

**Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 12, 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

Adagio

Franz Liszt

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 long for people to live in neighborliness, kindness, and forbearance. Stay near to us. Show us a path forward... Holy God,

**C: Restore our hope. Turn our hearts toward your future.**

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 long to live in a human society guided by integrity, generosity, mutual care, and justice. Stay near to us. Show us a path forward ... Holy God,

**C: Restore our hope. Turn our hearts toward your future.**

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 long to be people who tend the earth, share its resources, and take joy in its beauty. Stay near to us. Show us a path forward ... Holy God,

**C: Restore our hope. Turn our hearts toward your future.**

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 long for nations and peoples to deal peaceably with one another and work together to build a world without famine and war. Stay near to us. Show us a path forward ... Holy God,

**C: Restore our hope. Turn our hearts toward your future.**

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.**

*Today, to remember your Baptism, the Readers will sprinkle you with clean water. As you are sprinkled, you can respond by saying, "Amen!" If you want to dry off, there are paper towels in the front rows. You may wish to use "Restore our hope. Turn our hearts toward your future," as a prayer this week.*

\*OPENING HYMN

O God, My Faithful God

ELW#806  
(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

*Refrain*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace  
to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the  
high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.  
1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa-ther,  
we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The first staff is the refrain, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the notes. The second and third staves continue the refrain. The fourth and fifth staves are the main body of the hymn, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are written below the notes.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God,



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the right



hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

*Refrain*



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace



to God's peo-ple on earth. Glo-ry to God in the



high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

3 For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther.

*Final refrain*

Glo - ry to God in the high - est.

A - men, a - men.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**+WORD+**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Lecia Beck

FIRST LESSON

Ruth 3:1-5, 4:13-17

Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, 'My daughter, I need to seek some security for you, so that it may be well with you. Now here is our kinsman Boaz, with whose young women you have been working. See, he is winnowing barley tonight at the threshing-floor. Now wash and anoint yourself, and put on your best clothes and go down to the threshing-floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking. When he lies down, observe the place where he lies; then, go and



**a prayer to the God<sup>l</sup> of my life.**

**<sup>9</sup>I will say to the God of my strength, "Why have you re-<sup>l</sup>jected me,  
and why do I wander in such gloom  
while the enemy op-<sup>l</sup>presses me?"**

**<sup>10</sup>While my bones are being broken, my enemies mock me<sup>l</sup> to my face;  
all day long they mock me and say to me,  
"Where now<sup>l</sup> is your God?"**

**<sup>11</sup>Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul,  
and why are you so disquiet-<sup>l</sup>ed within me?  
Put your trust in God, for I will yet give thanks to the one  
who is my help<sup>l</sup> and my God.**

## SECOND LESSON

James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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 8-27-38, NRSV, emended

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

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

*(From Bethsaida on the Sea of Galilee, Jesus and his disciples traveled northward) to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say I am?"*

They answered, "John the Baptist; and others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets."

He asked the disciples, "Who do you say I am?"

Peter answered, "You are the Messiah!"

And Jesus sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about this.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Jesus called the crowd to come together with the disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in order to get their life back? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he

comes with the holy angels in the glory of his Father."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!

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

SERMON

Pr. Adrienne Meier

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

ELW#775  
(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, [stlconline.org](http://stlconline.org), or on the Vanco mobile app (find it in the app store; once on the app, search with the code RTTMYX).*

CHOIR ANTHEM                      Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive                      David Ashley White  
(8:30 indoor service only)

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. 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

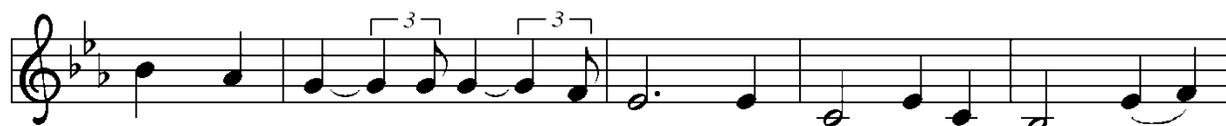
**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on Earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory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

\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

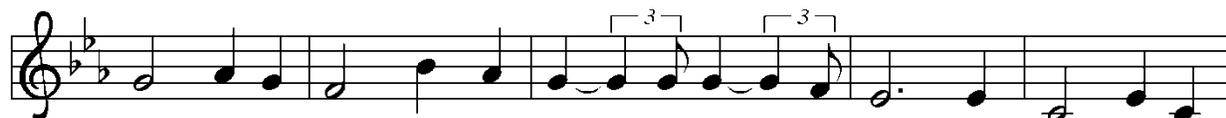
P: All who hunger and thirst, come. The table is ready.

(8:30 indoor service only)

## Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -



way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

(8:30 indoor service only)

COMMUNION HYMN

O Jesus, I Have Promised

ELW#810

\*EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING

**C: Amen.**

\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. 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

Thy Strong Word

ELW#511  
(or insert)

\*DISMISSAL

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*POSTLUDE

Fugue

François Couperin

\*\*\*

*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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## **Worship Leaders for Sunday September 12**

Altar care: Barb Unger

Bread/Wine: Mark & Charlene Braun

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

Assisting Minister: Robin Hershberger

Lector: Kent Unger

Usher/Greeter: Lynn & Ute Coyne

Council Coordinator: Amy Balcam

### **11am Service**

Assisting Minister: Tim Smith

Lector: Gail Seegert

Usher/Greeter: Jan Sinn

Council Coordinator: Tom Sinn

Set up/Tear Down: **Volunteers Needed**

**The altar flowers this week** are given by Kris Stewart,  
and by Lynn & Ute Coyne  
in celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary

# Weekly Announcements

## Today at 4pm!

Pr. Adrienne's Installation

on the First Anniversary of our Ministry Together

\*This service will be held outside\*

Bishop Bill Gafkjen, preaching

Cupcake and punch reception to follow, also outside

## Sunday Morning Faith Formation Opportunities

Sunday morning faith formation begins for all ages **today from 9:45am to 10:45am!** Today 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)

## Women's Bible Study

It is called Women's Bible Study, but men can come too. We meet on second Sundays between services in room 17 (near the kitchen). **The first meeting is today!** 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.

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

Discussion of the book *The Cure for Sorrow* by Jan Richardson concludes this **Wednesday, Wednesday, September 15** with the final set of blessings, "What Fire Comes to Sing in You: Blessings of Hope." Join us in person in the conference room or on Zoom at <https://bit.ly/3l4o329>

**Adult choir** rehearsals are **Thursday evenings at 7pm** in the sanctuary. 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.

## **Landscape Committee Work Day**

On **Saturday, September 18th from 10am to noon** the Landscape Committee will host a workday for outside work, including: weeding around the parking lot, the sidewalks, the small area to the rear of the pastor's office and conference room, and the small areas edging Heritage Hall; moving wood chips to surround some tree areas; and cutting back bushes by the stairway leading to the Community Garden. For more information contact Kathleen Boggess at [kboggess44@gmail.com](mailto:kboggess44@gmail.com) or 812-361-7332, or Debbie Selk at [debsabinder@yahoo.com](mailto:debsabinder@yahoo.com) or 812-361-8411. The Property Community and the Community Garden Group are meeting at the same time so we should have lots of productive things happening about St. Thomas!

## **New Members**

Have you been worshipping with us through the pandemic and want to relate more closely with our congregation? Have you recently moved to the area and are looking for a congregation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to worship with? We are eager for you to join us. Pr. Adrienne will be hosting new members classes after the 11am worship service on **Sunday, September 19 and October 10**. A light lunch will be served and, if needed, childcare can be provided in the nursery. These two meetings will provide a very brief overview of St. Thomas and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and provide an opportunity to meet our staff and some of our leaders. New members will be received in worship on Sunday, November 14. If you are interested in participating or in meeting with Pr. Adrienne, please email her directly [pastoradrienne@gmail.com](mailto:pastoradrienne@gmail.com), or contact the church office at [parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org) or 812-332-5252.

# Volunteers Urgently Needed

## 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, 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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[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**