



# 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!

## November 2025

XLVII Issue 10

### From the Senior Pastor

It was great fun to celebrate the posting of the 95 Theses, and I'm certainly looking forward to celebrating the Small Catechism in 2029, the Augsburg Confession in 2030, the final publication of the Bible in German in 2034. But I knew that at some point in time we'd also hit the anniversary of the things I wish Luther hadn't written. I thought I had more time. But this year is the anniversary of "Against the Murderous, Thieving Hordes of Peasants."

The ideas of Luther and other reformers—and their rebellion against the Pope—created a bit of a political pressure cooker. If the authority of the Pope can be questioned, what about other authorities? At the same time, there were other major changes afoot in Europe, including the decline of farming as the main economic driver which led to the rise in rents and tighter control by the nobility of common land for grazing.

The peasants called on Luther and other theologians to give credibility to their arguments that largely challenged the divine right of kings and nobles to rule. Luther largely argued against them. And then he saw first-hand the rebellion, and picked up his pen, and wrote against the rebels.

Luther argued for so many changes that improved the lives and livelihoods of all Germans, not just the rich and noble by birth. But in this, and two other pamphlets he wrote, he left his society's most vulnerable people at the hands of rulers who were not always just. And he did little

### What the Senior Pastor is Reading

[\*Katabasis\* by R.F. Kuang](#)

True confessions: among the books that made me an English major was Dante's *Inferno* (probably not a coincidence, either that I became a pastor). Also, this book is in the emerging "dark academia" genre, which is a big hit in our house.

The story is about two magicians who travel to hell to resurrect their advisor so he can appropriately recommend them for future tenure-track jobs.

But the questions I'm left with are about sin and hell and the punishments we deserve. Are any of us righteous? And, even if we faithfully say, "No, not one." Do we believe some people are better than others? Are we inclined to judge ourselves fairly?

to wrestle with questions about how Christians are to respond to unjust leaders in government.

There is a larger question here, about how we are, then, to understand Luther—or any complex person we might be inclined to celebrate, if not idolize.

This isn't a new question, and I'm no expert in untangling this issue. But I believe we can hold very different truths at the same time, in tension. We can say, no one is perfect (we are simultaneously saint and sinner, Luther would say) *and* our words and their impact matter.

We should approach these texts with a sense of solidarity with its victims. We should trust their account. But we shouldn't sweep them under the rug. We shouldn't pretend like Luther didn't write some horrifying texts.

And so, we shouldn't assume that we will walk away from these texts without being affected by them and their legacies. One of my favorite professors, Dr. Joy Schroeder, once urged us to be like Jacob: sometimes we wrestle—with God, with difficult texts, ideas, and legacies—and sometimes, we walk away with a limp.

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](#).

## **Annual Budget Meeting**

On behalf of the Congregation Council, we call you to the Annual Budget Meeting of our congregation on Sunday, November 16 following the 11 a.m. service (the meeting will begin around 12:15 p.m.).

## From the Pastor of Youth and Christian Nurture

“Normalize failure.”

This is one of the tenets to raising successful, resilient children from Julie Lythcott-Haims in *How to Raise an Adult*. Children who have never experienced failure have extra struggles the first-time things don't go their way, especially if that doesn't happen until they are an adult. When we think that life is always supposed to be a straight line of success or constant improvement, we don't know what to do when there is a bump in the road. Lythcott-Haims doesn't advocate glamorizing failure, but for adults to share stories of how they have experienced failure so that children know that this is part of the human experience.

As I have listened to this book, many pieces have struck me as important to all people - not just children - and this is one. When we only see each other either in the polished social media feeds or pulled together in our Sunday best, experiences of failure or any struggle can feel isolating. We can wonder if it is even possible to come back from what we have experienced. Years ago, when I was finally able to share with a small group of women about having a miscarriage, I was amazed to hear how many others have also experienced pregnancy loss. There was comfort in hearing others say, “me too,” not in a “been there, done that” sort of way that minimized my experience, but in a way that let me know that I was not alone. The same feelings of relief came when I heard the stories of other people who changed careers, saw a therapist, or experienced a relationship falling apart.

This is one of the joys of being in a congregational community. When we can be open to relationships of care, there is space to be vulnerable - both in sharing our struggles, but also in saying “me too.” We can normalize failure and the other struggles of being human through joining a peer support group, sharing during Sunday School and conversations over coffee in the narthex.

God said the ultimate “me too” in the incarnation. Jesus experienced the vulnerability and uncertainty of being born and dependent on the care of another. Jesus fled an unsafe living situation with his family, lived as a refugee, experienced hunger and thirst, was betrayed by a friend, and even died. His life was not a straight line of success or constant improvement, rather the ebb and flow we all experience.

Wherever you are, whatever you are experiencing, you are not alone.

Your partner in ministry,

*Pastor Lucia*

Pastor Lecia

## 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 September (75% of the year):

	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Income</b>	\$351,510.85	74.61%	68.95%
<b>Expenses</b>	\$354,781.60	75.19%	74.49%
<b>Net Income</b>	-\$3,270.75		-\$25,535.99

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

## 2026 Budget Preview

On Sunday, November 16, our congregation will come together to approve the 2026 budget. The new budget does not introduce any new mission initiatives yet is still about 3.5% higher than 2025 due to the rising costs that we all see. Some budget requests were limited in order to keep the increase down.

Some mission initiatives in 2025 were funded through grants, such as the Mental Health Initiative and HVAC replacements. Funding of this type will be pursued in 2026 to allow new initiatives.

In the current financial picture, the Net Income went negative in September for the first time this year. As in past years, the expenses have been steady and pretty much on budget. The income fluctuates during the year and is typically low in the summer with some pick up at the end of the year.

As of the third week of October, the Net Income is still short. Projecting salary expenses for the rest of the month, and with a generous estimate of giving on Reformation Sunday, it looks like we will have a deficit around \$18,000. We'll have the actual number at the congregation meeting.

I anticipate, due to the great stewardship of the St. Thomas congregation, that we'll be back in the black by the end of the year!

*Jim Ward*, Finance Committee chair



# Celebrating Our Ministry



## 2025 Confirmands

Congratulations to the students who made Affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday, October 26: Alex Westphal, Ila Risner, and Joseph Arnold.

## Packing Lunches for the Hungry Folks

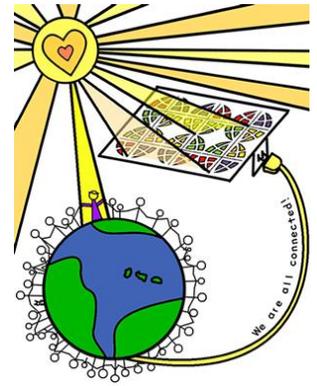
Quarterly we meet to pack lunches for the hungry folks who are welcomed at First Christian Church's Welcome Table where they can get a hot breakfast every Sunday morning. Thanks to all who helped at our last event where we packed 110 lunches in 45 minutes! Our bakers did a wonderful job of supplying homemade treats for each bag. The number of guests at the Welcome Table have increased greatly, so now we will be packing 140 lunches. All ages welcome! If you are a Thrivent member and would like to offer to do a Thrivent grant to fund this project, contact [Allison Ward](#). Please make plans to come help pack or provide a baked good on **Saturday, December 27 at 10 a.m.**



## Creation Care Calling

One of the oldest air conditioners has been replaced with a more energy efficient cold climate heat pump as the primary heating source for the west wing of the building. A new gas furnace will be used for back up during extreme weather as we continue to reduce burning toxic methane gas for heat.

The new heat pump will be powered by the 40,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of solar energy credits on our Duke bill. To put that number in perspective, a typical home uses about 12,000 kWh annually. The church pays \$23 for monthly electric bills, including \$9 for LED outdoor lighting in the parking lot.



A city of Bloomington weatherization grant will help to pay for the heat pump and insulation in the east attic. A second grant next year may allow purchase of another cold climate heat pump for Heritage Hall.

*Darrell Boggess, Creation Care Committee Member*

## Thank You!

The **Mission Committee** offers their thanks and deep appreciation to **Kim Filiatrault** for her years of service as the St. Thomas liaison to **New Hope for Families**. She has put her heart and soul into tending this relationship. New Hope for Families is the only resource families facing homelessness have where family members are kept together. St. Thomas supports this ministry in a variety of ways, but it takes that personal liaison relationship to keep our connection vibrant and successful. Would you be interested in stepping in to continue the good work Kim has done? If so, please contact [Allison Ward](#), chair of the Mission Committee.



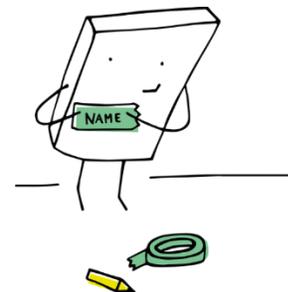
**NEWHOPE**  
FOR FAMILIES



# Upcoming Events

## 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.



**60-Plus Group News.** We had a great first meeting sharing ideas about gathering for fellowship and activities, and our committee is beginning to plan initial details. If you're interested in being part of a group for 60-Plus folks (members, not-yet-members, and visitors welcome) and you'd like to be on the soon-to-be-developed mailing list, please contact committee chair Dawn Bakken.

**Student Grab and Go Brown Bag Lunch, Sunday, November 9.** 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.



**Cookie Baking with LuMin, Saturday, December 6 and Sunday, December 7.** We're baking in the church kitchen on **Saturday from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.** and on **Sunday after the late service** with students from IU. We can use help baking, packaging, and cleaning up the kitchen. LuMin students will be on campus that week to share at least 200 packaged treats with students preparing for final exams.

## Advent Mini-Retreat

Prepare for the season of Advent with a mini-retreat on **Sunday, November 30** from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. Community Hall will be full of activities to do here and ideas to take home to help your Advent observance as we explore the theme *Sanctuary Within: Practices of Hope and Healing*. We will also be crafting Advent wreaths - if you still have your wreath from last year, please bring it to reuse and refresh the decorations. Books will be available for adults and families to take for home devotions. There will also be a light breakfast and coffee to enjoy. You can come for the whole hour or just part. Because this is for all ages, children will enjoy this more if they participate with an adult. The mini-retreat will take the place of Sunday School.

## Hanging of the Greens: Sunday, November 30

You're invited to the Hanging of the Greens on **Sunday, November 30**, following the late service. We're especially looking for a few volunteers able to climb a ladder and reach higher places. A few volunteers are also needed on **Saturday, November 29 at 10 a.m.** to bring the greens out of storage and prep them for hanging. St. Thomas Worship Committee is thankful for your help in decorating our worship space for Advent and Christmas.



## December Community Soup Suppers

On the **first three Wednesdays evenings in December**, share a simple supper of soup and bread at 6 p.m. December can be so hectic, and we anticipate this year being particularly trying for members of our community. These suppers will be free and open to anyone who could use a warm meal and friendly company. After the supper, anyone can choose to attend **Holden Evening Prayer at 7 p.m.**

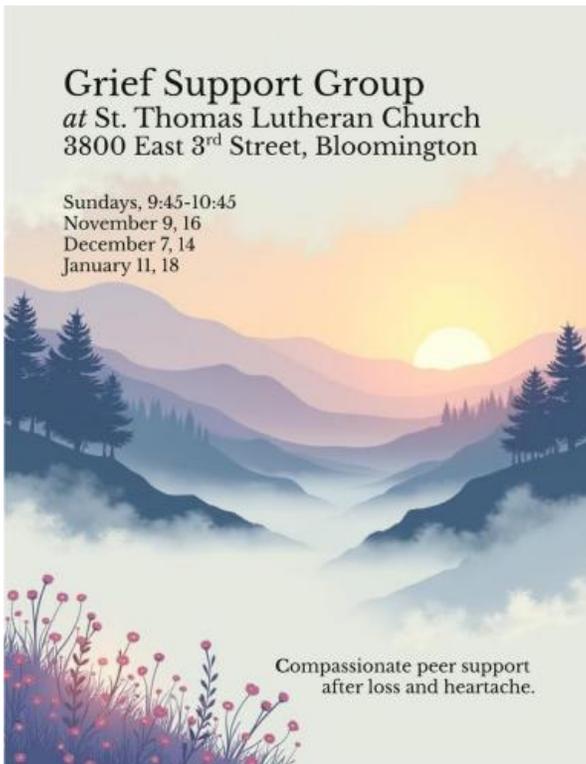
We're looking for three people (or teams) to take the lead on one Wednesday each: organizing the meal setup, coordinating volunteers, and making sure things run smoothly. A separate sign-up will be available for those who'd like to bring soup or bread. If you'd like to help provide a welcoming table for our community, please [contact the church office](#) or watch for a sign up later this month.

## Healing after Religious Harm: Group Peer Support

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 complement 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 9, December 14, and January 12 between services (9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.)**



St. Thomas Lutheran Church  
3800 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Bloomington



## 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](#).

## Worship Committee warmly invites you to honor our choir



The music of Advent and Christmas fills our sanctuary thanks to the exquisite gifts of our devoted St. Thomas choir—and it's our turn to offer appreciation! This year, Worship Committee is trying a true community-shared **approach** to the Christmas choir concert reception on **Sunday, December 14**—to ease preparation and create a stress-free evening for all, while offering our choir a generous and beautiful spread.

### **Invitation #1: Contribute a beautifully plated assortment of treats**

Please bring food **ready to serve, thoughtfully plated on a reception-style platter**, no later than the second service on Sunday, December 14. If you need a platter, ones will be available to borrow in the narthex on December 7. We're requesting:

- Assorted raw vegetable platters
- Assorted fruit platters
- Cheese and cracker platters
- Christmas cookie platters

### **Invitation #2: Display your family's nativity for the evening**

Please consider sharing your **family's nativity set** for this meaningful, one-night reception display, adding another layer of beauty to the evening. You'll have an option to fill out a card including your family's name and an anecdote about its origin or meaning to place with your nativity. Please bring your nativity to Heritage Hall no later than the second service on **Sunday, December 14**; you can take it home following the reception (or pick up later at your convenience).



We're grateful for any way you can contribute and look forward to celebrating together.

## **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.

- 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.



## **Christian Nurture**

### **Sundays in the Adult Forum**

#### **November 2 and 9: Toward Positive Spirituality**

Join Craig Smedley for this series to learn about self-care practices at the intersection of positive psychology and Christian spirituality. Sessions will include learning, discussion and opportunities to try out practical ways to nurture your spiritual and mental health.

#### **November 16: Strategies for Addressing Christian Nationalism**

Eliot Smith will present information on Christian Nationalism and provide suggestions and strategies for talking with friends and family about Christian Nationalism.

#### **November 23: Stump the Pastor**

Got a burning theological question? Really wondering what some piece of worship is about? Stymied by a sermon? Ask Pr. Adrienne (almost) anything!

## 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, November 5 at 12 p.m.** on [Zoom](#).



## High School Youth Hike

Take a hike! High School students are invited to hike with us after worship on **Sunday, November 2**. We will leave after worship to hike to Wolf Cave at McCormick's Creek State Park, so students should pack a lunch. Please let [Pastor Lecia](#) know if you plan to join us as soon as possible.



## 5th-8th Grade Youth

On **Sunday, November 9** at 1 p.m., 5th-8th grade students will go to Bloomington Creative Glass Center to create suncatchers. Students should pack a lunch to eat after worship. Parents, please pick your students up at BCGC (229 W. Grimes Ln.) at 3 pm.

## 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, November 10 at 10:15 a.m.** Members and friends at Bell Trace are invited to join us in the Chapel for worship on **Monday, November 17 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!

- November 3: Job 19:23-27a; Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 20:27-38
- November 10: Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
- November 17: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
- November 24: Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44
- December 1: Isaiah 11:1-10; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12



# Ministry Opportunities for Getting Involved

## Severe Weather is Coming!

St. Thomas will host a **B-SWERS Training Event on Sunday November 2 following the late service.** Volunteers are trained annually to serve in the severe weather shelter. All sorts of help is needed. Come find out how you might be able to serve and support this vital ministry. A big pot of soup will be provided. Folks are welcome to bring items to go along with the soup. A sign-up sheet is on the Welcome Desk. For more information please contact [Allison Ward](#) or [Carol Seaman](#).



## Winter Wear Sorting and Distribution



We need volunteers to help with the sorting and distribution. A group from St. Thomas will carpool to **Trinity Episcopal Church on Wednesday, November 5 from 3 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.** to help with sorting and setting up the distribution. Volunteers are also needed on **Distribution Day Saturday, November 8.** There are shifts from 7:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and a clean-up shift from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Volunteer sign up sheets are located on the Welcome Desk.

## Help us Build a Mountain of Instant Mashed Potatoes

Every year Pantry 279 assembles more than 2000 Thanksgiving Meal boxes for families in need in our community. St Thomas parishioners have pledged to help by providing Instant Mashed Potatoes for Thanksgiving Meal Boxes. This endeavor requires collecting a mountain of food! **Starting Sunday, October 26 through Sunday, November 16** we will be collecting boxes of Instant Mashed Potatoes. Help us build the tallest mountain of mashed potatoes our Narthex has ever seen. Volunteers from St. Thomas and Rose House LuMin will assist in the packing of meal boxes on **Tuesday, November 18 at the Monroe County Fairgrounds from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.** If you would like to participate, please sign up at the Welcome Desk.

## 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](mailto:LKMoore1956@gmail.com) and you will be added to the list!



# 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](http://travelinguniv.org)

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

Due Date for **December Newsletter** Articles: **Thursday, November 20.**

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

# November 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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><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></p>						<p>1 9 am QPR training</p>
<p>2 <b>All Saints Sunday</b> 9:45 am MEF Meeting 12:30 pm B-SWERS Training 1 pm High School Lunch and Hike</p>	<p>3 1 pm Pastor's Bible Study 7 pm Mission Committee Meeting</p>	<p>4 6:30 pm Worship Committee Meeting</p>	<p>5 <b>Office Closing at Noon</b> 12 pm Prayer at Noon on Zoom 7pm Book Read on Zoom</p>	<p>6 5:30 pm Brown Bag Choir Dinner 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 10 am Property Committee Work Day 10 am St. Thomas Piecemakers</p>
<p>9 9:30 am LuMin Grab &amp; Go Lunch 9:45 am GPS Grief 9:45 am GPS Healing 12 pm LuMin Grab &amp; Go Lunch 1 pm 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Youth Lunch and Event at BCGC 2:30 pm Bach Cantata Project</p>	<p>10 10:15 am Worship at Redbud Hills 1 pm Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>11 7pm Finance Committee Meeting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 5:30 pm Brown Bag Choir Dinner 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 1:15 pm Friday Musicales</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 9:45 am GPS Grief <b>12:15 pm Annual Congregation Budget Meeting</b> 3 pm Blessing for B-SWERS</p>	<p>17 9:45 am Worship at Bell Trace 1 pm Pastor's Bible Study 7:30 pm Outreach Committee Meeting</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 5:30 pm Brown Bag Choir Dinner 7 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 10 am Property Committee Work Day</p>
<p>23 <b>Reign of Christ</b></p>	<p>24 1 pm Pastor's Bible Study</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Limited Office Hours</p>	<p>27 Office Closed No Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 Office Closed</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 <b>First Sunday in Advent</b> 9:45 a.m. Advent Mini Retreat 12:15 pm Hanging of the Greens</p>	<p><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></p>					

# Prepare



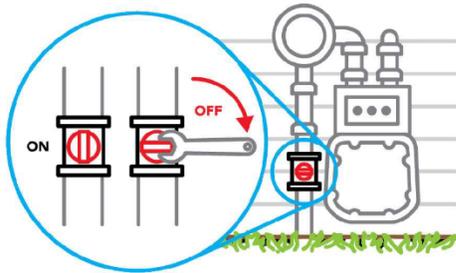
in a  
Year

## Step 9: Utility Safety



### Natural Gas

Flood waters and storm damage pose the risk of uprooting trees and exposing underground pipes and utility lines, creating the potential for damaged natural gas lines/leaks. This can lead to explosion and/or fire.



Here are some steps to shut off the natural gas:

1. Locate the shut-off valve (make sure this valve will turn. To shut off the gas, turn the valve 90 degrees or 1/4 turn, so that it crosses the pipe).
2. If your valve is rusted open, do NOT put WD-40™ lubricant on it. It may corrode the O-rings that allow the valve to turn.
3. Attach a wrench to the meter or to the wall directly behind the meter.
4. Choose a crescent wrench that is at least 12-inches long.
5. Adjust it to fit your valve before hanging it behind the meter in case it rusts.

### Turn the gas and electric off after storm damage and/or flooding.

Shut off the gas immediately if you:

- Smell the odor of gas (rotten eggs).
- Hear a hissing sound.
- The meter dials spin more rapidly than normal.

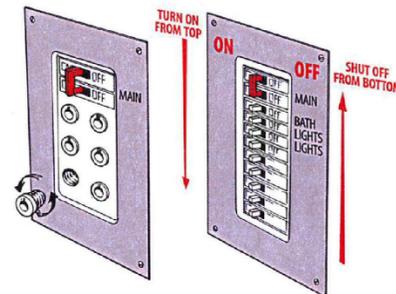
Do not use matches, lighters, open flame appliances or operate any electrical switches until you are sure no gas leaks exist.

Sparks from electrical switches could ignite the gas. If you smell natural gas, immediately get everyone out of and away from the house. Open the windows and doors to provide ventilation. Shut off the gas at the meter.

### Propane

Have your home's propane tank properly installed by a qualified professional and serviced on a regular basis. Propane tanks are extremely flammable.

- Do NOT store tanks in a building, garage, or enclosure.
- When not connected for use, keep tank valve turned OFF.
- Never store a spare tank beneath a grill.
- Always store tanks upright.
- Never store a tank in temperatures of 125 F degrees or more.
- Never use or store a propane tank indoors.
- Do not try to repair a damaged tank or tank valve.
- Do not use portable propane heaters, stoves, or lanterns in tents, campers, truck caps, RVs, or other unventilated enclosures, especially while sleeping.



### Electricity

Electrical has the potential of igniting natural gas or starting a fire.

- Locate your electricity circuit box
- Teach all responsible household members how to shut off the electricity to the entire house.
- Check the cords of appliances in your home as well as the plugs and connectors. Make sure they are not frayed, cracked or damaged or placed under rugs or carpets, resting on furniture, or located in high traffic areas.
- Do not nail or staple cords to walls, floor, or any other objects.
- Inspect all outdoor connections, appliances and tools for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housings.

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

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shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!**