

St. Thomas Evangelical Lutheran Church

July 2010 News & Notes

Godspeed

Time has come. My exchange, being as successful as it was, is over but this congregation added a giant chunk of happiness to it. I want to say thank you to all of the congregation because all of you helped me through the darkest times of my exchange. When my grandfather died of cancer you were there for me and prayed and that is what I am thankful for. I wish you the best of luck and happiness after I am gone. This church inhabits a lot of important memories for me and be assured that I will not forget about you. Thank you for making this year so amazing for me.

Niklas Boehm

THE FOOD PANTRY

St. Thomas Parishioners:
Please accept the gratitude of The Pantry volunteers and the families we serve for your generous and unfailing response to our requests for help. Whether it be cereal, fruit or side dishes, we know St. Thomas will provide. Thank you!

Congratulations Matthew 25 Winners!

Good Shepherd Lutheran, Holland, MI
Members of the congregation gave \$25.58 per confirmed member, which is the highest in the Synod for the period May 2009 through April 2010. Gifts to ELCA World Hunger have brought love and hope, as well as clean water, food, education, seeds, medical supplies, animals, and much more to people around the world. Thank you

Vacation Bible School

I would like to extend a very heart felt THANK YOU to everyone who donated food, supplies and time for Vacation Bible School. We had an absolute galactic BLAST learning how God created this magnificent universe and how we can all do our parts to take care of our planet and each other.

We opened our doors to 80 children Monday morning and enjoyed a week long adventure of song, creativity, stories, snack and games while learning how one animal can bless entire villages through Heifer International. We raised \$340 to purchase livestock for a family or two through the Heifer project.

I would like to say a special thank you to Cory Sarrault, Lillian Sarrault, Nathan Sarrault, Nicklas Boher, Ashley Godin, Cooper Kelly, Krissy Beethem, Theo Lepp, Sam Kling, Kris Evans, Angela Beethem, Sara Wanke, Zach Zellar, Anthony Lalonde and Amy Deeter plus all the helpers from St. Paul's United Methodist Church for all their work and dedication to making VBS 2010 a great success! We have a great group of youth in our midst and I was extremely grateful for all their work as well as impressed with their commitment to God and the children that attended VBS.

Thank you,

Francie Kling
VBS Coordinator

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Sunday Lessons in July

July 4

Isa 66:10-14; Ps 66:1-9; Gal 6[1-6] 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 11

Deut 30:9-14; Ps 25:1-10; Col 1:1-14;
Luke 10:25-37

July 18

Gen 18:1-10a; Ps 15; Col 1:15-28;
Luke 10:38-42

July 25

Gen 18:20-32; Ps 138; Col 2:6-15, [6-19];
Luke 11:1-13

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
2nd to last Thursday of each month

**SUNDAY BULLETIN
NEWS DEADLINE:**
Every Thursday

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Dear Friends in Christ,

We would like to thank you for the beautiful cross
Pastor Budd presented to us on our 50th wedding
anniversary. Thanks to all who made the day so very
special.

May God bless you all ~ Lee & Sandy Hanson

2012 NATIONAL ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

July 18-22, 2012 * NEW ORLEANS

Go to www.elca.org/gathering and be
come part of the movement

ELCA for NOLA!

We will soon begin planning for
those St. Thomas youth who desire
to attend/participate in the National
Youth Gathering 2012!

Beginning in August, can and bottle
donations will support this trip.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA

July 4th – Independence Day

*How many original colonies
were there? 12, 13 or 14?*

To whom did they owe allegiance?

King George I, II or III?

What event united the colonists?

Tea Party, Rummage Sale or
Boston Marathon?

**PRAISE GOD FOR OUR
FREEDOMS!**

**Church offices will be closed
on Monday, July 5th**

NOTHING BUT NETS J – The Lutheran Malaria Initiative

The **Lutheran Malaria Initiative** is partnering with *Nothing But Nets™* to bring Lutherans an exciting way to get involved in the fight against malaria! Just \$10 buys an insecticide-treated bed net, delivers it to someone in Africa, and educates them on its use. Protecting people from malaria-infected mosquitoes is that easy: send a net, save a life. It's something you can do!

ST. THOMAS friends and family will soon have a chance to join the St. Thomas Nothing but Nets J team online. Spread the word and see how many people we can get to join our online team! Watch the Sunday bulletin for further information and instructions! Please note that this is an online fundraiser only. Donations cannot be accepted through the church.

The numbers

More than 500 million people contract malaria each year, and the disease kills more than one million people annually—the vast majority of them children in Africa. Malaria contributes to the deaths of an estimated 10,000 pregnant women and up to 200,000 infants each year in Africa. To put these deaths into context, malaria results in 2,880 deaths a day; 120 deaths an hour; one death every 30 seconds. Almost half the world's population—3.3 billion people—is at risk for contracting malaria, and that number grows each year due to war, famine, displacement, deteriorating medical services, and growing poverty.

Impact of poverty

In many areas of the world, abject poverty creates an environment where diseases like malaria can take hold and spread with deadly consequence. Poverty gives malaria opportunity and malaria intensifies poverty. As a disease of poverty, malaria exacerbates problems that already exist by making people too sick to work, care for their children, or attend school, depleting impoverished family's resources and driving them further into poverty. People living in poverty are disproportionately vulnerable to malaria, with 58% of malaria deaths occurring in the poorest 20% of the world's population—a higher percentage than for any other disease.

Pregnant women and children are the most vulnerable

While affecting all age groups and both sexes, malaria, a disease contracted through the bite of an infected mosquito, has a disproportionate effect on children, pregnant women, and their unborn babies, affecting the next generation and those who take care of them. In addition to a high risk of dying from the complications of severe malaria, infected pregnant woman also risk miscarriage, premature delivery, delivery of low-birth-weight babies, stillbirth, and extreme maternal anemia.

Malaria today

Malaria remains a plague of people living in poverty. It accounts for up to half of all hospital admissions and outpatient visits in Africa. In addition to the burden it places on the health care system, malaria illness and death cost Africa approximately \$12 billion a year in lost productivity. Malaria increases school absenteeism, decreases tourism, inhibits foreign investment, and even affects the type of crops that are grown.

Malaria is one of the dominant factors that trap families and communities in a downward spiral of poverty, disproportionately affecting people living in poverty who cannot afford treatment or who have limited access to health care. Despite growing worldwide attention, malaria presents an overwhelming threat to more than 40% of the world's population. Every month, as many children die of malaria in Africa as died in the 2004 South Asia tsunami—about 150,000. And yet, malaria is a largely preventable and treatable disease.