



# St. Thomas Lutheran Church

August 2019

XXXI, Issue 8

Dear Members and Friends of St. Thomas Lutheran Church:

The next several months in the life of St. Thomas will be filled with a variety of thoughts and emotions as we move forward through the transition from Pastor Lyle through an interim pastor to calling a new pastor. As a result, there will be times of heightened anxiety for individuals as well as the community as a whole. This is to be expected. That said, it is important that we use this opportunity to grow as a congregation and to further refine our mission. No organization can maintain the status quo for very long. Organizations are either growing or declining. In fact it is often said that attempting to maintain the status quo is the first stage of decline. So let us embrace this period as a time for reflection and renewal, as well as continued growth, and not as a time to tread water.

To that end it is important that we keep our focus on God and what God wants for St. Thomas. This transition process presents an opportunity to focus not on ourselves but rather on discerning prayerfully what God wants for our congregation. Undoubtedly, there will be differences of opinion. After all, we are St. Thomas! Still we will benefit from focusing on listening, understanding, and communicating respectfully. Such practices will aid us in seeking God's way together.

There may be times when feelings are hurt or comments irritate. We have a saying here at St. Thomas: "It is important not to let a 'pinch' become a 'crunch.'" A pinch is a relatively minor problem. If left alone or if several pinches pile up they have a tendency to become crunches. Crunches are more serious problems that, left unaddressed, may become sources of conflict. During these next several months some of us will likely experience pinches or crunches. We encourage members to find positive ways to address these before more serious conflict emerges. Speaking directly to the source of the pinch or crunch is the best (and biblical) approach (see Matthew 18:15 ff.).

On behalf of the Mutual Ministry Committee, I invite you to seek out one of us as any concerns, pinches, or crunches arise. One of the main purposes of the MMC is to provide a safe and confidential place for people to discuss their concerns. The MMC members\* will listen to you and discuss next steps as appropriate. Sometimes just having someone to talk to is enough.

Having led St. Thomas through its last call process, I am somewhat aware of what lies ahead. This is a different set of circumstances of course, but still it will provide a wonderful opportunity to discover God's hand in the work and life of St. Thomas.

Prayerfully,  
Bruce Colston  
Chair, Mutual Ministry Committee

\*Gene Laughman, Mary Lou Nierzwicki, Susan Goldsworthy, David Ellies, Kris Stewart



## Backpack Blessings – August 18<sup>th</sup>



Once again, the school year is upon us! “Blessing of the Backpacks” will be part of our worship services (8:30 & 10:15 am) on August 18<sup>th</sup>! If you are **preschool through college-aged**, or an **educator**, bring your backpack, bag, or briefcase to receive a blessing for the new school year! You will also receive a tag to put on your backpack to remind you that your STLC family is praying for you.



Worship times shift to 8:30 and 11:00 AM on Sunday, August 25.

**Join us for Sunday School Kickoff on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:45 am in Heritage Hall!** Parents can register their children for Sunday School, families can participate in games and crafts around our theme of “Hospitality”! We’ll also enjoy snacks and songs. See you there!

Sunday School  
Kickoff  
August 25, 2019  
9:45 am - 10:45 am  
Heritage Hall

## YOUTH GROUP

**Youth Group Kickoff is August 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm at the Iversen’s!**

**Youth and their families** are invited to the Iversen’s new digs at 518 N. Colony Court, Bloomington, 47408 on August 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 pm to kick off the new youth group year! Keep your eyes peeled for a Signup Genius for this potluck. It’ll be great to catch up after summer!



## Sunday School 2019-20 Theme

Our Sunday School theme for this year is **Hospitality**. We will be learning how to practice hospitality with our neighbors near and far.

Our Sunday School offering will be donated to: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (<https://www.lirs.org/>). LIRS states as its mission, “As a witness to God’s love for all people, we stand with and advocate for migrants and refugees, transforming communities through ministries of service and justice.”



**Education Hour Activities begin on September 1<sup>st</sup>**

Regular Adult Forum, Sunday School, confirmation classes, and high school meetings begin on Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, at 9:45 am. Remember to join us for Sunday School Kickoff on August 25<sup>th</sup>!

We are actively looking for **Adult Forum topics** for this year! If you have an idea or are interested in presenting, please contact Amy Balcam at ([928aab@gmail.com](mailto:928aab@gmail.com)). "Saving Jesus" will continue to meet on alternating Sundays, starting date to be announced.

## **Confirmation Orientation – September 1 at 9:45 am, Rooms 16/17 – Please attend**

Parents and confirmation students (incoming 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 9<sup>th</sup> grade) are asked to attend Confirmation Orientation on September 1<sup>st</sup> during the education hour. Curriculum and activities will be discussed. Ninth graders will discuss preparation for Affirmation of Baptism (Confirmation) which takes place on Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup>!

### ***Ways you can support our education ministry:***

Pray for our students and teachers, faithfully bring your children/grandchildren to class, **serve as a substitute or a teacher**, serve on the education committee, help plan special projects. Contact Amy Balcam or Gretchen Moehlmann if you'd like to help!



To continue fundraising for a South to North delegation trip, we will hold the following event at St. Thomas:



### ***Art REsale: From our Collection to Yours***

August 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday, 12:00-4:00pm

This community event is coordinated by St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Congregation Beth Shalom, and University Baptist Church.

This year Art REsale invites the broader Bloomington Community to donate their previously owned paintings, ceramics, sculpture, one of a kind jewelry, woodwork, framed art prints, textiles, art books, and more, to raise money for the Bloomington Refugee Support Network (BRSN) a local advocacy group supporting and advocating for refugee resettlement in Indiana.

Donations can be directed toward Congregation Beth Shalom in support of their education fund, St. Thomas Lutheran in support of their sister parish in Guatemala and University Baptist Church, in support of local mission projects.

In its 4th season now, Art REsale continues to grow. It is a fabulous place to pick up a piece of artwork for your home or office. It is also a fabulous place to donate your *loved but no longer have the room for* artworks you have collected over the years. The sale includes original works from national and local artists as well as posters, prints, framed and unframed items.

**Pieces may be delivered Monday through Friday, August 12–16**, to our church office **from 10am – 4 pm**. Donors will be asked if they would like their donation to support the BRSN or one of the participating congregations. The work will be labeled accordingly with colored stickers that direct donation giving.

High-ticket auctioned items should be marked with a minimum bid amount. **Donors must reclaim unsold pieces at 4pm on Sunday at the end of the sale**. Left over work will be donated to charities selected by the Art REsale Committee. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Suzanne Halvorson: [weavesuz@comcast.net](mailto:weavesuz@comcast.net).



## ***From the I-K Synod:***

### **Come to the Well. Leave It All Behind.**

Women are good at keeping ourselves busy for the Lord. But God wants us to take care of ourselves, too. Women of the I-K ELCA can help. And everyone is welcome whether or not you have an active women's group or are even Lutheran.

**Indiana-Kentucky Synodical Retreat/Conference for Women**  
Friday and Saturday, Sept. 13-14, 2019  
Indianapolis Holiday Inn Airport

#### **What to expect**

- social justice workshops
- label soap bars & save a life
- bring bras & save more lives
- documentary videos to watch
- a salt pool to loosen up stiff joints
- devotions for strolling around the lake
- powerful music and worship
- Rev. Heather Apel's views on the woman at the well
- Rev. Vick Garber's Bible study, workshop, sermon
- faith-filled bargain shopping for a good cause



**Early-bird registration by July 16 is below-cost** — \$150 for all presentations, lunches, banquet (*We lose \$25/person.*)  
**Regular registration by Aug. 16** — \$175 for everything, which just covers expenses  
**Questions?** Your church office should have received a registration form to distribute. If not, contact board member Tina Smith, [kygloriadei@fuse.net](mailto:kygloriadei@fuse.net), 859-322-8587.

**Registration forms for the Women's Retreat are available in the St. Thomas office.**

#### **Save the Date! StewardFest August 17**

Come join us on Saturday, August 17 from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM for the third I-K StewardFest at Grace Lutheran Church in Columbia City, IN. This action-packed event will include a wide variety of workshops such as care of creation, community gardens, personal finance, stewarding relationships, congregational audits, treasurer's training and other informative subjects. Cost is \$5 per person or a maximum of \$20 per congregation. Bishop Bill will be joining us to lead a plenary session, always a highlight of the event. Registration information will follow in the weeks to come. We hope to see you there!

#### **New Instagram Account!**

The synod has embraced visual storytelling. Please find and follow us @IKSynodELCA. Please be sure and tag us in your photos!



# **a fair shot for all children** feeding children creates productive citizens

August 22, 2019 at 4:30pm  
Noblesville United Methodist Church  
2051 Monument St, Noblesville, IN 46060

## Help hungry Hoosier kids!

- Indiana ranks 42nd in infant mortality.
- 1 in 6 Hoosier children are food insecure.
- Food insecurity is rampant on college campuses.

### Event Purposes:

1. Create urgency to better address child hunger in Indiana, and improve their lives.
2. Deepen engagement of more Hoosiers in solutions to child hunger.

### Event Program:

- Dr. Wade Clapp, Chair of Pediatrics, IU School of Medicine, on nutrition & infant mortality
- Public educator on good nutrition and academic success for school aged children
- Dr. Harriet Giles, Auburn University Hunger Solutions Institute on hunger on college campuses
- Sen. Todd Young on the reality of a Fair Shot of All Children related to hunger issues
- Dave Miner with a call to action

Sponsored by Bread for the World – Indiana

Register to attend:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-fair-shot-for-all-children-tickets-64610049397?ref=eios>

## Service Opportunity

The American Red Cross helps to reconnect loved ones who have been separated internationally by war, disaster, and other humanitarian crises. Through its Restoring Family Links program, the American Red Cross joins a global network of teams helping to search for and bring peace of mind to families through simple messages – sometimes just a single phrase like, "I am alive," or "I am safe."

Volunteers are needed to serve international communities in Indiana, five hours per month. Trainings are provided by the American Red Cross. If you are interested in volunteering as a Caseworker or an Outreach volunteer for Restoring Family Links, please contact: [IntlServicesIN@redcross.org](mailto:IntlServicesIN@redcross.org).



## God's Work, Our Hands Sunday is September 8<sup>th</sup>!

Have an idea or already-made plans for a project? Let Amy know ([928aab@gmail.com](mailto:928aab@gmail.com)). Keep your eyes open for more information in September's newsletter, and watch for a signup in the narthex. STLC has a long history of participating in this ELCA-wide event!

Our Annual Mission Fair is scheduled for Sunday, **September 15**.

A Spiritual Growth Groups Fair is scheduled for Sunday, **October 6**.

**Attention Committees:** As you reconvene your meetings after a summer break, remember to consider your annual budget requests. Chairpersons of committees, please send an email to [susank@stlconline.org](mailto:susank@stlconline.org) so that the leadership of our various committees can be confirmed. Thanks!

## Reflection on the Living History Spiritual Growth Group (SGG)

Thanks to Susan Colston, Barb Unger, Lynn Weddle, Mary Sasse, Lois Selk, Pastor Lyle, Bill Ewing, Jane Warner, Maryellen May and some 30-plus members of St. Thomas over the years 2007 to 2013 for the Living History interviews recorded and on loan in our church library. In spite of sound deficits, these DVD (digital video discs) seem priceless to me and I extend my deepest gratitude to all for taking the time involved to accomplish this treasury. Sincerely, Pauline Caldwell

Our thanks to Lois Hamilton and family who donated books to our church library and a Mariner's Sundial which stands in the Community Garden.



New Address for Margrethe O'Connor  
800 Bell Trace Circle Apt 212  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
Ph: 812-361-1767

### August Birthdays

8/1	Ron Brown
8/6	Tobias Westphal
8/7	Harrison Wyatt, Bruce Colston
8/9	Alexander Westphal
8/10	Quinn Balcam
8/12	Evelyn Niemeyer, Melody Smith
8/16	Gretchen Moehlmann
8/17	Nancy Nye
8/20	Jennifer Garl
8/29	Doug Bauder, Debbie Nixon, Cindy Ohslund, Dorothy Soudakoff
8/30	Justin Rust
8/31	Leila Watters

### Wedding Anniversaries

Peter & Leah Iversen	8/2	11 years
Brian & Gail Bourkland	8/7	26 years
Jim & Marti Doering	8/10	34 years
Randy & nancy Nye	8/12	47 years
Tom & Jan Sinn	8/12	47 years
Kent & Barb Unger	8/27	52 years

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

## Worship Volunteers August 18 - September , 2019

	AUG 18	AUG 25	SEPT 1	SEPT 8	SEPT 15	SEPT 22	SEPT 29
	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM	8:30 AM
ASST MINISTER	Kathleen Boggess	Lindsey Smith	S Dorr Binder	Natalie Schacht	David Rohlfing	Lindsey Smith	Debbie Witt
LECTOR	ML Nierzwicki	Karlyn Grise	John Bush	Mike Laros	Karen Rohlfing	Kent Unger	David Ellies
ACOLYTE	Irene Fogleman	Matthew Schacht	Truman Daleke	Lilly Rademacher	Audrey Knipstein	Max Arterberry	Matthew Schacht
SERVER	Kent Unger	Martha Selk	Kathleen Boggess	David Ellies	Drew Balcam	Judy Bush	Letty Newkirk
USHERS	F/ML Nierzwicki	L/U Coyne	G/G Laughman	J/M Doering	Newkirk/Strentz	F/ML Nierzwicki	J/M Doering
GREETERS	L/ U Coyne	M/J Laros	Carl Ziegler	J/J Bush	Mary Sasse	C/S Arterberry	Shirley Mingee
CRUCIFER							
FLOWERS	K/B Unger			F/ML Nierzwicki	G Moehlmann		Tom Strentz
BREAD/WINE	Mary Sasse	Karlyn Grise	C/K McDonald	D/M Watters	Haley Garl	M/C Braun	M/J Laros
COUNCIL CO	Frank Nierzwicki	Sam Eichmiller	Tom Sinn	Cindy Gallien	Frank Nierzwicki	Dean Arnold	Sam Eichmiller
	Tim Smith	Dawn Bakken	G Moehlmann	Ashley Ahlbrand	Tim Smith	Dawn Bakken	Ronna Papesh
ALTAR GUILD	Evelyn Niemeyer	Jean Brown	Gail Seegert	Shirley Mingee			
	Carole Kirsch	Jan Sinn	Mary Sasse	Margaret Harter			
	AUG 18	AUG 25	SEPT 1	SEPT 8	SEPT 15	SEPT 22	SEPT 29
	10:15AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM	11:00 AM
ASST MINISTER	Mike Witt	Lyman Hitchcock	Gail Seegert	Tim Smith	Ashley Ahlbrand	Amy Balcam	Lyman Hitchcock
LECTOR	Lyman Hitchcock	Peter Iversen	Ashley Ahlbrand	Cindy Ohslund	Drew Watters	Susan Hiller	David Daleke
ACOLYTE	Sophia Rust	Molly Wyatt	Koral Dimick	Arno Risner	Sam Polansky	Sophia Rust	Nina Daleke
SERVER	Lyman Hitchcock	Margaret Harter	Kathy McDonald	Sandy Arnold	Gail Seegert	Tim Smith	Dean Arnold
USHERS	Filiatrault/Baurle	McDonald/Ohslund	Phil/Lissa May	Filiatrault/Baurle	Hill/Arnold	Phil/Lissa May	McDonald/Ohslund
GREETER	G Moehlmann	Dean Arnold	R/N Nye	T/J Garl	Jan Sinn	K McDonald	Ruth Rives
CRUCIFER							

# August 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> 6-9 PM @Olcott Park Sunday School Playdate	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10 AM Property Comm. 10 AM Garden workday
<b>4</b> Worship 8:30 & 10:15 AM	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10:30 AM UClub Yoga 6:30 PM Worship Comm.	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6 PM Finance Comm.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 10 AM Fiber Arts SGG
<b>11</b> Worship 8:30 & 10:15 AM 12:30 Council Mtg	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:30 AM UClub Yoga	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>16</b> 9 AM Set-up for Art Sale	<b>17</b> 9 AM Set-up for Art Sale
<b>18</b> Worship 8:30 & 10:15 AM Backpack Blessings, both services 12-4:00 PM Art Sale	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:30 AM UClub Yoga	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b style="color: red;">Worship 8:30 &amp; 11:00 AM</b> SCS Kick-off 9:45 AM Installation of SCS teachers, both services 5:30 PM Youth Grp @Iversen's	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:30 AM UClub Yoga	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>