



# *St. Thomas Lutheran Church News*

*May, 2016*

*XXXVIII, Issue No. 5*

## **Senior Pastor's column**

### *Come, Holy Spirit*

As Easter arrived early this year, so too does Pentecost. Begun at Easter, the Week of Weeks (the season of Easter) extends through May 14. May 15 is Pentecost, the fiftieth day of Easter which marks the arrival of the Holy Spirit alighting as tongues of fire upon the faithful. Then understanding prevailed. Confusion was overcome by the power of the risen Lord, creating a boundary-defying community whose influence would be felt across the fullness of God's creation.

We celebrate Pentecost adorned in crimson hues drawn from those of fire and blood and symbolizing the spirit and atonement. Our worship delights the eye and ear with brilliance of color, movement, and sound, heralding the immeasurable bounty of a Spirit whose power is undimmed by time or circumstance.

As I write, I am just more than a week into recovery from nasal surgery. Suffice it to say that there were several procedures that were required, including the removal of growths of some size. I feel fortunate that other events led to tests that discovered the problems. It is good to have fine medical care, to enjoy good health, and to breathe easier—in a number of ways.

This spirit that comes to us at Pentecost manifests too as breath and wind. At creation "a wind swept over the face of the deep." At Pentecost, "a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting." The spirit blows where it wills, its purposes to accomplish. And I am thankful that a bit of the freshening breath of spirit is alighting on me. Breathing easier is a great gift, one that I hope may bring renewed vigor along with already better sleep.

May the fire and wind and breath of Pentecost alight on each of you who read these words. May the Holy Spirit dwell in you richly, enlivening your heart and your actions for the sake of the one who offers grace upon grace.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Lyle

P.S. What a blessing to have pastors Colleen, Kelli and Jeff who served willingly and ably in my absence. And thanks to you all for your prayers and other expressions of care during my time of recovery.



## *Annual Program meeting of the Congregation*

On April 24<sup>th</sup> members of the congregation elected new Council members Kim Filiatrault, Tom Sinn, and Gretchen Moehlmann. Dennis Baurle agreed to stay on for a second 3 year term. Newly elected officers of the congregation are Dean Arnold, President; Sam Eichmiller, Vice President and Ashley Ahlbrand, Secretary. Dean Arnold recognized retiring council members John Bush and Maren Foley and thanked them for their service and dedication.

Annual reports from the various groups and committees were open for comment. Carol Seaman spoke about the success of the mission committee and thanked the committee members, including a special recognition for the knowledge, skill and passion of Darrell Bakken, before his passing. Dean Arnold summarized the report from Mission Endowment Fund. All of the other reports were accepted without discussion. Copies of all reports are in the program booklet available on the welcome table

Also available on the welcome table are copies of the newly ratified Constitution and Bylaws and copies of the Resolution on the Repudiation of the Document of Discovery.

Changes to the Constitution merged the Bylaws and Constitution into one document, updated the language to align with synod guidelines and documented the establishment of the Mission Endowment Fund. The motion to approve came from council and was approved unanimously by the congregation.

The Resolution on the Repudiation of the Document of Discovery discusses how the Document of Discovery and Manifest Destiny had centuries of significant, negative effects on the North American Native inhabitants, communities and culture. The resolution asks the Indiana-Kentucky Synod to offer a statement of repentance and reconciliation for the damage done in the name of Christianity and “civilization”, and further, for the synod to provide resources and guide education of the congregations, as well as to bring the issue to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. The motion from council was passed unanimously by the congregation.



## *Adult Choir Spring Concert*

**The Adult Choir and guest orchestra** will present their Spring Concert. The choir will present Felix Mendelssohn’s setting of Psalm 42 “Wie der Hirsch” (like as the Heart), as well as a selection of greatest hits from our anthem collection.



## *Join the LCM-IU Board for a Rose House Work Morning, Saturday May 21*

Please join us at Rose House, 314 S. Rose Avenue, on Saturday May 21, from 9 a.m. to noon. We can use folks with all sorts of abilities in all sorts of ways.

Do you enjoy cleaning out and organizing other people’s stuff? We want to clean out the Rose House garage, get rid of junk, and then clean the floors, walls, and shelves.

Do you garden? We would like to mulch, weed, and tend to our plantings around the house.

Do you deep clean your house every spring? Then help us clean in corners and around baseboards, make our windows clean and shiny, and chase away dust and grime wherever it might appear.

Do you have painting and general carpentry skills? We have some spots outside that need to be scraped and painted, and, like other older houses, Rose House often needs a few small fixes here and there.

Can you sew? We have some nice curtains that need to be hemmed.

As a thank you, we will provide everyone with a free lunch from MOTHER BEAR'S PIZZA, with drinks and desserts also provided. RSVP, if possible, to [jschacht@indiana.edu](mailto:jschacht@indiana.edu), so that we can plan the morning's activities.



## Rooted in Christ End of Sunday School Party

Sunday, May 22  
9:45-10:45am  
The Back Forty



## *Spring 2016 Youth Group Schedule*

Friday, May 13 – Spring Lock-in, 7pm-9am

Sunday, May 15, 5:30-7:30pm – Youth group at St. Thomas. This will be the last gathering of the 2015-16 School Year.



## *From the Youth Group:*

We, the St. Thomas Lutheran youth group, recently took a trip to the Islamic Center, where we learned an abundance of information. Our first stop included a traditional meal, so kindly offered to everyone attending. They provided options for all kinds of diets, including meats, salads, desserts, and even pasta. The layout of the building was beautiful, as if every little detail complemented one another, all to uphold the wonderful painting that the Islamic Center is. Not all of the youth group attended, but every single one of us enjoyed it.

We learned a lot from the different lectures that they provided. One of the lectures, titled "Our Similarities and Differences", piqued most of our interests. The lecture explained how the Abrahamic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam are actually a lot more similar than you think they are. We think it would be enjoyable if the Islamic Center's youth would like to spend some time with us and play some games.

## *Congratulations to our 2016 Graduate!*

Bailey Arnold is graduating from Bloomington High School South. He will attend Indiana State University in the fall, and is interested in political science. He has achieved a Diamond 4 status in the League of Legends, his favorite game.

God's blessings on all your future endeavors, Bailey! Your St. Thomas community is proud of you!



### *Congratulations*

Congratulations to Sarah Goldsworthy, Sophia Rust, and Allison White who completed the First Communion Classes! We're thankful to celebrate Eucharist with you! You are an important part of the body of Christ!



## *Thank to our 2015-2016 Sunday School Teachers, Substitutes and Committee Members!*

This month we'll end another year of faith formation at St. Thomas. Our Sunday School classes engaged in all sorts of fun, creative, playful, and engaging lessons. Pastors Colleen and Kelli are so thankful for our wonderful teachers, willing substitutes, and thoughtful committee members. It's a true joy to see young hearts and minds being touched and encouraged by the love of Jesus.

Sunday School Coordinator: Rev. Kelli Skram

Godly Play: Debbie Nixon, Sharon Fawbush, Tish Llewellyn

Grades 1-3: Cindy Ohslund, Stephanie Hulett

Grades 4-6: Dana Barron, Christiana Redman, Ronna Papesh

Confirmation (7-8): Pastor Colleen Montgomery, Pastor Lyle McKee

High School: Peter Iversen

Substitutes: Sacha Arterberry, Gretchen Moehlman

Committee Members: Sandy Arnold, Cindy Gallien



*Summer Worship Schedule*

*Begins on*

*May 29<sup>th</sup>*

*With worship at*

*8:30 & 10:15 am*

## *ECHO Plant Sale*

Calling all gardeners... Spring is officially here and summer won't be far behind. Mark your calendars for the ECHO plant sale on May 8 and 15, then head out to your garden. Is catmint encroaching on your columbine? Are rose campion "volunteers" taking over your garden bed? Are you starting a flat of marigolds and have some to spare? The ECHO plant sale would love to have starts and extras of perennials, annuals, herbs, vegetables, and houseplants. Or maybe there's a bare spot in your garden that could be filled with plants from the ECHO sale. And don't forget—May 8 is Mother's Day! All proceeds go to support ECHO (Ecumenical Concerns for Hunger Organization) and its mission of combating world hunger through agricultural innovation and education.



### *LCM at IU YARD SALE*

Saturday, June 4, 7:00 am - 1:00 pm  
at St. Thomas in Community Hall

**We are looking for donations** of gently used items to fill up our sale tables, such as:

children's items (clothes, toys, etc.)

antiques & collectibles

current electronics

sporting goods

furniture

household items/decor

craft items

tools

*Please no clothes or shoes for adults, and no books unless they are children's books or current bestsellers.*

Donations may be dropped off at the church starting Monday, May 23. If you need to clear stuff out of your home before then, contact LCM Director Jeff Schacht at [jschacht@indiana.edu](mailto:jschacht@indiana.edu) or (812)322-3306 to arrange to bring items to Rose House before then.

**We are also looking for** volunteers to help sort items prior to the sale (no experience necessary, sneak preview of the goods included). Finally, we need people to help in various capacities on the day of the sale. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. We greatly appreciate your donations and assistance as this sale helps provide important programming funds for the campus ministry.

Finally, don't forget to shop the sale and invite your friends and neighbors to do the same!



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## *Living Waters Trip to be Rescheduled: We Still Need People!*

We are rescheduling our planned trip to Living Waters in Cherokee, North Carolina. Our planned dates in May did not work for enough people to make the trip feasible. We are looking to reschedule in late June or sometime in July, pending information from Pastor Jack and Lisa and availability of folks from St. Thomas. If you have time this summer, please think about joining us for a few days of work, worship, and learning. We'll be announcing possible dates as quickly as possible.



## *HAIKU IN THE GARDEN*

– **A Workshop on Noticing and Wondering** - Saturday, May 21 from 10:00-Noon. This drop-in, all ages workshop is designed to connect our eyes and our insight with what's happening in our gardens. Haiku is a practice that can help us question what we see. This is a useful garden skill! The workshop will be led by Pamela Grenfell Smith, Bloomington storyteller. There is no charge for the workshop. For more information and to register, contact [communityseeds474@gmail.com](mailto:communityseeds474@gmail.com).

*Haiku in the Garden* is the fourth in a series of learning labs for 2016 sponsored by the St. Thomas Community Garden.



## *Caring for the Prayer Garden*

**The Prayer Garden** is a peaceful reprieve from the everyday and a lovely memorial for our loved ones who have gone before us. It is currently ready for mowing, watering, and weeding and you can help maintain its beauty! Please see the sign-up board in the Narthex for times available to work this summer and early fall. The sign-up also includes a work day coming up Saturday, May 14th from 9:30 –11:30. If you have questions please see Leah Iversen (812)320-2017 or [leahbethsinn@hotmail.com](mailto:leahbethsinn@hotmail.com)



## *New Landscaping on the Patio*

Thanks to those who helped landscape the new patio area and beat the rain with their swiftness.  
To Jerry Smith who chose, transported, and placed the shrubs  
To Charlene Braun who chose, planted, mulched and will add compost  
To Mark Braun who transported and donated mulch  
And Karen Rohlfing who created plant labels

# Intergenerational VBS 2016

ALL are invited to participate in this year's VBS program. All meals will be provided. Please sign up in the narthex to attend and to help out! We are looking for help hosting the gatherings and with kitchen help. Questions? Contact Pastor Colleen or Pastor Kelli Skram.

## June 12, 11:30-2pm: Go and Do Likewise

Join us for lunch and learning! We learn about the importance of living out our faith and the impact it has on our neighbors. After our learning time, we'll take a special service trip to the New Hope Family Shelter.

## June 24, 6:30pm: S'mores and More!

We gather for an evening of summery treats and fun.

## July 17, 11:30-2pm: Hope

Join us for lunch and learning! We dig into the hope we have in God, hope that gets us through the worst of days and toughest of times!



### *May Birthdays*

5/3 Deborah Owens  
5/12 Ruth Rives  
5/13 Kelly Thacker  
5/14 Karen Rohlfing  
5/16 Matt Shupe  
5/19 Sarah Fogleman  
5/20 Ashley Ahlbrand, Pr. Colleen  
Montgomery  
5/22 Kenna Dimick  
5/23 Mary Lou Nierzwicki, Gail Seegert,  
Myles Mundy, Ila Risner  
5/26 Charlene Wheeler  
5/27 Jim Eagleman  
5/30 Meg Garl

### *Anniversaries*

Bruce & Susan Colston	5/17/96	20 yrs
Tim & Jennifer Garl	5/20/89	27 yrs
Lindsey & Dawn Smith	5/17/75	41 yrs
Jim & Suzanne Halvorson	5/25/74	42 yrs

**The new ELCA magazine, "Living Lutheran,"** features St. Thomas in an article on eco-evangelism. Please look for the new flagship publication of the ELCA and turn to page 30.

*Summer Worship Schedule  
Begins on  
May 29<sup>th</sup>  
With worship at  
8:30 & 10:15 am*

## *Finding Grace at the Table*

### **Church Women United's 2016 May Friendship Day**

**Church Women United's May Friendship Day** will be Friday, May 6, at Bell Trace Community Room. Program will begin at 11:00 am with lunch to follow at noon. Cost of the lunch is \$5.00. Please RSVP to Carolyn Sweeny at 812-325-7482 by Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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## *MCUM Food Pantry Needs*

The pantry welcomes donations of all non-perishable foods, but we currently have a special need for the following:

Baking mixes, especially muffins

Fruit Juice

Canned fruit, especially mandarin oranges, pears, and applesauce

Beans – black, great northern, navy

Pudding and Jell-o mixes

### **Non – food:**

Diapers, especially size 5 and wipes

Deodorant, especially for women

Household cleaners

Our mailing address is:

St. Thomas Lutheran Church, ELCA

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)



# VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY -- June 2016

	MAY 1	MAY 8	MAY 15	MAY 22	MAY 29	JUNE 5	JUNE 12	JUNE 19
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
DEACON	Gail Seegert	K Boggess	R Hershberger	Kris Stewart	David Rohlfig	Gail Seegert	K Boggess	R Hershberger
LECTOR	David Ellies	ML Nierzwicki	Gail Seegert	N Montgomery	N Matthews	Dana Barron	Barb Unger	David Rohlfig
ACOLYTE	Matt Schacht	L Rademacher	Joel Arnold	E Goldsworthy	Madelyn Shupe	M Schacht	N Schacht	L Rademacher
SERVER	Shirley Mingee	David Ellies	David Ellies	C Braun	Barb Unger	Kelly Thacker	Jean Brown	Gene Laughman
USHERS	G/G Laughman	L/U Coyne	F/ML Nierzwicki	D/D Nixon	J/M Doering	G/G Laughman	L/U Coyne	F/ML Nierzwicki
GREETERS	B/K Unger	M/J Laros	R/J Brown	C/S Arterberry	Kathleen Boggess	Carl Ziegler	S Mingee	JoAnne Namy
CRUCIFER			David Ellies					
FLOWERS								
BREAD/WINE	G/G Laughman	Mary Sasse	J/R Steele	R/J Brown	C/K McDonald	L/A Madsen	Katie Anderson	D/S Arnold
COUNCIL CO	Cindy Gallien	A Ahlbrand	Cindy Gallien	S/M Eichmiller	Dean Arnold			
	Charles Sweet	Dean Arnold	Charles Sweet	Ashley Ahlbrand	Ashley Ahlbrand			
ALTAR GUILD	E Niemeyer	Gail Seegert						
	Carole Kirsch	Jean Brown						
	MAY 1	MAY 8	MAY 15	MAY 22	MAY 29	JUNE 5	JUNE 12	JUNE 19
	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM
DEACON	Betty Smith	Gary Ingersoll	A Ahlbrand	M O'Connor	Claire Repsholdt	Betty Smith	L Hitchcock	G Ingersoll
LECTOR	K McDonald	Haley Garl	S Biehn	Carol Seaman	Kari Esarey	A Ahlbrand	Debbie Selk	Charles Sweet
ACOLYTE	Kenna Dimick	M Arterberry	Sophia Watters	M Bourkland	Sam Polansky	M Knipstein	Truman Daleke	Birch Foley
SERVER	Ruth Rives	G Hitchcock	Charles Sweet	Gary Ingersoll	Lyman Hitchcock	K Anderson	S Fawbush	Haley Garl
USHERS	D/J Arnold	K Hill	P/L May	Baurle/Filatraul	Ohslund/McDonald	Kaye Hill	P/L May	D/J Arnold
GREETER	Deb Moore	C/K McDonald	Katie Anderson	Karen Blaisdell	Gretchen Holthaus	Dennis Baurle	M Harter	G Moehlmann
CRUCIFER			Charles Sweet					

# May 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 New Member class 9:45 IU Student Recital 7:00 pm	2 Community Band 7pm	3 UClub Yoga 10 am	4 Mission Co 6:45 pm	5 Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	6	7 Property Co 10 am
8 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 ECHO Plant Sale	9 SIREN Meeting 5pm Community Band 7pm	10 UClub Yoga 10 am	11	12 Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	13 Youth Lock-in 6pm-----	14 Prayer garden workday 9:30 -11:30 Youth Lock-in ends 9am
15 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 ECHO Plant Sale Adult Choir Concert 4pm	16 Community Band 7pm Spinners/Weavers 7pm	17 UClub Yoga 10 am	18	19 Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	20	21 Haiku in the Garden 10-noon LCM Workday
22 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 End of the Year SCS Party Douglas Recital 3 pm	23 Community Band 7pm Begin dropping off items for LCM sale	24 UClub Yoga 10 am Lace Guild 7pm	25	26 Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	27	28 Isaacson Bridal Shower 10:30 am
29 SUMMER SCHEDULE Worship at 8:30 & 10:15 Nigel North Concert 2pm	30 Community Band 7pm	31 UClub Yoga 10 am				