



Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 29, 2021

SERVICE OF WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION AT 8:30AM and 11AM

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 (inside) or on an insert (outside). 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! For indoor services, our Prayground in the sanctuary and our unstaffed nursery are open for quiet, supervised play. Children's bulletins are also available.

A Note About Our Livestream Service

Today's 8:30am 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,
or at the top of the drive.

+ GATHERING +

PRELUDE

Hymn

William Albright

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Beloved, during the pandemic everything around us has changed and keeps changing. To find courage and hope for the future, let us remember things that are passing away.

P: Holy God, we remember the easy fellowship of meals with friends, coffee hour at church, playgrounds crowded with children. Now, people we know struggle with loneliness, isolation, and fear. People we love are confronting new long-term illnesses. People we treasure have died.

A: We acknowledge before you the conversations we were too busy to have, the letters we didn't take time to write, the evening walks we didn't walk together, and all the other ways we turned away from spending time with family, friends, and neighbors ... Holy God,

C: Accept our offering of grief and regret. Amen.

P: Holy God, we remember our comfortable expectation that others would act for the common good, our trust that governments would be fair, our belief that hard work would always be rewarded and that everyone would receive equal justice under law.

A: We acknowledge before you that we saw willful selfishness was eroding our communities. We knew that all around us were poverty, hunger, and inequity. We could have found ways to challenge this, but too often we chose to let it all slide by ... Holy God,

C: Accept our offering of grief and regret. Amen.

P: Holy God, we remember sweet-smelling forests, beaches littered only with seashells, mountains visible through crystal-clear air, fertile soil bursting with life, and abundant, clean water.

A: We acknowledge that we did not accept our responsibility to care for your creation. We have spoiled it. It is painful to look upon its ruin ... Holy God,

C: Accept our offering of grief and regret. Amen.

P: Holy God, we remember a world where poverty and hunger were decreasing, where children were getting healthier, where newly stable governments were emerging, where nations could reflect together on a peaceful future.

+WORD+

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Lecia Beck

FIRST LESSON

Ruth 1:1-17

In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there for about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons or her husband.

Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had had consideration for his people and given them food. So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, 'Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. The LORD grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.' Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. They said to her, 'No, we will return with you to your people.' But Naomi said, 'Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.' Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

So she said, 'See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.' But Ruth said,

'Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!
Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.'

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

(8:30 indoor service only)

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

*HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 NRSV, emended

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the seventh chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, they had not washed them. (The Pharisees, and all Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders. Nor do they eat anything from the market unless they wash it. There are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked Jesus, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" Jesus replied, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: There is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out (of a person) are what defile." For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, promiscuity, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these things come from within, and they defile a person."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Adrienne Meier

*HYMN OF THE DAY O God, Why Are You Silent

ELW#703

*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: Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Each petition ends:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

Concluding petition:

A: Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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 on the credence table by the doors inside, or a small box on the table at the top of the drive outside, is provided 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: God of abundance, you cause streams to break forth in the desert and manna to rain from the heavens. Accept the gifts you have first given us. Unite them with the offering of our lives to nourish the world you love so dearly; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

(8:30 indoor service only)

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: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

(8:30 indoor service only)

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 two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins in 3/4 time and changes to 4/4 time in the second line. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign, followed by two endings: the first ending leads back to the beginning of the piece, and the second ending leads to a final cadence.

(8:30 indoor service only)

COMMUNION HYMN

God, When Human Bonds Are Broken

ELW#603

*EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

C: Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Lord of life, in the gift of your body and blood you turn the crumbs of our faith into a feast of salvation. Send us forth in the world with shouts of joy, bearing witness to the abundance of your love in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

+ SENDING +

*BENEDICTION

P: People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, + one God, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Strengthen For Service, Lord

ELW#497

*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE

March

Flor Peeters

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

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Today's Worship Leaders

Altar care: Jean Brown, Mary Sasse

Bread/Wine: Mark & Charlene Braun

8:30am Service

Assisting Minister: Kathleen Boggess

Lector: Barb Unger

Usher/Greeter: Lynn & Ute Coyne

Council Coordinator: Frank Nierzwicki

10:15am Service

Assisting Minister: Tim Smith

Lector: Sarah Ratzburg

Usher/Greeter: Margaret Harter

Council Coordinator: Dean Arnold

Set up/Tear Down: Dave Pavolka, Janis Stockhouse

The altar flowers this week are given by Gene and Gayl Laughman
in gratitude for all servant hearts. Glory to God!

Weekly Announcements

Worship Times Beginning in Next Week

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

- 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 Woods at 7pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month, departing from Griffy Lake Boathouse (next available dates August 31 & September 28)
- Prayer at Noon on Zoom on the 1st Wednesday of the month (next available dates September 1 & October 6) <https://bit.ly/3jVA3k0>

Upcoming Events

Word in the Woods

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 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 Faith Formation Opportunities

Sunday morning faith formation will begin for all ages on Sunday, September 12 from 9:45am to 10:45am!

- **Children:** Those age four through kindergarten are invited to join our Godly Play class. Elementary students are divided into two classes, first through third grade (room 12/14) and fourth through sixth grade (room 13/15). Please fill out a student information form as you drop your child off in their classroom.
- **Confirmation:** Students in grades seven and eight will be part of our confirmation class in room 16. Please have a parent accompany your student for our first class on 9/12.
- **Youth:** High School students will meet in the youth room.
- **Adults:** 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 or any questions about faith formation, please contact Pastor Lecia at pastorleciabeck@gmail.com

Monroe County United Ministries donations

Thanks to David Ellies for delivering our St. Thomas donation to the MCUM pantry totaling 92 pounds! Thanks to everyone who donated!

Volunteers Urgently Needed

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 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 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, Marilyn Saum, 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 to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

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

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Erica Whichello, Administrator parishadmin@stlconline.org

Mike Powell, Director of Music and Organist

Katie Gardiner, Adult Choir Director

Melissa de Graaf, Children's Choir Director

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