

St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 2009 News & Notes

THANK YOU

During the past years and months, we have called upon you to support Dick and ourselves through various procedures and therapies. Now we are coping with our Lord calling Dick home. It is hard to find words to express our gratitude to our St. Thomas family, friends, and last but not least, our beloved Pastor. Please accept our sincere "Thank You" for your prayer support, care and concern. May God Bless!
 Agape ~ The family of R. Millhouse

~~~~~

### THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped with the Bounty of Blessings service and potluck dinner. I also thank all who attended the service and the potluck. Your willingness to give of your time and talents to "Celebrate God's Faithfulness" was truly a blessing. I pray that you will be more aware of God's blessings and pass them on to others. Our mission partner, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Holland Michigan will benefit from the \$296 that you gave as a love offering on this day! You are appreciated by God and myself!  
 ~ Cathy

### MEMORIALS

IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

*Dick Millhouse:*  
 Don & Sharlee Kenamer  
 Steve & Brenda Heacock  
 Homer & Wanda Hilner  
 Harold & Barbara Cornhill  
 Ray & Lois Kolatski (*designated for the water catchment project in Burure*)

*Art & Rosemary Whitmore:*  
 Arlene Hansen (*designated for Together Lifting Children*)



### Worship Participant Schedule 2010

Cathy is working on the worship participant schedule for Jan-June, 2010. Please call Cathy if you are aware of dates you will be unable to serve a.s.a.p. as it is much easier if this is done before the schedule is complete. If you do not currently serve as a greeter, communion assistant, usher, coffee hour server, projection, sound system or on the altar guild and are interested, please feel free to call Cathy at: 627-4448. Thanks to all who so humbly give of their time and effort in these areas.



### THE FOOD PANTRY ORNAMENT PROMOTION



Paper ornaments will again be available for as little as \$1 each. Every dollar you give to The St. Thomas Food Pantry equals \$14 worth of food for someone in need right here in your neighborhood.

*(Through a co-op with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in Flint The Pantry is able to take advantage of this buying ratio)*  
 Watch for ornament sales at St. Thomas through December 15<sup>th</sup>.

### COMMITTEES MEETING

Evangelism, Parish Education and Stewardship will not meet in December.

Worship & Music will meet December 29<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

# St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church

## December 2009 News & Notes

### FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

Christmas Party  
Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>  
at 5:30 p.m. at Mulligan's  
Restaurant.

### SHALOM CIRCLE

Meets December 7<sup>th</sup> at  
Big Boy at 11:30 a.m. for  
lunch. Bible study at the  
church will follow.

### FAITH CIRCLE

December 8<sup>th</sup> at  
Independence Village in  
Petoskey. Meet at St.  
Thomas at 11:00 a.m.  
Lunch at Noon. Please  
RSVP Marilee at 627-  
5128.

### BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY

Have you ever wanted to invite a friend, relative or co-worker to church, but weren't sure how to go about it? January 10, 2010 is a perfect opportunity as the Evangelism Committee is sponsoring a "Bring-A-Friend Sunday" on this day and encouraging all members and students to extend an invitation to someone to worship at St. Thomas and receive the message of God's love!

### SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS KETTLE BELL RINGING

St. Thomas will ring all over Cheboygan and at Ken's Market in Indian River on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>. A sign up board is located in the narthex. Please contact Randy Lee or Jerry Lange if you have questions.



### HANGING OF THE GREENS

**Come help decorate the sanctuary after the 10:30 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 6. All are invited!**

### PROJECT CONNECT

The goal of this event is to connect low income families with services and products such as health screenings, income tax assistance, food & clothing distribution, etc. Over 727 people attended the one day event last year, which is coordinated in part by the United Way of Cheboygan County. The American Red Cross participates in this project by giving away blankets. Last year they ran out of blankets before the end of the event. This year, the Red Cross is asking churches in Cheboygan County to assist them through donations of new or used blankets that are clean and in good condition. Blankets can be dropped off at St. Thomas. The next Project Connect is scheduled for April 22, 2010.

### !!!!!!! THANK YOU

*A note of "thanks" to Karen Schramm and St. Thomas Lutheran Church for sponsoring the November blood drive. With a goal of 31 units, we saw 42 potential donors and collected 37 pints of blood. Since we have had lower turnouts due to the flu this season, the St. Thomas drive was even more appreciated with the extra pints you brought in. Please share this message with your volunteers as your help is so much appreciated. ~ American Red Cross Great Lakes Region*

# St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church

## December 2009 News & Notes

### ST. THOMAS SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

There is currently a vacancy for this volunteer position. Is this your call to serve? Please pray about this position. If you are led to inquire, you can speak with the Parish Education Chair, or any Parish Education Team member, Council President, or any Council member.

Many thanks to our Sunday school staff and to all of our wonderful Sunday school teachers for walking with our children on their faith journey.

### ENTER THE BIBLE

This is a wonderful online resource that will help you explore all 66 books of the Bible. It is provided by Luther Seminary. Be sure to take advantage of this resource:

[www.enterthebible.org](http://www.enterthebible.org)

### TASK FORCE BEING FORMED

In response to congregational concerns regarding the 2009 Churchwide Assembly vote, the St. Thomas Congregation Council is appointing a task force to explore options to its current ELCA affiliation. If you have an interest in participating in this task force, submit your request in writing to Tim Burandt, Congregation Council President, through the church office (PO Box 57) or at 6883 Orchard Beach Drive.

*Requests must be received by Wednesday, December 9.*

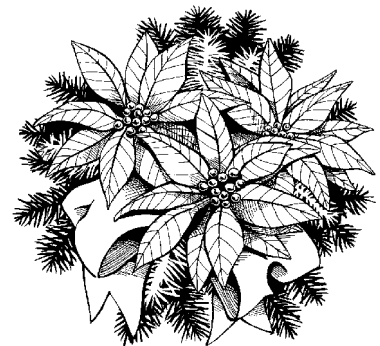
Thank you for your consideration:  
**St. Thomas Congregation Council**

### “WINTER REFLECTIONS”

Enjoy this presentation by the Little Traverse Choral Society on Saturday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian church in Harbor Springs and Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at the Cross in the Woods Shrine in Indian River. Advance tickets are \$10 (\$12 at the door) and may be purchased from Dee Moline. Student tickets are \$5 (\$6 at the door). Under 12 free.

### LOVING HANDS QUILTING BEE

There will be no quilt bee in December. Please join us on Tuesday, January 20, 2010 to put together quilts for Lutheran World Relief and local fire victims. All are welcome!



### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

This year will be a little different: Instead of ordering 85 poinsettias, we will only order 20 for the altar area. You will still be able to add a name(s) to the memorial list that will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin and offer a donation, but the monies will go to benefit the Pastor's Discretionary Fund at St. Thomas, which assists local families in crisis situations. To make a donation and submit memorial names, please use the yellow envelopes in the pews and place in the offering plate.

Deadline: **Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

# St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church

## December 2009 News & Notes

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**  
2nd to last Thursday of each month

**SUNDAY BULLETIN  
NEWS DEADLINE**  
Every Thursday

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD Christmas Eve Worship

Invite your friends and family to worship at St. Thomas and celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ!  
Holy Communion will be offered at all three services:

**4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 10:00 p.m.**



3<sup>RD</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE  
MY BIBLE CLASS

We will not meet in December.  
Next "My Bible" will be on  
January 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Sunday Lessons in December

**December 6<sup>th</sup>**

Mal 3:1-4; Lk 1:68-79; Phil 1:3-11; Lk 3:1-6

**December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Zeph 3:14-20; Isa 12:2-6; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:7-18

**December 20<sup>th</sup>**

Micah 5:2-5a; Lk 1:46b-55; Heb 10:5-10;

Lk 1:39-45

**December 27<sup>th</sup>**

1 Sam 2:18-20, 26; Ps 148; col 3:12-17; Lk 2:41-52

### ADVENT

Advent is the beginning season in the new church year. The time before Christmas, a time to prepare our hearts for the birth of our Savior. We mark the four Sundays of Advent with the Advent wreath.

### ADVENT TITHE CHALLENGE

Watch for Christmas stockings during Advent and Christmas at St. Thomas! The "challenge" is to donate 10% (or whatever you can) of what you spend on Christmas gifts. This year the tithe challenge will benefit the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and our mission partner church, Good Shepherd Lutheran in Holland, Michigan.

### GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES NETWORK

#### Christmas Programming

Watch the Sunday bulletins for dates and times of Cantata's and Drama's that will be broadcast in December on 102.1 FM radio.

# St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church

## December 2009 News & Notes

### A WORD FROM PASTOR BUDD...

We enter the season of Advent, preparing for the celebration of the Christ child, Jesus of Nazareth. Many in North America will be consumed with asking: What do you want for Christmas?

What can I get So-And-So for Christmas?

What did you ask Santa for Christmas?

What am I gonna ask Santa for Christmas?

There is nothing wrong with asking for something. Our LORD encouraged us to ask, to seek, and to knock. Because we ask does not mean we are *entitled* to receive that for which we asked.

Someone - some years ago - shared this writing with me, and I would like to pass it on for you to ponder it in your hearts as we prepare to celebrate the magnificent gift of God this year.

**I asked God to take away my pride.....**

And God said "No."

He said it was not for him to take away, but for me to give up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole.

And God said "No."

He said her spirit is whole, her body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience. And God said "No."

He said patience is a by-product of tribulations.

It isn't granted, it is earned.

I asked God to give me happiness. And God said "No."

He said he gives me blessings, happiness is up to me.

I asked God to spare me pain. And God said "No."

He said suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to Me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow. And God said "No."

He said I must grow on my own. But he would prune me to make me fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. And God said "No." He said I will give you life, that you may enjoy all things.

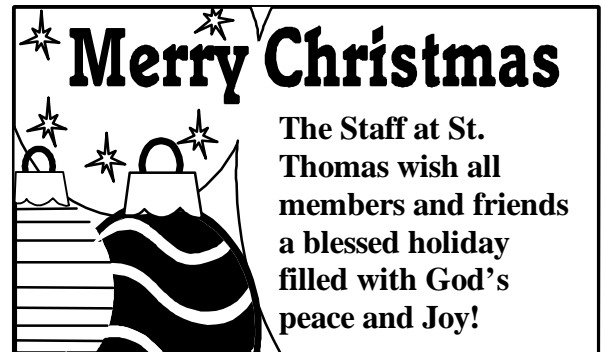
I asked God to help me **love** others, as much as he loves me.

And God said, "Ah, finally you have the idea."

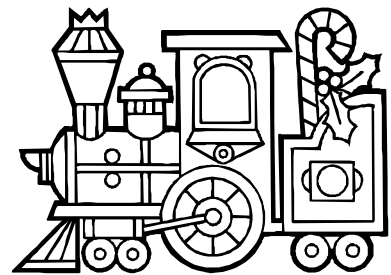
May we all have the idea of God's love for us, and God's power to love each other.

May you have a blessed day celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus with your family and/or friends.

BAW+



### KIDS KLUB AND PEACE KIDS DECEMBER GATHERING



Students in grades K-8th  
and their parents  
are invited to gather at the church  
on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

We will be working on  
Christmas cookies  
and ornaments  
and will share a few  
Christmas Carols with the seniors  
at Grebe Village.