



**Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 22, 2021**

## **SERVICE OF WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION AT 8:30AM**

We are honored that you are joining our worship today. We hope to make you feel welcome whether you are visiting with us for the first time or have been worshipping with us for years.

### **Welcome**

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that lives, shares, and celebrates God's grace with all people!

As disciples of Christ who value the faith, gifts, and ministry of all God's people, and who seek justice and reconciliation, we welcome all God's children to an inclusive community. This welcome is extended without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, educational background, sexual orientation, gender identity, physical and mental ability, age, or economic condition.

### **Worship Aids**

In this worship bulletin, worshipers are invited to stand at the places marked with an \* and bold type denotes the congregation's response. Everything you need to participate in worship is found in this bulletin, except for the hymns which are found in the back third of the red Evangelical Lutheran Worship under your seat.

You are encouraged to join us in praying, singing, sharing the peace, and receiving Holy Communion as you feel moved. Assisted hearing devices and large print bulletins are available from an usher.

### **Children in Worship**

We welcome all children to worship with us—including full participation in Holy Communion. Whether talking, crying, laughing or singing, the sounds of children in worship are joyful sounds of praise. God put the wiggle in children and we rejoice! Our Prayground in the sanctuary and our unstaffed nursery are open for quiet, supervised play. Children's bulletins are also available from an usher.

### **A Note About Our Livestream Service**

Today's service is livestreamed. Most rear-row seats are out of view of the camera, but we cannot guarantee that any seat is off camera. By attending this service you are giving permission to be in the video we produce.

### **A Few Requests**

We ask that you silence your cell phone or electronic devices.

We would love to pray for the concerns of your heart during this service. Prayer request slips are located on the table near the main doors.

**+ GATHERING +**

PRELUDE

Andante Tranquilo

Felix Mendelssohn

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

**C: Amen.**

P: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our provider,

**C: help us. It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

P: Beloved people of God, in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, + the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

**C: Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

ELW#853

**\*GREETING**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

\*HYMN OF PRAISE sing three times



1\* 2 3

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.  
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

He - le - lu - yan, he - le - lu - yan; he - le, he - le - lu - yan.  
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah; hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah.

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**+WORD+**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Adrienne Meier

FIRST LESSON

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

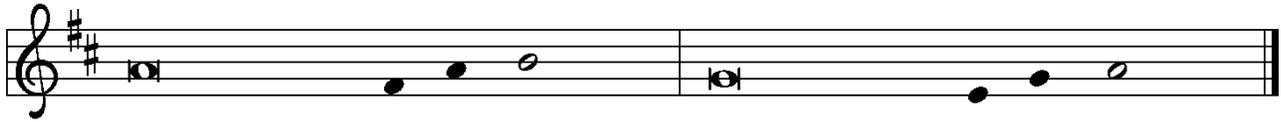
Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup>And Joshua said to all the people, <sup>14</sup>"Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup>Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

<sup>16</sup>Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup>for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup>and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 34:15-22 (sung responsively, assisting minister/**congregation**)



- <sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD are up- | on the righteous,  
and God's ears are open | to their cry.
- <sup>16</sup>**The face of the LORD is against those | who do evil,  
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**
- <sup>17</sup>The righteous cry, and | the LORD hears them  
and delivers them from | all their troubles.
- <sup>18</sup>**The LORD is near to the | brokenhearted  
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**
- <sup>19</sup>Many are the troubles | of the righteous,  
but the LORD delivers them from | every one.
- <sup>20</sup>**God will keep safe | all their bones;  
not one of them | shall be broken.**
- <sup>21</sup>Evil will bring death | to the wicked  
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.
- <sup>22</sup>**O LORD, you redeem the life | of your servants,  
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.**

## SECOND LESSON

Ephesians 6:10-20

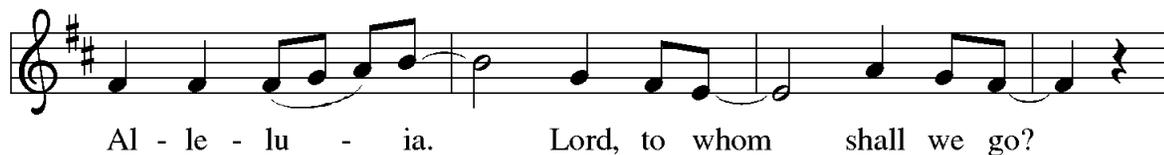
Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. <sup>11</sup>Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup>Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup>Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup>As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup>Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup>Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup>for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



John 6:56-69 NRSV, emended

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the sixth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*(Jesus is speaking.)* "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father; so whoever eats me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. The one who eats this bread will live forever." (Jesus said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.)

When many of Jesus' disciples heard this teaching, they said, "This teaching is offensive; who can accept it?" But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, "Does this offend you? Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? It is the spirit and not the flesh that gives life. The flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But among you there are some who do not believe." (For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones who did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him.) Jesus then said, "It is for

this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by my Father.”

Because of these sayings many of Jesus' disciples turned back and no longer traveled about with him. So Jesus asked the Twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered, "Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord!

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pr. Lecia Beck

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

You Are the Way

ELW#758

\*APOSTLES' CREED

A: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Let us come before the triune God in prayer.

*A brief silence.*

*Each petition ends:*

A: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

*Concluding petition:*

A: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace.

**C: Amen.**

**\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*During this time of Fading COVID, we encourage you to share the peace with a wave, a bow, or maybe an elbow, checking in with your neighbor for whatever feels safe and conveys the spirit of peace and reconciliation this ritual intends.*

**OFFERING**

*A silver offering plate is provided on the credence table by the doors to receive your gifts to support the ministry of St. Thomas. You can also give on our website <https://stlconline.org/>, or online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YROM/home>, or on the Vanco mobile app (find it in the app store; once on the app, search with the code RTTMYX).*

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Jesus, Bread of life, you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world.

**C: Amen.**

**+ MEAL +**

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow - er and might,  
 heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Blest is the one who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**P: Christ has set the table with more than enough for all.  
 Come!**

## Let the Broken Ones Be Healed

Let the bro - ken ones be healed. Let the  
lost be found and fed. Let the grace of God roll on, roll on.  
Let the ri - ver rise and spread. Step in - to the stream with me! Let God's  
gra - cious pur-pose be. Let God's gra - cious pur-pose be. Let the be.

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). It begins in 3/4 time and changes to 4/4 time in the second line. The piece concludes with a first ending (marked '1.') and a second ending (marked '2.').

COMMUNION HYMN

For the Bread Which You Have Broken

ELW#494

\*EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

**C: Amen.**

\* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

**+ SENDING +**

**\*BENEDICTION**

P: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, +  
be upon you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

He Comes to Us as One Unknown

ELW#737

**\*DISMISSAL**

A: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Voluntary

John Stanley

\*\*\*

*We depart in peace to continue our worship in lives of witness  
to Christ's love in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

## **Today's Worship Leaders**

Altar care: Mary Sasse, Jan Sinn

Bread/Wine: Mary Thomason-Smith & Tim Smith

### **8:30am Service**

Assisting Minister: David Rohlfing

Lector: Kent Unger

Usher/Greeter: Tom Strentz, Mary Lou Nierzwicki

Council Coordinator: Frank Nierzwicki

### **10:15am Service**

Assisting Minister: Gail Seegert

Lector: Chris Martz

Usher/Greeter: Nancy Chadburn

Council Coordinator: Kari Esarey

Set up/Tear Down: Janis Stockhouse, Dave Pavolka

**The altar flowers this week** are given  
in celebration of the wedding anniversary of Kent & Barb Unger  
and  
in celebration of the birthday of Dan McNabb

# Weekly Announcements

## Worship Times & Services Starting in September

St. Thomas will offer the following worship services starting in September:

- Holy Communion in the Nave at 8:30am on Sundays
- Holy Communion Outdoors at 11am on Sundays
- Virtual Worship, livestreamed at 8:30am and available all week on YouTube, along with clips of the sermon and children's message  
<https://www.youtube.com/c/StThomasLutheranChurchBloomington/>
- Word in the Words at 7pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month, departing from Griffy Lake Boathouse
- Prayer at Noon on Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of the month  
<https://bit.ly/3jVA3k0>

## Upcoming Events

### Save the Date!

Pr. Adrienne's Installation on the First Anniversary of our Ministry Together

**September 12, 4pm**

Bishop Bill Gafkjen, preaching

Cupcake and punch reception to follow

### St. Thomas Table at Bloomington PrideFest

Celebrate 25 years of welcome and inclusion at St. Thomas by volunteering at St. Thomas's table at Bloomington PrideFest on **Saturday, August 28**. Sign up for a one- to two-hour shift to be a friendly face at our congregation's table. No experience necessary, you simply need to be able to tell others what you like about St. Thomas! Sign up here: <https://www.wejoinin.com/sheets/bzjnw>

Volunteers especially needed from 6pm-7pm and 7pm-8:30pm (assists with tear down).

### Word in the Woods

Our first Word in the Woods hike gathered folks of all ages for a time of worship, hiking and community. We marveled at the many fungi and beautiful trees, admired tiny toads and enjoyed the shady trees. Our conversations and connections were rich as we met new people and deepened existing relationships. We will continue to gather monthly. You are invited to join us for our next Word in the Woods hike on **Tuesday, August 31**. We will gather at the Griffy Lake Boathouse Parking Lot at 7pm for a 1.5 mile worshipful hike. Please email **Pastor Lecia** at [pastorleciabeck@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleciabeck@gmail.com) by August 30 if you plan to join us.

### **Book Discussion: *The Cure for Sorrow***

Join Pr. Adrienne for a discussion of *The Cure for Sorrow: a Book of Blessings for Times of Grief* by Jan Richardson. Richardson's husband, Gary, never woke after what was supposed to be a routine surgery. Richardson had already been writing blessings for many years before meeting and then losing her spouse. But, according to the introduction to this small volume, writing became a way of coming to terms with and making sense of "the rending that came with Gary's death." You might find these discussions fruitful if you are coming to terms with your own personal loss, or contemplating the global loss due to COVID-19, or wanting to be more compassionate to others who are grieving. The book is divided into three sections which will be discussed Wednesdays at 7:30pm:

- September 1, "Getting the News: Blessings in the Rending"
- September 8, "The Sweetness that Remains: Solace Blessings"
- September 15, "What Fire Comes to Sing in You: Blessings of Hope"

Offered in a hybrid format, you can join the group at St. Thomas or via Zoom at <https://bit.ly/314o329>

### **Sunday morning adult faith formation begins Sunday, September 12**

Pastor Adrienne will lead a six-week session on the social statements of the ELCA. Social statements are the teaching and policy documents of the ELCA. They help the church think and discuss social issues through the lens of our faith. These statements are written about issues ranging from race to sexism, abortion to genetics, criminal justice and the death penalty. We can, do, and should talk about these issues in church, and you are invited to participate in these conversations. For more information contact the church office at [parsishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parsishadmin@stlconline.org) or 812-332-5252.

### **Prayers for those with health and safety concerns**

Elif Ogan, Doug Elkins, Jan Ellis, Caretta Van Ruler, Erik Engebretson, Maren Larsen, Shane Clements, Anne Smith, Carole Kirsch, Tim Kirsch, Roger Sasse, Paula Ionescu, Audrey Alpers, JoAnne Namy, Deborah O'Brien, Casey-Marie, Betty Smith, George Krieg, and Susan Draag.

Contact the church office for inclusion in this list of concerns and to be included in the Sunday prayers.

A separate, confidential prayer chain is also available. Contact **Susan Colston** at [skcolston@aol.com](mailto:skcolston@aol.com) to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

## Volunteers Urgently Needed

### Teachers Needed

We are busy making plans for faith formation for everyone ages four through adult! We will begin on Sunday, September 12 at 9:45am when worship services return to at 8:30am and 11:00am. In order to offer classes for our children, we need several additional teachers. Please be in prayer about who that may be and consider how you can help, either as a teacher, an assistant or a substitute. You can reach out to **Pastor Lecia** at [pastorleciabeck@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleciabeck@gmail.com) or **Leah Iversen** at [leahbethsinn@hotmail.com](mailto:leahbethsinn@hotmail.com) for more information.

### Seeking Volunteers to Welcome New Members

To extend hospitality to those considering joining St. Thomas, we are planning to offer new member classes after worship, over lunch. Would you consider coordinating a luncheon or providing food to share? Would you be able to provide childcare for about an hour? Tentatively, these lunches are planned for **September 19 and October 10**. Please contact the church office to volunteer: [parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org) or 812-332-5252.

### Rides to Worship

Several Members of our community are in need of rides to worship. Would you be willing to give a ride one month at a time? We will strive to assign rides based, more or less, on people who live near one another. If you are able to help, even if it is only as an occasional substitute, please fill out this form <https://bit.ly/3fcrKPw> If you need a ride to church, please contact the church office at [parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org) or 812-332-5252.

To receive these **Weekly Announcements** via email  
please contact the Church Office at  
[parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org) or 812-332-5252

## **ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

3800 East Third Street  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401  
Office Hours 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Phone: (812) 332-5252  
[stlconline.org](http://stlconline.org)

Rev. Adrienne Meier, Pastor  
[pastor@stlconline.org](mailto:pastor@stlconline.org)

Rev. Lecia Beck, Minister of Youth and Christian Nurture  
[christiannurture@stlconline.org](mailto:christiannurture@stlconline.org)

Erica Whichello, Administrator [parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org)  
Mike Powell, Director of Music and Organist  
Katie Gardiner, Adult Choir Director  
Melissa de Graaf, Children's Choir Director

*In covenant with*

### **LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRY AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY**

314 Rose Avenue Bloomington, Indiana 47401  
Rev. Amanda Ghaffarian, Campus Pastor  
Email: [lutheran@indiana.edu](mailto:lutheran@indiana.edu)  
Phone: (812) 333-2474  
[www.lcmiu.org](http://www.lcmiu.org)

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU are Reconciling in Christ Ministries**