



St. Thomas Lutheran Church

February 2018
XXXX, Issue II

Back to Basics

Upon viewing my proposal for Lent this year, one of the members of the Worship Committee asked whether we are becoming Methodist.

I took that as a negative comment, although we do in fact share full pulpit and altar fellowship with our Methodist friends. It was a clear reference to my suggestions, many in number and focused on simplifying the liturgies for Lent. You will see elsewhere in this newsletter a detailed listing of the changes. The Worship Committee did agree to a pared-down liturgy for Lent, but we will listen carefully to how folks respond.

The idea is to get down to basics during Lent. A more austere approach to worship is a way to highlight the more reflective, contemplative, and somber aspects of the season. Liturgy that focuses on the basics may aid us in identifying with the disciples, who prior to Easter were forced to consider who this Jesus was. It wasn't until the Resurrection that they began to piece together proper confessions about the nature of Christ. We will join them in this journey, hopefully helped along by a simplified order of worship.

The themes considered during both mid-week and Sunday worship during Lent are based on "Practices of the Spirit." Here too, we are rehearsing the basics of our faith, returning to the practices that have helped to shape Christian living over the centuries. We will reflect upon practices of the inner life of contemplation, the outer life of faith in action, and the corporate life centered on worship.

The Worship Committee and I hope and pray that these changes to liturgy and themes of Lent will serve to enrich our spiritual, missional, and corporate lives.

"...we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord...as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God." (Colossians 1:9-10)

Grace and peace,
Pastor Lyle



Practices of the Spirit: Lent 2018

Lent offers a unique opportunity to make a dramatic shift in the mood and content of the Eucharistic liturgy. We move to a more chant-like setting (Five). We omit the Hymn of Praise and all forms of "Alleluia." These changes serve to heighten our awareness of a more somber mood for the season, turning to confession, introspection, and acts of mercy.

This year, in consultation with the Worship Committee, we have decided to go even further in shaping our Lenten liturgies for the sake of stimulating both reflection and action, with a focus on the practices of the Spirit. In some traditions, these would be called "spiritual disciplines." For Lutherans, "spiritual practices" is more appropriate. "Discipline" can imply legalistic demand or expectation—law. "Practice" speaks more to gracious option and choice—grace.

During Lent, our liturgies will be as simple as possible. Yes, Sundays are not formally considered a part of Lent (They are called the Sundays "in" Lent, not "of" Lent.). And Sundays are always intended to be celebrations of the event that took place on the first day of the week (Easter). However, with mid-week services less well attended than in the past, bringing Lent more fully into Sunday worship is a remaining way to emphasize the symbols, themes, and traditional practices of the season.

As we encourage various spiritual practices, our simplified liturgies will also:

- + Omit the Creed (joining the disciples in not knowing what to believe until the Day of Resurrection).
- + Move an altered version of the confession to just before the sharing of the peace (thus reconciled to God, we greet one another in words of reconciliation with others).
- + Remove the water from the font (a symbol of fasting and of the traditional use of Lent to prepare people for baptism).
- + Remove the processional cross (in an attempt to put aside our full knowledge of the story and relive it alongside the disciples). The cross returns on Good Friday.
- + With a simplified liturgy, the Kyrie, Sanctus, and Agnus Dei/I Call on Thee stand out.

Here is the schedule for **Practices of the Spirit: Lent 2018**:

2/14 (Ash Wed) Spiritual Practices: Doors to Liberation

Inward Practices

2/18 (Lent 1) Meditation
2/21 (Mid-Week 1) Prayer
2/25 (Lent 2) Fasting
2/28 (MW 2) Study

Outward Practices

3/4 (Lent 3) Simplicity
3/7 (MW 3) Simplicity (continued)
3/11 (Lent 4) Solitude
3/14 (MW 4) Submission
3/18 (Lent 5) Service

Corporate Practices

3/21 (MW 6) Confession
3/25 (Lent 6) Worship
3/29 (M.Thurs.) Guidance
3/30 (G.Fri.) Review of Spiritual Practices
4/1 (Easter) Celebration



The St. Thomas Community Garden is gearing up for 2018!

If you gardened last year and would like to continue this season, please fill out the Garden Registration form in the narthex and submit it, along with your garden donation, to the church office or via the offering plate by March 1. New gardeners are welcome to sign up for information and to apply for open garden plots. Available plots will be assigned after March 1 on a first-come, first sign-up basis.

Questions? Contact Kaye Hill at the office.



Adult Forums for February:

Forums begin at 9:45 am in the Conference Room

2/4 - Living the Questions Session 7- Out Into The World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christianity

2/11 – St Vincent de Paul Reception (see information below)

2/18 - Living the Questions Session 8 – Honoring Creation: Restoring the World

2/25 - Pamela Smith: Attending to Scripture in the Anthropocene: Lot & the City of Sodom



St. Vincent de Paul Thank You Reception

On Sunday, February 11, volunteers with St. Vincent de Paul will hold an appreciation reception in our Narthex between services as a "thank-you" for financial contributions and donations of furniture and appliances. St. Thomas continues its commitment to partner with St. Vincent de Paul in their efforts to provide emergency financial assistance, furniture, and appliances to those in need in our community. Hope to see you there!

In 2017 St. Vincent de Paul accomplished:

3138 People helped

1844 Households served

4815 Bus tickets provided

323 Major appliances distributed

4902 Pieces of furniture delivered

\$111,980 in financial assistance given out



Youth Group for February:

2/4 - Youth Group at STLC, 5:30 pm-7:30 pm

2/13 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner and 60-Second Talent Show



Youth and their families are invited to celebrate the most glorious pancake holiday of the whole year: Shrove Tuesday! We'll prepare our stomachs, hearts, and spirits for the season of Lent. For dinner we'll have pancakes!

In addition to eating pancakes, we'll have a "60 Second or Less Talent Show!" During the Lenten season we strive to be reflective and repentant. Laughing a lot before Lent begins helps! ALL members of your family are invited to share a talent. This can be music, humor, demonstrating an athletic skill, sharing/creating an artistic piece, poetry or dramatic reading.

Please let Amy know by Wednesday, February 7th if you and your family plan to attend and if you can help with set-up, clean-up.



The St. Thomas Youth are proud to share that we are participating in the 2018 Souper Bowl of Caring!



Souper Bowl of Caring uses the energy around our nation's biggest sporting event to mobilize and inspire youth to fight hunger and poverty. All the across the country, churches and schools will take up collections and give 100% of the donations to local charities. We will report our total collected to Souper Bowl of Caring so our contribution can be added to the national total. This year we will be donating to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard.

We will collect cash donations or cans of soup on February 4, 2018 after each church service.

MCUM Food Pantry Items for February:

Canned, fresh, or dried fruit
Canned or fresh vegetables – onions, diced
tomatoes

Brown Rice
Instant oatmeal

Cleaning Closet Needs

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

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!

2/1 Ashly Edwards

2/2 Yvonne Leber

2/3 Dave Belbutoski

2/4 Eliot Smith

2/5 Mary Rust

2/6 Marian Baughman, Elizabeth Gaskins

2/8 Julia Bourkland

2/9 Sara Fawbush Johnson, Amanda Madsen

2/10 Antonia Daleke, Matthew Schacht

2/11 Darrell Boggess

2/17 Ronna Papesh

2/18 Gretchen Mundy, Lia Marsh

2/20 Bob Ellis

2/23 Kay Eagleman, Erin Wyatt

2/24 Isaak Fogleman

Our mailing address is:

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Bloomington, IN 47401

www.stlconline.org

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

February 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	2	3 Property Co 10:00 a Fiber Arts 10:00a
4 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Living the Questions 9:45 a Souper Bowl donations Youth Group 5:30 p	5 IU Docents 10:00a Community Band 7p	6 UClub Yoga 10am	7 Friday Musicale Board 9:30 a Education Comm 6:00 p	8 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	9	10
11 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am St. Vincent DePaul Reception 10:00 a Bach Cantata 2:30 p	12 Community Band 7p	13 UClub Yoga 10am Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:30 p	14 Ash Wednesday Worship at noon & 7 pm 	15 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	16	17
18 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Living the Questions 9:45 a	19 IU Docents 10:00a Community Band 7p	20 UClub Yoga 10am	21 Wednesday Lenten Service	22 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm	23	24
25 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45 am Adult Forum: Lot & city of Sodom Pamela Smith 9:45 a	26 Community Band 7p	27 UClub Yoga 10am	28 Wednesday Lenten Service			

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY - MARCH 2018

	February 4*	February 11	February 14	February 18*	February 25	March 4*	March 11	
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	Ash Wed noon	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	
ASST MINISTER	K Boggess	Gail Seegert	Gary Ingersoll	Kris Stewart	Gail Seegert	David Rohlfing	Kathleen Boggess	
LECTOR	Matt Marsh	David Ellies	Jerry Smith	Pauline Caldwell	John Bush	ML Nierzwicki	Kent Unger	
ACOLYTE	Natalie Schacht	Matthew Schacht		Max Arterberry	L Rademacher	Natalie Schacht	Matthew Schacht	
SERVER	Mary Sasse	John Bush		David Ellies	Jean Brown	Gene Laughman	Barb Unger	
USHERS	F/ML Nierzwicki	Gallien/		J/M Doering	G/G Laughman	L/U Coyne	D/D Nixon	
GREETERS	Gail Seegert	G/G Laughman		J/J Bush	C/S Arterberry	David Ellies	M/C Braun	
CRUCIFER								
FLOWERS	G/G Laughman	Cindy Gallien	NO ALTAR FLOWERS DURING LENT					
BREAD/WINE	M/C Braun	D/S Arnold	Mary Sasse	G Moehlmann	C/K McDonald	Victoria Hoppes	Skram/Schacht	
COUNCIL CO	Cindy Gallien	Dean Arnold		Dean Arnold	Dawn Bakken	Dean Arnold		
	Ashley Ahlbrand	Charles Sweet		Ashley Ahlbrand	Kim Filiatrault	Dennis Baurle	Ashley Ahlbrand	
ALTAR GUILD	Cindy Gallien	Shirley Mingee		Barb Unger	Cindy Gallien	Gail Seegert	Mary Sasse	
	Susan Lehr	Susan Lehr		Pauline Caldwell	Charlene Braun	Jan Sinn	Carole Kirsch	
	February 4	February 11*	February 14	February 18	February 25*	March 4	March 11*	
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	Ash Wed 7:00 pm	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	
ASST MINISTER	Lindsey Smith	Lyman Hitchcock	Lindsey Smith	Tim Smith	Ashley Ahlbrand	Gary Ingersoll	R Hershberger	
LECTOR	Jennifer Garl	G Moehlmann	Karen Rohlfing	Kathy McDonald	Cindy Ohslund	Kari Esarey	Margaret Harter	
ACOLYTE	Audrey Knipstein	Leah Knipstein	Irene Fogleman	Nina Daleke	Koral Dimick	Noah Smith	Kenna Dimick	
SERVER	G Moehlmann	Gary Ingersoll	Charlene Braun	M O'Connor	David Daleke	Betty Smith	Carol Seaman	
USHERS	Kaye Hill	Ohslund/McDonald	Dean Arnold	P/L May	Filiatrault/Baurle	Kaye Hill	Ohslund/McDonald	
GREETER	M O'Connor	Kari Esarey	Kathleen Boggess	J/B Smith	T/J Garl	C/K McDonald	G Moehlmann	
CRUCIFER								