



## 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!

### March 2025

XLVII Issue 3

#### From the Senior Pastor

I meet monthly with a Spiritual Director. I started meeting with Heidi right after I started at a lovely new congregation in the midst of the pandemic. After I'd moved my family across three states (in the middle of a pandemic). And after I'd had a period of healing from our NICU experience. I wanted to be able to talk with someone about where God was in the midst of everything I was experiencing. I also needed help finding spiritual practices that grounded me, rather than tasks that were for the purpose of helping my ministry, at least in part because I believe that having my own spiritual reality apart from my ministry makes my ministry better. I needed a new framework for my spiritual self-care. In our Lenten devotion, [Sacred Self-Care, Dr. Chanequa Walker-Barnes](#) encourages us "to think of self-care as both a divine right and a sacred obligation."

As we prepared for this year's emphasis on mental health, we learned, as I shared before, that the image of God can be either a protective factor for our mental health or a risk factor ([here's an even better](#)

#### What the Senior Pastor is Reading

[The Last Cuentista by Donna Barba Higuera](#)

I picked up this Newberry Medal winner at Hope's recommendation. It is the story of humanity after the destruction of the planet and the young storyteller who fights against a tyrannical group that believes humanity's sins will be erased when humanity's past is erased, and everyone is the same. Admittedly, I love a dystopian novel, but what I loved most about this book was the redemptive power of story and the strong, indigenous young woman at the center of the tale.

[overview](#)). Self-care and spiritual disciplines can also be a protective factor and part of a healing regimen. Self-care is an invitation to wholeness: body, mind, spirit, heart; physical, intellectual, spiritual, emotional, social.

Self-care and spiritual disciplines are a matter of discernment. In my work with my spiritual director, one thing I've had to let go of is that this is the *right* way to go about this. For me it sounded like "get up early, read a lot of the bible, and pray, sitting in silence, for a long time without ever being distracted." What it has become is reading devotionally from a whole variety of interesting sources, praying the Lord's Prayer as I go to bed, sharing grace with kids at each meal, finding unique Advent and Lent devotions to share with my family, taking social media and Amazon fasts, using guided meditations when I'm feeling overwhelmed, making time and space for art, and going to Bible Study (which, yes, is "work" for me, and also so very life-giving).

On Ash Wednesday, you will be invited into Lent and its disciplines. Because one of the disciplines is fasting, it can be easy to hear all disciplines in this way, as a giving up, as a sacrifice. Perhaps, instead, we might consider these 40 days as an invitation into wholeness: ours, our community's, creation's. To that end, I hope you'll attend the mini-retreat on March 2, pick up a household copy of *Sacred Self-Care*, attend the adult forum's *Animate: Practices* sessions in March and April, and attend worship throughout the season of Lent—Sundays at 8:30 or 11 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. as well as the special services for Ash Wednesday, Holy Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil, which you can read more about in this and next month's newsletter.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pr. Adrienne".

Pastor Adrienne

One more thing—I am always happy to meet with you! You can schedule an appointment to meet with me [here](#) or by contacting the church office.

## From the Pastor of Youth and Christian Nurture

It is said that laughter is the best medicine. While there is definitely a need and a time for pharmaceutical interventions, when I am overwhelmed by life, I laugh a lot less. While a good laugh doesn't fix everything, it all feels a bit lighter and a little less to carry for a while.

This is the hope of self-care - finding a way to care for yourself so that we are better able to live in the world. True self-care (not just the commodified version) is a counter-cultural act. It takes our call to care for all of God's creation and remembers that God also created each one of us. It acknowledges that loving others and working for justice and peace are hard and draining, so we must make sure we are rested and filled so we can persevere.

On **Sunday, March 2**, we will engage our theme for Lent, Sacred Self-Care, at the mini-retreat between services. Among other self-guided practices to try, you are invited to laugh with us. At 10:10, Deacon Allison will lead us in a brief session of Laughter Yoga. I anticipate feeling awkward and unsure as I try this. I may even feel a bit ridiculous and self-conscious, yet I hope this bit of levity will help us breathe deeply and let go of all that is weighing us down, even if just for a few minutes.

Your partner in ministry,

*Pastor Lucia*

Pastor Lecia



## Stewardship Corner

### From the Finance Committee

*We are grateful to those who have made additional gifts to support our congregation and its ministries. Please note that gifts offered for specific ministries or mission partners are held in our congregation's restricted funds for their specified purpose and do not affect the general fund nor our congregation's daily expenses.*

Financial status at the end of January 2025:

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$69,309.04	14.71%	14.84%
<b>Expenses</b>	\$46,941.92	9.95%	10.40%
<b>Net Income</b>	\$22,367.12		\$20,432.97

Click [here](#) to give to St. Thomas.

## **Church Maintenance Strategy**

At St. Thomas, maintenance is managed by the Property Committee. Most of the routine maintenance, such as replacing lights, minor repairs, and painting, is done on Property workdays by volunteers. Heavier maintenance, such as replacing water heaters or HVAC units, requires hiring contractors. Some non-urgent maintenance items must be deferred, meaning action is postponed.

Maintenance deferrals can occur for a variety of reasons:

- **Budget Constraints:** Budget limitations prioritize immediate needs over routine maintenance.
- **Resource Allocation:** Limited manpower and resources may necessitate the deferral of non-urgent maintenance tasks. Weather can also be a factor for outside items.
- **Emergencies and Prioritization:** Unforeseen emergencies may shift focus and resources away from routine maintenance activities and minor inconveniences may result.

The implications of deferring maintenance in churches can be far-reaching:

- **Increased Costs:** Minor issues left unattended can escalate into major problems, necessitating more expensive repairs or replacements.
- **Operational Inefficiencies:** Church buildings and infrastructure may operate less efficiently, leading to increased energy consumption and reduced functionality.
- **Safety Risks:** Deferred maintenance can result in hazardous conditions, posing safety risks to congregants and visitors.
- **Reduced Lifespan:** Church properties may experience a shortened operational life due to neglect and wear, leading to premature replacement needs.

Deferred maintenance can be observed in various aspects of church properties:

- **Structural Issues:** Roofs, foundations, and walls often suffer from delayed upkeep, resulting in deteriorated conditions and safety hazards.
- **HVAC Systems:** Heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems may be temporarily fixed, rather than replaced, leading to uncomfortable conditions and higher energy costs.
- **Electrical and Plumbing:** Churches may delay maintenance on electrical and plumbing systems, causing disruptions and potential hazards. We delayed changing lamps in the Sanctuary due to the cost of renting a lift.
- **One example at St. Thomas** involves the concrete squares just west of the Sanctuary. These are uneven and should be straightened or replaced as they could be hazardous. Fixing these, however, requires expertise and manpower that is not easily found in our volunteers, or requires significant funds for a contractor to tear out and replace. Possible alterations to the configuration are being considered rather than simple replacement in order to lower the costs by making it less likely to shift or by reducing the amount of concrete.

Effective management of maintenance involves several strategies:

- Regular Inspections: Conducting routine inspections helps identify issues early and address them before they escalate.
- Prioritization: Assessing the criticality of maintenance tasks and prioritizing them based on urgency and impact.
- Budgeting and Planning: Allocating funds and resources for maintenance activities in the budget planning process, in the use of Restricted Funds, and in Capital campaigns.
- Preventive Maintenance: Implementing preventive maintenance programs to regularly service and maintain church properties, reducing the likelihood of major issues.
- Risk Management: Evaluating the risks associated with deferred maintenance and developing mitigation plans.

Maintenance in the church is a complex issue that requires careful consideration and strategic planning by the Property Committee with the Council. While postponing maintenance tasks can offer short-term financial relief, the long-term consequences can be detrimental to both operations and budgets. By prioritizing maintenance, conducting regular inspections, and allocating adequate resources, St. Thomas can mitigate the risks associated with deferred maintenance and ensure the longevity and efficiency of the property.



## Lent at St. Thomas

### Lent Mini-Retreat & Breakfast

On **Sunday, March 2 from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.**, the Lent Mini-Retreat will kick off a season of Sacred Self-Care as part of the Wholeness Project in Community Hall. We will have copies of [\*Sacred Self-Care by Chanequa Walker-Barnes\*](#) available and activities to dabble in self-care. Come experiment with laughter yoga (at 10:10) or try on some affirmations, and other activities to try at your own pace throughout the hour. Connect with others over breakfast and coffee. Be encouraged in your journey to discern how caring for yourself connects with growing in Christ and what it is you need. This event is for all ages. Children will have the best experience alongside an adult.

### Ash Wednesday Services

Ash Wednesday is March 5. The Psalmist sings, “a broken and contrite heart, God, you will not despise,” and, so, we begin the season of Lent with confession. The imposition of ashes reminds us of our brokenness, our sin, our mortality—but in the symbol that points to wholeness, forgiveness, and resurrection: the cross. **Join us for a spoken service at 12 p.m. in Heritage Hall or a traditional service at 7 p.m. in the Worship Space.** Ashes and communion will be shared at both services.



## Lenten Midweek Services

On Wednesdays in the seasons of Lent, gather in the evenings in prayer and song. Bring readings reflecting our Lenten theme, Sacred Self-Care, will anchor Holden Evening Prayer. Worship begins at 7 p.m. in Heritage Hall.

## Easter Vigil Service of Joy

Be immersed in the story of the church in our **Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19 at 7 p.m.** At this most fun, unique and unexpected worship service of the year, we gather around fire, water, bread and wine to tell the story of salvation. We proclaim the stories of God's faithfulness and salvation throughout history as we proclaim Christ, the one who brings life out of death.

Worship will begin outside as we light the new fire and then move into Heritage Hall for a time of storytelling and Holy Communion. The Easter Vigil includes many stories spanning the Old Testament and we would like your help to tell them! You can tell a story, gather some friends or family members to act it out, sing a song or more. Your story telling is limited only by your creativity! To view the list of stories and sign up, [click here.](#)

**SACRED SELF-CARE**

**LENT AT ST. THOMAS**

Ash Wednesday  
Service of Confession & Forgiveness  
with Imposition of Ashes  
March 5, noon and 7 p.m.

Sundays  
Worship with Holy Communion  
8:30 and 11 a.m.

Lenten Midweek Worship  
with Holden Evening Prayer  
Wednesdays  
7 p.m.

Palm Sunday  
April 13, 8:30 and 11 a.m.

Holy Wednesday Service of Healing  
April 16, 7 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Worship  
April 17, 7 p.m.

Good Friday  
April 18  
Stations of the Cross, Noon  
Service of Darkness, 7 p.m.

Easter Vigil Service of Joy  
April 19, 7 p.m.

Celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord  
April 20, 8:30 and 11 a.m.  
with brunch in between



# Celebrating Our Ministry

## Souper Bowl of Caring

In this year's Souper Bowl of Caring, Rose House came out the victor with 105 boxes of mac and cheese to St. Thomas's 102 cans of Spaghettios. The Golden Charge will grace the Rose House mantel for the coming year until the 2026 rematch! Thanks for all who donated!

**Rose House  
Mac & Cheese**



**Final Score**



**St Thomas  
Spaghettios**



**Souper Bowl of Caring February 9th, 2025**

## Creation Care Calling

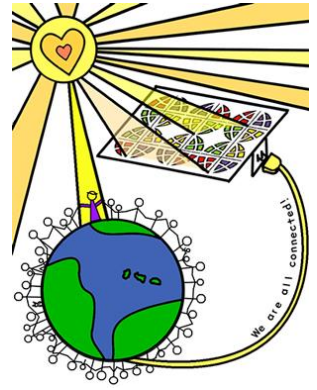
You Are Invited to The National Faith + Climate Forum 2025!

Join faith leaders and community members at St. Thomas for a live watch party of the National Faith + Climate Forum 2025. Experience a day of powerful discussions, engaging workshops, and community building as we explore the intersection of faith and environmental action.

Come and be part of a movement towards sustainable congregational practices and robust community resilience. Let's inspire and support each other in acts of faith that care for creation and advocate for climate justice.

St. Thomas Lutheran Church, **Thursday, March 27, 2025, 12 p.m. to 5:30p.m.** Come for all or part!

Learn more and register [here](#).



St. Thomas Lutheran Church was one of eight [Earth Care Bloomington](#) congregations hosting a February multifaith Stewards of Creation program at Sherwood Oaks Christian Church, where almost forty members of 24 local congregations attended along with 15 clergy (including Pastor Adrienne).

It was inspiring to hear how and why different faith traditions care for creation. We discussed energy conservation, efficiency and solar power from our experience at STLC. Several churches offer [Task of the Month](#), available on the Earth Care website.

When we talk with friends, colleagues and family members about how climate change adversely affects their lives and those of our youth, individually we might not make a big difference, but together we are powerful. Brown and Monroe counties have 12 solar powered houses of worship and many solar owner members. The city of Bloomington is offering \$25,000 grants to churches, businesses and nonprofits getting solar panels.

**Take a simple action now!** If you live in the 9th congressional district, let representative [Erin Houchin](#), who serves on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, know how important federal support for renewable energy is to you. <https://houchin.house.gov/>

*from the Creation Care Committee*



# Calling People of All Ages!

## You're Invited to the National Faith + Climate Forum 2025!

**March 27, 2025**

12 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church**

3800 E. Third St, Bloomington, IN

Join faith leaders and community members at St. Thomas for a live watch party of the **National Faith + Climate Forum 2025**. Experience a day of powerful discussions, engaging workshops, and community building as we explore the intersection of faith and environmental action.

Come and be part of a movement towards sustainable congregational practices and robust community resilience. Let's inspire and support each other in acts of faith that care for creation and advocate for climate justice.

Register and learn more today by scanning the QR code below:

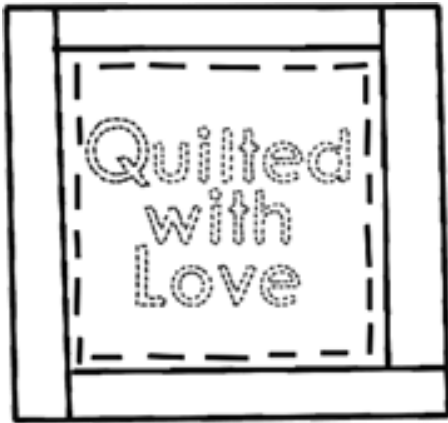


# Upcoming Events



## Daylight Saving Time!

Remember to set your clocks ahead or update your phones so you won't be here an hour late on **Sunday, March 9.**



## St. Thomas Quilters Next Meeting: Saturday, March 1 at 10 a.m.

St. Thomas Quilters are busy making quilts for Lutheran World Relief! We're doing much of the work at home, piecing quilt tops, tying, and cutting squares for more quilts. Some are even making entire quilts at home. If you're interested in helping, we'd love to have you join us on **Saturday, March 1 at 10 a.m.** We could use donations of fabric and clean, flat twin sized bed sheets to be used as quilt backs. Those can be dropped off in the quilt group tote in the coat room at St. Thomas. For more information contact Sharon Fawbush [via email](#).

## Packing Lunches for the Hungry

All are invited to come **Saturday, March 1 at 2 p.m.** to make 100 sandwiches and pack a bag lunch for the hungry folks who are fed at [First Christian Church](#) each Sunday. It is one of the few places open for food to the unhoused on the weekends. Homemade cookies or bars are needed. Please drop off to the kitchen before 2 p.m. A Thrivent grant will cover the cost. Contact [Allison Ward](#) for more information.

## Come Together: News from the Outreach and Community Care Committee

**LuMin Grab & Go Lunch March 9.** We welcomed a large group of hungry students at our lunch cart in February. Look for the sign-up sheet and specific information about donations on the Welcome Desk. Show your support for our IU students.

**Readers Tea Returns, Thursday, March 20, at 3 p.m.** Join us in the church library for tea and good conversation about the books you're reading and the books you love. Bring a book or two to swap, if you'd like.





## Rose House LuMin Chili Cook-Off

On **Sunday March 9 at 12 p.m.**, Rose House LuMin will be hosting its second Annual Chili Cook Off to help raise funds to support our campus ministry and improvements at Rose House. New this year we will also be having a Silent Auction featuring gifts of time donated by students including but not limited to: up to 8 hours of Babysitting for up to 5 children, fresh baked cookies on a date of your choice, a Saturday Afternoon Spring Clutter Cleanout/Organize, and some Mystery Boxes (wrapped items that you won't know what you win until you win it). Please sign up at the Welcome Desk if you would like to compete in the chili competition. There will be multiple ways to win this year. All are welcome to come and eat. Free will offering will be accepted.

## Bloomington Bach Cantata Project

Members of the St. Thomas community are warmly invited to the fifteenth season's performances by the Bloomington Bach Cantata Project. They present cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach in performances modeled on his own; each concert includes a performance, a short talk about the day's cantata, and a second performance in which everyone can hear new and different things.

This month features the final performances of the 2024-2025 season with "Christen, ätztet diesen Tag" BWV 63, directed by Curtis Foster on **Sunday, March 2, at 2:30 p.m.**, and "Was frag ich nach der Welt?" BWV 94, directed by Steven Warnock on **Sunday, March 30, at 2:30 p.m.**



# Sister Parish Delegation

Please pray for those traveling on this month's delegation and the Guatemalan hosts; may their week together be filled with understanding, connection, and solidarity. St. Thomas's delegates are: Peter Iversen (coordinator), Gretchen Moehlmann, Arno Risner, Allison Ward, Jim Ward, Mike Witt, Pr. Lecia Beck, Pr. Amanda Ghaffarian, and Pr. Adrienne Meier.



These delegations build and strengthen cross-cultural bonds, deepening relationships that transcend borders.

At the same time, we must remain aware of critical programs at risk of being cut. Recent U.S. investments through USAID empower indigenous communities by strengthening democratic institutions, improving farming opportunities, and expanding financial access in rural areas like Chichipate. The potential loss of these programs would immediately impact the people of Guatemala.

May God grant all of us the wisdom to know how best to work together in advocacy and prayer to ensure that love for our neighbors prevails.



## Christian Nurture

### Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School classes on **Sunday, March 16** due to Spring Break.

### Sundays in the Adult Forum

Throughout the season of Lent, explore core practices of the Christian faith to enrich your faith with *Animate: Practice*. These sessions will feature brief videos from well-known theologians such as Phyllis Tickle, Shane Claiborne, and Brian McLaren before turning to discussion. The adult forum will welcome the High School Youth and Confirmation Class for these sessions, which will surely be enhanced by intergenerational conversation. There will be no session on Sunday, March 16.



### **Prayer at Noon on Zoom No March meeting due to Ash**

**Wednesday.** 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 gathering will be **Wednesday, April 2 at 12 p.m.** on [Zoom](#). There will be no Prayer at Noon on Zoom in March.

### **Worship at Redbud Hills & Bell Trace**

St. Thomas members and friends at Redbud Hills are invited to join us in the chapel for worship on **Monday, March 10 at 10 a.m.** Members and friends at Bell Trace will have a special date for March, to be announced, as Pr. Adrienne will be in Guatemala during our usual time.

### **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!

- March 2: Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21; and Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Romans 10:8b-13; Luke 4:1-13
- March 10: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18; Psalm 27; Philippians 3:17-4:1; Luke 13:31-35
- March 17: **NO BIBLE STUDY** (but the text would be Isaiah 55:1-9; Psalm 63:1-8; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13:1-9)
- March 24: Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 5:16-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
- April 1: Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

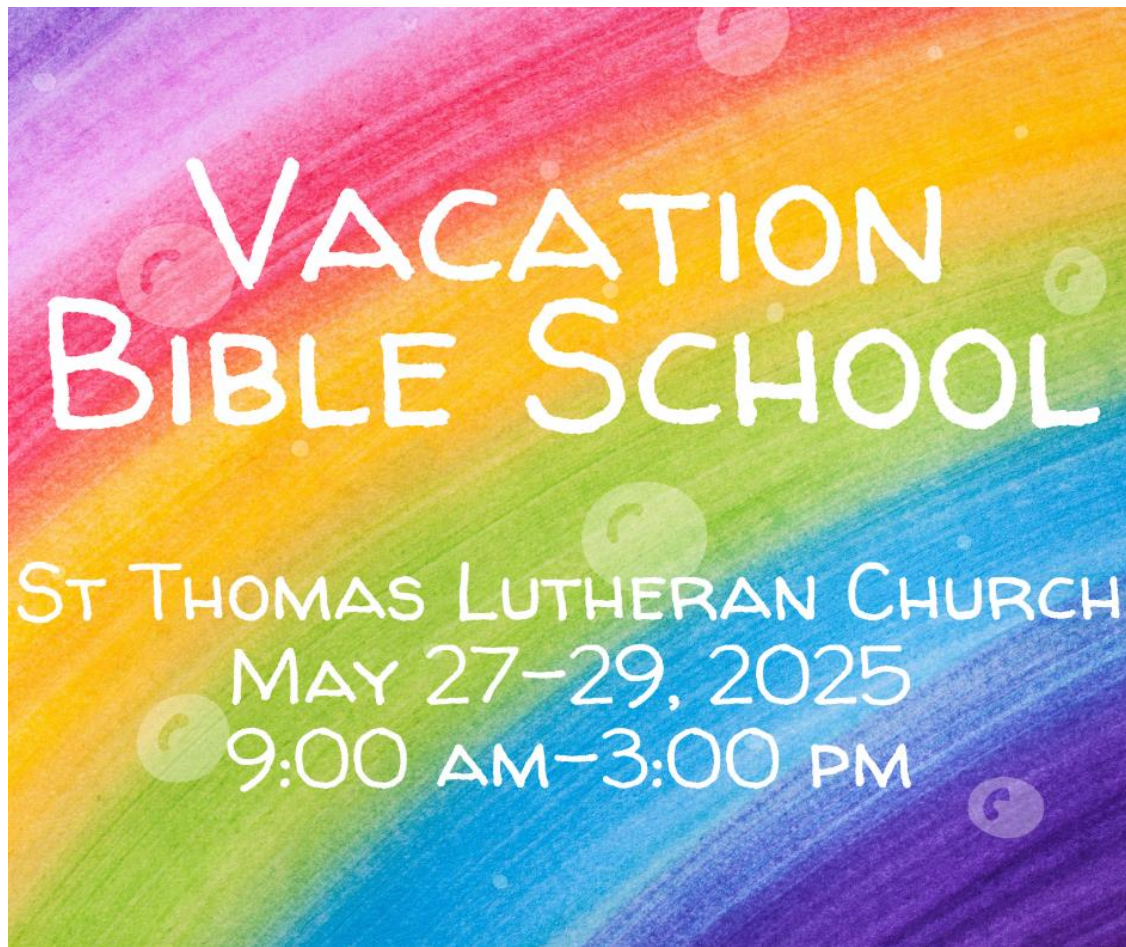
### **Summer Camp with LOMIK**

Camp is a place to grow in faith! For many youth, camp activities in a Christ-centered community creates a way for faith to take deeper root in their lives. Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Indiana-Kentucky has camps for children entering first grade through twelfth grade. [Registration is open now!](#)



**Students entering sixth through ninth grade are going to Lutheran Hills for Confirmation Camp July 6-11, 2025.** St. Thomas will contribute \$100 towards registration for each of our students. [You can register through LOMIK.](#)





## Ministry Opportunities for Getting Involved

### The Easter Bunny Needs Helpers!

The Mission Committee at St. Thomas Lutheran and the Outreach Committee at Trinity Episcopal Church are working together to provide Easter baskets for 100 children living in Middle Way, New Hope for Families, and Crawford shelters. The baskets are for children (ages 0 – 17) whose families have experienced homelessness or housing instability and who are currently living in supported housing. During Lent there will be a collection box in the narthex for small new items like toys, coloring books, card games, and stuffed bunnies to fill the baskets. The baskets and candy will be purchased separately. We especially need items for babies and teens. Parishioners can shop locally or online from our [Amazon wish list](#). Items will be collected throughout Lent. We will gather for an all-ages basket assembly project on the afternoon of Palm Sunday!



## Calling All Crafters: Handmade Lenten Baby Blanket Project

The Mission Committee is seeking handmade baby blankets of all types to include in the Easter baskets for the babies and toddlers. The blankets can be knitted, crocheted, quilted, sewn, or knotted using fleece. If you would like to participate but don't have the materials or experience, there are a few kits available in the church office for easy knotted fleece blankets. We need about twenty blankets by April 13. Questions? Please contact [Susan Kinzer](#).



## Property Committee Work Days

Help with manual tasks such as decluttering, painting, occasional cleaning, or tasks that require special expertise such as electrical, plumbing, or drywall work. Join a work day on the second Saturday or third Tuesday every month.

## Prayer Chain

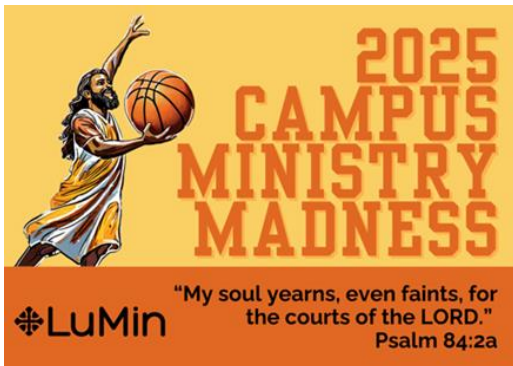
The Swiss theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar once said, "the most we can do through genuine prayer, is to make as much room as possible, in ourselves and in the world, for the kingdom of God, so that its energies can go to work." We invite you to be part of a little group making room in the world for 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](#).



# Lutheran Campus Ministry at IU



This March, [the LuMin Network](#) will be sharing impact stories from campus ministries across the country in celebration of March being the unofficial campus ministry month in the ELCA. These stories give glimpses into the lives of students, alumni, and organizations that have been transformed through their connections and involvement with LuMin campus ministries. Rose House will be sharing a selection of these stories on our social media pages during the month, but you will be able to read them all on [the LuMin Network's website](#).

Also, in celebration of the unofficial campus ministry month, Rose House will be participating in two events to help raise funds to support our ministry and updates to Rose House. The first event is a four-week March Ministry Madness Challenge where we are competing against campus ministries at other universities to try to win a \$2500 prize for our ministry. More details about this challenge and how you can participate will be shared on **Sunday, March 9 at our Lutheran Campus Ministry's Second Annual Chili Cook Off.** The Chili Cook Off will take place at St.

Thomas starting at 12 p.m., after second service. This year we will have a Silent Auction alongside our Chili Challenge. If you are interested in

entering a chili, please sign up on the sign-up sheet at the Welcome Desk. Prizes will be awarded and there will be multiple ways to win! If you are interested in donating something for the silent auction, please speak with or email Pastor Amanda at [lutheran@iu.edu](mailto:lutheran@iu.edu) by March 6. Thank you for your support and please invite your friends to come with you to eat delicious chili and learn about campus ministry.



Peace,  
[Pr. Amanda Ghaffarian](mailto:lutheran@iu.edu) (She/Her)  
Rose House LuMin Campus Minister

## Caring for Our Neighbors

### New Hope for Families

When families with children are experiencing homelessness, one of the ways [New Hope for Families](#) welcomes them into their shelter is by supplying them with fresh clean sheets, towels, toiletries and other items they need to make this place feel comfortable, peaceful, and safe. They rely on donations of new and gently used items to provide this important support to the families they serve."

Immediate needs: bath towels, baby wipes (unscented), toothpaste (any) and toothbrushes (adult), diapers (sizes 3-8) and pull-ups (any size).

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



**NEW HOPE**  
FOR FAMILIES



## Living Lutheran Subscriptions and Financial Support

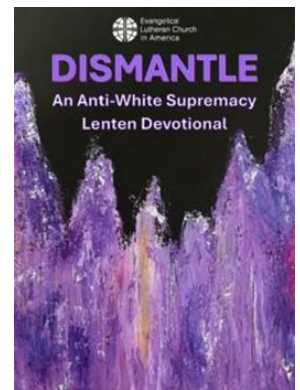


The ELCA publication *Living Lutheran* provides news about the ELCA and its local and global companions. It covers religious news and social issues, congregational life, global and domestic mission, family matters, spiritual practices and resources, and more. The *Living Lutheran* is

back in print! Because this was not in our 2025 budget, a generous donor has covered a year's subscription for St. Thomas households who attend 50% of the time or more as well as new members and shut-ins. If you value this resource and would like to share it with other St. Thomas families, consider a small donation that will help us provide the subscription this year and allow us to gradually increase the budget line. Each subscription costs \$17 per family (which provides a \$2 discount). If you had planned to subscribe, consider donating your full subscription price to St. Thomas; we'll cover your subscription and the extra donation will provide for another family! [Donate here](#) or with a check marked "Living Lutheran."

## Looking for additional Lent devotional materials?

["Dismantle: An Anti-White Supremacy Lenten Devotional"](#) This devotional was created in response to the call of the 2019 Churchwide Assembly to condemn white supremacy and racist rhetoric. As you journey through Lent, this resource will challenge you and bring you closer to the radical neighbor-love that Christ demands in the Gospels.



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 **April Newsletter** Articles:  
**Thursday, March 20.**

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

# Art and Essay Contest

## How does diversity make our community stronger?

**Grades K-6      Submission Deadline: **March 12, 2025****

A diverse group includes many different kinds of people from many different backgrounds. Diversity allows us to learn about different viewpoints, and it helps create a more inclusive environment where everyone is valued.

How do you think diversity makes Bloomington stronger? What are your positive experiences with diversity?

Create an art piece or a short essay (1 page maximum) to share your perspective and win five WonderLab passes!

Send submissions to [human.rights@bloomington.in.gov](mailto:human.rights@bloomington.in.gov), or drop them off at City Hall (401 N. Morton St.) with "Attention: Human Rights Commission."







- Everyday Practice / Private Lessons / Ensemble
- Interactive Group Classes / Music Skills Classes
- Craft Making, Games, Activities
- Guest Recitals and Mini Lectures / Students Recital



# Prepare



## in a Year

### Step 2: Important Documents



After a major disaster, you may need financial assistance and will want to document any property loss for insurance and income tax purposes. Having ready access to the documents necessary for completing application forms, as well as those which could be difficult to replace, will help reduce delay and frustration.

#### **Checklist of important household documents:**

Use a scanner or your cell phone's camera to take pictures of these important items and then put them on an encrypted flash drive. Password protection is important because you don't want private information to fall into someone's hands by accident.

- Property insurance papers (home, renter's, auto, boat, etc.) and make copies.
- Gather health insurance papers (medical provider, dental provider, life, extended disability, etc.) and make copies.
- Gather financial papers (bank, investment, retirement, etc.) and make copies.
- Gather wills, powers of attorney, and estate papers and make copies.
- Take photos or videos of all valuables as documentation for insurance claims.

If you have physical copies, store these copies and photos in a safe deposit box or a fireproof box.

#### **Checklist of important personal documents:**

- Household (anything to help identify people in your household, children, pets): marriage/birth/death certificates, passport, social security cards, driver's licenses, green card, pet microchip information.
- Financial (anything to help you request insurance and disaster assistance after a disaster): lease/home ownership, vehicle registration, title, loan, utility bills, proof of address, banking accounts, retirement/investment accounts, insurance policies — home, auto, renter's, life, flood, sources of income-paystubs, proof of employer.
- Medical: health/dental insurance, medicare, medicaid, Veteran's benefits, lists of medications, doctor office phone numbers, medical power of attorney, disabilities documentation.
- Emergency contact info: doctor office, dental office, pediatricians, pet vets, employer, supervisor, schools.
- Valuables: photos of valuables, copies of family photos, photos of home.

**QUICK TIP:** Strengthen your financial preparedness for disasters and emergencies by downloading FEMA's Emergency Financial First Aid Kit at <http://bit.ly/EFFAK1>



# March 2025

## St. Thomas Lutheran Church

### Regular Sunday Schedule\*

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Adult Forum

11 a.m. Worship

\*see each Sunday for additional events

### Staff Out of Office

Pastor Adrienne and Pastor Lecia

Friday March 14  
through

Sunday March 23

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>All dates and times are subject to change.</b> <b>Please confirm via the online church calendar:</b> <a href="https://stlconline.org/about/news/">https://stlconline.org/about/news/</a>						<sup>1</sup> 10 am St Thomas Quilters 2 pm Packing Lunches for the Hungry
<sup>2</sup> 2:30 pm Bach Cantata Project	<sup>3</sup> 1 pm Pastor's Bible Study	<sup>4</sup> 7 pm Mission Committee Meeting	<sup>5</sup> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 12 pm Worship Service 7 pm Worship Service	<sup>6</sup> 5:30 pm Brown Bag Dinner 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<sup>7</sup>	<sup>8</sup> 10 am Property Committee Work Day
<sup>9</sup> <b>Daylight Saving Time Begins</b> 9:30 am LuMin Grab & Go Lunch 12 pm Rose House LuMin Chili Cook Off 12 pm LuMin Grab & Go Lunch	<sup>10</sup> 10 am Worship at Redbud Hills 1 pm Pastor's Bible Study	<sup>11</sup> 7 pm Finance Committee Meeting	<sup>12</sup> 7 pm Lenten Evening Worship	<sup>13</sup> 5:30 pm Brown Bag Dinner 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<sup>14</sup>	<sup>15</sup>
<sup>16</sup> <b>No Sunday School</b>	<sup>17</sup> <b>No Bible Study</b>	<sup>18</sup> 10 am Property Committee Work Day	<sup>19</sup> 7 pm Lenten Evening Worship	<sup>20</sup> <b>No Choir</b> 3 pm Readers Tea	<sup>21</sup>	<sup>22</sup>
<sup>23</sup>	<sup>24</sup> 1 pm Pastor's Bible Study	<sup>25</sup>	<sup>26</sup> 7 pm Lenten Evening Worship	<sup>27</sup> 12 pm National Faith + Climate Forum 5:30 pm Brown Bag Dinner 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	<sup>28</sup>	<sup>29</sup>
<sup>30</sup> 12:15 pm Council Meeting 2:30 pm Bach Cantata Project	<sup>31</sup> 1 pm Pastor's Bible Study	<b>All dates and times are subject to change.</b> <b>Please confirm via the online church calendar:</b> <a href="https://stlconline.org/about/news/">https://stlconline.org/about/news/</a>				

## ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

*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

*In covenant with*  
**Lutheran Campus Ministry  
at Indiana University**  
Rev. Amanda Ghaffarian  
Campus Pastor  
[lutheran@indiana.edu](mailto:lutheran@indiana.edu)  
Phone: (812) 333-2474  
[lcmiu.org](http://lcmiu.org)

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

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

Erica Whichello  
Parish Administrator  
[parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org)

Matthew Benkert  
Director of Music and Organist  
[directorofmusic@stlconline.org](mailto:directorofmusic@stlconline.org)

Ben Wegner  
Adult Choir Director  
[choir@stlconline.org](mailto:choir@stlconline.org)

Melissa de Graaf  
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!**