



# *St. Thomas Lutheran*

## *Church News*

*July, 2016*  
*XXXVIII, Issue No. 7*

### *Becoming More Accessible – One Part of Christian Hospitality*

You may have wondered what's going on in the new patio south of the narthex. A few have inquired, so here are related details (and some history).

St. Thomas has always striven to be hospitable and welcoming. What is happening on the patio is one more part of our journey towards becoming fully accessible.

During our 2007 project, our front entry was expanded to become more inviting and easier to access. Additions were all made at ground level, a blessing that holds for the entire building. Automatic door-openers were installed to assist with those who use wheelchairs or walkers. New handicap-accessible restrooms were constructed. And our revised floor plan provided for simpler movement from the entrance to significant spaces (sanctuary, narthex, offices, nursery, classrooms).

Accessibility was also front-and-center during our most recent project, completed a few months ago. The new drive-up at the west provides a much closer drop-off point. The new walks rise to meet the level of the building, removing steps. And our new patio south of the narthex offers simpler same-level access to the Prayer Garden.

Due to the generosity of some of our members, accessibility and hospitality remain matters of major concern and planning. Dawn Bakken has designated a \$10,000 portion of a bequest from her father, Darrell Bakken, for related improvements. And Bob Cutter, who has lobbied long and hard for a railing leading to the main entrance, has committed to providing half of the cost to make that happen.

So, be on the lookout for new devices and installations that enhance the broad welcome of St. Thomas:

- The front handrail should be in place within a few weeks. It will match existing railings and lead from the parking lot to the entry doors.
- New walkways connecting the new patio (south of the narthex) to the Prayer Garden on the west and the concrete pad to the east have been contracted. The Property Committee removed the trellis recently in order to make this construction possible (hence all the questions). A new trellis will be installed after the walks are finished in order to obscure the air conditioning condensers.
- Sturdy patio furniture is being purchased to provide places for conversation and contemplation.

Many thanks to Dawn (on behalf of our beloved departed Darrell) and Bob. And much gratitude is due all who have assisted in planning, overseeing, financing, and contributing to this important work of ministry over the years.

May St. Thomas continue to take seriously the scriptural calls to welcome all people into fellowship, removing any and all obstacles, physical or otherwise, to the widest possible participation.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Lyle



## *A Gift of Art*

We offer a word of gratitude to Bob Cutter for the gift of a fine print. It is by Rudy Pozzatti, is entitled "Homage to Brunelleschi," and depicts the massive dome the architect Filippo Brunelleschi constructed over the Santa Marie del Fiore Cathedral in Florence, Italy

Rudy Pozzatti is a Bloomington resident who taught printmaking at IU for many years and was cofounder of Echo Press, a fine print workshop that was open from 1979 to 1995. Echo Press was very important, it brought artists from all over America.

The print hangs on the east wall of the narthex.

Thanks, Bob!



## *Thanks For Supporting The LCM Yard Sale*

Thank you to everyone who donated items for and/or shopped at the LCM yard sale on June 4. The sale had a steady stream of traffic and raised some much needed funds toward programming at Rose House. Thanks also to all those who helped with sale preparations and on sale day, including:

Alex Baker, Dawn Bakken, Kathleen Boggess, Pauline Caldwell, Kim Filiatrault, Margaret Harter, Kaye Hill, Gayl Laughman, Gene Laughman, Susan Mari, Craig McDonald, Kathy McDonald, Cindy Ohslund, Chris Osborne, Jim Pankow, Ruth Rives, Matthew Schacht, Natalie Schacht, Jan Sinn and Tom Sinn. Finally, a special thanks to the STLC staff for their flexibility and assistance leading up to sale day.



## *Thursday Noon Prayers at the Spirit Window*

At noon on Thursdays during July there will be an hour of prayer time at the spirit window in Heritage Hall. We'll use a simple structure that invites everyone to choose speech or silence. If that's your lunchtime, it's fine to bring your lunch. If you have children, bring them along - it's a big room and we'll find quiet activities for them. Questions? Speak with Pamela Smith, [narthex@baba-yaga.org](mailto:narthex@baba-yaga.org) /812- 323-1817.



## *VBS Service Project: New Hope Family Shelter*

On Sunday, June 12, people of all ages from St. Thomas participated in the first VBS event of the summer. After sharing lunch and reenacting the story of the Good Samaritan, the crew headed east to prepare the 409 house at New Hope Family Shelter for a new group of residents. The Biehn-Daleke family, Kathleen & Darrell Boggess, Pauline Caldwell, Pastor Colleen, the Iversen family, the Moehlmann-Risner family, Vicky Polansky, the Skram-Schacht family, the White family teamed up to do mulching, painting, home repairs and yard work.

Jim Riley, who serves on the New Hope Board of Directors, writes:

Many thanks for all the jobs your group did yesterday at New Hope. That was a big list, and your group pitched in with enthusiasm and skill. I can't remember a group that asked fewer questions about what to do next or where to find tools.

The young people were a great help. They painted without spilling...we would be delighted to have individuals from your group, or the entire group, come again whenever you like.

Thanks to Sandy Arnold for preparing lunch and to Ruth Rives for treating the group to some ice cream on that very hot day. Thanks to Gene Laughman for helping facilitate communication with the shelter folks. And thanks to Thrivent Financial for providing funds for this Action Team to support the work of the shelter.



Our support of New Hope will continue as Haley Garl, Ruth Rives, Jan Sinn, and Erin Wyatt sew bags for the preschool-age residents over the next few weeks. We will also continue to collect school supplies for older children. **We will deliver the bags, backpacks and school supplies during the first week in August. If you have any school supplies you would like to donate, please bring them to Pastor Colleen's office by August 1.**



## *Intergenerational Vacation Bible School 2016 – Final Event*

July 17, 11:30-2pm: Hope, Church Pitch-in at Winslow Woods Park

We'll meet at Winslow Woods Park (2120 S. Highland Ave – near Southeast YMCA) after late service. Please bring a pitch-in dish to share and table service for your group.

During our lesson, we'll dig into the hope we have in God, hope that gets us through the worst of days and toughest of times! Afterwards, all are welcome to stay and play! We have the pavilion for the whole day. There is a playground, basketball court, and plenty of grass for lawn games.

## *Summer Youth Events:*

Parents, please check your email for more information from Pastor Colleen about summer youth events.

Our first regular youth group of the 2016-2017 year will be on August 21 around dinner time. More details to come!



## *Mark Your Calendars:*

Sunday School Kick-Off – August 21, 9:45-10:45am



## *Call for Sunday School Support!*

If you're interested in teaching, substituting, or finding a way to share your unique gifts with the Sunday School at St. Thomas please contact Pastor Colleen as soon as possible. Planning for the 2016-17 year is already underway.



## *From the Associate Pastor's Desk...*

I'm so excited to share this with you all.

In May, a couple of people approached me about the possibility of having a special place in our sanctuary for our youngest members, ages 0-3, and their parents. The need is for a place for the children to be on the floor for tummy time, to sit in a Bumbo, or stand where they can see a little more of the action of worship. In some churches, a space like this is called a "prayground". I was excited to have this conversation and do some research about these special places in sanctuaries!

There are some amazing resources out there about "praygrounds". Grace Lutheran Church in Apple Valley, MN has a very thorough segment of their website dedicated to explaining their prayground. I encourage you to visit it here: <http://graceofav.org/prayground/>. The anecdotal consensus is that such places help provide little ones and their parents a strong connection to the worship service. After settling into the space, the noise level of the children goes down because they are able to get comfortable, they can see what's going on, and they have a few more things to keep their hands busy. Such a space is a sign of intentional and thoughtful welcome for children and their parents.

This initial conversation has sparked conversations in the Education Committee, Early Childhood Ministry, and Worship Committee. Overall, the conversations have been positive. Naturally, there are concerns about how a pray-ground might affect worship and our sanctuary. With the encouragement to keep these concerns in mind, the Church Council approved the proposal for a prayground at St. Thomas at their June meeting. I will

be working with the Early Childhood Ministry and Education Committee to develop resources to help teach about the pray ground and to create our own prayground.

My hope is to have educational materials and starter items for our prayground by mid-July. In the following weeks, we will experiment with the best placement. The general plan is for it to be in the section between the pulpit and lectern. However, exact placement will be determined by learning what works best for us. We are also looking into getting a glider for rocking infants. All purchases will be funded by the Early Childhood portion of our Mission Endowment. We hope to have a final location settled on by the start of Sunday School on August 21.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any ideas, concerns, or questions about this! I look forward to hearing your input. Even though I expect there to be some learning edges to this project, I'm very excited and very hopeful about this new and creative way to incorporate our littlest ones into our family of faith.

Peace,  
Pastor Colleen



*A photo of Grace Lutheran's prayground. Please keep in mind that they are a much larger congregation and have significantly more children than we do.*



## *Capital Campaign Update*

We are almost a year and a half into our three year campaign. As of the end of May, we have received \$249,144.00 of the pledged \$389,000.00. Included in the amount received is the \$15,000.00 grant from Indianapolis Center for Congregations and the \$10,000 gift from the estate of Marcella Calvert.

To keep you up to date on your pledged giving, in July we will provide a record of your contributions through the end of June. If you have questions regarding any of those contributions, please check with Kaye in the church office.



## URGENT: Hygiene & Cleaning Products Needed

Did you know MCUM is one of few agencies in Monroe County that distributes hygiene items and cleaning products to households struggling with poverty? Did you know these items cannot be purchased with food stamps.

Imagine trying to obtain employment or just trying to maintain a sense of dignity without soap, toilet paper, or laundry detergent. Pretty hard! We are in desperate need of hygiene and cleaning products for our closet. Please help restore humility to our friends who are struggling by donating these types of items ASAP or text "gift" to 812-619-9919 to make a financial donation.

**August 12-14**

**Save The Date**      **Each One Feed One**

**Volunteer**  
Help re-stock MCUM's food pantry by collecting, sorting, and delivering food

**FOOD DRIVE**  
Monroe County United Ministries

**Donate**  
At grocery stores across Bloomington  
visit [mcum.org](http://mcum.org)

One weekend • 8 tons of food • 1,400 Monroe County residents fed

### *July Anniversaries*

- |      |                            |          |
|------|----------------------------|----------|
| 7/1  | Jeff Schacht & Kelli Skram | 21 years |
| 7/2  | Mike & Whitney Raver       | 5 years  |
| 7/5  | Leif & Amanda Madsen       | 3 years  |
| 7/12 | Sam & Missy Eichmiller     | 30 years |
| 7/18 | Lyman & Gloria Hitchcock   | 57 years |
| 7/26 | Dean & Sandy Arnold        | 30 years |

Our mailing address is

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3800 East Third Street

Bloomington, IN 47401

[www.stlconline.org](http://www.stlconline.org)



If you wish to **Unsubscribe** from this list or **update your preferences** please email: [kayehill@stlconline.org](mailto:kayehill@stlconline.org)

### *MCUM Needs for July*

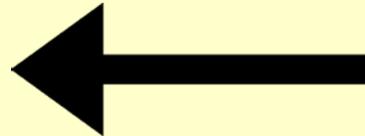
Food Items: Applesauce

Canned Beans (black, kidney, pinto),

Canned Veggies (carrots, potatoes, greens),

Non Food Items:

See article to your left.



### *July Birthdays*

- 7/1 Susan Koutiel
- 7/2 Joshua Melton, Renee Steele
- 7/3 Janet Ellis
- 7/9 Tim Garl, Liam Raver,
- 7/12 Pauline Caldwell
- 7/14 Samuel Polansky
- 7/15 Audrey Knipstein, Mitchell Knipstein, Sophia Watters, Misty White
- 7/19 Carl Ziegler, Kari Esarey
- 7/21 Shari Rogge-Fidler
- 7/22 Ute Coyne
- 7/24 Marian Baughman
- 7/25 Sophia Rust
- 7/27 Jaydene Laros, Dawn Smith
- 7/30 Natalie Johnson
- 7/31 Hannah Wood





# 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15	 4 Community Happy 4 <sup>th</sup> Church Office closed	5 UClub Yoga 10	6 Jazz Band 7 pm	7 Thursday Prayers 11:45 am	8	9 Property Co 10 am
10 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15	11 Community Band 7pm	12 UClub Yoga 10	13 Swing Band 7 pm	14 Thursday Prayers 11:45 am Finance Co 6 pm	15	16
17 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15	18 Community Band 7pm Spinners/Weavers 7 pm	19 UClub Yoga 10	20 Jazz Band 7 pm	21 Thursday Prayers 11:45 am	22	23  Evelyn & JC 1:00 pm
24 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15 VBS 11:30 am	25 Community Band 7pm	26 UClub Yoga 10 Lace Guild 7pm	27 Swing Band 7 pm	28 Thursday Prayers 11:45 am	29	30
31 Worship at 8:30 & 10:15						