



St. Thomas Lutheran Church News

*January 2015
XXXVII, Issue No. 1*

A Voice for Questing Hearts

The Day of Epiphany (January 6), which celebrates the arrival of the three wise men at the manger in Bethlehem, celebrates profound good news. Until that day, the story of the coming messiah was confined to Israel, but suddenly and mysteriously three Gentiles discover that the birth of Jesus is good news for them too.

This Epiphany, this revelation, this birth is not one small step for a local religion but a great leap for all people. It's why traditionally the three wise men (or magi or kings) are depicted as representing different races and cultures and languages of the world. These stand-ins for all people seek diligently; and when they arrive at the place where the child lies, they rejoice with exceedingly great joy. They follow the star, which leads them to something beyond itself. And the pattern is set for all wise contemplation of matters of the spirit.

Here is a sonnet that draws our attention to the way this event belongs to everyone:

Epiphany

It might have been just someone else's story,
Some chosen people get a special king.
We leave them to their own peculiar glory,
We don't belong, it doesn't mean a thing.
But when these three arrive they bring us with them,
Gentiles like us, their wisdom might be ours;
A steady step that finds an inner rhythm,
A pilgrim's eye that sees beyond the stars.
They did not know his name but still they sought him,
They came from elsewhere but still they found;
In temples they found those who sold and bought him,
But in the filthy stable, hallowed ground.
Their courage gives our questing hearts a voice
To seek, to find, to worship, to rejoice.

- Malcolm Guite

The hearts of the wise and the simple, the high and the low, are emboldened still by the courage of the magi. Every heart seeks a place of awe and solace and hope. Every soul reaches out alongside these ancients to seek, to find, to worship, and to rejoice.

May the Day of Epiphany and the season that follows give our hearts a strong song to sing and our eyes a clear vision beyond the stars. May we sing of what God is doing among us, with eyes fixed on the prize.

Lift ev'ry voice and sing till Earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea. (ELW 841)

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lyle



From the Associate Pastor's Desk...

Let me begin by saying thank you for your prayers, support, and presence at my ordination service! I was filled with joy and gratitude throughout the whole service because of being blessed so deeply and called to such a loving community. Thank you for the gift of the beautiful blue stole, and the promise of more stoles yet to come! Suzanne did an amazing job weaving it, as always, and I'm honored to wear a stole made with such love and from our community. I'm so excited to be one of your pastors!

I'm still in awe of the incredible Advent we shared this past year. We had so many memorable moments: the Advent Family Dinner, learning about the gifts of the Magi from Marissa at the midweek services, the delightful performance of our children in Las Posadas, the beautiful Italian Advent Concert, caroling together, baptizing little Liam into the family of Christ, and celebrating the confirmation of three of our young women! Thank you to all who made these moments so faith-filled and special. We are deeply gifted as a community and seeing all of these gifts in action is so moving.

During the month of January we will celebrate the festival and season of Epiphany. Epiphany is the single day that marks the end of the Christmas season (think twelve days past Christmas Day), and we celebrate it as the day when the Magi finally make it to Jesus in Bethlehem. More often than not, this festival falls during the week. Congregations then decide if/when/how they would like to mark this day.

As three kings followed the star to look for Jesus, we also look for Jesus alive in our lives. Aside from coming to worship, sharing a King's Cake is another fun (and literal) way to mark the festival as a family. A small toy baby is baked into a cake or other yummy dessert. The person who finds the baby in his/her piece of cake can receive a small prize. The gathering around a meal also reminds us of Holy Communion. This article by Amber and John Inscore Essick in the Center for Christian Ethics at Baylor University has some more history and more ideas: <http://www.baylor.edu/content/services/document.php/159118.pdf>.

Your families are in my prayers as we begin this New Year together. As always, I'm available for visits, chats, and conversations about our shared ministry and mission.

Peace,
Pastor Colleen

From Our Intern:

What a season of joy and blessings! It has been a pleasure to worship with you, learn with you, and grow with you during this Advent and Christmas season. The mid-week Advent services were especially meaningful for me and a wonderful opportunity to worship together in a more intimate setting. Big thanks to Susan Powell and Sarah Climis for sharing their gifts of music with us during those gatherings.

From the beginning of my time here at St. Thomas I have felt warmly welcomed and surrounded with support and encouragement. Now four months into internship, I truly cherish the conversations we get to have together, the ministry we are doing together, and the love of Christ that this community shares together. It has been a joy to become immersed in the life of this congregation and get to know so many of you. I am very much looking forward to the months ahead and continuing to strengthen our relationships as we live out the mission of Christ in the world.

Peace and Epiphany Blessings,
Marissa



January 2015 Adult Forum Schedule

January 4: Christmas Break

January 11: Spiritual Growth Group Meeting Time

January 18: "Peace Not Walls," Anna Sloss, Conference Room. IU Senior and new STLC associate member, Anna Sloss, will share her experience of traveling to the Holy Land in January 2014 with the ELCA. She and her brother, Rev. Ben Sloss (Trinity English), will be leading another trip to the Holy Land in May 2015 for young adults. Come hear her stories, see her photos, and learn about how the ELCA is accompanying those who live in the Holy Land.

January 25: "The Fabric of Faith," Conference Room. Come talk about the deep tradition of the sacred and devotional crafts of weaving, knitting, and sewing in our Christian faith. Stories of the early church saints Lydia, Dorcas, and Phoebe will be woven together with modern artisans in our own congregation. Suzanne Halvorson, Ruth Rives, and Pamela Smith, among others, will bring samples of their textiles to share and experience. If you are a textile artist, crafter, or collector and would like to help plan this forum, please get in touch with Pastor Colleen as soon as possible!

A word of invitation:

If you have an idea for a forum or would be interested in leading one, simply contact Pastor Colleen.



Youth Group Schedule:

January 11: Youth group at St. Thomas, 5:30-7:30pm.

January 24: Skyzone Trip! Check your email for more details.

January 25: Youth group at St. Thomas, 5:30-7:30pm.

Sunday School Notes

Sunday School will be on break on January 4. Regular classes for children and adults will resume on January 11.

Thank you to Catharine Rademacher and Kari Isaacson, Kelli Skram, and all the teachers who helped make this year's pageant, Las Posadas, so incredible!



Natalie Johnson



Kenna Dimick



Sam Polansky



Leila & Sophia Watters



Reserve the Date

January 25, 1:00 pm

Considering the Conversation: Part 2 Living Well our Final Days

A Caring Community Workshop Sponsored by Lay Care Visitors

Sign-up in the Narthex beginning January 4th

Continuing The Journey Toward Unity Heeding The Call Of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

On Sunday, January 18, 2015, at 4 PM, there will be a service at Congregation Beth Shalom, 3750 East Third Street, Bloomington honoring the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King. Participating congregations are:

St. Thomas Lutheran Church

University Baptist Church

Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington

Congregation Beth Shalom

First United Church

First Presbyterian Church

St. Mark's United Methodist Church

Bloomington Inclusive Mass



Next Book of Faith

The next Book of Faith Study will be led by our Pastoral Intern, Marissa Tweed.

Three series are being considered: Ruth, Jonah, or Acts. There will be copies of each of the participants books in the church office if you would like to stop by to flip through them. We will be voting on the next series at our final Book of Faith meeting Monday, January 12th.

The next series is tentatively scheduled to begin January 26th at 7pm.

Hope to see you there!



Sister Parish

As we ponder the message of the Children's Christmas program, are aware of the difficulties of our sisters and brothers around the world and close to home. Please keep our friends from Chichipate, Guatemala in your prayers. The South - North delegation has been selected and Sister Parish is working to secure visas for them to travel here to be with us at the end of April. Join us for our Sister Parish Interest Group meeting on Sunday January 18th at 12:30. We will be discussing and formulating plans for the Delegation's visit. Thank you to all who have supported this mission through your prayers and donations.

Suzanne Halvorson

Mission Committee



Save The Date!

New Hope Family Shelter is having a fundraiser at the IU Memorial Union in the Frangipani Room on Valentine's Day, Saturday February 15, 2015. It will be an elegant evening of *Love Songs from The American Songbook* complete with dinner and entertainment. If you would like to attend, please save this date and reply to glaugh46@comcast.net to receive an invitation. Please include the name/names and the mailing address.

For more information regarding New Hope Family Shelter please visit newhopefamilyshelter.org

Thanks for your consideration!

Gene Laughman



2014 Year End Record Keeping

The church will be closing its 2014 financial records very soon. If you have receipts that need to be reimbursed please turn them in to the office by Sunday, January 11th.

If you have contributions that you would like to be reported on your 2014 contribution record, please have those in by Sunday, January 4th. Your record of contributions to St. Thomas will include all regular giving as well as all pass through contributions for the year. The report will be available for pick-up on January 18th.

MCUM January Food Needs

FOOD ITEMS:

Canned chili, tuna, chicken, salmon
Hamburger Helper
Canned vegetables
Jelly & pancake syrup

NON FOOD ITEMS:

Toilet Paper
Shampoo & Conditioner

January Birthdays

1/5 Tim Kirsch, Beverly Lingvai,
Ryan McKee
1/10 Paul Smith
1/12 Phil May, Nick Sveholm
1/14 Gwen Caudill
1/16 Jim Doering
1/17 Sandy Arnold
1/20 Dean Arnold
1/23 John Isaacson
1/25 Susan Krieg
1/28 Linus Mundy, Paula Ionescu

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

If you wish to Unsubscribe from this list or update your preferences please email:
kayehill@stlconline.org

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2015 VOLUNTEERS

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25	February 1	February 8	February 15
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
DEACON	Kris Stewart	Kathleen Boggess	Gail Seegert	Marissa Tweed	R Hershberger	Gail Seegert	R Hershberger
LECTOR	Karen Rohlfing	Dana Barron	Barb Unger	Nick Montgomery	David Ellies	Judy Bush	Lynn Coyne
ACOLYTE	Madelyn Shupe	Joel Arnold	E Goldsworthy	Zach May	A Goldsworthy	Gretchen Wheeler	Lilly Rademacher
SERVER	Martha Selk	Judy Bush	Kent Unger	David Ellies	Shirley Mingee	Gene Laughman	Mary Sasse
USHERS	L/U Coyne	G/G Laughman	J/M Doering	D/D Nixon	F/ML Nierzwicki	L/U Coyne	G/G Laughman
GREETERS	Bob Cutter	R/J Brown	Mary Sasse	L/U Coyne	G/G Laughman	Evelyn Niemeyer	Carl Ziegler
NURSERY	Pauline Caldwell	Tiffany Shupe	Susan Krieg	Misty White	Pauline Caldwell	Tiffany Shupe	Susan Krieg
CRUCIFER							

FLOWERS			Jean Brown Karen Cline	Barb & Kent Unger			
BREAD/WINE	Mary Sasse	C/K McDonald	Vicki Polansky	L/G Hitchcock	Evelyn Niemeyer	D/K Boggess	L/U Coyne
COUNCIL CO	S/M Eichmiller	Maren Foley	Cindy Gallien	John Bush	Ashley Alhbrand	Dawn Bakken	John Bush
	Charles Sweet	Tim Climis	Dawn Bakken	Sarah Climis	Maren Foley	Tim Climis	Dennis Baurle
ALTAR GUILD	Shirley Mingee	Gail Seegert					
	Pauline Caldwell	Betty Smith					

	January 4	January 11	January 18	January 25	February 1	February 8	February 15
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
DEACON	Ashley Alhbrand	Sarah Climis	Ashley Alhbrand	Tim Climis	Betty Smith	Betty Smith	Gary Ingersoll
LECTOR	Jerry Smith	Vicki Polansky	Stephanie Biehn	Kari Isaacson	Lyman Hitchcock	Debbie Selk	Kathy McDonald
ACOLYTE	Rachel Bourkland	Natalie Schacht	Sam Polansky	Katcha Papesh	Birch Foley	Nina Daleke	Monet Lahn
SERVER	Lyman Hitchcock	Gary Ingersoll	Tim Climis	Ruth Rives	Deb Owens	Carol Seaman	Sandy Arnold
USHERS	Baurle/Filiatrault	D/S Arnold	Hill/Owens	Ohslund/McDonald	P/L May	Baurle/Filiatrault	D/S Arnold
GREETER	Charlene Wheeler	Foley Family	T/J Garl	M O'Connor	Kathy McDonald	Katie Anderson	Kim Filiatrault
NURSERY	Haley Garl	Kim Filiatrault	Jane Warner	Lauren Wright	Cindy Ohslund	Jane Warner	Haley Garl
CRUCIFER							

January 2015



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Happy New Year	2	3
4 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00	5	6	7	8	9	10
Education Hour 9:45	Community Band 7:00	U Club Yoga 10:00 Worship Co 6:30 Mission Co 6:45		Finance Co 6 pm Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm		Community Band 9 - noon
11 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00	12	13	14	15	16	17
Education Hour 9:45 Congregation Council 12:30 Youth Group meets 5:30	Community Band 7:00 Intern Support Co 6:00 Book of Faith 7:00	U Club Yoga 10:00 Quilters Guild 6:00		Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm		
18 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00	19	20	21	22	23	24
Education Hour 9:45 Sister Parish Meeting 12:15 Martin Luther King Service 4:00	Community Band 7:00	U Club Yoga 10:00 Men's group 7pm	MACRL meeting 10:30	Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm		Sky Zone Youth Trip 8:30 am
25 Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00	26	27	28	29	30	31
Education Hour 9:45 Consider the Conversation 1:00 Bach Cantata 2:30 Youth Group meets 5:30	Community Band 7:00	U Club Yoga 10:00 Pub Theology 7:30		Adult Choir rehearses 7 pm		