



# *Saint Thomas Lutheran Church News*

January, 2019  
XXXXI, Issue 1

## **Reflections on Darkness and Light**

During Advent, I saw a quote on Facebook that comes to mind as I consider the season of Epiphany, beginning with the Epiphany of Our Lord on Sunday, January 6. Here's the quotation:

I have come to appreciate Advent so much more without the light/dark binary. Rather, I see darkness as the generative space in which light is conceived and from which it is born. Both holy, both life-giving. (Wil Gafney)

During Epiphany we reflect upon how we may perceive the growing light of Christ in the world, anticipated in Advent and born at Christmas. The season of Epiphany intentionally occurs during the time when days grow longer, albeit slowly, continuing their growth through the season of Lent. I find this idea of darkness as the birth-place of light intriguing.

I have always considered the fullness of humanity to be a gift. I have said that sin is a gift, in part to jolt folks to attention and in part to suggest that without the choice of darkness, the light that shines in and through us is artificial. Love demanded isn't love at all. In order to be morally praiseworthy or even spiritually expressive, doing and being good must rise from choice. We are not automatons. Love is a choice. An act. And it is thereby precious. And to be treasured.

Darkness is also God's gift. Darkness is how we come to know the light. Darkness is the birth-place of light. Even the dark nights of the soul are from God—teaching us, leading us, nudging us towards maturity and wisdom.

Here's a bit more from Gafney: "This eternal living light cannot be extinguished and shines forever as God lives forever, as we too will one day live forever. This living light has been infused into and through creation and we – and the whole of creation – are suffused with it. But that light coexists with darkness.

"The light is shining in the darkness. The darkness cannot overcome, overwhelm, diminish or suppress the light...The darkness and light co-exist. There is always shadow. The world is filled with shadow.

"Death is everywhere, in the darkness and in the light. This is the scandal of the Incarnation, God descended into shadow, even into Shadow-Valley Death and walked its lonely yet crowded pathways. Perhaps even more scandalous is how God did it: The scandal of the Incarnation is the scandal of the human body, a woman's body...

"For it is through human bodies that shadows are deepened in and lengthened on the world. And...there are evil forces at work as well, encouraging, facilitating, instigating...So God became human, woman-born. Son of God, Son of Woman, Child of Earth: mortal, frail, embodied, human...

"One of the reasons Christmas was placed at (its) point on the calendar is because the days are getting longer; light is literally filling the world (our side of it anyway). The Twelve Days of Christmas are

days of light. The Feast of Epiphany is a feast of light.

“(For) What has come into being in the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”

In Epiphany, as we watch the light grow, may we pay attention also to the darkness. There is much to learn from both.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Lyle



## Youth Group Advent/Christmas Party was a blast!

Youth Group met on December 16<sup>th</sup> for an Advent/Christmas Party and White Elephant Gift Exchange. We ate delicious food (thanks to Mary Thomason-Smith, Susan Goldsworthy, and Vicki Polansky), played wintry games (see pictures!), and had fellowship. We had a great time, and look forward to getting together at Laserlite in Bloomington on January 4<sup>th</sup>!



### Youth Group for January:

4th (Friday) – 1 pm – 3 pm: Youth Group Outing at Laserlight Bloomington! Cost: \$12

20th – Youth Group at 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm



## 2018 Year End Record Keeping

**The church will be closing its 2018 financial records very soon.** If you have receipts that need to be reimbursed please turn them in to the office by Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

**If you have contributions that you would like to be reported on your 2018 contribution record,** please have those in by Sunday, January 6th. Your record of contributions to St. Thomas will include all regular giving as well as all pass through contributions for the year. The report will be available for pick-up on January 13<sup>th</sup>.



**Worship resumes the 8:30 and 11:00 schedule on Sunday, January 6.**

**Education classes resume on Sunday, January 6!**

**Adult Forum for January:**

6th – Living the Questions

13th– Open

20th – Living the Questions Session 19: Compassion: The Heart of Jesus Ministry.

27th – Bloomington Health Foundation

“When it comes to our health and well-being, it takes a community. Bloomington Hospital Foundation is now Bloomington Health Foundation. We’ve expanded beyond our relationship with IU Health Bloomington Hospital to partner with local organizations and engaged citizens to invest in highly impactful programs that address our community’s most pressing health needs. Because the future of Bloomington deserves it. Please join us to learn more about how BHF is helping the people of Bloomington and surrounding communities lead healthier lives.”

Karin St. John

Vice President & Chief Development Officer

**The Education Committee is sponsoring a family game night** on Friday, January 25th from 6-9:00 at St. Thomas. All ages are welcome! Join us for games, snacks and fun! Bring a snack or game to share (if you wish but definitely not required!)



**Friday, Jan 25th, 6:00 – 9:00 pm**

**Come when you can, leave when you must**

**Bring a snack and your favorite game to share !**

Congregational luncheons (potlucks) are now scheduled on the SECOND Sunday of the month. Grades 4-6 are organizing the January 13 meal; the Worship Committee the February 10 meal.



## Volunteer Opportunity for St. Thomas in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

On Sunday, January 20 from 2 PM to 4 PM, the Council is sponsoring a volunteer day of service at The Nest. We invite you to join us in this service project of cleaning and painting The Nest. New Hope volunteers will be present to direct our project and will provide all necessary supplies.

As stated in their brochure, New Hope For Families is "the only family emergency recovery agency for whole families that serves primarily Monroe County."

New Hope core programs include The Roof at New Hope and The Nest at New Hope. The Nest is an early learning community serving children under the age of five. By providing parents with access to safe, affordable, reliable child care, they are able to "work and support their families out of homelessness to stability."

The address of The Nest is 311 West 2nd Street. We will meet there at 2 PM. Alternatively, we will also be carpooling from the St. Thomas parking lot at 1:40 PM.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. We gratefully thank you for considering this volunteer service project for The Nest as a way to honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as give back to our community. As expressed by one of our St. Thomas members, "The work that they do at The Nest for children experiencing homelessness and poverty is excellent."

St. Thomas Congregational Council

## Spiritual Growth Group News

**Women's Book Club:** This group provides an opportunity for STLC women to get together to discuss a book (read by group members beforehand), as well as to get to know each another more deeply and enjoy fellowship with one another!

We will meet Tuesday, January 22, 2019, from 6:30 - 7:45 pm. We will be reading Richard Rohr's "Falling Upward". Stephanie Hulett has an extra copy of the book if anyone would like to purchase it. We will meet at Stephanie's house, 2405 E. Cedarwood Circle, Bloomington, 47401. Feel free to bring a treat to share, or bring yourself!



For their mission, the Women's Book Club is sponsoring a book drive for Middle Way House. Gently used books for children and adults will be collected this month. Books may be placed in a donation box in the church office.

## Celebration!

Kaye Hill's retirement event on January 26, 2019 is fast approaching. We want to remind you to make your reservation as soon as possible.

On December 30 and January 6, someone will be at a table just outside the church office between services and following the late service to receive your RSVP and payment.

Payments will be accepted in the form of cash or check made payable to: St. Thomas Lutheran Church, memo line "Kaye's Event". We encourage everyone to RSVP by January 7, 2019 for catering purposes. If we miss you in the narthex, please contact Betty Smith or Gayl Laughman (contact information is included on the invitation).

We look forward to seeing a great group of people on the 26th excited about honoring Kaye and her 32 years of service to the St. Thomas community.



Around the Bloomington community...

### Monroe County CASA Now Accepting Applications for First 2019 Training

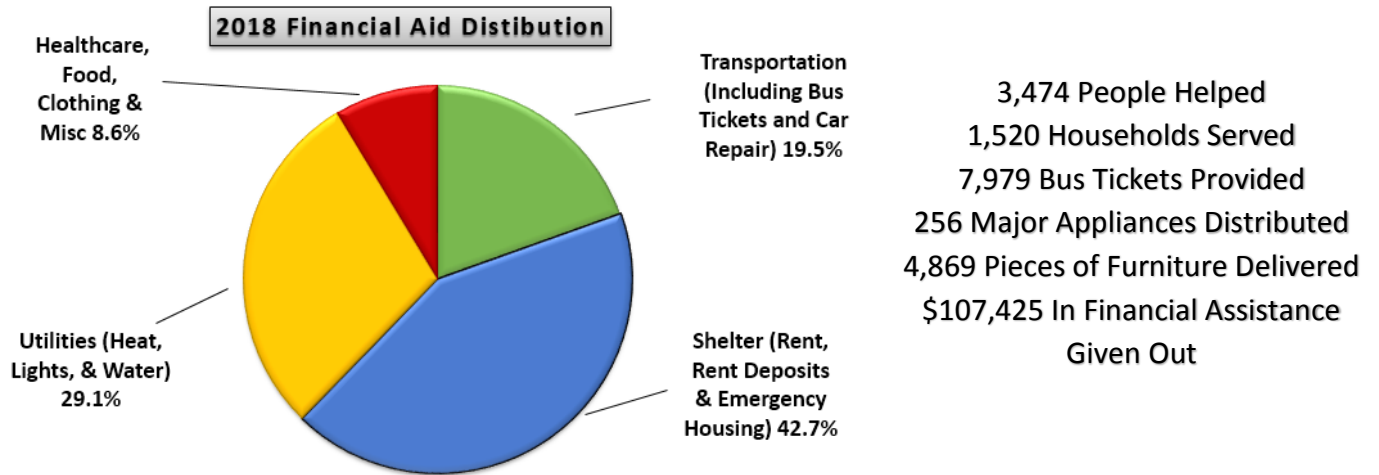
Monroe County CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) is now accepting applications for the February/March 2019 training session. The next training is over two intensive weekends, February 15-17 and March 1-3. Classes are Friday nights from 5:30 - 8:30 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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. To learn more about

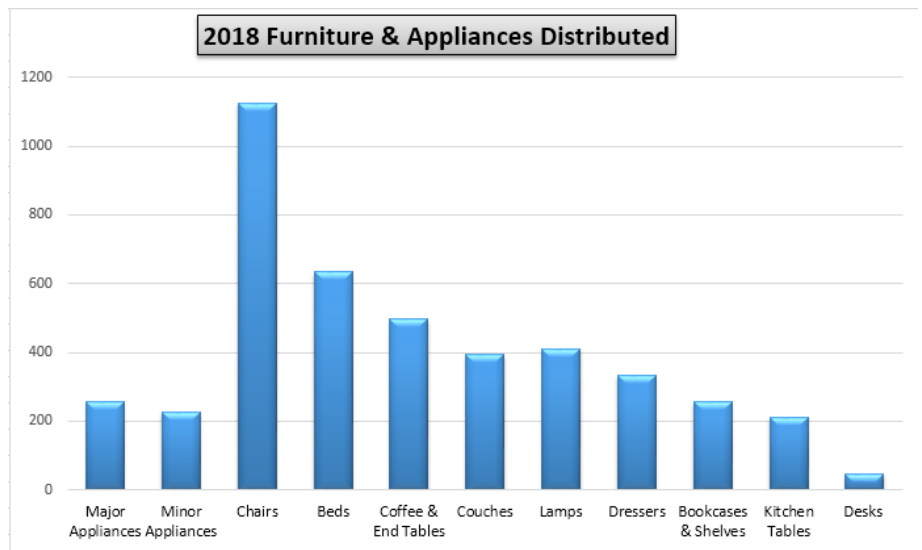
how you can give a child a voice, please visit [www.monroecountycasa.org/volunteer](http://www.monroecountycasa.org/volunteer) or call 812-333-CASA.

## St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul is an international society of volunteers that seek to serve those in need. The Monroe County Conference of SVdP was created to help further that purpose. Some members of our congregation are volunteers with SVdP. The help given is based on the need of the client and the resources available. Race, religion, creed or sexual orientation are not considered. There is also a spiritual growth component of the Society for those that wish to become full members, but persons that are only interested in volunteering to serve others are equally welcome.



SVDP and  
Those in Need  
Thank-you!



Remember the Monroe County United Ministries food basket in the narthex when you are doing your family's grocery shopping.



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### January Birthdays

- 1/5 Tim Kirsch
- 1/6 Addison Thompson-Klimpke
- 1/7 Dave Pavolka
- 1/10 Paul Smith
- 1/12 Phil May
- 1/14 Gwen Caudill
- 1/16 Jim Doering
- 1/17 Sandy Arnold
- 1/20 Dean Arnold
- 1/23 John Isaacson
- 1/25 Susan Krieg
- 1/28 Linus Mundy, Paula Ionescu



**Our mailing address is:  
St. Thomas Lutheran Church  
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Bloomington, IN 47401  
[www.stlconline.org](http://www.stlconline.org)**

**Unsubscribe from this list or update  
your preferences by emailing:  
[susank@stlconline.org](mailto:susank@stlconline.org)**

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2019

	Jan 6*	Jan 13	Jan 20*	Jan 27	Feb 3*	Feb 10	Feb 17*
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
ASST MINISTER	Debbie Witt	Natalie Schacht	Sonja Dorr Binder	Lindsey Smith	Kathleen Boggess	Natalie Schacht	Kris Stewart
LECTOR	Debbie Selk	Lynn Coyne	Letty Newkirk	David Ellies	Karlyn Grise	Barb Unger	John Bush
ACOLYTE	Audrey Knipstein	Matthew Schacht	Max Arterberry	Lilly Rademacher	Audrey Knipstein	Matthew Schacht	Max Arterberry
SERVER	Barb Unger	Gene Laughman	David Ellies	Mary Sasse	Letty Newkirk	Judy Bush	Martha Selk
USHERS	G/G Laughman	L/U Coyne	F/ML Nierzwicki	J/M Doering	G/G Laughman	L/U Coyne	F/ML Nierzwicki
GREETERS	J/J Bush	Shirley Mingee	R/N Nye	L/U Coyne	David Ellies	M/J Laros	G/G Laughman
CRUCIFER							

### FLOWERS

BREAD/WINE	T/J Garl	D/K Boggess	L/U Coyne	D/M Watters	J/B Smith	M/J Laros	Margrethe O'Connor
COUNCIL CO	Tom Sinn	Sam Eichmiller	Frank Nierzwicki			Sam Eichmiller	
	Dennis Baurle	Tim Smith	Ashley Ahlbrand	Dawn Bakken	G Moehlmann	Dennis Baurle	Kim Filiatrault
ALTAR GUILD	Gail Seegert	Barb Unger					
	Betty Smith	Margaret Harter					

	Jan 6	Jan 13*	Jan 20	Jan 27*	Feb 3	Feb 10*	Feb 17
	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
ASST MINISTER	Gail Seegert	Mike Witt	Ashley Ahlbrand	Lyman Hitchcock	Amy Balcam	Tim Smith	Gail Seegert
LECTOR	Drew Watters	Jennifer Garl	Margaret Harter	Kathy McDonald	Kari Esarey	Noah Smith	Sarah Ratzburg
ACOLYTE	Truman Daleke	Irene Fogleman	Kenna Dimick	Sam Polansky	Nina Daleke	Koral Dimick	Sophia Watters
SERVER	Margaret Harter	Kathy McDonald	Gail Seegert	Haley Garl	Tim Smith	Dean Arnold	David Daleke
USHERS	Filiatrault /Baurle	Dean Arnold	P/L May	Kaye Hill	Ohslund/McDonald	Filiatrault/Baurle	Dean Arnold
GREETER	Melissa Watters	Margaret Harter	C/K McDonald	Kari Esarey	Gail Seegert	J/B Smith	Margrethe O'Connor
CRUCIFER							



# January 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Church Office Closed 	2	3 7:00 Choir rehearsal	4	5
<b>6 Worship@ 8:30 &amp; 11:00</b> Education Hour 9:45a Living the Questions 9:45a	7 Community Band 7 p	8 U Club Yoga 10:00 6:30 Worship Committee	9	10 7:00 Choir rehearsal	11	12
<b>13 Worship@ 8:30 &amp; 11:00</b> Education Hour 9:45a Parent's Café 9:45 a Women's Bible study 9:45a Potluck Lunch 12:30	14 Community Band 7 p	15 U Club Yoga 10:00	16	17 7:00 Choir rehearsal	18	19
<b>20 Worship@ 8:30 &amp; 11:00</b> Education Hour 9:45a Parent's Café 9:45 a 9:45 Living the Questions Bach Cantata 2:30 p	21 Community Band 7 p	22 U Club Yoga 10:00 St. T Women's Book Club 6:45 p	23	24 7:00 Choir rehearsal	25	26 <b>Kaye Hill's Retirement Dinner 5:30 pm</b>
<b>27 Worship@ 8:30 &amp; 11:00</b> Education Hour 9:45a Parent's Café 9:45 a	28 Community Band 7 p LWV General Meeting 7p	29 U Club Yoga 10:00 Book of Faith 7:00 p	30	31 7:00 Choir rehearsal		