



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!

October 2025

XLVII Issue 9

From the Senior Pastor

When I was a kid, I prayed for my three goldfish, by name. They were on a long list of relationships tacked onto the end of a "Now I lay me down to sleep prayer." Like most of us, I was taught *intercessory prayer* - prayer for others. In fact, this was the primary kind of prayer I was taught to pray, behind rote prayers like the Lord's Prayer and a table grace. We should pray for others, and I know folks who are exceptional at this work. But how do we pray when we do not know how to pray? How do we pray when we are afraid, angry, concerned for the future? How do we pray when stress and anxiety turn our mind away from prayer?

That last question is particularly true for me: when worry about the world consumes me, I turn to prayer, but sometimes struggle to sustain it. Prayer as conscious thought—words spoken as if aloud, but in my head—is difficult to follow through to the end. There are so many needs, and I am often at a loss to even imagine the desired outcome (which is, admittedly unnecessary in prayer, but oddly necessary for having complete thoughts). I feel compelled by Scripture's statements that I should pray for my enemies, but I cannot find the words.

But prayer is not a single-form endeavor. Intercessory prayer is important (it is in a central position in our weekly worship), but it is not the only way to pray, nor is it the only way to pray for others.

When my prayer life is out-of-whack, one of the first things I do is to go back to basics: I end every day with the Lord's Prayer. I bless every meal I consume. This is like picking up a phone and hearing a dial tone (oof, that's a dated metaphor!), or answering a phone call and hearing the static of a real connection. Entering into prayer, even with

What the Senior Pastor is Reading

[Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community by Pádraig Ó Tuama](#)

This is such a slim and simple book of prayers – some daily prayers, some for particular occasions or needs, but the center 30 days of prayer are a treasure. The St. Thomas staff uses this devotion to enter into prayer before our meetings. Like Ó Tuama's poetry, the prayers are direct and thoughtful and invite further reflection.

simple, memorized prayers, is to confess a simple belief: God listens to prayer. When I get distracted in prayer, tempted to count unfinished prayers as ineffective prayer, remembering that God listens to prayer is powerful.

I turned to prayer when the news was bad, and I'd looked at it too close to bedtime, too close to commuting, too close to any time where I'm going to be alone with my thoughts. Single word prayers bring me back to myself, to where I can rest at peace in God. "Peace, peace," I pray. "Wholeness, wholeness," each syllable an in, an out of a breath. And when the worries bubble up, I come back to one word. (Of course, prayer is a complement, but not a substitute to the mental health care many of us rightly, and faithfully, rely on).

We live in anxious times—everything is running, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. This is a time to turn to prayer, which I have come to think of like the safe harbor described in Psalm 107, where sailors, seeing God in the deep and the wind and the waves of the sea, called to God, who stilled the storm, quieted the sea and "brought them to their desired haven." Even when prayer brings no apparent change to the world around us, it can change us, first, by offering a harbor of peace.

In peace,

P. 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](#).

Pastor Adrienne will be out of the office Monday October 13 through Sunday October 19.

Limited Office Hours

Erica will be out of the office starting Monday October 6. The church office will be open limited hours Monday October 6 through Thursday October 9, and closed Friday October 10. Normal office hours (M-F 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) will resume Monday October 13.

From the Pastor of Youth and Christian Nurture

As good Lutheran Christians, every year we celebrate the Reformation. Growing up as a Lutheran, this was just part of our annual pattern like Thanksgiving or Memorial Day. In fact, I was in college before I realized that not everyone celebrated Reformation Day like we do! As a child, I remember hearing about how the Catholic church was wrong and celebrating Luther's courage to break free. As a young adult, I saw Reformation celebrations that were simply celebrations of German heritage.

I am glad to see our celebrations change. Perhaps we have finally realized that the Catholic church underwent its own Counter Reformation with the Council of Trent in 1545. Perhaps we are learning that you don't have to be German (or Scandinavian) in order to properly be Lutheran. To properly celebrate the Reformation in 2025, I think we must ask what it means for us today. What is crying out to be reformed? And we miss the point if we only think it's others who need to be reformed. We must always be asking what Reformation is needed in our nation, in our church, in our congregation, and in ourselves. That may be the truest celebration of the Reformation. We trust that God will continue to reform (and re-form) us into God's people. For "we are the clay, and [God is] our potter; we are all the work of [God's] hand" (Isaiah 64:8).

Your partner in ministry,

Pastor Lecia

Pastor Lecia will be out of the office Sunday October 12.



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 August (66.67% of the year):

	Amount	Percent	2024
Income	\$319,741.52	68.86%	62.65%
Expenses	\$319,971.25	67.81%	64.86%
Net Income	-\$229.73		-\$10,205.83

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

Celebrating Our Ministry

Habitat for Humanity Women+ Build

Check out these builders (including some familiar faces) raising the walls on a new home! These weren't the only St. Thomas folks on site or who are building this year. Thanks to all the builders and supporters!



Photo on the right: St. Thomas builders Lydia Arnold, Kim Arnold, Gretchen Moehlmann, Pr. Adrienne, Pr. Lecia, Mary Moore, Eve Arnold, and Rebekkah Arnold on the build site.

St. Thomas Piecemakers

On Sunday, September 28, more than 30 quilts were blessed for national and international distribution by Lutheran World Relief. An additional offering taken that morning more than covered the cost of shipping quilts to their destination and provides additional support for Lutheran World Relief and its ministries of care.



Upcoming Events

Celebrating Creation and Blessing Pets



2025 marks the 800th anniversary of St. Francis's composition of "Canticle of Creation," which, in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, is hymn 835. The hymn celebrates all aspects of creation – creatures, planets, elements, even death. We'll celebrate the hymn, and, with it, all of creation, at the end of September and the beginning of October. **On Sunday, October 5 at the 11 a.m. service**, well-behaved pets are welcome to worship with us and receive a blessing.

Come Together: News from the Outreach and Community Care Committee

Please Wear Your Name Tag on Sundays! We have many new folks joining us for worship. Help them get to know us by picking up your name tag as you enter the building. At the back of the name tag board are simple forms to let us know if you need a new name tag. Fill it out this Sunday, and you'll have a new name tag by next Sunday.



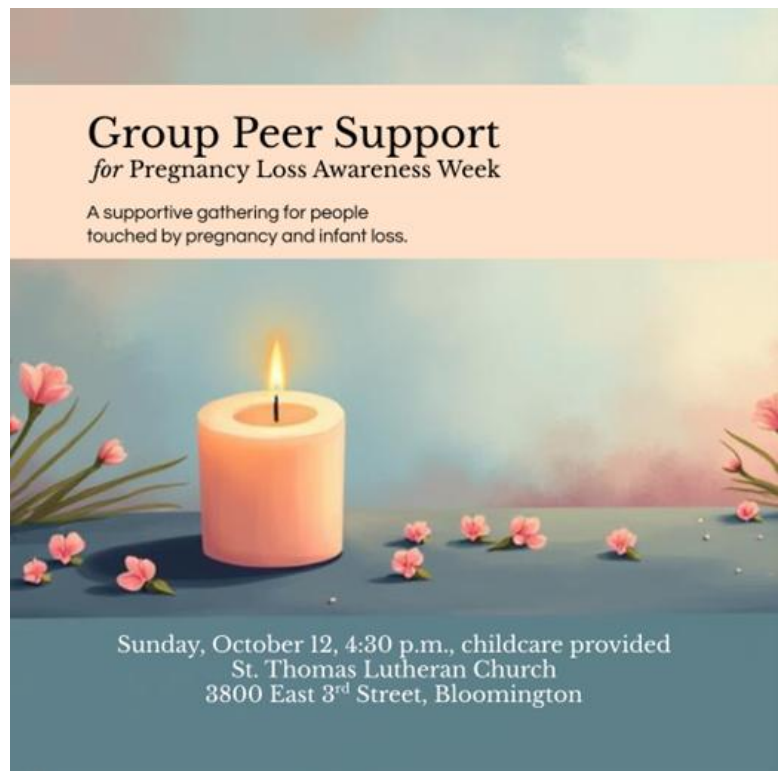
Student Grab and Go Brown Bag Lunch, Sunday, October 12. Our lunch cart (every second Sunday of the month) is back for another school year to show our support for students at IU and Ivy Tech. Look for the sign-up on the Welcome Desk for details on the donations we need. And **please sign up to host the cart one month**—a few minutes of set-up and the chance to chat with students and welcome them to St. Thomas.



Pumpkin Decorating Party, Saturday, October 25, 3 p.m. Join us in Community Hall to decorate pumpkins, sing pumpkin carols, watch Halloween videos, and enjoy snacks and drinks. We supply the pumpkins and art supplies, as well as the cider, donuts, and other goodies. You supply your imagination and your artistic skills and leave with a decorated pumpkin for Halloween. Please sign up on the Welcome Desk so we know how many folks are coming.

Group Peer Support for Pregnancy Loss Awareness Week

Find support and a place to remember babies lost during pregnancy, childbirth, or infancy on **Sunday, October 12 at 4:30 p.m.** This single evening support group provided by trained peer facilitators is free and open to the public. Childcare will be provided.



QPR Suicide Prevention Workshop

Learn ways to love and support your neighbors. On **Saturday, November 1 at 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**, we will offer a suicide prevention training. We hear about the many mental health needs around us, but often feel unprepared to respond to our friends and family when they need help.

Just like CPR, [QPR \(Question, Persuade, Refer\)](#) is an emergency response to someone in crisis and can save lives. QPR is an evidenced-based skills training program to reduce suicide. It is based on the theory that those who most need help in a crisis are least likely to ask for it, so we must build the knowledge of community members to recognize an impending crisis and offer help.

We will learn about common myths surrounding suicidal behavior, risk factors of suicide, how to recognize and identify warning signs that someone is at risk for suicide and learn how to help.

This workshop is intended for adults or high school students accompanied by a caring adult and is open to members and friends of St Thomas. Coffee and snacks will be provided. Space is limited. For more information or to sign up, please contact [Pastor Lecia](#).

Worship and the Arts Concert Series: Bloomington Bach Cantata Project

Members of the St. Thomas community are warmly invited to the sixteenth season's performances by the Bloomington Bach Cantata Project. They

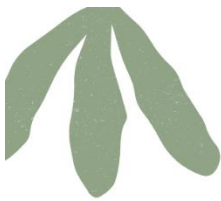


present cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach in performances modeled on his own; each concert includes a performance, a short talk about the day's cantata, and a second performance in which everyone can hear new and different things.

Performances take place on **Sundays at 2:30 p.m.** Please join us; this season's dates are below.

- October 12, "Meine Seel erhebt den Herren" BWV 10. Miranda Zirnbauer, director.
- November 9, "Was Gott tut, das ist wohlgetan" BWV 100. Luke Conklin, director.
- January 18, "Am Abend aber desselbigen Sabbats" BWV 42. Dana Marsh, director.
- February 8, "Christen, ätzt diesen Tag" BWV 63. Daniel R. Melamed, director.
- March 15, "Ich habe meine Zuversicht" BWV 188. Anastasia Chin, director.

Healing after Religious Harm: Group Peer Support



Group Peer Support

Healing after Religious Harm

Join us in a supportive community focused on healing

Sundays, November 2, 9, 16
9:45-10:45 a.m.



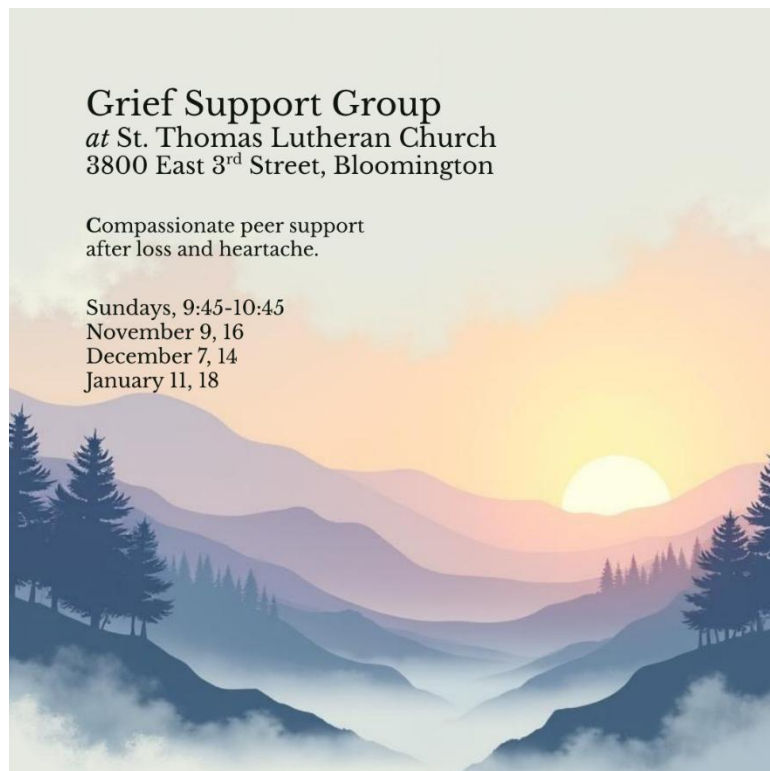
St. Thomas Lutheran Church
3800 East 3rd Street, Bloomington



We know that faith should be a force for healing and wholeness in our lives, but sometimes faith leaders and faith communities do harm. If you have been harmed in a faith community—by unwelcoming messages, hurtful theology, or painful actions—you are invited to peer support group lead by trained facilitators focused on healing. This group will not make up for counseling or mental health support that many of us will need on our way to wholeness but can compliment such work and provide support on your healing journey. This group is free and open to the public. Sign up on the Welcome Desk or RSVP confidentially to the church office. Meet on **Sundays, November 2, 9, and 16 between services (9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.)**

Grief Support Group

Everyone needs compassionate support after loss and heartache. In the company of other people who are grieving and lead by trained facilitators, join a judgement-free community of support and care to accompany you in this portion of your grief journey. **Meet at St. Thomas between services (9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.) on November 9, 16; December 7, 14; January 11, 18.** This Grief Support Group is open to the public. Sign up on the Welcome Desk or RSVP confidentially to the church office.



Save the Date! Advent Fundraiser for Sister Parish

What: St. Thomas Sister Parish Advent Fundraiser

When: Sunday, December 14, before & after services

Where: St. Thomas Lutheran Church, Narthex

Featuring local craft items from Chichipate, Jim Halvorson's Pottery, Kent Unger's Wooden Crosses, **and other donated handcraft items from our congregation's members & friends.**

That's where we need you! What is your passion? Can you knit, crochet, weave, sew, embroider, hook rugs, bake, make holiday candy, make candles, wreathes, ornaments, holiday cards, take photographs, do calligraphy, paint, work with metal or wood? Now is the time to START projects!

Come for the last-minute gifts, stay for the Children's Christmas Program!

Questions: Contact [Carol Seaman](#) or [Suzanne Halvorson](#).



Christian Nurture

Reformation Celebration

How does the Reformation connect to our lives today? Explore Reformation history with an eye to the future! Join us in Heritage Hall on **Reformation Sunday, October 26 from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.** for self-guided activities to learn more about the Protestant Reformation and Martin Luther. Some serious, some silly, these activities are intended for folks of all ages, individually or as households. You can come for the whole hour or just part. Children should plan to attend with an adult. **This will be in place of Sunday School on October 26.**



Word in the Woods

Encounter God in creation and in each other. Join in **Wednesday, October 8** for a worshipful hike at the Griffy Lake Nature Preserve. The hiking trail is approximately 1.7 miles and begins with a steep hill, though we take it at a relaxed pace. Throughout our hike, we will stop periodically to contemplate scripture and share prayer requests. The hike closes with Holy Communion. **We will begin at the east end of the boathouse parking lot at 6 p.m.** Please let [Pastor Lecia](#) know if you plan to join us! This is the last gathering of Word in the Woods in fall 2025.



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 gathering will be **Wednesday, October 1 at 12 p.m.** on [Zoom](#).

Sundays in the Adult Forum

On Sunday, October 5, we will conclude our Climate Ambassador Training with a final module on Advocacy and Engagement and a discussion of the ELCA's Social Statement, [Caring for Creation](#) and the [Papal Encyclical Laudato Si'](#).

On Sunday, October 12, we'll welcome representatives from St. Vincent de Paul to train phone volunteers. When people call SVdP for assistance, phone volunteers listen compassionately to needs, assign cases to other SVdP volunteers for follow up, and make referrals to local organizations and agencies. Even volunteering to handle one or two calls can help our neighbors immensely!

There is no Adult Forum on October 19 (for fall break) or October 26 (so we can all participate in the Reformation Celebration). In November, Criag Smedly will offer a two-part workshop on Positive Psychotherapy.

No Sunday School on October 19

Due to Fall Break there will be no Sunday School classes on October 19.

High School Youth

Connect with each other and caring adults over coffee. On **Sunday, October 12**, high school students are invited to get coffee at Verona Coffee House (3105 S Sare Rd.). You can meet the group at STLC at 9:45 a.m. or join us at Verona. Please make sure you have a completed Student Information Form for this school year. We will meet for coffee again on November 16. After worship on **Sunday, November 2**, all high school students are invited to join Pastor Lecia for lunch and conversation. We will meet from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Please let [Pastor Lecia](#) know if you plan to attend either event.

5th-8th Grade Youth

After worship on **Sunday, October 5**, all 5th-8th grade students are invited to join Pastor Lecia for lunch, games and conversation. We will meet from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. Please let [Pastor Lecia](#) by Wednesday, October 1 know if you plan to attend.

On **Sunday, November 9** from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., 5th-8th grade students will go to Bloomington Creative Glass Center to create suncatchers. The project costs \$25 to make. We ask families to pay what you can - at least \$10 - toward the project. In order to reserve your student's spot, please make payment through the website or by putting a check in the offering with the memo "BCGC" by **Sunday, October 12**.

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, October 13 at 10:15 a.m.** Members and friends at Bell Trace are invited to join us in the Chapel for worship on **Monday, October 20 at 9:45 a.m.**

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!

- October 6: 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm 111; 2 Timothy 2:8-15; Luke 17:11-19
- October 13: Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14--4:5; Luke 18:1-8
- October 20: Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36
- October 27: Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18; Psalm 149; Ephesians 1:11-23; Luke 6:20-31
- November 3: Job 19:23-27a; Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38



Ministry Opportunities for Getting Involved

Join us for Pathways' annual Each One Feed One community food drive!

Saturday, October 11, 2025 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at each Kroger location in Bloomington. Together, we'll collect food and resources to help stock the Pathways Pantry and support families at Compass Early Learning Center. Mark your calendars, grab your friends and family, and be part of something that makes a BIG difference in our community! [Sign up here to volunteer.](#)

Winter Coat Drive



Here is an opportunity to help warm up our neighbors in need of winter gear; coats, sweatshirts, hats, scarves, gloves, etc. We will collect gently used winter goods in the month of October. Please offer clean usable goods as you are able. All sizes, including adult and children, are welcome.

On November 8, there will be a distribution at Trinity Episcopal Church downtown of coats collected from several different congregations. Anyone in the community is welcome to come get warm gear. A sign-up sheet will be available at the Welcome Desk for anyone wanting to help with the distribution or with sorting goods prior to the event.

F4RE Book Read at St. Thomas: Cracking the Healer's Code

Ellen Mills will be leading a book group for St. Thomas and others by Zoom on *Cracking the Healer's Code: a Prescription for healing racism and finding wholeness* on selected **Wednesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.** The schedule is below. The first two sessions cover the first half of the book, "A Deeper Understanding." This sets the topic within history, history you may or may not be familiar with. The remaining 4 sessions are about awakening, grieving, healing, and taking action. The chapters are shorter and invite self-reflection on how we are and have been affected by internalized racial conditioning.

- October 8
- October 22
- November 5
- December 3

If you are interested, [please email Ellen.](#)

Property Committee Work Days

Help our new co-chairs Jim Ward and Ian Bensberg 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 & fourth Saturdays every month. Please contact [Jim](#) or [Ian](#) if you'd like to participate or have any questions, comments, or suggestions.



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.

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](#).



DINNERS FOR SIX

WHAT is it?

We gather in groups of six (or 5...or 7).
This can be at:

- The host's house (with others pitching in)
- A restaurant, with everyone picking up their own tab
- Somewhere creative, maybe a picnic in a park, or by a lake!

A host is assigned, the groups are assembled, and the host coordinates a date and place. You will host approx. once per year.



WHY? To get to know folks from St. Thomas better. Many laughs, and many deep conversations!

WHEN? Groups are put together every 3 months (Jan/Feb/March, April/May/June, July/Aug/Sept, Oct/Nov/Dec). You can wait out a quarter whenever you want, as many folks travel.

WHO does this? Couples, singles, young and old.

Number One Rule of Dinners for Six: There are no rules. Be creative and have fun!

Recent testimonials:

“We really have enjoyed getting to know other members!”

“We have been members for fourteen years, and until tonight I had never gotten to know other folks”

CONTACT:

When you want to try this, contact Larry Moore at LKMoore1956@gmail.com and you will be added to the list!

Mutual Ministry Committee Moment

You might be aware that St. Thomas has a Mutual Ministry Committee. But what does this committee do? The primary purpose of the Mutual Ministry Committee (MMC) is to affirm and strengthen the mission of the congregation and the ministry of the staff.

MMC serves as a confidential listening group for any congregants or staff members who want to express their concerns with any aspect of St. Thomas. This is accomplished by encouraging the person(s) to speak directly to the person or group with which they have concerns.

- To provide confidential support and a sounding board for rostered ministers and staff.
- To nurture good and healthy relationships between the congregation and its leaders.
- To ensure clear and realistic expectations for staff, leaders, and ministries within the congregation.
- To offer a confidential and safe space for members and staff to voice concerns and work toward mutually acceptable settlements.
- To identify and seek opportunities for growth and renewal for both individuals and the congregation.

The committee is not responsible for counseling, staff evaluations, staff compensation/benefits, or formal conflict management.

Current members of the committee are Kris Stewart, Chair, David Ellies, Bruce Colston, Mary Lou Nierzwicki, and Kelly Skram. If any congregant has concerns about the ministry of St Thomas, please feel free to talk to any of the committee members.



Lutheran Campus Ministry at IU



October is a month full of opportunities for students to get involved with LuMin. During the month there will be several additional ways to connect for faith-filled fun beyond our ongoing scheduled activities. Prior to the IU Homecoming Football Game on Saturday, October 18, our group will be tailgating together with some St. Thomas members and friends. On Tuesday, October 1, we've invited Canterbury Episcopal Campus Ministry to join Rose House for a healthy cooking class led by Allison Ward. Later in the month on Friday, October 24, we will host a trunk at Compass's

Trunk or Treat event for their clients and families. If time and weather allows, a trip to Fowler's Pumpkin Patch is also in the works.

Since October is midterms on campus, LuMin wishes to remind students (undergrads and grads) that our building can be used 24/7 as a place to study, get away from the stress on campus, or meet with small groups to work on projects. One does not have to be active in our other LuMin events in order to receive this gift of space use; however, we request that prior to receiving the door code, students meet with Pastor Amanda. As always, students and St. Thomas members can stay up to date with what is going on with LuMin by following our [Instagram page](#) or our [Facebook page](#). If you have any questions or want more information on how to become connected with LuMin as a student or as a congregation member, please don't hesitate to reach out to me [via email](#).

Peace,
[Pr. Amanda Ghaffarian](#) (She/Her)
Rose House LuMin Campus Minister



Caring for Our Neighbors

New Hope for Families

"We provide emergency shelter and quality childcare to keep families together and lift every child into a promising future."

[Immediate Needs:](#) diapers (sizes 3-8) and Pull-ups (any size), baby wipes (unscented), deodorant, and shampoo and conditioner (including natural hair care products).



NEWHOPE
FOR FAMILIES

Donations can be placed on the shelving unit in the narthex. Money can be given via check made out to St. Thomas Lutheran Church with "New Hope for Families" in the memo.

Thank you for standing in the gap as we help to move these families from being unhoused to having stable housing. We are grateful to you for joining the "Hope Movement!"



Higher Education for the People

We are a group of retired university faculty dedicated to providing higher education opportunities to the general public. We offer single lectures and short-form courses on topics of civic interest, free of charge.

FALL SCHEDULE

Immigration and Politics

Marjorie Hershey, Professor Emeritus of Political Science
Sunday, October 5 7pm Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington

Courage in the Face of Hate: Hoosiers Who Stood Against the Klan

James Madison, Professor Emeritus of History
Tuesday, October 21 7pm First United Church

Why You Should be Concerned about Climate Change: What the Data Tell Us (A two-part series)

Tim Londergan and Steve Vigdor, Professors Emeritus of Physics
Sunday, November 9 7pm First Christian Church
Sunday, December 7 7pm First Christian Church

PBS: A Legacy of Service

Steve Krahnke, former Senior Lecturer
Sunday, November 16 4pm Monroe County Public Library



For more details, visit our website: travelinguniv.org

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

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

Due Date for **November Newsletter** Articles: Tuesday, October 21.

Unsubscribe from this list or update your preferences by emailing:

parishadmin@stlconline.org

October 2025

St. Thomas Lutheran Church

Regular Sunday Schedule*

8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Worship

*see each Sunday for additional events

Erica Out of Office

Monday October 6 through

Friday October 10

Pastor Lecia Out of Office

Monday October 12

Pastor Adrienne Out of Office

Monday October 13 through

Sunday October 19

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
All dates and times are subject to change. Please confirm via the online church calendar: https://stlconline.org/about/news/			1 12 pm Prayer at Noon on Zoom	2 5:30 pm Brown Bag Choir Dinner 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	3	4 Spencer Pride Festival
5 11 am Pet Blessing 12:30 pm Middle School Youth Lunch	6 1 pm Pastor's Bible Study 7 pm Mission Committee Meeting	7 6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting	8 6 pm Word in the Woods 7pm Book Read on Zoom	9 5:30 pm Brown Bag Choir Dinner 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	10	11 10 am Property Committee Work Day 10 am St. Thomas Piecemakers
12 9:45 am LuMin Grab & Go Lunch 9:45 am High School Youth Coffee Meet Up 12:15 pm LuMin Grab & Go Lunch 2:30 pm Bach Cantata Project 4 p.m. GPS for Pregnancy Loss Awareness Week	13 10 am Worship at Redbud Hills 1 pm Pastor's Bible Study	14	15	16 5:30 pm Brown Bag Choir Dinner 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 No Sunday School	20 9:45 am Worship at Bell Trace 1 pm Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 pm Outreach and Community Care Committee	21	22 7pm Book Read on Zoom	23 5:30 pm Brown Bag Choir Dinner 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal 7 pm Finance Committee Meeting	24	25 10 am Property Committee Work Day 3 pm Pumpkin Decorating
26 9:45 am Reformation Celebration 12:30 pm Council Meeting	27 1 pm Pastor's Bible Study	28	29	30 5:30 pm Brown Bag Choir Dinner 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	31 7:30 pm Pipes Spooktacular	

Prepare



in a
Year

Step 8: Fire Safety



Know what to do before, during and after a fire

Smoke Detectors

Install outside bedrooms on the ceiling or high on the wall, away from corners, at the top of open stairways (or the bottom of enclosed stairs) and near (but not in) the kitchen. For free Red Cross smoke alarms, visit GetASmokeAlarm.org

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- Should be installed on every level of your residence
- About 18 inches from the floor
- In the area where your heating system is located
- Replace batteries when you rotate supplies in your kits.

Flammable Items

- Never use or store gasoline, kerosene or similar flammable liquids inside your home. (Store them in approved containers in well-ventilated storage areas).
- Discard all rags and materials that have been soaked in flammable liquids (Place them outdoors in a metal container).

Matches and Smoking

- Store matches and lighters up high, away from children and if possible, in a locked cabinet.
- Never smoke in bed or when drowsy or medicated.
- Douse cigarette and cigar butts with water before disposal in an outdoor container.

Heating Sources

- Use alternative heat sources, such as woodstoves or space heaters, according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Never use gas ovens, stoves, barbecues or propane heaters for indoor heating.
- Place heaters at least 3 feet away from flammable material.

Electrical Wiring

- Inspect extension cords for frayed or exposed wires and loose plugs.
- Make sure outlets have cover plates and that no wires are exposed.
- Do not overload extension cords or outlets.

Fire Extinguishers

- Install ABC fire extinguishers in your home and teach family members how to use them using the PASS method (see graphic on this page).
- Have one extinguisher per floor in your home as well as one in the kitchen and one in the garage.
- Place the extinguisher away from the stove and near the door of the kitchen for easy access. The same for the garage.
- Even though the extinguisher may not match décor, do not place the extinguisher in a closet or behind drapes or curtains.

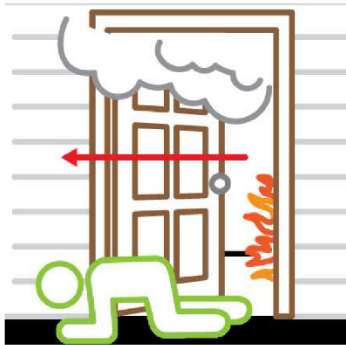


Prepare



in a
Year

Step 8: Fire Safety



Exiting Buildings

- If there is a fire or when the smoke detectors or carbon monoxide detectors sounds, leave immediately!
- Do not try to fight the fire. Once outside, do not re-enter the home for any reason!
- Call 911 from a cell phone once outside, or from a neighbor's house.
- Know the location of all exits including the windows. (If you live in an apartment, count the number of doorways between your apartment and the two nearest exits. This will help you leave safely in the dark).
- If the nearest exit is blocked by fire, heat or smoke go to another exit.
- If you must escape through a closed door, check for heat before opening it. Use the back of your hand to feel the top of the door, the doorknob, and the crack between the door and door frame before you open it. If it is hot, do not open it and escape through a window.
- If your clothes catch fire, "stop, drop and roll" until the fire is out.
- If caught in smoke: drop to your hands and knees and crawl, breathe shallowly through your nose and use your shirt or jacket as a filter.
- If you are in a room and cannot escape, leave the door closed, stay low to the floor and hang a white or light-colored sheet outside the window to alert firefighters of your presence.

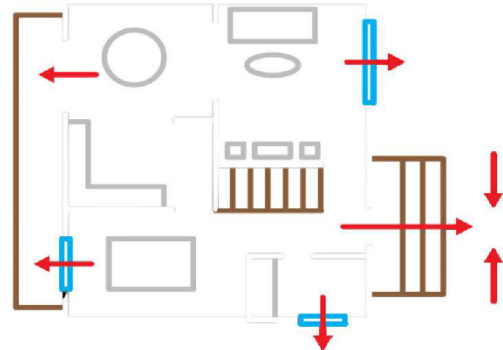
- Always use an exit stairway, not an elevator. (Elevator shafts may fill with smoke or the power may fail, leaving you trapped).
- Stairway fire doors will keep out fire and smoke - if they are closed - they will protect you until you get outside.
- Close as many doors as possible as you leave. (This helps to confine the fire and gives you time to escape).

Electrical Fires

1. Shut off the electricity at the main breaker.
 2. Put out the fire by using an extinguisher, dirt, or water.
- CAUTION: If the electricity cannot be shut off, DO NOT use water on the fire.

Oil or Grease Fires

- Use baking soda, a lid, a bread board or a fire extinguisher to smother the flames.
- NEVER use water on a grease or an oil fire.



Practicing fire safety

Choose a safe place outside your home to reunite with your family. Regularly remind all household members of the location. Draw the floor plan of your home and discuss two ways to exit each room. Hold a fire drill at least twice each year.

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