



# St. Thomas Lutheran Church

May 2018  
XXXX, Issue V

## *The Forgotten Festival*

If asked to name the most important days of the church year, what might you answer? Christmas and Easter would certainly come to mind. But what about Pentecost? Or, less likely I think, Ascension?

In some ages of the Church, the Ascension of Our Lord was considered the most important of Christian festivals. This was true especially in the early years of the Reformation, during which there were many debates about the significance of the day.

The Ascension of Jesus refers to the story of Jesus' departure into heaven as recounted in Acts 1:9-11 and a few other places. Here's the Acts account:

When Jesus had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.

Ascension Day is celebrated each year on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of Easter. That's always a Thursday; this year it's May 10. And this is probably why we tend to forget this event in the story of our Lord.

So what's this ascension business all about? The Reformation controversies focused on what the ascension says about Christ's presence in the sacrament of communion. If Jesus ascended, some argued, how is it possible for Christ be present also in the sacrament. And yes, it was an odd time for Christian theology. Folks had obviously forgotten about, or ignored, the omnipresence of God—the affirmation that God is all and in all (Col. 3:11). God in Christ is able to be present whenever and wherever God chooses.

You may recall in this context that Elijah too ascended into heaven—in a whirlwind (2 Kings 2). In these cases, as well as in other such stories in ancient times, ascension served as a sign of divine approval and of exaltation. We affirm the exaltation of Jesus every time we give voice to the creed: "He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father."

The One who came from God to be born in a stable, where God took on human flesh, now in the ascension returns to God, completing the work of salvation and giving witness to the full embrace by God of humanity and matter and all that God created. God becomes human (incarnation), and humanity is embraced into God (ascension). Of course, we no longer believe in the three-part universe of those in ancient times. The depiction of Jesus and Elijah ascending makes little literal sense in the universe we understand ourselves to inhabit today. Again, God is everywhere. God's

Spirit indwells all things.

Symbolically, however, the ascension is a beautiful and compelling witness to God's love for and embrace of all persons and all of creation. If you do a computer search for ascension images, you will see that this is a common artistic interpretation; art depicting Jesus' ascension shows Christ offering a blessing upon those below.

As Thursday May 10 arrives, you might pause a moment and offer thanks for the God who dwells with us and blesses us still. Here's one of the prayers suggested for the day:

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us faith to trust that, as he promised, he abides with us on earth to the end of time, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Lyle



## Spring Choral Concert: Fauré Requiem

St. Thomas Adult Choir  
Sunday, May 6, 2018, 4:00 pm  
Sanctuary, St. Thomas Lutheran Church

On Sunday afternoon, May 6, at 4pm in the Sanctuary, the Adult Choir will present its annual Spring Concert. Joining the choir will be guest musicians from the Jacobs School of Music. The program will feature Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*, presented in its original 1893 version, scored for soloists, choir, chamber orchestra, and organ. Also on the program will be several smaller choral works, along with the reading of related scripture lessons.

The best-known of Fauré's works, the *Requiem* is a shortened setting of the Catholic Mass of the Dead. Fauré's work is dominated from beginning to end by a faith in eternal rest and consolation, an eternal rest possible only through the saving love and grace of Jesus Christ.

We hope you will join us for the presentation of this profoundly moving choral masterwork.



## Sister Parish Sunday

On Sunday, May 13 we will celebrate our continuing relationship with our Sister Parish in Chichipate, Guatemala. 2018 marks the 20th anniversary of the relationship between the communities of Santo Domingo de Guzman in Chichipate, Guatemala and St Thomas Lutheran Church in Bloomington, Indiana. In fact, Don Pedro was part of the first south to north delegations, and he remembers staying with Ronna Papesh and her infant Katcha. On this year's North to South, Katcha not only spent time with Don Pedro but also celebrated her 18th birthday. This has been a successful long-term relationship in solidarity.

This year The Sister Parish Committee realized that it was time to send a delegation to Guatemala, as we had been invited by the Sister Parish Committee of Santo Domingo de Guzman. Five delegates felt called to go to Chichipate: Caroline Hewlitt (IU student), Gretchen Moehlman (Teacher, Church council member), Peter Iversen (Development Officer, Sister Parish committee), Katcha Papesh (high school student), Ronna Papesh (tech guru, former host). The delegation successfully built and continued relationships during their delegation in March 2018.

Peter Iversen

## Bread for the World

In the hymn "We are One in the Spirit, We are One in the Lord" the chorus ends "And they'll know we are Christians by our Love."

On Sunday, May 13, we have yet another opportunity to join thousands of other Christians and other faith folks by joining in St. Thomas Lutheran Church's Offering of Letters to end hunger and help those in need. The organization 'Bread for the World' helps us organize our efforts to bring food to hungry people, working poor, senior citizens, children and others. Our letters to Congress will aim at protecting funds for SNAP, former food stamps, WIC, programs for poor infants, children and their mothers, tax credits for low income workers, humanitarian relief programs following natural disasters, natural and manmade, and international poverty focused development assistance to provide safe water and help struggling farmers increase production. Incidentally, the tax credits for low income workers do more to reduce poverty and hunger and encourage work than any other program thus far. This act alone moved 8.2 million people in the U.S. out of poverty.

So on Sunday, May 13 after the early and late services, there will be paper, pens, addresses, sample letters, information and even partially started letters you can finish to write your senators and representative to help those in need with your tax dollars that are sent to the federal government. Kari Esarey will present a short temple talk on this Sunday to remind you of our important work together. St. Thomas is a shining star with letter writing for Bread for the World! We appreciate your participation. And .....

Thank you for your love.

*Kari Esarey*



## ECHO Plant Sell

Calling all gardeners... After a rare Easter Sunday snow and many chilly evenings, it seems that spring is finally here! Mark your calendars for the ECHO plant sale on May 13 and 20, then head out to your garden. Is catmint encroaching on your columbine? Are rose campion "volunteers" taking over your garden bed? Are you startling a flat of marigolds or peppers and have seedlings to spare? We'd 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 sale. And don't forget—May 13 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.



## Thanks from our Youth

Thank you to everyone who donated time, food, drinks, and money for the High School Youth's Easter Breakfast this year! We earned \$681 toward the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston this summer!

*Summer Worship Schedule  
Begins on May 27<sup>th</sup>  
with worship at 8:30 & 10:15 am*

# Thank you to our 2017-2018 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 learning through lessons, fellowship, and singing! We are so thankful for our wonderful teachers, substitutes, and committee members who invest their time and energy in this important work!

Sunday School Coordinator: Stephanie Hulett  
Godly Play: Sharon Fawbush, Tish Llewellyn, Debbie Nixon  
Gr. 1-4: Misty White, Erin Wyatt  
Gr. 4-6: Ronna Papesh, Mary Thomason-Smith  
Confirmation: Amy Balcam, Pastor Lyle McKee  
High School: Peter Iversen  
Substitutes: Sacha Arterberry, Sarah Fogelman, Gretchen Moehlmann



## Congratulations to Our Graduates



Katcha Papesh is graduating as class valedictorian from the Academy of Science and Entrepreneurship. She will be attending the University of Evansville in the fall, where she plans to major in archaeology and international studies.

Victoria Hoppes is graduating from Luther Seminary with an M.A. in Children, Youth, and Family Ministry. Victoria plans to continue her work at The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis and Waycross Camp and Conference Center.



## Youth Group Meetings in May

May 11: Youth Lock In!  
May 20: End of Year Celebration!



## Upcoming Adult Forums for May

May 6: Living the Questions  
May 13: Bread for the World (Letter writing in the narthex)  
May 20: Living the Questions  
May 27: (Summer Schedule) 11:30 - 12:30 pm: Dementia Information with Dayna Thompson of IU Health - Bloomington and Jan Gerkenmeyer



## The 2018 St. Thomas Community Garden season is underway!

Our 38 raised beds have been claimed by 27 households and a contingent of children and adults from the Beth Shalom Daycare. In addition to the kids next door, six of the gardening families include children and teens. There are at least two IU students, lots of retirees, and plenty who come in on weekends and after work. Five "neighbor" households belong to the garden family. And we have plenty of non-

human members as well, including a family of bluebirds, rabbits and a resident hawk. Finally, just to be sure everyone is aware, the beds create a three-circuit labyrinth. Instructions on Walking the Labyrinth are in the cedar-shake information box at the main gate. The center herb circle and Luther Rose patio is furnished with a bench for your enjoyment.

Visitors to the garden are invited to check out the enclosed Altar Flower garden in the northeast corner, and Grandma's Corner flower garden in the southwest. Our nine fruit trees will one day yield apples, pears and cherries. While the numbers tell a wonderful story of diversity and inclusion, the best part of the St. Thomas Community Garden is the COMMUNITY! Work days and routine meetings over watering, weeding and harvesting provide fine opportunities to get to know one another and celebrate the wonder of growing things. Gardening conversations spill into just about every church gathering, as we share strategies and stories among a much wider network of growers.

Service Opportunity: We are looking for one or more persons to help occasionally with the orchard. For more information and to volunteer, contact Sonja Dorr-Binder at 812/332.7561.

Contact the church office if you'd like to be on the Garden e-mail list, join the garden-plot waiting list, or need more information.

REMEMBER: Last out, close the gate!

### Mark your calendar:

- Saturday, May 12: Work Day from 10-Noon.
- Sunday, May 13: Garden Blessing during morning worship.
- Sunday, May 13: ECHO Plant Sale
- Sunday, May 20: ECHO Plant Sale



## Monroe County Spring into Action Luncheon & Auction

**Would you like to have a great meal** and lots of fun on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>? Of course you would!! Please consider having lunch from 12 to 2 at the Bloomington Monroe Convention Center and help MCUM (Monroe County United Ministries) sustain their much-needed and highly-valued service to hungry people; people who want to be self-sustaining; and to parents seeking affordable day-care/preschool. Tickets are available from Gail Seegert or Helen Ingersoll (see directory for contact information). In addition there will be a Silent Auction with lots of neat things.....don't miss it...several hundred MCUM supporters will attend....we hope you're one of them!

*Summer Worship Schedule  
Begins on May 27<sup>th</sup>  
with worship at  
8:30 & 10:15 am*

# The Jewish Theatre of Bloomington Presents "Church and State" by Jason Odell Williams

The Jewish Theatre of Bloomington's 2018 season opens with *Church and State* written by up- and- coming playwright, Jason Odell Williams and directed by Liam Castellan, a third year MFA directing student at Indiana University. The show will run for two weekends in May at the Ivy Tech John Waldron's Rose Firebay. *Church and State*, recently nominated for Best New Play by the Off-Broadway Alliance, "deals seriously with the timely issues of faith and policy while hilariously capturing the modern lunacy of politics."

Three days before his bid for re-election in North Carolina, a Republican senator, played by Indianapolis actor, Stephen Hunt, makes an off-the-cuff remark to a blogger that calls into question his belief in God and guns. As his devoutly Christian wife, played by Abby Lee, IU MFA theatre candidate, and his liberal Jewish campaign manager, played by Tess Cunningham, IU theatre student, try to contain the damage, this look at how religion, guns, and social media influence our political system is simultaneously funny, heartbreaking, and uplifting. Joined by Jonathan Golombiecki ISU theatre graduate playing multiple roles, the cast of four will bring to Bloomington audiences, this timely and highly contemporary play.

*Church and State* has been credited with many positive reviews. Called "Flawless" by *Stage Raw*, "Furiously Funny" by *Arts in L.A.*, and "Extraordinary" by the *Santa Monica Press*. From *NPR*, "a crackling script! I wish every member of Congress could see it!" Through his work, Jason Odell Williams "has managed to do what most have not, which is to take this divided country and break through the walls of our heart and make us think and feel," reports the *Times Square Chronicles*.

The performance dates for *Church and State* are May 10, 12, 17, and 19 at 7:30 PM and May 20 at 3:00 PM. There will be talkbacks after the May 12<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> performances. Tickets are \$25 and will be available through the BCT box office in person (114 E Kirkwood Avenue), by phone, or online ([www.bctboxoffice.org](http://www.bctboxoffice.org)). A \$2.00 discount per ticket will apply for groups of five or more. Doors will open 30 minutes prior to show; metered parking and free parking garage space is available in the 4<sup>th</sup> Street parking garage.. For more information on the Jewish Theatre or on *Church and State*, please visit [jewishtheatrebloomington.com](http://jewishtheatrebloomington.com) or find us on Facebook at: Jewish Theatre of Bloomington.



## Monroe County CASA Now Accepting Applications for May Training

Monroe County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is now accepting applications for the upcoming training session. The next training is May 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 24<sup>th</sup>, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. CASA is a volunteer-powered program which provides representation in juvenile court for child victims of abuse and neglect. They provide support to these children to ensure that they remain at the forefront of the court proceedings and find a safe, permanent home as quickly as possible. Right now there are over 100 children in Monroe County waiting for an advocate. To learn more about how you can give a child a voice, please visit [www.monroecountycasa.org/volunteer](http://www.monroecountycasa.org/volunteer) or call 812-333-CASA.

Amber Shride  
Monroe County CASA – Resource Development Coordinator  
201 N. Morton St. – Bloomington, Indiana 47404  
(812) 333-2272 ext. 211 – Fax (812) 333-7949

## May Birthdays

5/12 Ruth Rives  
5/14 Karen Rohlfing  
5/16 Matt Shupe  
5/19 Sarah Fogleman  
5/20 Ashley Ahlbrand  
5/22 Kenna Dimick, Ila Risner  
5/23 Mary Lou Nierzwicki, Gail Seegert  
5/26 Charlene Wheeler

## Anniversaries

Bruce & Susan Colston	5/17/96	22 yrs
Tim & Jennifer Garl	5/20/89	29 yrs
Lindsey & Dawn Smith	5/17/75	43 yrs
Jim & Suzanne Halvorson	5/25/74	44 yrs
Tim & Mary Smith	5/31/97	21 yrs

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)

## 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  
Flour & Cornmeal  
Fruit Juice  
Pudding and Jell-o mixes

### Non – food:

Diapers, especially size 5 and wipes  
Deodorant, especially for women  
Household cleaners



June Newsletter deadline:  
Monday, May 21

## Summer Worship Schedule

Begins on May 27<sup>th</sup>  
with worship at  
8:30 & 10:15 am

# May 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 UClub Yoga 10am Worship Co 6:30 p	2 Choir Rehearses 4 p Sister Parish 6:30 p	3 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 p	4	5 Property 10 am Choir Rehearses 10:00 a
6 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 <b>Spring Choral Concert &amp; Reception 4p</b>	7 Community Band 7p	8 UClub Yoga 10am Book of Faith 7p	9	10 Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 p	11	12 Garden Work Day 10 a
13 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 SISTER PARISH SUNDAY Bread for the World Letter Writing in the narthex ECHO Plant sale Studio Recital 4:00p	14 Community Band 7p	15 UClub Yoga 10am	16	17 Studio Recital 4 p Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 p	18 Student Recital 7 p	19 Fiber Arts Group 10 a
20 Worship at 8:30 & 11:00 ECHO Plant Sale SCS Yearend Party 10a Congregation Council 12:30 p Studio Recital 2p	21 Community Band 7p Spinners/Weavers 7p	22 UClub Yoga 10am Book of Faith 7p	23	24	25	26
27 <b>Summer Schedule</b> <b>Worship at 8:30 &amp; 10:15a</b>	28 Community Band 7p Voice Recital 2p	29 UClub Yoga 10am	30	31 I-K Synod Assembly begins		

## MAY - JUNE VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	May 6*	May 13	May 20*	May 27	June 3	June 10	June 17
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
ASST MINISTER	Gail Seegert	Kris Stewart	David Rohlfing	Kathleen Boggess	R Hershberger	Gail Seegert	Kris Stewart
LECTOR	Matt Marsh	Judy Bush	John Bush	Pauline Caldwell	ML Nierzwicki	Mike Laros	Barb Unger
ACOLYTE	Natalie Schacht	Matthew Schacht	Max Arterberry	Lilly Rademacher	Natalie Schacht	Matthew Schacht	Max Arterberry
SERVER	Jean Brown	Charlene Braun	David Ellies	Barb Unger	Judy Bush	Martha Selk	ML Nierzwicki
USHERS	G/G Laughman	F/ML Nierzwicki	J/M Doering	L/U Coyne	Gallien/	D/D Nixon	G/G Laughman
GREETERS	David Ellies	Carl Ziegler	Gail Seegert	G/G Laughman	Judy Torvie	S Dorr Binder	Mary Sasse
CRUCIFER			David Ellies				
FLOWERS		Susan Krieg	G Moehlmann	T/M Smith	J/S Pankow	D/S Arnold	D/S Arnold D/A Balcam
BREAD/WINE	T/M Smith	J/R Steele	T/J Sinn	Judy Torvie	F/ML Nierzwicki	Jean Brown	D/L Newkirk
COUNCIL CO	Ashley Ahlbrand	Dawn Bakken	Tom Sinn	Tom Sinn	Ashley Ahlbrand	Tom Sinn	Cindy Gallien
	Tom Sinn		Dennis Baurle	G Moehlmann		Kim Filiatrault	Dawn Bakken
ALTAR GUILD	Shirley Mingee	Ute Coyne					
	Carole Kirsch	Betty Smith					
<b>Summer Schedule</b>							
	May 6	May 13*	May 20*	May 27	June 3	June 10	June 17
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM	10:15 AM
ASST MINISTER	Gary Ingersoll	Ashley Ahlbrand	Lindsey Smith	Lyman Hitchcock	Tim Smith	Amy Balcam	Gary Ingersoll
LECTOR	Karen Rohlfing	M O'Connor	David Daleke	Susan Koutiel	Doug Bauder	Vicki Polansky	Debbie Selk
ACOLYTE	Kenna Dimick	Molly Wyatt	Truman Daleke	Nina Daleke	Sam Polansky	Irene Fogleman	Koral Dimick
SERVER	Ruth Rives	G Moehlmann	Dean Arnold	David Daleke	Carol Seaman	Drew Balcam	Sandy Arnold
USHERS	Kaye Hill	Ohslund/McDonald	Baurle/Filiatrault	P/L May	Dean Arnold	Kaye Hill	Ohslund/McDonald
GREETER	T/J Garl	Ruth Rives	Deb Moore	Chris Ogan	D/K Rohlfing	C/K McDonald	G Moehlmann
CRUCIFER			Dean Arnold				