

St. Thomas Lutheran Church News

*March 2016
XXXVIII Issue 3*



Holy Week Schedule

March 24	Maundy Thursday: Services at Noon & 7 PM
March 25	Good Friday: Services at Noon & 7 PM
March 26	The Great Vigil: Service at 8:30 PM

Easter Sunday

March 27	Festival Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 AM Easter Breakfast Served in Community Hall beginning at 9:30 AM
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The Triduum

I know it seems very early, and it is. We are already, in March, looking to the Day of the Resurrection of our Lord. There are conversations now taking place among the major Christian groups about setting a standard day for this celebration, but until that yields results we are stuck with a moveable feast. Easter falls on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the vernal equinox for most non-Orthodox Christians. It may occur on any date between March 22 and April 25, so this year Easter is very early (March 27).

As we look to that celebration, I want to focus our gaze on the three days that precede. These are called, in Latin, the "Triduum," the "The Three Days."

Every Sunday in worship, of course, the church celebrates the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gathers us to receive again the gifts of God that come to us through Christ, the saving Word. On several key days at the center of the church year, however, worship takes a particular shape.

These central days have come to be known as the Three Days, recalling Jesus' own words to his disciples that he would be handed over to death, and that "after three days he will rise again" (Mark 10:34). The Three Days encompass the time from Maundy Thursday evening through the evening of Easter Day. In particular, the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter unfold in a single movement, as the church each year makes the passage with Christ through death into life.

These days are the ones for which all of Lent, and indeed all of the prior church year, prepare us. They form the pinnacle of our worship and our rehearsal of the mighty acts of God for us. In their rhythm reside the rhythms of the Christian life. Our lives present to us daily opportunities for practicing death and resurrection, in any number of ways. Confession and forgiveness, discernment of need and finding the means to meet it, encountering suffering and moving through it to healing and hope. Knowing guilt and then experiencing grace—these are all part of this profound and fundamental theme of Christian living.

I hope you will participate in the fullness of the Three Days. They are poignant and glorious reminders of who Christ is among us as well as whom we are called to be in the world. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday can be maudlin and depressing without the hope of what follows. And Easter and the resurrection are far less meaningful without the preceding days of suffering and death. Come and dwell in the full richness of these ancient core rituals of grace and life.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lyle



From the Associate Pastor...

Now that we are a few weeks into Lent, I'm curious how many folks have stuck with their Lenten disciplines. Have you slipped up and had a piece of cake to celebrate a co-workers birthday despite giving up sweets? Have you remembered to read your devotional each and every day? Have you performed your daily act of random kindness? If you have remained steady in your discipline, that is amazing and I hope and pray that it continues to be an exercise that draws you close to God. If you have slipped up, skipped a day, or fallen 100% off the wagon, know you are in good company. I didn't even print off my daily coloring devotion until a week after Ash Wednesday.

A discipline for me that has proven far more powerful for me this past year than any other spiritual practice has been giving up the guilt. I strive in all aspects of my life to give up that guilt that so often comes associated with not being good enough, faithful enough, healthy enough, or any other sort of enough. I seek to live into God's grace for me daily and pray to be released from guilt that comes from falling short on my commitments to myself. God's forgiveness for us never runs out. I believe the more we can embrace that forgiveness, the more we can forgive ourselves the more fully we can experience God's love for us. I am enough. You are enough.

For example, I also did a daily coloring devotion for the season of Advent. I started off strong by printing it out before Advent even began and dutifully colored the first few days. Then I missed about 3 days. Instead of feeling guilty for not achieving my daily goal, I just sat down and colored and prayed for longer that day. I relished the time I had to reflect, re-center, and rejoice. This was a time that guilt could have prevented me from having. I maintained the pattern of missing several days, and then making them up for a longer period of devotion.

Another example: I had a great gym streak going in October and November. I felt strong and healthy. Then December happened, cookies happened, Christmas break happened. My streak ended. While I noticed that I didn't feel as strong or as healthy, I did my best to just get back in the swing in January. Now at the end of February, I feel like I'm back into a good rhythm. I recently had a conversation with an acquaintance at the

gym where she said guilt motivated her, and maybe that's the case for you. But I have found more motivation in allowing God's grace to guide my intentions towards myself (in mind, body, and spirit) and the world around me.

My prayer for you, part way through Lent, is that you are able to root yourself in God's love, forgiveness, and grace for you. Through these mercies, may you remain steadfast and diligent in your disciplines. Or through these mercies, may you slowly learn to give up the guilt and let God and Christ through your community pull you back up onto the wagon time and time again.

Peace,
Pastor Colleen



Thank You!

Thanks to Kim Filiatrault, Susan Colston, Katcha Papesch, and Peter Iversen for their help in creating the first art installation in the youth room!



First Communion Classes

March 6 and 20, 2016
After late service

All children ages 10 or younger are invited to participate in First Communion classes with Pastor Colleen on Sundays March 6th and 20th after late service. This class either prepares children to receive Holy Communion or helps children already receiving the sacrament to gain a better understanding. Parents are invited to attend as well, as your child may have questions about the class. Even if your child has been communing for some time, we hope you'll come together and learn about the forgiveness, joy, and strength we receive at the table of our Lord. Those who attend the classes will be recognized at our Maundy Thursday worship service, March 24th at 7pm.

Children at St. Thomas are welcome to begin taking communion as soon as they can handle solid foods. We affirm that they are an important part of our faith community. We also honor the choice of parents to have their children wait until age 10 or another familial milestone.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON MARCH 13 FOR SPRING BREAK

CLOCKS SPRING FORWARD
AT 2 AM ON SUNDAY, MARCH 13

Introducing Marie Fleming, Interim Children's Choir Director:

"Some of my earliest and fondest memories are as a member of my church's children's choir. I learned to love music and especially singing under the loving direction of dedicated volunteer musicians. While participating in choirs throughout high school and college, I also directed singing at a creative arts church camp for elementary-age children. And when my kids were young I helped start and directed a children's choir at our church in Illinois. I look forward to working with the young singers of St. Thomas to praise God, have fun, and learn some things along the way."

Marie can be reached at flemingmf@comcast.net.

Children's choir schedule for the remainder of the school year:

March 13 9:00-9:45 Rehearsal (Rm. 16/17)
March 20 9:00-9:45 Rehearsal
11:00 Sing in worship - Palm Sunday
April 10 9:00-9:45 Rehearsal
April 24 9:00-9:45 Rehearsal
11:00 Sing in Worship - Earth Day
May 8 9:00-9:45 Rehearsal
May 15 9:00-9:45 Rehearsal
11:00 Sing in Worship - Pentecost
TBA End of Year concert at a local nursing home



Spring Youth Group Schedule

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

Wednesday, March 16, 7-later pm - Midweek Worship & Movie. The youth are invited to attend the midweek worship service, and then stay for Star Wars!

Saturday, March 26 – Easter Brunch Work Day. 1-3pm

Sunday, March 27 – Easter Brunch!

Sunday, April 10, 5:30-7:30pm – Youth Group at St. Thomas

Sunday, April 24, 5:30-7:30pm- Youth Group at St. Thomas

Spring Lock-in – Look for an email to set the date!



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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, hash browns, 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



March 2016 Adult Forum Schedule

March 6: Culture of Conversation, Sanctuary: Join Pastor Colleen for an open conversation about the ministries and missions of St. Thomas.

March 13: The Back Forty/Community Garden Meeting, Conference Room. All are welcome to discuss what's next in the garden's development and preparing for the upcoming gardening season.

March 20: Living Waters Early Summer Mission Trip Interest Meeting. Come learn about our mission partners in Cherokee, North Carolina and learn about an upcoming trip!

March 27: EASTER BRUNCH!



MCUM Spring Food Drive

The Hunger Games 2016

March 1-April 20

The St. Thomas Sunday School and Youth Group are joining together to fight hunger in Bloomington, and we invite you to join the cause! We'll be collecting food, hygiene products, and Box Tops of Education. If you are interested in volunteering at MCUM during this time period, please contact Pastor Colleen. Together we can: provide 200 households with stabilizing case management, create 5,500 meals to from our emergency food pantry, distribute 1,400 items from our household and hygiene closet, and prevent eviction for 75 families.



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Sister Parish Update

Did you know that the Sister Parish organization is only 28 years old? It's story is compelling as an aging Pastor and a housewife started to talk about how relationships are so important in a changing world. St. Thomas has enjoyed its partnership with Sister Parish and has a strong relationship with our brothers and sisters in Guatemala.

But times are tough in Guatemala, and your prayers are needed. The recent presidential elections have come ashore a rising tide of public unrest and mistrust of those that hold the keys of power. Jimmy Morales is the newly elected president and leads the most populous country in central America where "the distribution of income remains highly unequal with the richest 20% of the population accounting for more than 51% of Guatemala's overall consumption. More than half of the population is below the national poverty line, and 13% of the population lives in extreme poverty. **Poverty among indigenous groups, which make up more than 40% of the population, averages 73%**, with 22% of the indigenous population living in extreme poverty. Nearly one-half of Guatemala's children under age five are chronically malnourished, one of the highest malnutrition rates in the world." (Source: CIA Factbook)

So as St. Thomas moves forward to secure an educational computer lab, please continue to pray for those in Chichipate and throughout Guatemala that God's hand would continue to provide mercy and hope.



St. Thomas Community Garden presents:

GARDENING BASICS WORKSHOP Saturday, March 12, 2016 from 10:00 AM-Noon

This two-hour workshop is designed to give you all you need to know for a fruitful growing season. The class will address such topics as soil preparation, site selection and bed design, plant selection, pest management, and organic fertilizers. Led by Marie Fleming.

There is no charge for this workshop but registration is required. Sign up in the narthex or email communityseeds474@gmail.com



Sign up now for garden space at St. Thomas Community Garden. Forms are available in the church office and online at www.stlconline.wordpress.com/community-garden.



The Back Forty/Community Garden group will meet Sunday, March 13 from 9:45-10:45 in the (Conference Room? Rm 15-17?) to discuss what's next in the garden's development and preparing for the upcoming gardening season. All are welcome.

Seeking Yard Sale Donations

Lutheran Campus Ministry will hold its annual yard sale at St. Thomas on Saturday, June 4. While you are doing your spring cleaning, don't forget to set aside any gently used items that you no longer need to donate toward the sale. We are looking for furniture, children's items, household decor, sports gear, crafting supplies, tools, small appliances, kitchen items, antiques, and pretty much else anything that will sell! We do ask that you **not** bring adult clothing or books (unless they are children's books or recent best sellers). You will have the opportunity to drop items off at church in late May/early June. However, if you need to get rid of your donation items now, there is a bit of storage space available at the Rose House. Please contact Jeff Schacht (jschacht@indiana.edu or 812-322-3306) to make arrangements. Thank you in advance for your contributions!



2016 World Day of Prayer

Church Women United is sponsoring an ecumenical service and luncheon on Friday, March 4, 2016, at St. Mark's Methodist Church. The service, written by the Women of Cuba, will begin at 11:00 am, and a free luncheon will follow at approximately noon. All are invited. For questions, contact Gail Seegert: gmseegert@comcast.net.



Have a gently used backpack that is no longer needed? Church Women United is collecting backpacks to donate to the Shalom Center. Contact Gail Seegert.



Happy Wedding Anniversary

Edwin and Pauline Caldwell	3/3/82	33 yrs
John and Judy Bush	3/28/64	51 yrs

MCUM Food Pantry needs for March

Canned Meats
Instant Cocoa
Peanut Butter
Dried Beans
Cooking Oil

Closet needs:

Deodorant, Adult Socks, Men's
Underwear (size small)

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*Happy Birthday to Members
Celebrating In March*

- 3/1 Tim Johnson
- 3/3 Juan Carlos Rodriguez, Dan Seegert
- 3/4 Dawn Bakken
- 3/5 Erica Goldsworthy, Jim Pankow
- 3/7 Bryce McKee
- 3/8 Debbie Moore
- 3/10 Alex Shetterly
- 3/11 Birch Foley, Katcha Papesh
- 3/12 Margaret Harter
- 3/16 Margrethe O'Connor
- 3/20 David Ellies, Gary Ingersoll
Joanne Namy
- 3/22 Willow Dimick
- 3/23 John Bush
- 3/25 Kay Isaacson (will be 95)
Anna Sloss
- 3/28 Renee Rich
- 3/30 Emily Garl

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

Our mailing address is:
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3800 East Third Street
Bloomington, IN 47401
www.stlconline.org

March - April Volunteers

	MARCH 6	MARCH 13*	MARCH 20*	MARCH 24, noon	MARCH 25, noon	MARCH 26	MARCH 27*	
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	Maundy Thurs	Good Friday	Vigil 8:00 pm	Easter 8:30 am	8:30 AM
DEACON	Kris Stewart	R Hershberger	Gail Seegert	M O'Connor	Betty Smith		Kris Stewert	Gail Seegert
LECTOR	Judy Bush	Lynn Coyne	Barb Unger	Margaret Harder	Jerry Smith	Judy Bush	Dana Barron	Bob Cutter
ACOLYTE	M Schacht	Madelyn Shupe	Max Arterberry				Lilly Rademacher	E Goldsworthy
SERVER	ML Nierzwicki	Jean Brown	David Ellies			Charles Sweet	Kent Unger	Kathleen Boggess
USHERS	L/U Coyne	G/G Laughman	J/M Doering			Hill/Seaman	D/D Nixon	F/ML Nierzwicki
GREETERS	J/J Bush	C/S Arterberry	G/G Laughman			Karen Rohlfing	Davie Ellies	M/C Braun
NURSERY	NURSERY IS OPEN BUT NOT STAFFED							
CRUCIFER			David Ellies			Charles Sweet	Kent Unger	
FLOWERS								
BREAD/WINE	B/C Gallien	M/J Laros	M/C Braun	R Hershberger		P Caldwell	F/ML Nierzwicki	Chris Ogan
COUNCIL CO	Cindy Gallien	John Bush	A Ahlbrand	Dean Arnold	Dean Arnold		John Bush	Cindy Gallien
	A Ahlbrand	Charles Sweet	Dean Arnold	Maren Foley	Maren Foley	Charles Sweet	Dennis Baurle	Dean Arnold
ALTAR GUILD	Bev Lingvai	Evelyn Niemeyer	Cindy Gallien	Gail Seegert			Jean Brown	Ute Coyne
	C Braun	Carole Kirsch	Betty Smith	C Gallien/J Brown			Shirley Mingee	Susan Lehr
	MARCH 6*	MARCH 13	MARCH 20*	MARCH 24, M Thur	MARCH 25, Good Fri	MARCH 26	MARCH 27*	APRIL 3
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	7:00 PM	7:00 PM		Easter, 11:00 AM	11:00 AM
DEACON	L Hitchcock	Betty Smith	Gary Ingersoll	Kathleen Boggess	David Rohlfing	THE	Ashley Ahlbrand	Lyman Hitchcock
LECTOR	Maren Foley	Deb Moore	Chris Ogan	Kris Stewart	Sonja Dorr Binder	GREAT	David Daleke	Helen Ingersoll
ACOLYTE	M Bourkland	M Knipstein	Sophia Watters	Natalie Schacht		EASTER	Sam Polansky	Nina Daleke
SERVER	K Anderson	M O'Connor	Dean Arnold	Mary Sasse		VIGIL	Charles Sweet	Stephanie Biehn
USHERS	Arnold & Son	Oshlund/McDonald	P/L May	Baurle/Filiatrault	L/U Coyne	8:00 P.M.	Arnold/son/Hill	Oshlund/McDonald
GREETER	C/M Foley	M O'Connor	J/B Smith	T/J Sinn	K/B Unger		L/A Madsen	J/R Steele
NURSERY	NURSERY IS OPEN BUT NOT STAFFED							
CRUCIFER			Dean Arnold				Charles Sweet	

March 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<p>1</p> <p>U-Club Yoga 10:00 am Worship Co 6:30 pm PRE Boot Camp 6:30 PRENA meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Worship at 12 & 7 pm Friday Musicale Board 9:30 am</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7 pm PRE Boot Camp 6:30</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Property 10:00 am</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Culture of Conversation 9:45 am IONA Group 9:45 am First Communion Class 12:30pm Youth Group 5:30 pm</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Community Band 7 pm Toxic Charity Book 7pm</p>	<p>8</p> <p>U-Club Yoga 10:00 am Mission Co 6:45 pm PRE Boot Camp 6:30</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Worship at 12 & 7 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Finance Com 6 pm Choir Rehearsal 7 pm PRE Boot Camp 6:30</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Gardening Basics Workshop 10 -12</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00 No SCS Community Garden group 9:45</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Community Band 7 pm</p>	<p>15</p> <p>U-Club Yoga 10:00 am PRE Boot Camp 6:30</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Worship at 12 & 7 pm Youth Worship & Movie 7 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7 pm PRE Boot Camp 6:30</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p> <p>PALM SUNDAY Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00 Children's Choir @ 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am First Communion Class 12:30pm Congregation Council 12:30</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Community Band 7 pm Spinners/Weavers 7 pm</p>	<p>22</p> <p>U-Club Yoga 10:00 am PRE Boot Camp 6:30 Lace Guild 6:30</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Swing Band 7 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>MAUNDY THURS Worship at 12 & 7 pm</p> 	<p>25</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY Worship at 12 & 7 pm</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>VIGIL Worship at 8:30 pm Youth 1-4 pm</p> 
<p>27</p> <p>EASTER SUNDAY Worship @ 8:30 & 11:00 Easter Breakfast 9:30 -11am</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>Community Band 7 pm</p>	<p>29</p> <p>U-Club Yoga 10:00 am PRE Boot Camp 6:30</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Dixieland Band 7 pm</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7 pm PRE Boot Camp 6:30</p>		