



WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS
and UPCOMING EVENTS
for the week of
December 13, 2020

We are a Christ-centered community that
lives, shares and celebrates God's grace with
all people!

ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

3800 East Third Street
Bloomington, Indiana 47401
Phone: (812) 332-5252
Rev. Adrienne Meier, Pastor
pastoradrienne@gmail.com

December 13, Third Sunday of Advent



We continue with our virtual worship service. The service will be available on YouTube at 11:00 a.m. Sunday.

You may use this link to access the service:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StThomasLutheranChurchBloomington>
or access the link from the St Thomas website (stlconline.org).

Advent Prayer at Noon



On Wednesdays during Advent join Pr. Adrienne for 15 minutes of prayer at noon on Zoom. After taking prayer requests, we'll move through a simple, spoken liturgy of prayer for ourselves and our world. Pr. Adrienne will leave the Zoom room open afterwards for anyone who would like a little time to catch up. Follow this link each week to join in:

<https://bit.ly/stlc2020adventprayer>

Advent Midweek Services at 7:00 pm



The first two chapters of Luke's gospel can be compared to a Broadway musical, with characters breaking into song at seemingly random times. These songs, though, are filled with hope and a longing for a renewed world. Our Advent Midweek services, will center around these songs: Mary's Magnificat, Zechariah's Benedictus, Simeon's Nunc Dimittis, and the angel chorus's Gloria. We will hear the songs both chanted and set as a hymn featuring our talented staff musicians. Candidly, when we recorded our first service, nothing in technology went according to plan, but the liturgy, music, and message carried us into a hope we had been longing for. We present these services to you, that you, too, might be held by this Advent message of hope. St. Thomas's YouTube channel can be found at this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StThomasLutheranChurchBloomington>

January Newsletter deadline: Monday, December 21.

Call for Pictures: Participate in **Christmas Eve** worship! Send a picture of your family holding lit candles. During the singing of Silent Night, we will see the faces of one another and be able to lift each in prayer.

Upload your picture by noon December 15 to

<https://bit.ly/stlcmxmasphotos>

Here We Come a-Caroling, Social Distance Style!

Christmas
CAROLING



Calling all Sunday School families big and small: Our children's choir director, Melissa de Graaf invites you to carol in our cars from a distance to those who have been extra 'distanced' throughout this year. On **Saturday, December 19 meet at church at 3:00 pm** masked, and maintaining distance from one another.

We will have addresses and a few songs to sing as we parade to church members' homes to bless them with our song. We hope to be done after about an hour, but please dress warmly as we will stop for a few minutes to sing from our cars at each home. Questions? Contact Leah Sinn Iversen at 812-320-2017 or leahbethsinn@hotmail.com

Christmas Eve services and events: Information is available in the December newsletter and on the St. Thomas website.

<https://stlconline.org/>



Want to join our St. Thomas email prayer chain?

Do you have prayer requests? Contact Susan Colston skcolston@aol.com for further information.

Prayers for those with health and safety concerns: Nina Ost, Anne Smith, Bruce Herlin, Carole Kirsch, Tim Kirsch, Roger Sasse, Paula Ionescu, Erica Marer, Bev Hanna, Liz Caemmerer, Audrey Alpers, JoAnne Namy, Deborah O'Brien, and Casey-Marie.



Offerings may be mailed to the church or given by setting up online giving from our website [here](#) Look for the green Donate to St. Thomas button on the website homepage.

The office staff asks that members who wish an offering to be recorded for 2020—when giving by check or cash— please be sure the offering is at the church office by the morning of Monday, January 4, and that the check is dated for 2020. Online giving should be done by Dec 27 to be recorded for 2020.

New Hope for Families

Your support has helped them to continue to provide shelter and vital services for local children and families who are in crisis during the pandemic.

Immediate Needs

- Toilet paper
- Disinfecting wipes
- Digital thermometers
- Over-the-counter children's pain reliever, cold & flu medicine
- Twin sheet sets and comforters
- Pillows
- Kroger gift cards
- Checks made out to St. Thomas Lutheran Church with New Hope for Families in the memo line.

Donation of goods delivered directly to New Hope for Families is by appointment only. Please call their office at (812) 334-9840 to make arrangements. Continued gratitude for the prayers and generosity shared by this congregation.

Chats with Pr. Adrienne

Join Pr. Adrienne for one-on-one conversations in the narthex or on Zoom. Individuals, or couples or families who all live together, are welcome to sign up for these chats. There is no agenda, but is a way for you to share a bit of yourself and your life with Pr. Adrienne and for her to introduce herself to you. Please wear a mask. Sign up at this link: <https://calendly.com/pastoradrienne/chats-with-pr-a> or call the church office.

Online Shopping for Fair-Trade Gifts & Goodies: It's that time of year again! St. Thomas' Sister Parish committee invites you to do some [holiday shopping](#) to help fund future delegation trips between Chichipate, Guatemala and Bloomington, Indiana.

You'll find past favorites - such as chocolate bars and Christmas decorations - and much more through [this online sales event](#). Help us surpass our sales goal of \$1000 by Christmas, which will enable us to earn an even higher commission while also supporting the mission of SERRV, an international fair-trade nonprofit established in 1949. It's a win-win-win!



[Use our custom web link](#) to see all SERRV's handcrafts and order items that will be shipped directly to you. (Check that you see St. Thomas in an orange banner at the top of the page to ensure your order is being applied to this fundraiser.) Please also share [this custom web link](#) with anyone you know who would appreciate SERRV items and enjoy supporting Sister Parish!

If you would like help making an order, please contact Kaye Hill at kayehill48@gmail.com. She may not be sitting behind a table in the narthex this year, but she and her team are on the job!

Supporting our Missions through Amazon Smile

- Invitation from Ronna Papesh

If you are unable to shop locally, I invite you to designate one of our St. Thomas mission partners as a recipient at smile.amazon.com. Katcha and I designated **Sister Parish, Inc.** as our charity, and would appreciate others doing so as well. Once you have selected a charity, you only need to confirm you see the word "smile" in the address bar as you are making purchases at Amazon to generate funds for your designated mission. I know of other St. Thomas members who designated **LuMin** (Lutheran Campus Ministry Board – Bloomington IN), **Lutheran Hills Camp** (Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana/Kentucky), **MCUM** (Monroe County United Ministries), and other missions listed on the St. Thomas website. So, if you are already shopping on Amazon, please consider shopping on Amazon Smile instead to support our missions.

COVID status: We are in Phase 1

Building: Locked, please call to be admitted to the building for your appointment.

Staff: Working from home or the office.

Small Groups: Meet online. Small groups of less than 10 may meet at the church *at the discretion of the staff* and following all safety protocols.

Small groups may also meet outside following physical distancing and other safety protocols.

Worship: Virtual

New Address for Lyle McKee and Marie Fleming:
3641 E Tamarron Drive Bloomington 47408-2822.