

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 5, 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

Prière

Jean Langlais

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 believe that love is the power that comforts the lonely, gives strength to the weak and weary, and sustains human relationships ... Holy God,

**C: Accept our heartfelt prayer to love more deeply.**

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 believe that love is the power that calls people to respond to the needs of others, demand fairness in government, and enact justice in our society ... Holy God,

**C: Accept our heartfelt prayer to love more deeply.**

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 heartfelt prayer to love more deeply.**

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.

A: We believe that love is the power that can transform the human world ... Holy God,

**C: Accept our heartfelt prayer to love more deeply.**

P: Holy God, Lover of Souls,

**C: we trust that, minute by minute, you are acting to bring healing and wholeness to the world. We affirm that we are a people of hope. Help us to know you. Help us to follow you. Show us how to build the world you long for. Amen.**

*Lighting a candle is a way to be mindful of the nearness of God. If you wish, take a candle from one of the baskets in the front row and light it during your prayers. You may wish to use "Accept our heartfelt prayer to love more deeply," as a prayer this week.*

\*OPENING HYMN

Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace

ELW#716  
(or insert)

\*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: O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**+WORD+**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Adrienne Meier

FIRST LESSON

Ruth 1:19-2:3

So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, 'Is this Naomi?' <sup>20</sup>She said to them, 'Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the LORD has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the LORD has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?'

So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Now Naomi had a kinsman on her husband's side, a prominent rich man, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz. And Ruth the Moabite said to Naomi, 'Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain, behind someone in whose sight I may find favour.' She said to her, 'Go, my daughter.' So she went. She came and gleaned in the field behind the reapers. As it happened, she came to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

So she gleaned in the field until evening. Then she beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley. She picked it up and came into the town, and her mother-in-law saw how much she had gleaned. Then she took out and gave her what was left over after she herself had been satisfied. Her mother-in-law said to her, 'Where did you glean today? And where have you worked? Blessed be the man who took notice of you.' So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, 'The name of the man with whom I worked today is Boaz.' Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, 'Blessed be he by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead!' Naomi also said to her, 'The man is a relative of ours, one of our nearest kin.' Then Ruth the Moabite said, 'He even said to me, "Stay close by my servants, until they have finished all my harvest." ' Naomi said to Ruth, her daughter-in-law, 'It is better, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, otherwise you might be bothered in another field.' So she stayed close to the young women of Boaz, gleaning until the end



or, 'Sit at my feet', have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

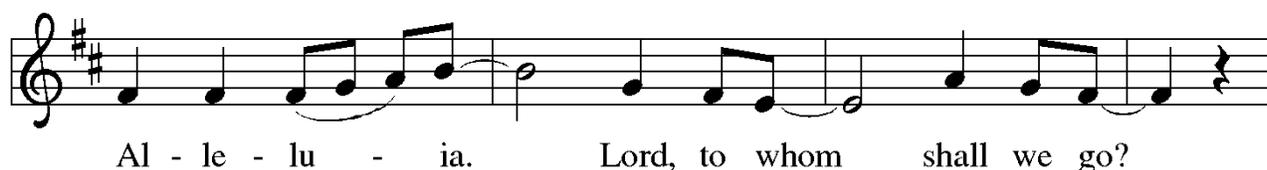
What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

(8:30 indoor service only)

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



\*HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 7:24-37 NRSV, emended

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

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

After healing and teaching in Galilee, Jesus traveled north into Phoenicia—the region about Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, and a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit heard about him immediately. She came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. Jesus said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon was gone.

Jesus then left the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Ten Cities (Decapolis). They brought to him a deaf man who also had a speech impediment and they begged him to lay his hand on the man. Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, spat, and touched the man's tongue. Then looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately the man's ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered the onlookers to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!

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

SERMON

Pr. Adrienne Meier

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense

ELW#621  
(or insert)

\*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.

(8:30 indoor service only)

COMMUNION HYMN

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW#612

\*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**

Earth and All Stars

ELW#731  
(or insert)

**\*DISMISSAL**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

Toccata in F Major

Dietrich Buxtehude

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*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: Shirley Mingee & Jan Sinn

Bread/Wine: Jennifer Garl

### 8:30am Service

Assisting Minister: Kathleen Boggess

Lector: Eliot Smith

Usher/Greeter: Drew & Amy Balcam

Council Coordinator: Kari Esarey

### 11am Service

Assisting Minister: Mike Witt

Lector: Nancy Mathews

Usher/Greeter: Melissa Watters

Council Coordinator: Tom Sinn

Set up/Tear Down:

**The altar flowers this week** are given by Barb & Kent Unger  
in celebration of the birthday of Barb Unger

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## Weekly Announcements

### Save the Date!

Pr. Adrienne's Installation

on the First Anniversary of our Ministry Together

**September 12, 4pm**

\*This service will be held outside\*

Bishop Bill Gafkjen, preaching

Cupcake and punch reception to follow, also outside

## Upcoming Events

**Adult choir** resumes leading worship on **Sunday, September 12!** Rehearsals are on **Thursday evenings at 7pm** in the sanctuary and began September 2. We always welcome new voices and would love to have you join us! Please contact Katie Gardiner at [kegardin@iu.edu](mailto:kegardin@iu.edu) or Mike Powell at [powellam@iu.edu](mailto:powellam@iu.edu) with any questions.

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

Discussion of the book *The Cure for Sorrow* by Jan Richardson continues this **Wednesday, September 8, at 7:30pm**, with the middle set of blessings, "The Sweetness that Remains: Solace Blessings," and next **Wednesday, September 15** with the final set of blessings, "What Fire Comes to Sing in You: Blessings of Hope." Join us in person or on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3I4o329>

## **Women's Bible Study**

It is called Women's Bible Study, but men can come too. Meets on second Sundays between services in room 17 (near the kitchen). The first meeting is next week, **Sunday, September 12**. This month's theme is "Spirit of God: Revealer and Resource" For more information contact Kari Esarey at [kariesarey@gmail.com](mailto:kariesarey@gmail.com) or 812-219-4177.

## **Sunday Morning Faith Formation Opportunities**

Sunday morning faith formation will begin for all ages on **Sunday, September 12 from 9:45am to 10:45am!** On our first day, all children and parents are invited to gather for an opening activity in the sanctuary at 9:45, before going to their classrooms at 10:05.

- **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).
- **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 beginning on 9/12. 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.

Parents of children who are under four years old are welcome to gather in the nursery with their children for conversation and time to play while others are in class.

For more information or any questions about faith formation, please contact Pastor Lecia at [pastorleciabeck@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleciabeck@gmail.com)

## 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](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.

### 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, Mike Ost, 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.

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**

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[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*

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