

2/10 Antonia Daleke

Matthew Schacht

2/11 Darrell Boggess

2/17 Ronna Papesh

2/18 Gretchen Mundy

2/19 Shaun Caudill

2/20 Bob Ellis

2/23 Kay Eagleman, Erin Wyatt

2/24 Isaak Fogleman

## *Send a card*

The Card Ministry Group is looking for volunteers to send cards to our shut-ins or those who have requested cards to be sent. Please contact Kathleen Boggess at [boggess2@comcast.net](mailto:boggess2@comcast.net) if you are interested in helping with this program.

*MCUM Food Pantry Items  
for February:*

Canned fruit, dried fruit, and applesauce  
Baking mixes, peanut butter, fruit Juice

Cleaning Closet Needs

Baby wipes, baby shampoo  
Cleaners – windows, bathroom, floor  
Shaving cream

**GREAT START!**

A wonderful start to the New Year as 240 pounds of food was delivered to the MCUM food pantry in January. Heartfelt thanks to all the good folk at St. Thomas. Though there are generous contributions over the holidays, food donations can begin to drop off after that. Let's be part of those making a difference ALL the rest of the year to those in need in our community. Bringing one contribution each Sunday is a great habit to form. ALSO...we are very much in need of paper bags. THANK YOU!

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

Unsubscribe from this list or update  
your preferences by emailing:  
[kayehill@stlconline.org](mailto:kayehill@stlconline.org)





# February 2016

| SUNDAY                                                                                                                                                    | MONDAY                                             | TUESDAY                                                         | WEDNESDAY                                       | THURSDAY                                       | FRIDAY                                     | SATURDAY                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                           | 1<br>Community Band 7 pm<br>Mission Co 6:45 pm     | 2<br>U-Club Yoga 10:00 am<br>Worship Co 6:30 pm                 | 3<br>Friday Musicale 9:30 am<br>Swing Band 7 pm | 4<br>Choir Rehearsal 7pm                       | 5                                          | 6<br>Property 10 am            |
| 7 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00<br>Education Hour 9:45 am<br>Culture of Conversation 9:45 am<br>Evensong 4:00 pm                                                 | 8<br>Community Band 7 pm                           | 9<br>U-Club Yoga 10:00 am<br>Youth Group Pancake Supper 5:30 pm | 10 Ash Wednesday<br>Worship at 12 & 7 pm        | 11<br>Choir Rehearsal 7 pm                     | 12                                         | 13                             |
| 14 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00<br>Education Hour 9:45 am<br>IONA Group 9:45 am                                                                                 | 15<br>Spinners/Weavers 7 pm<br>Community Band 7 pm | 16<br>U-Club Yoga 10:00am                                       | 17 Wednesday Lent<br>Worship at 12 & 7 pm       | 18<br>Finance Com 6 pm<br>Choir Rehearsal 7 pm | 19<br>Worship & Arts<br>Piano Recital 7 pm | 20                             |
| 21 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00<br>Education Hour 9:45 am<br>Bridges of Hope Forum<br>Congregation Council 12:30<br>Bach Cantata 2:30 pm<br>Youth Group 5:30 pm | 22<br>Community Band 7 pm                          | 23<br>U-Club Yoga 10:00 am                                      | 24 Wednesday Lent<br>Worship at 12 & 7 pm       | 25<br>Choir Rehearsal 7 pm                     | 26                                         | 27<br>Heritage Workshop 9-noon |
| 28 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00<br>Education Hour 9:45 am                                                                                                       | 29<br>Community Band 7 pm                          |                                                                 |                                                 |                                                |                                            |                                |