



St. Thomas Lutheran Church News

*September, 2018
XXXX, Issue No. 9*

September Brings another Season of Creation

Worship Themes Focus on the Word

The Word is a deep impulse summoning forth creation, evoking praise from creation and stirring life in creation.

Sept. 9 – Planet Earth Sunday: This Sunday we invite all the domains of Earth to worship with us. In the readings, we discover the story of Earth being born, how the Word continues to be the impulse that creates in Earth, and the amazing truth that the Word is born of flesh and blood on Earth.

Sept. 16 – Humanity Sunday: This Sunday we worship with all humanity and all creation. The readings highlight that we have, in the past, chosen to dominate (in Gen 1:26-28) rather than to serve (in Gen 2:15). The message of Mark 10:42-45 offers a Gospel answer. The risen Christ is the source of our hope.

Sept. 23 – Sky Sunday: We worship this week with the skies above us. In the readings, we become aware that the skies not only announce the presence of God in Earth, but also that the skies mourn/grow dark in empathy when Earth below is wounded.

Sept. 30 – Mountain Sunday: This Sunday we worship with creation in the mountains. We enter into God's presence in a holy mountain. Like Zion or Sinai, it is the mountain of God. In the readings, we become aware of God's presence revealed on a mountain—on Horeb, Zion and Calvary. We also discover that our mission is not only to preach the Gospel to all peoples, but also to all creation! We celebrate the Lord's Supper with Christ on a mountain top.

Walking Together in the Word

What is the Season of Creation?

The Season of Creation is an optional season for the church year begun early this century. For the most part, the seasons of the church year follow the life of Jesus: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. The remainder of the church year encompasses Pentecost Season, which celebrates life in the Holy Spirit.

God is celebrated throughout the entire church year. And God the creator, Christ the redeemer of creation, and the Holy Spirit as sustainer of life are integral to worship throughout the church year. Of course, caring for creation is a vital dimension of every worship service. This series offers a few opportunities for making creation even more integral to worship and is offered as an alternative to/expansion of our usual "Giving Thanks for the Harvest" service usually set near the end of September.

2018 Theme: Walking Together in the Word

In walking together, we follow the role of Jesus, who walked with friends on the roads around Jerusalem. As he traveled the byways of his community, Jesus invited us to encounter God through God's presence in creation. Whether by considering "the lilies of the field" or the "grain of wheat that falls to the earth," the spiritual journey of following Jesus is closely tied to the everyday wonders of nature that he experienced in his earthly journey.

This Season of Creation, we strive to more deeply understand the lessons our Lord taught us through creation, to more authentically honor our Creator, and to share fellowship with brothers and sisters along the way. As pilgrims together, we welcome the opportunity to awaken anew to the wonder of the Earth, our common home, and to protect the web of life it shelters.

Pilgrimage Blessing

Dear pilgrim, As you go into the wilderness of the land and of your heart—

May you experience the ever-flowing grace of God's presence!

May you be immersed so fully in God's Word that you learn to let go and swim!

May you engage deeply and radically with the natural world, as steward, co-creator, and friend!

May you drink anew from the divine source, the stream of living water!

And may you be transformed, may the stagnant waters of your spirit begin to flow, and may all which is dead in you rise again!

God is here. The river awaits. Let the adventure begin. Amen

(Lisa Kutolowski, "The River of Life Prayer Book")

Grace and peace,

Pastor Lyle



Clothing Drive for Living Waters

Our partners at Living Waters Lutheran Church in Cherokee, North Carolina, serve the larger community by offering a food and clothing pantry to all those in need. St. Thomas member Liz Gaskins will be visiting Pastor Jack and Lisa Russell in October, and we want to send her down with a full carload of clothing. Please clean through your closets, watch for yard sales and for bargains at Opportunity House, and donate fall/winter clothing in sizes from infant to adult. Jeans, long-sleeved tops, sweaters, sweatshirts, and coats are particularly needed. Please, only gently worn clothing with no stains, no missing buttons, no broken zippers, etc.

We will be sorting and bagging donations on God's Work Our Hands Sunday, September 9. We'll announce another sorting date for clothing collected after that date.



God's Work Our Hands

"God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday will be **Sunday, September 9, 2018**. This day of service offers us an opportunity to celebrate one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ - every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life - flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. See the display in the narthex to view opportunities to be involved!

In addition to helping out at Rose House and participating in a letter-writing campaign, you also have the option of helping sort items to be donated to Living Waters Lutheran Church in Cherokee, North Carolina! Liz Gaskins will be visiting Living Waters and bringing needed items. On September 9th, you can help sort and organize items for Living Waters from 1 - 3 pm.



Mission Fair

On Sunday, September 16, the Mission Committee is holding its annual Mission Fair. This is a chance for members of St. Thomas to let other members know about groups and causes that are close to their hearts. You can reserve table space in the narthex where you can set up an informational display (no fundraising at the fair, although you are welcome to hand out donation information) about a local community group (such as MCUM or Opportunity House), a congregational group (such as the Community Garden and the Intergenerational Fiber Arts Group), or a nationwide not-for-profit group which benefits individuals and communities here and/or in other countries (past groups have included, for example, Sister Parish, ELCA World Relief, Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis, ECHO, and the League of Women Voters).

If you'd like to reserve table space, please contact Dawn Bakken (debakken@msn.com) by Monday, September 10, so that Kaye and Susan have time to prepare table signs.



Sister Parish Connections

Marks on My Heart

by Caroline Hewitt

Greetings, St. Thomas friends! For this month's newsletter, Ronna Papesh invited me to share a reflection from our time in Chichipate, Guatemala, with our friends at our Sister Parish connection at Santo Domingo de Guzman. I'd like to start with an excerpt adapted from the travel journal I kept while there. The following paragraphs were written on March 15 and 16 of 2018, near the end of the trip:

"I've grown very accustomed to the level of noise that goes on pretty much all the time here. Ducks, chickens, roosters, turkeys, dogs, pigs, and the church across the street (not Santo Domingo de Guzman)

playing loud music late at night! I've also become quite accustomed to the sound of tortillas being made. The women take the corn meal – it's in some sort of dough form, I'm not sure what else is in it – and pound it back and forth between their palms. They make them flatter here than in El Salvador, [Sister Parish employee and one of our companions] Julieta says, but still much thicker than the ones you see in the U.S.

"Last night, Julieta and I had a nice conversation with Juan Tut, our host-father. Julieta is a native speaker of Spanish, so they two speak a bit fast for me to contribute much besides listening, but I muster up a sentence here and there. At one point, he said that though we may eventually get tired of – or tired from – being here, after we leave, we will start to miss it. I said I'm sure that's true. And I really will, I know it.

"I'll especially miss my host-brother Henri [awn-REE] and our little 'prima' [cousin] Vilma [VEEL-muh]. The two of them came to get Julieta and me after the meeting last night. We walked most of the way back to our host-home with the two children holding each of my hands and quizzing me on my Q'eqchi and teaching me new words. They also like to ask me what the words are in English. ¿'Casa'? 'Ochoch' in Q'eqchi. ¿En inglés? [In English?] 'House.'"



Our end-of-trip evaluations for Sister Parish asked us the following question: "What did you discover about your sister community?" We were asked to ponder the differences and similarities we saw between their culture and society and ours at home in Indiana. There are a lot of possible answers to this question. But one of the things I noticed most strongly was the strength of their community. Chichipate is a thriving, growing community that places a lot of emphasis on the development of the area and the education of its

children, while also remaining supportive and close-knit. I don't mean to over-idealize what it is like there. Humans everywhere are a bit complicated and messy, especially where politics come in. But living in a place where children take your hand without hesitation and try to tell you a little bit about their culture, about the way they live – it makes a mark on your heart. I hope I never forget it.



Adult Education

Book of Faith Series Continues – Revelation

We continue our Book of Faith "Revelation" study with Session Six. We begin again on Tuesday, September 11 at 7:00 pm. If you will be new to this particular study and need a copy of the remaining sessions, please contact the church office.

Adult Forums for September:

9/2 - Living the Questions

9/9 - Chris Ogan - "When refugees are banned from our country, what can we do to help?"

The misinformation, demographics, attitudes and behaviors of people regarding immigrants/refugees/immigration to the U.S. and what we can do to change it.

9/16 - Living the Questions

9/23 - John Stramiello - Grace and Hope Fellowship Prison Ministry

John Stramiello was born in Brooklyn, NY, but spent 38 years in Florida. He is married to Rev. Michelle Stramiello who is an ELCA pastor seeking her next call. They reside in Broad Ripple. He is the Chaplain of Grace and Hope Fellowship, which is a church plant in the Pendleton State Prison's Correctional Industrial Facility. It is a medium security facility which houses approximately 1,425 male offenders. He will be finishing his studies through the ELCA TEEM Program in hopes of becoming an ordained minister of Word & Sacrament.

9/30 - Houston Youth Gathering Presentation



Upcoming Youth Group Events

Sept. 9: 2:00- 5:30 participate in "God's Work, Our Hands" at Rose House.

Sept. 23: 5:30-7:30 pm: Regular Youth Group at St. Thomas

Sept. 21-23: 7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat at Waycross (www.waycrossccc.org)

Oct. 14: 5:30 – 7:30 pm: Regular Youth Group at St. Thomas (Maybe Dinner Church!)

Oct. 28: 5:30 – 7:30 pm: Regular Youth Group at St. Thomas – brainstorm service projects

Nov. 4: 5:30 – 7:30 pm: Rachel Kurtz Concert at Messiah Lutheran in Brownsburg

Nov. 18: 5:30 – 7:30 pm: "Thanksgiving"/Gratefulness (at STLC)

Dec. 2: 4:30 – 6:30 pm: Advent Vespers & Dinner: The whole family is invited for a special worship service, a pitch-in meal, and Advent-related activities!

Dec. 16: 5:30 – 7:30 pm: Regular Youth Group at St. Thomas or Christmas Caroling

Sunday School Kickoff – August 19th

Sunday School Kickoff took place on August 19, 2018. We had all sorts of fun making lemonade, eating snacks, making solar light jars, sunshine signs, painting rocks, and making sun crowns. Our theme this year is Matthew 5:15-16: "So let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father in heaven." Our Sunday School offering this year will go to the Solar Electric Light Fund (www.self.org). We finished our kickoff with singing several songs, led by Melissa de Graaf. A good time was had by all!



Upcoming Musical Events

Please join us on Sunday, September 30 at 5 PM for a hymn festival presented by the IU organ department. The event will take place at St. Thomas and will be Creation-themed. We will observe the Season of Creation in the month of September and the hymn festival will be a fitting conclusion to that observance. There will be congregational hymns and choral anthems performed by the students. Don't miss this wonderful event!



Calling Child Singers for the Children's Choir

The St. Thomas Children's Choir announces its 2018 Fall Season (K-6). Your children are warmly invited to come and join us. We rehearse the 2nd and 3rd Sundays of the month from 9:00am until 9:45am. We sing on the 3rd Sunday of the month at the 11:00am service. There are instruments or something special that may be added to our songs most months. Please come join us for the fun. We would love to have you.

Calling all kids through 4th grade and their parents.

On September 28th and 29th there will be a free Children's Farm Festival at the Peden Farm northwest of Bloomington on Maple Grove Road. Here is a chance for youngsters to come to an actual farm, see and touch all sorts of farm animals, sit on an antique buggy, sit on tractors and get hayrides around the farm. This applies to their parents as well. You will also learn about life on the farm from "way back when" to the present.

The reason I'm writing this is: I'm going to be a blacksmith there and am in need of a couple, or more, volunteers to help. No, you won't be handling anything dangerous, just minding the equipment in the Children's Smithy and teaching the children how to "blacksmith." I'll be there to show you how everything works . . . and, you'll be provided a free lunch and the gratitude of about 2500 school children who get to see you.

If you are interested, see me, Richard Zellers and I'll fill you in on all the details.

Thanks,

Tubal Cain, the Old Testament blacksmith



Youth Group Kickoff at the Balcam's!

On Sunday, August 19th, 22 youth and families met at the Balcam's house for youth group kickoff. We ate burgers and hot dogs, had delicious sides and desserts, played badminton and corn hole, and enjoyed fellowship with one another. Despite the mosquitos, we had fun!



St. Thomas Community Garden

Produce Donation Chart

The harvest is coming in - and going out, to Mother Hubbard's Cupboard! Take a look at the Produce Donation Chart in the Narthex to see how much of this season's bounty is being shared.

Work Day Saturday, September 8 from 10:00 AM-Noon.

We will weed the paths and clean the center patio and herb garden.



September Birthdays

- 9/2 Haley Garl, Sandy Pankow
- 9/5 Barb Unger
- 9/7 Kris Frampton
- 9/8 Richard Zellers, Mia Arterberry
- 9/9 Andrew Goldsworthy
- 9/11 John Steele
- 9/12 David Nixon, Melissa Watters
- 9/13 Jeff Schacht
- 9/15 Lois Selk
- 9/18 Arno Risner
- 9/20 Gloria Hitchcock
- 9/21 Marilyn Harder
- 9/23 Matthew Bourkland
- 9/26 Lissa May
- 9/28 Amy Balcam

**Congratulations to
Lynn & Ute Coyne on their
47th wedding anniversary,
September 10th**

MCUM Food Pantry Needs for September

Canned fruits & vegetables
Salad dressing
Chicken or tuna in a pouch
Black pepper Salt
Rice (10 lb bags or larger)
Household needs: Laundry soap,
bleach and trash bags

**We just delivered 242 lbs to MCUM
for the month of August. Let's keep
up the good work.**

**Our mailing address is:
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Bloomington, IN 47401
www.stlconline.org**

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September 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Property Co 10:00 Bach rehearsal 1p
2 Worship@ 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hour 9:45am Baptism at 11:00 Service Bach Cantata 2:30 pm	3 Church Office closed Lambda Chi Omega 6:30	4 U Club Yoga 10:00 Worship Co 6:30	5 Friday Musicales Board 9:30	6 Adult Choir rehearses 7p	7	8 Garden workday 10:00
9 Worship@ 8:30 & 11:00 God's Work, Our Hands Education Hr 9:45am Youth Group 1:45	10 Community Band 7:00	11 U Club Yoga 10:00 Book of Faith 7:00	12 Mission Co 6:45	13 Adult Choir rehearses 7p	14	15 Fiber Arts Group 10:00
16 Worship@ 8:30 & 11:00 Mission Fair Education Hr 9:45am Congregation Council 12:30	17 LWV 6:30 Community Band 7:00 Spinner/Weaver 7:00	18 U Club Yoga 10:00 Earth Care 4:00	19	20 Adult Choir rehearses 7p	21 Confirmation Retreat begins	22 Hyde Park Neighborhood 10:00
23 Worship@ 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hr 9:45am Youth Group meets 5:30	24 Community Band 7:00	25 U Club Yoga 10:00	26	27 Adult Choir rehearses 7p	28 Sego/Lacy wedding rehearsal	29 Sego/Lacy wedding
30 Worship@ 8:30 & 11:00 Education Hr 9:45am Hymn Festival 5:00pm						

