

# St. Thomas Lutheran Church News

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

## September 2023

XLV Issue 8



### From the Senior Pastor

In the Godly Play classroom, sometimes the stories need a special starting place: the desert box. Our desert box isn't anything special—play sand in a clear, long, low Rubbermaid tub. The storyteller sets the desert in the middle of the circle and addresses the sand, using her gaze to help the listeners hear the story better. As she speaks, she might swirl the sand, move it from place to place, or smooth it out. Depending on the story, she might point out that there is very little water in the desert, very little to eat, cold nights and scorching days. She will point out that people don't go into the desert unless they have to. Scripture is filled with desert stories and other stories of lives lived in the midst of the hustle and bustle of society which are, nevertheless, also in the wilderness—places people don't go unless they have to. Most of us will spend some time in one metaphoric desert or another, and so there is a small comfort that Scripture is filled with stories *like ours*, as painful as it can be to encounter them.

This fall, the lectionary path we have been following, Wilda Gafney's *A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church*, will take us to these wild and dangerous places. We will encounter stories of brutality—rape and murder, specifically (notably, on September 24, when we read about the rape of Bathsheba and murder of Uriah from 2 Samuel 11, and on October 1, when we read about the rape of David's daughter, Tamar, by her half-brother from 2 Samuel 13). We knew, when we took this path, that these stories would come up, stories about the places we do not wish to go unless we have to. When considering the women of the Bible, the fact of the matter is that these

### What the Senior Pastor is Reading

[In Spite of the Consequences: Prison Letters on Exoneration, Abolition, and Freedom by Lacino Hamilton](#)

Hamilton served 27 years of a 52-80 year sentence for a crime he did not commit. While in prison, he wrote candidly and honestly about the conditions in prison and the U.S. penal system. Identifying as an abolitionist, Hamilton's letters and essays had to be smuggled out of the prison, and he was placed in solitary confinement for more than 10 years for what he had written. The letters are both words of protest and dispatches of hope that there could be a different way.

stories too often detail unspeakable violence. When considering our present age, the fact of the matter is that we witness stories that too often detail unspeakable violence.

As we go this way, know that we do not go empty handed. Luther tells us that, in the creed, when we confess our belief in the Holy Spirit this means we believe that the Holy Spirit has “enlightened [each of us] with [her] gifts.” One such gift is confession. As we encounter these stories in our worship in the coming weeks, we will begin our gathering with confession. We will acknowledge our complicity in the suffering of others and ourselves. We will admit to God the utter brokenness of the world and our inability to change it. We will admit the things we have done and left undone, our faults, and our shortcomings. And then we will hear a word of forgiveness—not a word meant to smooth everything over, but a word meant to renew and re-enliven us.

Another gift we are given is the sacraments—communion and baptism—which convey to us, in Luther’s words, “forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation.” Should these stories cut too close for you, the body and blood of Jesus Christ that we receive in Holy Communion is a sign for us of God’s work redeeming the unredeemable, standing in solidarity in suffering, and promising the hope of new ways of being now and in what is to come. Holy Communion, too, is a call to us for full participation in one another’s reality, and, thus, can remind all of us that we are not alone in this. We are tackling these very difficult stories at least in part to bear witness to *your* reality, to stand beside *you*, and to support *you*.

Beloved, we have embarked on this path *because* we have been called as witnesses—witnesses to the destruction human beings bring down on one another *and* witnesses to what God is doing even in the midst of human ruthlessness. We have come down this path because we believe that God speaks life into death, sets the gloom ablaze, and frees those held in bondage. We have journeyed here because we believe that that God, who raises Jesus from the dead, will raise us, too.

God be with you,

*Pr. Adrienne*

## **From the Pastor of Youth and Christian Nurture**

When was the last time you played?

It may have been getting on the floor with a child, engaging in their imaginative world. Or maybe it was running around and chasing your dog. Or maybe playing music and dancing in the kitchen.

Play can mean so many different things, but in our profit-driven world, where even hobbies can be monetized, we have separated work from play and elevated work into the only proper activity for adults. Play has been relegated to the world of children—good for their development, helping them learn their way in the world—but something that should be put aside when you grow up.

And yet...what if we were created to play?

Play is a universal human need—children playing transcends every culture. Play develops resilience, helping us cope and adapt during times of anxiety and stress. Play creates community and deepens a sense of belonging. According to Plato, “You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation.”

As the church, we are often good at working together, but what about playing together? Join in on Saturday, October 21 for a day retreat at Lutheran Hills. We will explore God’s role in creation as an example of play with plenty of time set aside for us to play. We hope for families and singles, younger and older will all join us so that we can play together. Look for more information and how to register for coming in the next few weeks!

Your partner along the way,

*Pastor Lucia*

## **From the Director of Music**

### **Adult Choir Returns!**

Adult choir resumes leading worship on **Sunday, September 10!** Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings at **7 p.m.** in the sanctuary and will begin on **Thursday, August 31.** All who share a love of music are welcome and we would love to have you join in! Please contact Kathryn or me if you have any questions.

### **Make a Joyful Noise!**

As the summer wraps up, I’d like to thank all those who offered their gifts in worship this summer. We are blessed to have such talented individuals here, especially when they use their gifts to deepen our worship experience. If you’d like to offer special music in worship, you need not wait until next summer; please contact me at any time of the year and we will gladly include your special music.



*Mark Baker*

## **Construction Update**

One of our neighbors contacted INDOT and was able to provide us with an update about the construction at the corner of Smith Rd. and 3<sup>rd</sup> St. Currently, work is being done to relocate utilities in the construction zone. INDOT predicts construction work will begin in Spring/Summer 2024.

## For All the Saints

On September 9, the church commemorates Peter Claver, a Spanish Jesuit priest in Colombia, who dedicated his ministry to serving slaves newly arrived from Africa. When slave ship captains and slave owners refused care for ill or dying slaves, Claver cared for them. When he traveled, even though it made wealthy landowners uncomfortable, he stayed in the slave quarters in order to ensure laws protecting slaves were obeyed. He emphasized humane action over lengthy sermons, and, when he did preach, he preached to the slaves about their dignity and worth. Eventually, he baptized some 300,000 people—baptizing them in order that he might persuade slave owners into more humane treatment of their fellow Christians. He pushed for the publication of a book by his mentor, Alonso de Sandoval, on the people, languages, and religions of West Africa. In recent years, it has come to light that Claver himself owned slaves, and others have wondered whether he didn't go far enough in his critique of slavery. We are right to ask what it means that the Church elevates as saint someone still deeply entrenched in systems that perpetuated the slavery of human beings. Claver worked on the edges of understanding at the time, but still within the systems that kept people—slaves, slave owners—in their respective places. It makes us wonder, what systems do we not see? What keeps us from seeing the fullness of God's kin-dom in this place?



## Celebrating Our Ministry

### New Member Corner

**Carolyn Sowinski** returned to Bloomington and to St. Thomas in December 2022 after 12 years in the Washington, D.C. area. Her husband Jim recently retired from the U.S. Department of Energy. A native of Minnesota, Carolyn has spent the past seven years writing non-fiction books about her ancestors and her home state. Her latest book is *The Great Storm: Minnesota's Victims in the Blizzard of January 7, 1873*. Her five books are available on Amazon. Carolyn enjoys singing and has returned to the soprano section in the St. Thomas church choir and in Bloomington Chamber Singers. She also returns to her role as one of the congregation's Assisting Ministers. Jim and Carolyn have two children who grew up in Bloomington and are IU graduates. Tom works for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the St. Paul, Minnesota, office. Lynae and her family (wife Josie and daughter Kallie) live in Athens, Georgia. Lynae works for Global Online Academy.





## August Trivia Night

Six teams competed for bragging rights and tasty prizes on Saturday, August 19. Trivia master Rance Fawbush gave competitors a “tour of the house,” with three rounds of questions loosely related to the kitchen, the bathroom, and the bedroom. If the fun wasn’t enough, there were also more than enough delicious snacks and heartwarming fellowship to share!

## Financial Review Completed

It is good practice to have periodic, independent, reviews of the financial practices of the congregation, and it is required by our Bylaws. The Constitution and Bylaws call this an audit, but it’s not the same rigid process that a CPA would do to meet legal reporting requirements. The purpose of the review is to look for weaknesses in internal controls and look for discrepancies in the financial records.

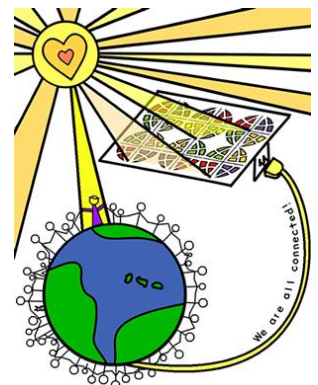
The review was conducted by an outside team on July 15. They found no areas of major concern, but made some good suggestions, many of which we are implementing. For example, we will be reorganizing the way we handle and report designated donations to better separate them from our general budget reporting, to simplify bookkeeping procedures, and to improve clarity. We have also contracted with a new payroll service that is more church-oriented and also less expensive than our current service. Most changes will be implemented at the beginning of the new year.

The review procedure was very helpful, not expensive, and gives us confidence that our financial practices are sound. We plan to use the same firm again next year. Look for the full report to be included in the annual program meeting.

*from Jim Ward, Finance Committee Chair*

## Creation Care Calling

During the long summer days, our church solar arrays have been sending more energy to the grid than we receive from the grid at night, providing a carry forward credit balance of several thousand kilowatt hours in our Duke account. The credits can be used in winter months when solar output is lower. This accumulated energy will allow electric heat pumps to supplement natural gas heating and reduce our fossil fuel usage into the next decade as aging air conditioners are replaced.



Dual fuel operation would relegate the gas furnaces to a backup mode for heating, automatically controlled by the thermostats when the outdoor temperature is below the threshold for effective heating with traditional heat pumps.

Energy conservation has been a priority of this congregation since before the sanctuary was built in the 1980s. That legacy can be continued with using solar powered electric heating to replace burning natural gas.

Some of the past improvements are LED lights producing about 80 percent less heat than incandescent bulbs, a high efficiency ductless mini split heat pump for the pipe organ enclosure, sanctuary return air ducts moved higher on the wall to allow better air circulation, an Energy Star reflective roof replacing black shingles, and remotely controlled wifi thermostats that provide more temperature stability.

*from Darrell Boggess*



## Upcoming Events



### Gather Bible Study

Once called the St. Thomas Women's Bible Study, we've changed our name to be clear: we are gender *inclusive*! So, you are most heartily invited to join the Gather Bible Study.

On **September 10** between the services, we will meet in small conference room. This room has a round table perfect for gathering. The room is next door to the large conference room.

Our study this month is entitled "Salvation Now". In particular, this study looks at the ELCA's mission and identity. We also study passages in the book of John and how we are joyfully defiant, how death will not win the day! Please join us. You don't need to have come before. Each Bible Study session stands on its own.

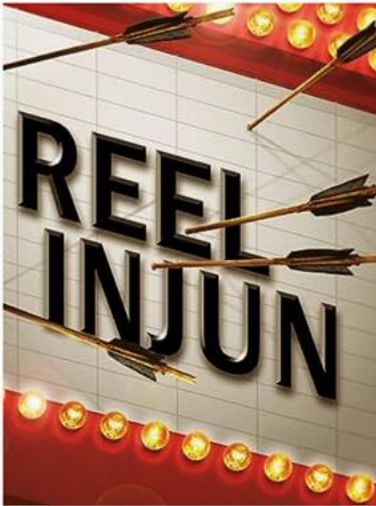
Questions? Contact Kari Esarey at [kariesarey@gmail.com](mailto:kariesarey@gmail.com) or 812-219-4177.

### LuMin Lunches

Connect with students and show that you care by helping provide lunches for LuMin students! In response to student needs, this year we will offer a pack-your-own brown bag lunch once a month (generally the third Sunday of each month). There are three ways you can help. Volunteers are needed to **provide 12 individually packaged items** (either pre-packaged or bagged at home). Please include the nutrition information or ingredient list for homemade items. Another volunteer is needed to **host the lunch-making** in the library from 9:30 to 10 a.m. and 12 to 12:30 p.m. Others are invited to stop by for **conversation with students. The first lunch will be on Sunday, September 17.** Please sign up at the welcome desk to bring an item or host the lunch. Items can be dropped off anytime the week prior or by 8:30 a.m. on Sunday.

## Worship at Redbud Hills & Bell Trace

St. Thomas members and friends who live at Redbud Hills or Bell Trace are invited for worship in the Chapel. The next Redbud Hills worship is scheduled for **Monday, September 11 at 10 a.m.** The next Bell Trace worship is scheduled for **Monday, September 18 at 9:45 a.m.** St. Thomas volunteers are also welcome to join us and help pass out bulletins, set up communion, and serve as hosts for the worship service. Contact [Pr. Adrienne](#) if you can volunteer.



## Screening of Reel Injuns

The Mission Committee invites you to a movie night on **Tuesday, September 19 at 7 p.m.** to watch *Reel Injun*, a film by Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond, that traces how movies depict indigenous people from the silent film era to today. It runs about 90 minutes, with clips from hundreds of classic and recent Hollywood movies and candid interviews with celebrated Native and non-Native film celebrities, activists, film critics, and historians. How has the cinematic image of "the Injun" influenced the world's understanding — and misunderstanding — of indigenous peoples? We hope you'll stick around afterwards for a discussion about Hollywood and media representation of indigenous peoples. Questions? Talk with [Chris Ogan](#).

## Bloomington Bach Cantata Project

The Bloomington Bach Cantata Project is pleased to announce its fourteenth season at our performing home, St. Thomas Lutheran Church. We present cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach in performances modeled on his own. Our format is unique: a performance of a cantata, a short talk about it, and a second performance in which we hope listeners hear new things.



Performances are free and take place on Sundays at 2:30 p.m. at St. Thomas. We are grateful for the hospitality and look forward to sharing this music with members of the St. Thomas community. You can follow the BBCP on our [Facebook page](#).

### 2023-2024 Schedule:

- September 3, 2023: "Wer da gläubet und getauft wird" BWV 37, directed by Shannon Beckemeyer and Blake Beckemeyer.
- October 1, 2023: "Wo Gott der Herr nicht bei uns hält" BWV 178, directed by Sarah Cranor.
- October 22, 2023: "Ich glaube, lieber Herr, hilf meinem Unglauben" BWV 109, directed by Caio Guimarães F. Lopes.
- January 21, 2024: "Ein ungefärbt Gemüte" BWV 24, directed by Kathryn Davidson.
- February 25, 2024: "Jesu, der du meine Seele" BWV 78, directed by Sergey Tkachenko.
- April 14, 2024: "Gott ist mein König" BWV 71, directed by Daniel R. Melamed.

# Christian Nurture

## Sunday School

Connect with other people while growing in faith. Sunday School will begin for all ages on **Sunday, September 10 from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.!** For all children and youth, please complete [a student information form](#).



**Children:** Those age four through kindergarten are invited to our Godly Play class. Elementary students are divided into two classes, first through third grade (room 16/17) and fourth through sixth grade (room 12). Elementary students will have music from 10:30-10:45 most weeks and are invited to share a song in worship monthly.

**Confirmation:** Students in grades seven and eight will be part of our confirmation class in room 13.

**Youth:** High School students will meet in the youth room. On September 10, students will be going for coffee with their leaders, Mary Thomason-Smith and Moriah Reichert.

**Adults:** Pastor Adrienne will lead a three-week session hosting various guests to talk about Criminal Justice and the Church, followed by a four-week session discussing Science and Faith.

If you are interested in volunteering with Sunday School on a regular or occasional basis, please contact [Pastor Lecia](#) or Sunday School coordinator, [Leah Iversen](#).



## Prayer at Noon on Zoom

It can be hard to find time to pray, especially when there is so much to worry about—so much to pray for. You are invited to a calm, quiet moment in the middle of the week to share requests and pray together—we gather for about 20 minutes. Our next gatherings will be **Wednesday September 6 at noon** on [Zoom](#).

## Word in the Woods

"O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
In wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures." (Psalm 104:24)

Join in to worshipping God and delighting in creation! Meet us at Griffy Lake boathouse for a 1.5-mile hike which closes with Holy Communion. We will gather on **Tuesday, September 12 at 6:00 p.m.** Please let [Pastor Lecia](#) know if you plan to join us!





## **Pastor's Bible Study**

Join the pastors for Bible Study on the upcoming Sunday readings on **Monday afternoons at 1 p.m. in the Conference Room**. There is no need to prepare ahead. We read the text together and explore what interests us and what it means for us today. Questions encouraged! On the following Mondays, these are the readings we will consider:

- September 4: No Bible Study, but the readings for the week are 1 Samuel 27:1-3, 8-12; Psalm 72:1-4, 12-14, 18-19; Romans 2:12-16; Matthew 18:1-7
- September 11: 1 Samuel 30:1-8, 17-19; Psalm 13; Hebrews 2:10-13; Matthew 18:10-14
- September 18: 2 Samuel 11:2-15; Psalm 38:1-9, 11, 18, 21-22; Colossians 3:5-11; Matthew 15:10-11, 15-20
- September 25: No Bible Study, but the readings for the week are 2 Samuel 13:1-16, 21-22; Psalm 27:1-14; 1 Corinthians 5:9-11; Matthew 25:31-46
- October 2: 2 Samuel 20:1-3, 14-22; Proverbs 8:1-4, 10-17; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Matthew 13:54-58

There will be no Bible Study on Monday, September 4 for Labor Day and September 25, as the pastors will be away for the Synodical Professional Leader's Conference.



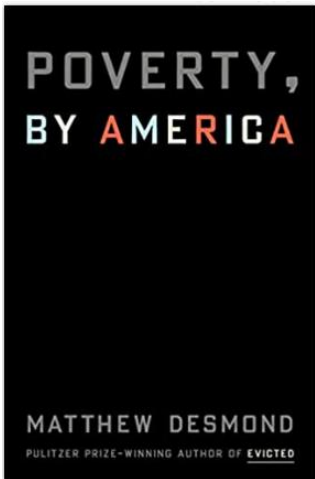
## **Ministry Opportunities for Getting Involved**

### **Join us for Dinners for Six – a chance to share food, laughs and stories!**

Dinners for Six is exactly what it sounds like – a chance to gather with five other people to share a meal and conversation. Every three months, participants will be split into groups of six who will plan their own meal together. You could meet for dinner, lunch, or brunch. You could have a potluck, have one person cook a meal, or get takeout. You could meet on a weeknight, after worship, or on Saturday morning. This program is intended to be informal and flexible – you can do what works best for your group of six! Then, in three months, you will be connected with a different group. You can join at any time or take a break when needed.

Sign up at the Welcome Desk. Please contact Larry Moore with questions at [LKMoore1956@gmail.com](mailto:LKMoore1956@gmail.com) or 317-777-1074. Groups will be formed for a first meal together at the beginning of October.

*from Larry and Mary Moore*



## Book Group for Mathew Desmond's *Poverty, By America*

Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance is planning a book read for September and October of Matthew Desmond's *Poverty, By America* with a community capstone event at the end of October to discuss how poverty is present in Bloomington. Matthew Desmond received a Pulitzer Prize for his earlier book, *Evicted*. His books are both well researched and readable. He wrote this book to answer the question, "Why is there so much poverty in America?" He looks at the history of poverty in our country as well as the current situation. And he connects the dots to dig deep into why poverty continues. A system maintains this situation, and some people benefit from the system. And the reality is often not what we have been told. We can be part of the solution if we can see the problem clearly and honestly. And if we want the status quo to change.

At least five faith congregations will be leading book groups that will meet at different times and will be open to all. I will be leading a group for St. Thomas and Trinity Episcopal Church on Zoom, at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, starting September 6. We will meet September 6, 13, 20, 27 and October 4, and 18. Contact me [via email](#) if you are interested. Click [here](#) to see the complete listing of participating churches and the times and locations for their book groups.

*from Ellen Mills*

## You're invited to the September Mission Committee meeting!

We're a bunch of lively, interesting people who are committed to helping St. Thomas live out its values in the community and the world. If you'd like to see whether the committee is a good fit for you, please visit our meeting on **Monday, September 11 at 7 p.m.** on [Zoom](#).

## Property Committee Work Days

This month the Property Committee meets **Saturday September 9, and Tuesday September 19 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.** to paint, caulk, fix light bulbs, and a wide variety of other small jobs—many of them outdoors. Feel free to join us! For more information contact Sam Eichmiller at 812-797-2807.



## Altar Flowers

Flowers bring the beauty of creation to our worship. To reserve an arrangement, contact the church office [via email](#) or sign the sheet on the bulletin board by the coat room by Wednesday each week. The Flower Guild makes the arrangements, and you may take the flowers home after the second worship service and then return the vase later. Each arrangement costs \$20, with "flowers" in the check memo line.



## Coffee Crew

Are you not yourself without a morning brew? Do you enjoy conversation over a steaming cuppa? We need dedicated volunteers to set out coffee on Sunday mornings or to clean up afterwards--using our new drip brewing system (It works like your pot at home! We're affectionately calling it the Bob Cutter Brewing System, remembering our beloved friend whose memorial donations made this purchase possible). If you are able to give 30 minutes once a month, please sign up at the Welcome Desk. Training is available.

## Prayer Chain

The Swiss theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar once said, "the most we can do through genuine prayer, is to make as much room as possible, in ourselves and in the world, for the kingdom of God, so that its energies can go to work." We invite you to be part of a little group making room in the world for God to work in people's lives. When prayer requests come, we receive an email and pause to pray. Occasionally we receive an update about those we hold in prayer. If you are interested in joining us, [email](#) Susan Colston.

## Prayer Requests

Martin Luther said, "Pray, and let God worry." When something worries you, others can carry you along in prayer. Send requests for prayer to Susan Colston [via email](#).



## ELCA Requests Input--Future Church: God's Love Made Real

We become church together by listening to and learning from one another – will you help? By filling out a new survey, you can assist the ELCA churchwide organization in learning more about our church, what is strong and what needs to grow, so it can better serve our congregations and the world. Your responses will guide us toward a world experiencing the difference that God's grace and love in Christ make for all people and creation.

Visit [lovemadereal.elca.org](http://lovemadereal.elca.org) to take the [survey](#) and share your views on the church and the world today. Your participation will help us move together as the Spirit leads us. [Learn more](#).

# Lutheran Campus Ministry at IU



For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

(Matthew 25:35-36)

Matthew 25:35-36 is our highlighted Bible verse for this year's Tuesday evening Dinner & Devotions: Scripture & Service gatherings. Following our meal together, our group will be focusing on this text and additional passages in the Gospels in which Jesus demonstrates what it looks like to live this passage. As we explore the texts deeper, we will discern various ways we might also live this passage helping others both physically and spiritually.

In order to quickly connect our readings with our real lives, each week we will be introduced to a non-profit organization around the Bloomington area, or one involved with the ELCA, and complete a hands-on service project for them based on their needs/wish list. In addition to our Tuesday evening sessions, students (and any others that are interested in joining along) will be invited to participate in further projects directly with the organization, some of which will be facilitated through Rose House LuMin.

If you are passionate about a Bloomington non-profit or an ELCA cause and would like to help Rose House by sharing your knowledge of the organization's history, purpose, wish list or project ideas, please contact Pastor Amanda. Together we can inspire this generation of college students to see many of the ways God is moving in the world and that they can really make a difference. May God be with you and bless you all.

Peace,

Pr. Amanda Ghaffarian (She/Her)

Rose House LuMin Campus Minister

[lutheran@indiana.edu](mailto:lutheran@indiana.edu)



# Caring for Our Neighbors

## From Our Mission Partner, Naomi Sveholm

The days are still sticky and hot, solidly clinging to summer. Where I grew up, with school days that sometimes started late from the cold, some school days here end early from heat. I'm glad we are not quite back to school as I write this, because I'm not sleeping well; neither is our 5-year-old, who usually wakes up hot at some point and pads across the apartment to sleep the rest of the night in the big bed.

Our summer has been full. We sent three teachers and the church pastor's family back to the US (which involved some apartment cleaning and preparation) and greeted a new pastor couple plus a new teacher and their spouse. Fresh from a course on teaching English, the new teacher needed less of an orientation than some, but orientation was a week to share Slovak specifics and get tapped into networks and resources, including time with colleagues and students, a brief introduction to the Slovak language, and a walking tour featuring communist history and architecture.

Teachers are back in school August 24, students September 4. The start of an academic or calendar year is always bittersweet. This year marks a dramatic shift: the longest-serving CETs (at 12 and 13 years) have now left the program, and the English library at school will feel empty without the presence of its long-term librarian. In fact, my family becomes the longest-serving current CETs at six years. And yet...this year also brings the return of a dear friend, students I have missed now returning to my classroom, both children advancing a class in school, energetic newcomers, and always, always partners to share the experience.

A refrain through my time and how I frame orientation has been "remember your resources" - materials shared, the internet and AI tools, and most importantly, the community. Although the community is transient, its heart remains solid and genuine, with the mission of accompaniment readily present: mutuality, inclusivity, vulnerability, empowerment, and sustainability. As stated in an ELCA resource on accompaniment, "Accompaniment bears fruit when we truly walk the road together. The Accompaniment Values come into play when we have to make decisions, share resources, recognize expertise, tell stories, and build networks as we engage God's mission."

Thanks be to God!

Naomi and Nick Sveholm teach English at a bilingual high school in Bratislava, Slovakia with ELCA's Central Europe Teachers program. CET posts twice a week at [www.facebook.com/elcacet](https://www.facebook.com/elcacet) and [www.instagram.com/elcacet](https://www.instagram.com/elcacet)





**NEWHOPE**  
FOR FAMILIES

## **New Hope for Families**

New Hope for Families is a family shelter and childcare/education center to fight homelessness in Bloomington with the goal of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-repeating.

Immediate Needs for September include:

- Pull-ups (any sizes)
- Shampoo and conditioner
- Toilet paper

Donations can be placed on the new shelving unit in the narthex, or money can be given via check to St. Thomas with "New Hope for Families" in the memo. Thanks for standing in the gap for these local families in need.

## **Monroe County United Ministries**

MCUM reports that their current needs include: ramen noodles, pasta/potato sides, helper meals, and canned fruit. Donations can be placed on the new shelving unit in the narthex, or money can be given via check to St. Thomas with "MCUM" in the memo.



mcum

The upcoming Worship Leader Schedule is now available to view online!  
<https://bit.ly/3yuPusf>

Let us know about any issues with the dates you have been scheduled, or if you wish to volunteer.

Due Date for **printed** Weekly Announcements: **Wednesdays.**

Due Date for **emailed** Weekly Announcements: **Thursdays.**

Due Date for **October Newsletter** Articles:  
**Thursday September 21, 2023.**

Unsubscribe from this list or update your preferences by emailing:  
[parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org)

## St. Thomas Lutheran Church

### Regular Sunday Schedule

(see each Sunday for additional events)

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School (starting 9/10)

11 a.m. Worship

**Pastor Adrienne and Pastor Lecia  
Out of the Office**

**Thursday September 14,  
Monday September 25,  
and Tuesday September 26.**

**Erica Out of the Office  
Wednesday September 13,  
and Thursday September 21.**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>All dates and times are subject to change. Please confirm via the online church calendar: <a href="https://stlconline.org/about/news/">https://stlconline.org/about/news/</a></b>						1
3 9:45 a.m. Potluck Brunch 2:30 p.m. Bach Cantata	4 Office Closed for Labor Day	5 6:30 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting	6 12 p.m. Prayer at Noon on Zoom	7 7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal	8	9 10 a.m. Property Committee Work Day
10 9:45 a.m. Gather Bible Study 4 p.m. Pie with the Pastors	11 10 a.m. Worship at Redbud Hills 1 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study 7 p.m. Mission Committee Meeting	12 6 p.m. Word in the Woods 7 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting	13 5:15 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting	14 7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal	15	16
17 12:30 p.m. Council Meeting	18 9:45 a.m. Worship at Bell Trace 1 p.m. Pastor's Bible Study	19 10 a.m. Property Committee Work Day 7 p.m. Movie Screening "Reel Injuns"	20	21 7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal	22 Office Closed	23
24 Receive New Members in Worship	25	26	27	28 7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal	29	30

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

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*Partners in ministry with*  
**Lutheran Church of  
the Living Waters**  
Cherokee, North Carolina

*Linked with*  
**Sister Parish**  
Iglesia Santo Domingo  
de Guzman, Chichipate  
Parish of San Pedro, El Estor,  
Izabal, Guatemala

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Children's Choir Director

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

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