

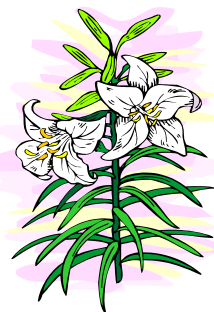
# The LIFT

st thomas episcopal church

SPRING 2020

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Stations of the Cross will be available for prayer and reflection during Holy Week.  
Please see below for more information.



**Sunday, April 5 – Palm Sunday, 8:00 and 9:30 A.M.**

*Liturgy of the Palms and Reading of Christ's Passion according to Matthew*

**Tuesday, April 7 – Tuesday in Holy Week, 7:00 P.M.**

*Quiet, contemplative Taize service*

**Thursday, April 9 – Maundy Thursday, 7:00 P.M.**

*(Includes Mediterranean meal as part of the Eucharist)*

*Institution of the Lord's Supper*

*Stripping of the Altar*

**Friday, April 10 – Good Friday**

12:00 P.M. – Ecumenical service at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church

5:30 P.M. – Family-friendly service at St. Thomas

**Saturday, April 11 – The Great Vigil of Easter, 7:00 P.M.**

*Lighting of the Fire, Stories of Salvation, Holy Baptism, and the First Eucharist of Easter*

**Sunday, April 12 – Easter Day, 8:00 and 10:00 A.M.**

*Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Special Activities for Children*

*Monday of Easter Week – the church office is closed.*

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday: 8:00 a.m.- Rite I Eucharist & 9:30 a.m.- Rite II Eucharist with Music  
5:30 p.m. Sacred Space on Sundays through March 15  
5:30 p.m. Quiet Eucharist on Wednesdays March 4-April 1  
Evensong once a month from June - December

### NURSERY, CHURCH SCHOOL & ADULT EDUCATION

Nursery Care is provided during the 9:30 a.m. Sunday service.  
Christian Education for children and youth is held on Sunday morning:  
*gather at wooden cross in the narthex prior to the 9:30 service.*  
Adult Education meets after the 9:30 a.m. service most Sundays.

**OFFICE HOURS** Monday-Thursday  
10:00am—4:00pm

**TELEPHONE** (208) 726-5349  
**FAX** (208) 726-7570

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
PO Box 1070  
Sun Valley ID 83353

**EMAIL:** [admin@stthomassunvalley.org](mailto:admin@stthomassunvalley.org)  
**WEBSITE:** [www.stthomassunvalley.org](http://www.stthomassunvalley.org)  
[www.stthomasplayhouse.org](http://www.stthomasplayhouse.org)

**FACEBOOK:** [www.facebook.com/StThomasSunValley](http://www.facebook.com/StThomasSunValley)

# “’TIS THE GIFT TO BE SIMPLE”

by *The Rev. Rob Gieselmann*



Years ago, while living through the California drought, I liked to pray for rain, ritually and prominently. I had grown tired of the cracked ground, excessive heat and altogether strange weather. Some of you are praying for snow the way I prayed for rain. Rain eventually came, as will snow (or has, by the time the Lift is published), and I somehow imagine all of Ketchum and Sun Valley coming to church to offer thanks, rain being an answer to prayer and all!

The people of Israel prayed for rain. The rain had stopped because the people had “forsaken the commandments of the Lord and followed the Baals”. The Baals were foreign gods. The Baals brought no rain.

I have a funny feeling about all of this human-centric desire for precipitation, be it snow or rain. Indeed, the weather worldwide seems off. In Tennessee where I’ve spent half of my adult life, winter days now warm to seventy degrees, attended by monsoon rains. Each summer offers more days over ninety degrees than the summer before. To be sure, the California draught is long-over, but Australia has endured not only drought, but (as you know) horrendous wildfires.

Other parts of our country seem stressed, too, especially regarding water, both because of both drought and overuse. Consider the Colorado River. Did you know that the water of the Colorado River almost never reaches the ocean because of human meddling?

If Scripture is to be regarded at all – the natural question a Christian should ask is: did we [humans] cause all or any of this aberrant weather? Like the ancients worshipping the Baals, have we worshipped some god so foreign to the Lord that the result is misshapen weather? Perhaps. Think not of the gods of temples and altars, but of the gods of life-style. The gods of excess, that deity that demands you and I hoard more of everything, better of everything, larger of everything.

Six or seven years ago, I cancelled my subscription to “Outside” magazine. I am an active person who likes to read about adventure. I cancelled my subscription because the editorial trend troubled me. Featured writers no longer told stories about ordinary people attempting extraordinary adventures, they only told stories of extraordinary people attempting impossible adventures. Apparently, it is no longer enough to run a marathon; to be adventurous, you must run 300 miles through a desert with a backpack on. You have to enter the Tough Man race in England and slosh through swamps, slide on your belly under barbed-wire fencing, surmount absurdly impossible barriers, and run through fire.

I need to know, when is enough, enough? This god of excess, and could it be that our inadvertent worship of the god of excess has actually caused climate change and the drought? Our inability to conserve, to ride a bike instead of drive, to do without out-of-season fruit (rather than ship it to us from Brazil)? This isn’t a political question, it is a moral one. Our appetites have become insatiable, and if there is climate change, and most experts agree that there is, and climate change actually caused or exacerbated the eccentric weather, then how can we pray for rain or snow or seasonal weather without a parallel change in behavior?

Still, I prayed for rain those years in California, for cooler Tennessee summers, and now for more Idaho snow. But I also pray for mercy. I pray not only on our behalf, but on behalf of the trees and the birds. The Tennessee white and red oaks, and the bear and the deer and the red-tailed hawks. For the elk and fox and moose. My prayer is that God have mercy on all of creation, and not on our way of life. My prayer includes a segment for amendment of life – my own included – that I might have the strength to change what needs to be changed in and about me. I’d like to leave the campground in better condition than I found it. So far, I’m failing at that.

As you consider the season of Lent, which is unimaginably at the threshold, perhaps you might consider a sacrifice or assume a discipline in the spirit of the earth, and the deep connection Christians have always made spiritually to God by means of earth. May we find a way to live more simply, while being ever so grateful for all we have received.



## PENITENCE, ANYONE?

by the Rev. Kathleen Bean



It's Lent, a season of the church that evokes widely different responses from Christians of many denominations and practices. Over the centuries Lent has been a time both of turning inwards and turning outwards, attending to our own spiritual well-being and the well-being of the world.

In worship we begin with the confession and even though Sunday is always Easter, always Resurrection Day, we put away the word "alleluia" for forty days and adopt a bit more somber, reflective approach. People who rarely kneel may find that posture deeply meaningful during Lent.

Fasting is a long-standing tradition, intended to help believers remember the sacrifice of Jesus. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are traditional fast days for Christians.

And then there is self-examination. How am I living out my Christian faith, at home, at work, in the ways I spend my time? What is my relationship to God, really?

Some adopt a practice of study – regular reading of scripture, or a book that opens a space for reflection on life and relationships. For many it is an ideal time to try a new prayer practice, such as silence, walking meditation, artwork or a rosary. As the snow melts, the labyrinth may call to you.

For some, Lent is a time to reach out to people in need in the broader community and world. Our Sunday morning Adult Education will highlight Episcopal Church priorities in society, including racial reconciliation and immigration.

And, Lent may be a time to reassess commitments and busyness to ask, "How am I taking care of myself?"

What is the best response to these 40 days? Turning inward, or turning outward? Taking on something new or prayerfully doing less? The answer will be different for each of us. Lent is not just about useless self-denial (flagellation!), but practical spiritual and personal progress. Allow yourself to dabble in Lent, try new things, see what sticks. Be open to being surprised by the Spirit.

### Opportunities for a Holy Lent at St. Thomas:

Sacred Space continues through March 15 on Sunday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

Sister Joyst prayer and community for moms continues on Wednesdays at 8:15 a.m.

Bible Studies at 9:00 a.m. (Jesus Unhinged) and noon on Thursdays.

Spiritual Gifts, a weekly program offered by Stephen Ministry (see the article on page 4).

Lent Madness ([www.lentmadness.org](http://www.lentmadness.org)) a fun-filled yet inspiring study of the saints via elimination rounds. (Follow Brett's picks in the weekly St.T email.)

And check the weekly email, website and bulletin for schedule of Holy Week services.

### Reading & listening suggestions from Rob & Kathleen:

Get the free app [prayasyougo.org](http://prayasyougo.org) for your phone. It's ten minutes a day of music, a reading from scripture, and reflection prompts, produced by Scottish Jesuits.

Richard Rohr's daily email from <https://cac.org>

*Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Barbara Brown Taylor

*Mere Christianity*, C.S. Lewis

*The Second Mountain*, David Brooks

*East of Eden*, John Steinbeck

*Stories of God*, Rainer Maria Rilke

*The Snow Leopard*, Peter Matthiessen

*Lent Is Not Rocket Science: An Exploration of God, Creation, and the Cosmos* published by Forward Movement, available in the church office.

## REPORT FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

*by Heather Black, Chair*

The Search Committee has been working diligently on getting the Parish Profile finished. Our goal has been to have it completed and ready to launch online by the first week of March and we anticipate meeting that target. As a reminder, the Parish Profile outlines the parish's resources of human talent and commitment, its programs of worship and ministries, outreach, strategic plans and finances, education and fellowship, and its vision and hopes for the future. The intent is to show prospective candidates all that our church is and hopes to be to see if their needs and personal mission align with ours and to encourage them to apply.

A second document on which we have been working is the Community Ministry Portfolio. This is a multi-page form intended to dive deeper into details about the position, and our church. The comprehensive form includes fill in the blank and narrative questions. The information from this form will appear on a website available to clergy only. The form is nearing completion and shall also be finished and ready to launch to the clergy website in the first week of March.

Finally, we anticipate commencing advertising for the position of rector in the first week of March. Our consultant, Neysa Ellgren, will meet with the Search Committee on March 9 so that we can review with her the steps we will now take as we move into the next phase of the search process. The next phase will include screening applicants (to assure they are priests in good standing), culling out candidates with whom we'd like to speak, conducting interviews, checking references and going on visits.

Please continue to keep the Search Committee in your prayers and pray that God is working to turn the heart of the next St. Thomas rector towards our church. We greatly appreciate your support of this work we are doing.

## SPIRITUAL GIFTS COURSE TO BE OFFERED DURING LENT

*by Maryanne Whitcomb*

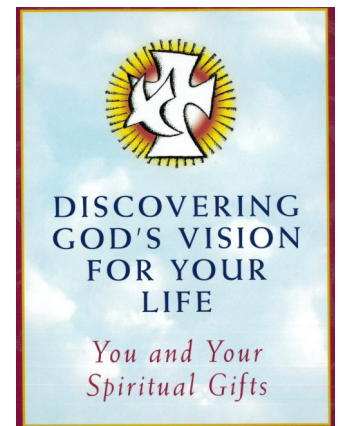
Dr. Kenneth C. Haugk, who developed the Stephen Ministry Series which is now in place at St. Thomas, has also written a powerful 5-week course entitled, "Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts." Three different groups completed the course in 2017 and 2018.

The Stephen Minister Leaders, utilizing the team-teaching approach, are once again offering the course during Lent this year. The classes will be held from 5:00-7:30 p.m. on Mondays: March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6. As these hours do encompass the dinner hour for many, heavy hors d'oeuvres will be offered during the break.

Participants will learn what spiritual gifts are: gifts of the Holy Spirit that St. Paul mentions in the Epistles. Further, these gifts are instruments given to all Christians for the purpose of carrying out the church's mission – as opposed to talents or characteristics that one might possess for self-actualization. The course utilizes both lectures and activities of self-reflection, followed by sharing in pairs, which experience shows often results in an experience of profound and powerful bonding as a group. At the core of the course is a 200 question Spiritual Gifts Inventory – as well as the related descriptions of the twenty gifts mentioned in the Pauline writings.

In the fifth week, course graduates will be guided and assisted in exploring their interests and involvement in using their gifts within the many varied ministries of the St. Thomas Community. Many of those who have completed the course in the past have found that uncovering their spiritual gifts also highlights the gifts that they are now able to bring to their lives, in general, and to their interrelationships with both family and friends.

To learn more about the course, please email Judi Fuller at [jfuller@stthomassunvalley.org](mailto:jfuller@stthomassunvalley.org), or call her at the church office 726-5349. A registration fee of \$20 covers the cost of the materials. Please speak to one of the clergy members if this presents a barrier to participation. Enrollees are strongly urged to plan to attend all five of the sessions, as they are planned to build upon one another sequentially. Judi also has available a fully descriptive brochure than can be easily mailed or picked up Sunday through Thursday at the church office.





## PARISH UPDATE

by Rebecca Waycott, Senior Warden

As we cope with frigid temperatures and icy conditions, it's hard to believe that we are already looking forward to spring. Life at the church this winter has been rich with many offerings including a new Bible study group led by our Interim Rector, Rob, the weekly Taize service, and Sacred Space on Sunday evenings.

At the Annual Meeting the Vestry officially launched the public portion of the Capital Campaign and announced that an anonymous donor had pledged \$100,000 to match contributions up to that amount at 100%. This challenge was enthusiastically embraced by many parishioners, and as of the writing of this article, only 10% of the gift remains to be matched. 100% of both the Vestry and the Search Committee have pledged or donated to the campaign, and it is fervently hoped that there is 100% participation by all members of St. Thomas. As of today 64 of our 284 members have participated. Thanks to each and every one of you for your support. There is still time for the rest of you to participate!!

The campaign is doing well, but there is still a ways to go to meet our participation and financial goals. Please remember that the most important part of this campaign is participation. We all are St. Thomas, and this is our opportunity to support our church as we look to the future and prepare for the arrival of our new rector. No donation is too small nor too large. Light bulbs are as essential to the completion of the remodel as are new windows or electrical wiring! Every person's contribution is important and meaningful.

This week a Construction Open House will take place at the Rectory when parishioners can come and see how the work is going. Completion of the project is projected for July 1. Meanwhile, plans are under way for a small but important remodel of the church offices, which is hoped to be completed before our new rector arrives – way sooner if possible. Our priests need private space for their work – particularly for pastoral care and other confidential matters.

Here are some recent pictures of the work at the rectory on the kitchen/great room.



## St. Thomas Playhouse OPEN AUDITIONS

### “Newsies”

SUMMER THEATER PROJECT  
AGES 9TH GRADE TO YOUNG ADULT

Thursday April 30 4 - 6:30 p.m.

Saturday May 2 10 - 12 noon

(Both held at St. Thomas Church)

Performances are June 17-20  
at the Community School Theater



### “Matilda”

FAMILY MAIN STAGE (all ages)

Tuesday April 28 4:00—7:00 p.m.

Wednesday April 29 4:00—7:00 p.m.

(Both held at St. Thomas Church)

Performances are September 17-20  
at the Community School Theater



## ST. THOMAS BOOK CLUB

by Laurie Ahern

The St. Thomas Book Club is off to a great start in 2020. With a varied reading list we are attracting a consistent following. We meet on the second Monday of most months in the church Fellowship Hall at 1:30 and take turns providing cookies and leading discussions. In February we were lucky to have parishioner and author, Diane Peavey, with us to discuss her book, *Bitterbrush Country*. Here is the upcoming list for the rest of winter and spring:

March 9: *One for the Blackbird, One for the Crow* by Olivia Hawker

April 13: *America's First Daughter* by Stephanie Day and Laura Kamoie

May 11: *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Kruger

June 8: *The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett

There is no need to RSVP, just come if you are able. Any questions contact Laurie Ahern, 206-850-3974 or lahern1681@gmail.com

## Flower Guild

by Betsy Ashton

We would like to thank everyone who donated to the Flower Fund for our new Christmas decorations and our holiday display. We are very grateful to the generous parishioners of St. Thomas Church. Please remember to dedicate flowers on any given Sunday throughout the year. It will be mentioned in the Sunday Bulletin.

We're always looking for new members. We're a very friendly and accommodating group. It's a small time commitment yielding great rewards!

Please contact me if you are at all interested and I will be happy to discuss what's involved. Betsy Ashton taadah@ashton.fm or 208-726-7611

## MILESTONES

December, 2019 through February, 2020

### MARRIAGES

12/9/2019 Katherine Hillyer Weihe and Eric Andrew Dobbie

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## ADULT EDUCATION

by Don Liebich

At a time of great divisions within our country on many issues, it is becoming increasingly difficult to have conversations regarding cultural and political issues that have become divisive. Many families face family dinners at Christmas and Thanksgiving with dread, knowing that the conversations will inevitably devolve into angry arguments. In this milieu, how can we create a climate that allows for constructive conversations around the critical issues that face our institutions, including the Church, that bring about solutions rather than further divisions? Over a six week period this spring we have classes on the "Theological Basis for Dialogue" and "Holy Listening". Following these classes, we will practice our skills as we discuss issues of gun violence and gun control, climate change, economic inequity and abortion. We hope that people with opinions on all sides of these issues will join us.

In addition to this series, we will offer an Earth Day program, a session on one person's spiritual journey with Sarah Sentilles and discussions of Episcopal Evangelism and the Role of Women in the Church.

The schedule is here:

March 29	Episcopalian Evangelism
April 5	Palm Sunday
April 12	Easter Sunday
April 19	Earth Day Program
April 26	Breaking Up With God- A Love Story
May 3	To be announced
May 10	Mother's Day
May 17	Theological Basis for Dialogue
May 24	Holy Listening - a practicum
May 31	Pentecost Sunday
June 7	Exploring Difficult Issues - Gun Control
June 14	Exploring Difficult Issues - Climate Change
June 21	Exploring Difficult Issues - Economic Equity
June 28	Exploring Difficult Issues - Abortion

## MUSIC DIRECTOR

by Joel Bejot

The service music for our last three Sacred Space services comes from the “Red Lake Mass.” It was adapted by Monte Mason from Frances Densmore’s Chippewa Music, which was published in 1910 and 1913. Densmore collected music from all over the United States, but especially in Minnesota. The Kyrie, or “Lord, have mercy,” is adapted from an Ojibway lullaby. The Sanctus was the piece of Red Lake Mass that was developed first. The Rt. Rev. Mark McDonald asked Mason to introduce the Sanctus to the mission congregation of St. John’s, Red Lake, hence the title of the Mass.

Many and great, O God, are thy works, maker of earth and sky;  
thy hands have set the heavens with stars; thy fingers spread the mountains and plains.  
Lo, at thy word the waters were formed; deep seas obey thy voice.

Grant unto us communion with thee, thou starabiding one;  
come unto us and dwell with us; with thee are found the gifts of life.  
Bless us with life that has no end, eternal life with thee.

Hymnal 1982 #385, Dakota Indian Chant.

On March 15, our final Sacred Space service for the season will be held. If you need a moment of peace amid the chaos of life, come to one of these unique services.

On April 15-12, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter will be observed and celebrated. Come walk with Jesus and your St. Thomas family through Christ’s Passion, death, and resurrection. Of note, we are having a family Good Friday service, held at 5:30 on April 10. And of course the Easter Vigil, one of the most ancient liturgies in the Christian tradition will be held on April 11. We listen to God’s great stories of salvation, renew our baptism, and partake in the first Eucharist of Easter.

Following Easter, the choir will get a break for about a month. If you have a musical offering for the church during that time, please speak with Joel Bejot.

In May, we celebrate the Rite of Passage for many of our young people, we observe graduations, Mother’s Day, and many other things. Please plan on marking these milestones with us.

Finally, I will be away for three Sundays in Lent (an extended family vacation). Please continue to volunteer and support our local musicians as they sing and play for us!

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## WHAT IS BEING READ AROUND THE CHURCH

Rob Gieselmann:

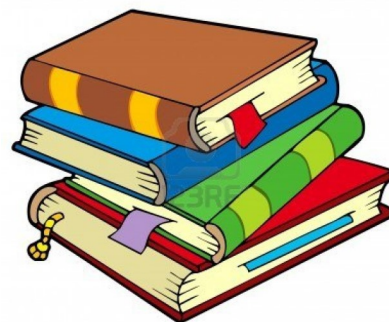
*The Snow Leopard* by Tim Matthiessen. Non-fiction account of author’s Nepalese hike in 1973 to glimpse the snow leopard, peppered with Buddhist meditative feel and thought.

*We were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter, fictionalized account of Jewish family’s survival of WWII Poland.

*Beneath a Scarlet Sky* by Mark Sullivan, fictionalized account of a young Italian’s attempt to thwart the Nazi’s in Italy.

*Moby Dick* by Herman Melville.

*New Seeds of Contemplation* by Thomas Merton.



Laurie Ahern:

*No-No Boy* by John Okada. Fictional version of real-life ‘no-no’ boys, Japanese-American young men who declined to serve on the American side in World War II.

Nancy Cord:

*Before We Were Yours* by Lisa Wingate

*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

Sara Gorby:

*The Wednesday Wars* by Gary D. Schmidt

*Faith in the Spotlight* – by Megan Alexander

Kathleen Bean:

*The Dutch House* by Ann Patchett

(narrated by Tom Hanks on Audible)

Poetry Unbound, podcast featuring Padraig O Tuama

*Altars in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor

# YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES

by Sara Gorby

**LENT** is a time to look inward and put intentional energy toward deepening our relationship with God. There are many ways to practice intentional engagement during Lent. The Youth Group and Sunday School will be doing this as a collective. We will create a **MOBILE ART** piece that will be installed for Palm Sunday. As we walk toward the Cross before Easter, we will hear stories of Jesus' ministry. As a response to the stories, we will prayerfully create individual art pieces that will come together to create something beautiful and thoughtful.

We will also offer **MITE BOXES** to collect money during Lent to give toward Episcopal Relief and Development ([www.episcopalrelief.org](http://www.episcopalrelief.org)). Young people will get to choose what the money goes toward. There are so many wonderful opportunities to give through Gifts of Life (animals, seeds, education, water, mosquito nets and more). Mite Boxes will be available for pick up on March 1.

**EASTER** will provide a change of rhythm. Youth will explore the idea of **SUPERHEROS!**: exploring the sacred in comics, graphic novels, and film. We will begin by watching a superhero movie on Saturday, April 25, then we will spend Youth Group Sundays (April 26–May 31) in discussions about, “We need heroes, we believe in saviors. We believe evil exists, and while it sometimes appeals to us, we understand that it needs to be conquered. We all have a responsibility to take action to make things better.” **SUPERHEROES** will take us to the end of the school year!

## FAMILY MINISTRY SERVICES & FELLOWSHIP

Sunday, March 8	11:00 a.m.	“Stone Soup” with St. Thomas Playhouse (following the 9:30 a.m. service.) Soup after the show provided by the Hospitality Committee!
Friday, March 13	4:30 p.m.	TGiF2 Service
Friday, March 13	5:30–9:00 p.m.	KIDS NIGHT OUT – Sign up with Sara Gorby ( <a href="mailto:sgorby@stthomassunvalley.org">sgorby@stthomassunvalley.org</a> ) or Liz Hickey ( <a href="mailto:lhickey@stthomassunvalley.org">lhickey@stthomassunvalley.org</a> ) – \$10/child or \$20/family (goes toward out CYF Rectory Renovation Goal)
Sunday, March 15	9:30 a.m.	MINI-MESSY CHURCH
Sunday, March 29		NO YOUTH GROUP OR SUNDAY SCHOOL
Sunday, April 5		Palm Sunday!
Monday–Friday, April 5–10		Way of the Cross: Self-Guided Journey Through the Passion of Jesus Christ
Friday, April 10	5:30 p.m.	Good Friday Family Friendly Service
Sunday, April 12	10:00 a.m.	Easter Sunday – Flowering the Cross, Ring Bells & Easter Goodie Bags!
Saturday, April 25		CHURCH SLEEP OVER – 4th grade & up, Sign up with Sara Gorby ( <a href="mailto:sgorby@stthomassunvalley.org">sgorby@stthomassunvalley.org</a> ) or Liz Hickey ( <a href="mailto:lhickey@stthomassunvalley.org">lhickey@stthomassunvalley.org</a> ) – \$15/child (goes toward out CYF Rectory Renovation Goal) – Drop off at 5:30 on Saturday, pick up after the 9:30 a.m. service
Sunday, May 10	9:30 a.m.	UP FRONT SUNDAY ~ Mother’s Day & Rites of Passage for 3rd, 5th & 8th grade, Honoring High School Seniors, and Choristers
Sunday, May 31	9:30 a.m.	Pentecost/ <b>WEAR RED!</b> – LAST Sunday School & Youth Group: MINI-MESSY CHURCH



Join St. Thomas Playhouse for the Children’s Touring Theater Production of **STONE SOUP!** Sunday, March 8th, 11:00 a.m. (following the 9:30 service)  
Starring: Andrew Alburger, Sara Gorby, Brett Moellenberg & Melodie Taylor-Mauldin  
Hospitality Committee will be providing soup after the show!



“A peddler arrives in a small village that has fallen on hard times. The peddler offers to make a soup to share with the village. He has a stone and a pot but needs other ingredients. The villagers claim they have nothing to share and so our story begins. Full of colorful characters and music that will engage our audiences, we will explore the lessons of sharing, building community and teamwork.”





**YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRIES**  
by Sara Gorby



Christmas caroling



Youth making masks



TGIF<sup>2</sup> service



Epiphany king visit

**WINTER HIGHLIGHTS**

**Children, Youth & Family  
Rectory Renovation Goal**

*\$1,100 earned to date!*

Future opportunities:

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Soup to order | Orders taken on March 1 & 8<br>Pick Up at Coffee Hour March 15   |
| Monkey Bread  | Orders taken on April 12 & 19<br>Pick up at Coffee Hour April 26 |



Making "Souper Bowl" Chili

**COMPANY B PERFORMING ARTS CAMPS**

Session 1 - June 8 - 20  
Cost: \$375-\$495

Session 2 - August 3 - 14  
Cost: \$375-\$495



Online Registration opens April 6th at 10 a.m. @  
[www.sthomasplayhouse.org](http://www.sthomasplayhouse.org)

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

*by Liz Hickey*

This winter, St. Thomas Sunday School has been enjoying the snow, exploring each of the children's talents in the Christmas Pageant and trying new activities. All have been such a joy to be a part of and I love sharing in these memories.



Nativity pageant

Sunday School is such a great way for the children and youth to make lasting friendships and bond over the love of helping others and the joy of learning. With the busy winter activities and hectic schedules in the Valley, having a consistent and welcoming place for children to come to week-to-week and build relationships is important in their developmental growth.

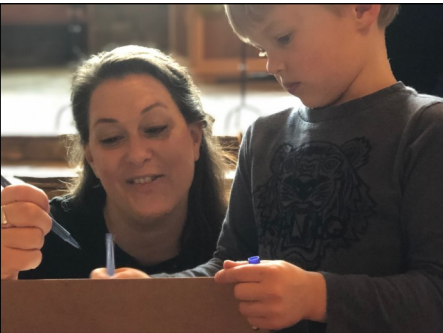
We are so lucky to have such a great group of children exploring their faith with us in all our programs at St. Thomas. Over the past few years we have been offering Godly Play, B3 (Building Faith Brick by Brick with Legos) and now our new

monthly program Mini-Messy Church. Once a month in the winter season we have been offering TGIF<sup>2</sup>, a 4:30 p.m. Family Service for those who want to begin their weekend with worship. This is a 45-minute service with communion and music that is geared for children.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR

- Sunday, March 1 Knowing Jesus: 1-2 Known in Absence/Breaking the Bread with Art Dahl
- Sunday, March 8 Knowing Jesus: 3-4 Known in Doubt/In the Morning w/ Helen Morgus
- Friday, March 13 **TGIF<sup>2</sup>** Family Service at 4:30 p.m. Sara Gorby and Liz Hickey
- Friday, March 13 **PARENTS NIGHT OUT** at 5:30 p.m. – Making Soup and Game Night
- Sunday, March 15 *Mini Messy Church* – The Desert – with Sara, Liz and Courtney Loving
- Sunday, March 22 St. Patrick with Liz Hickey
- Sunday, March 29 **No Sunday School** (Spring Break)
- Sunday, April 5 Knowing Jesus 5-6 Making Known/ In Waiting with Art Dahl
- Friday, April 10 Good Friday Family Service at 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday, April 12 **EASTER SUNDAY**

It's hard to believe that we only have 3 more months till we kick off our Grand Days of Summer and we have so many new activities to share with you! Get ready for a wild "Lazy Days of Summer" Program at St. Thomas.



Sadly, we are losing some of our Sunday school teachers this Spring. If you are interested in helping with our Sunday School classroom or would love to teach, we would love to have you.

Please let Liz Hickey know at [lhickey@stthomassunvalley.org](mailto:lhickey@stthomassunvalley.org).

We look forward to seeing your children in the classroom, we always have room for you!



Making Gingerbread houses



Free play at Sunday School



Time to  
Spring Ahead

Sunday, March 8  
at 2:00 a.m.





Girlfriends paddle-up for Bilkey Scholarship Fund

The **ANNUAL GIRLFRIEND CABARET LUNCHEON** presented by St. Thomas Playhouse was a huge success! Thanks to all of the wonderful ladies who supported the event and helped us raise money for the H. Edward Bilkey Memorial Scholarship Fund, along with many other Playhouse endeavors. The event was held at the Limelight Hotel in Ketchum and we hope to see you there next year!



Young artists sell raffle tickets



Conversations around St. Thomas Playhouse



Kagen Albright commands the crowd as Gomez.



Aly Wepplo and young artists wait to take the stage.

Photos courtesy of Becky Smith

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

## March

1 Sam Thornton	6 Margie Gould	12 Devra Mary	16 Fred Zauner
1 Elaine Phillips	6 John Ashton	12 Sara Pettit	17 Kaye Kearns
2 Wally Morgus	7 Robert Robideaux	12 Patrick Tooley	20 Fred Filoon
2 Betsy Ashton	9 Mary Ann Hogan	13 Mike Phillips	21 Mary Van Fossan
3 Molly Thornton	9 Karen Cox	13 Maeve Bailey	23 Nick Moulds
3 Kjersten Brown	10 Marcia Liebich	14 Reuben Perin	25 Amanda Walton
4 Jack Tierney	11 Lilian Tierney	14 Louisa Waycott	27 Richard Mull
5 Elmer Ellis	11 Maureen Ott	15 Nancy Winton	30 John Dominick

## April

2 Kathy Jones	12 Suzie Orb	19 Judith Powell	26 Blakeslee Davis-Jeffers
2 Ed Watson	13 Jessica Bejot	20 Linda Bergerson	27 Maggie Sturdevant
3 Holden Archie	14 Penny Monger	22 Mary Malkmus	27 Kris Berg
4 Melissa Lee	14 Pam Irby	22 Gregory Merchep	28 Mike Wolter
4 Bobby Van Fossan	14 Katherine Buck	23 Dick Hare	28 Dyd Cleven
6 Glenn Crumrine	14 Luke Buck	23 Sara Gorby	28 Chuck Sloan
7 Petra Morrison	15 Dawn King	23 Ann Scales	28 Mike Wolter
7 Karen Bulls	15 Joel Bejot	23 Christine Davis-Jeffers	29 Isabelle Benton
7 Jenny Terjeson	16 Nancy Swaney	24 Gina Knox	
8 Connie Hoffman	16 George Merchep	25 Linnea Collins	
9 Gini Baumgardner	17 Michael Hawkey	26 Norah Bretall	

## May

1 Meredith Skillman	6 Sylvia Cunningham	18 Shearson Jones	26 Don Carley
2 Kristen Morton	6 Barbara Dembergh	18 Parker Tooley	27 Doug Hanke
2 Michael Bulls	10 Alison Burpee	20 Jima Rice	28 Jo Lowe
2 Alaina Bejot	11 Grayson Tierney	22 Bobbie Dahl	30 Serena Sheue
3 Richard Brooks	12 Sally Horn	23 Katrina Cord	31 Mary Lou Hanson
3 Becky Smith	13 Don Liebich	24 Saba Grossman	
3 Lynn Peters	16 Aila Pettit	24 Randy Caldwell	
6 Bill Swaney	17 Brack Hale	25 Karley Johnston	

The deadline for the next issue of *The Lift* is 4 p.m., Tuesday, May 19.

Please submit information and story ideas to the church office or email to Judi Fuller at [jfuller@stthomassunvalley.org](mailto:jfuller@stthomassunvalley.org)  
Should you have any comments or suggestions that will help us improve our newsletter, we will be pleased to receive them.  
Should you wish to discontinue your subscription to *The Lift* please let us know via email.

### BISHOP

The Rt. Rev. Brian J. Thom

### INTERIM PRIEST

The Rev. Rob Gieselmann

### ASSOCIATE RECTOR

The Rev. Kathleen Bean

### VESTRY OFFICERS

Rebecca Waycott, Senior Warden  
Brad Musbach, Junior Warden  
Tom Benson, Treasurer  
Judi Fuller, Clerk

### VESTRY MEMBERS

Laurie Ahern, Alison Burpee, Art Dahl,  
Sasha Heinz, Lisa Leach, Helen Morgus,  
Tim Price

### ADMINISTRATION

Joel Bejot, Music Director and Organist  
Judi Fuller, Parish Administrator  
Sara Gorby, Children, Youth & Family Director & Playhouse Education Director  
Liz Hickey, Children's Ministry Coordinator  
Brett Moellenberg, Playhouse Managing Director and Electronic Media Coordinator

