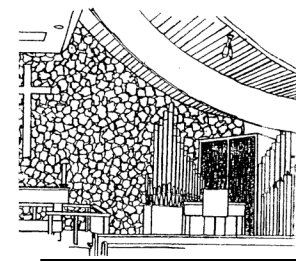




www.stthomaslutheran.org
17700 Old Cutler Road
Palmetto Bay, Florida 33157

FEBRUARY 2012
Newsletter
Volume 38th 2nd Issue



No DOUBTS

FEBRUARY 2012

A Monthly Newsletter of St. Thomas Lutheran Church

February Highlights

- Youth Group:** Calling all youths. Join us for a Youth Group Superbowl party at 6:00 pm at the Coys Home on Sunday February 5, 2011.
- Valentine's Event:** Bring your best talent, and an appetizer or dessert on Sunday February 12, at 6:00 pm for our first annual Valentine's Talent Show and potluck.
- Monthly Munchers:** February's Monthly Munchers will be hosted at the home of Ginni Egan on Saturday February 18, at 7:00 pm. Please RSVP to Ginni Egan.
- Soup & Bread Fellowship:** This Lenten tradition begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22 at 6:00 pm with a Lenten service to follow at 7:00. If you are interested in contributing soup or bread at future Lenten Services, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Thomas Lutheran Church
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Palmetto Bay, Florida 33157-6326
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www.stthomaslutheran.org
The Reverend Daniel Coy, Pastor
Deborah Wong Mar, Organist



FROM THE PASTOR



Reverend Daniel C. Coy, Pastor
 Pastors Office Phone: 305 232-1227
 Pastors Home Phone: 305 254-5558
 Pastors Cell Phone: 305 302-5094

As Lorraine was de-cluttering our house of our children's stuff she came across Caroline's rice maker. I called Caroline and asked her why she left her rice maker at home and she said that she did not use it. I asked why since she bought the thing and loved rice. She said that she no longer ate rice. In Africa she ate rice with every meal and did not like it any more.

And, I thought of Grace Engler who does not eat fish. She grew up in Norway and had fish every day.

Then I thought about Christian worship. One day a week, for one hour, we come together and worship the great God who gives us rice and fish and stores of other stuff. The wonderfully passionate God who gave us Himself on a cross so that we could be ourselves in love and peace requests that you honor him with your presence one day for an hour in public worship. Come on friends and worship!

**In Christ,
 Pastor Coy**

FALL FAIR SPONSORS

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE LOCAL PEOPLE
 AND BUSINESSES WHO GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED
 TO OUR FALL FAIR RAFFLE!**

CiCi's Pizza
 Au Bon Pain
 Sal's Italian Restaurant
 French Bistro
 PF Chang
 Rod Bender's
 InterContinental Armillary
 Grill Restaurant- Doral
 Wagons West
 Royal Palm Grill
 Cutler Bay Sports Bar
 & Grill

Steven Michael's
 Hair Salon
 Blueberry Salon
 Hair Ego
 Cutler Bay Jewelers
 Largo Honda
 Bath and Body Works
 Russell P Rogg
 Grace Engler
 Debbie Mar
 Frank Payne



PRAYERS & BLESSINGS

Members

Amy Petrusky Brown
 Bud Plehn
 Ella Derr
 Ginni Egan
 Helen Marlar
 Lillian McKinley
 Louise Yankowskas
 Wes Roberts
 Dalia Berge

February Birthdays



2/1 Dennis Derr
 2/2 Erv Neitzel
 2/7 Ryan Kissane
 2/13 Rebecca Coy
 2/17 Joanie Huisse
 2/19 Jeff Adamo
 2/23 Sarah Mar
 2/28 Ryan Stieve

February Worship Assistants

Altar Guild: Sherrill Ehlen
 Lector: Sherrill Ehlen
 Communion: Sherrill Ehlen

Ushers

2/5 Ginni Egan/Anita Seale
 2/12 Dennis Derr/Kim Derr
 2/19 Ginni Egan/Anita Seale
 2/26 Youth Sunday

Acolytes

2/5 needed
 2/12 needed
 2/19 needed
 2/26 Needed

We ask that you extend your prayers to:

Family & Friends

Abby Duff	Maria Gentle
Alice	Michael Lamons
Berit Try	O'Campo Family
Dolly	Orin Coy
Dr. Ermilio Rosado	Priscilla
Jacqueline Jimenez	Sally Real
Jim Crouse	Schooley Family
Johnson Family	Scott
Mack McCullough-	Tanya
Melodie	The McCune Family
Mike Breuer	Vic

DEDICATIONS

February Flower Dedications

Thank you to everyone who sponsored February flowers.

February 5, 2012

In Honor of Dennis Derr's Birthday
 By Kim Derr

February 12, 2012

In Honor of Rebecca Coy's 21st Birthday
 By Pastor & Lorraine

February 19, 2012

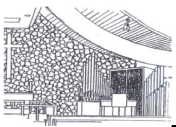
In Honor of Jason's Birthday
 By Grace Engler

February 26, 2012

In Memory of Our Mother Martha Hirning
 By Lillian McKinley & Annemarie Roberts

Eternal Candle

*The Eternal Candle will burn during
 the month of February in Honor of the Glory
 of God*



ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday, January 29th, our congregation came together for our Annual Meeting to discuss St. Thomas in 2011, and goals for 2012. We would like to thank **Sherrill Ehlen, Al Engler** and **Marcie Heese** for their past service on the Council, and welcome new Council Members **Dennis Derr, Ginni Egan** and **Jack Hahn**.

Building Membership is one of the primary goals of the 2012 year. We would like to thank **Kristin Nylen** for agreeing to chair the newly formed Membership Committee. We also would like to thank the following people for their commitment to help Kristin with our efforts to grow the St. Thomas family: **Ginni Egan, Al Engler, Cedric Mar, Diana Orme, Lori Ann Peterson-Basurto, and Annemarie Roberts**. We ask for your help and prayers for the Membership Committee and other support you can offer. Kristin Nylen will be updating the congregation as the committee develops.

2012 ST. THOMAS CHURCH COUNCIL

Dennis Derr	Tom Doherty
Ginni Egan	Rick Hagen
Jack Hahn	Lillian Harmon-Zampella
Beth Schmekel	Tim Scofield
Randall Scott	

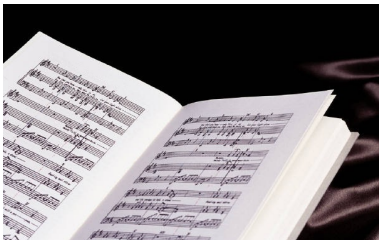
CHOIR

By Debbie Mar

Thank you so much for your kind expressions of love at Christmas time. Please join me in my thanks and appreciation to the wonderful Chancel Choir. Nowhere can you find a more talented and faithful group of singers! There is always room for one more; that's in each section!


Come and join us!

CAN YOU GUESS THE HYMN?



This words to this hymn were writ-ten af-ter two ma-jor trau-mas in William Spaf-ford's life. The first was the great Chi-ca-go Fire of Oc-to-ber 1871, which ru-ined him fi-nan-cial-ly (he had been a weal-thy bus-i-ness-man). Short-ly af-ter, while cross-ing the At-lan-tic, all four of Spaf-ford's daugh-ters died in a col-li-sion with an-o-ther ship. Spaf-ford's wife Anna sur-vided and sent him the now fa-mous tel-e-gram, "Saved alone." Sev-er-al weeks lat-er, as Spaf-

ford's own ship passed near the spot where his daugh-ters died, the Ho-ly Spir-it in-spired these words. They speak to the eter-nal hope that all be-liev-ers have, no mat-ter what pain and grief be-fall them on earth.

Answer: Will be found on the back cover of the newsletter (look for the  hymnal)



GETTING TO KNOW

THE DERRS

By Lisa Hagen

When you hear the names, Kim and Dennis Derr, your thoughts immediately go to St. Thomas as they truly are a part of its foundation.

This special couple began their lives across the United States from one another but it's amazing how God performs miracles, bringing people together.

Kim was born and raised in the Clearwater, Florida area, where she attended St. Petersburg Junior College. She went on to work for Levitz Furniture for 14 years, where six of those years were spent in Tampa and eight in Miami.

Dennis was born on the other coast in California, where his father was stationed at Travis Air Force Base. At age two, his family moved to New York and his father joined the New York Air National Guard. Later, they moved to Florida where Dennis attended Miami Palmetto Sr. High and later went on to Miami Dade College where he earned an associate's degree in Electronics Engineering Technology.

Dennis became a member of St. Thomas in 1974, just two years before he graduated from high school. Six years later, while working at Levitz Furniture in Perrine, he met his future bride, Kim, who was also working at Levitz as an IT Manager. Kim joined the St. Thomas family in 1985 and their relationship blossomed. It was no surprise that on January 17, 1987, Kim and Dennis exchanged their wedding vows at St. Thomas Church. Their journey through the years at St. Thomas has been one of support, and leading by example through their commitment and active involvement in most activities.



Kim has served on the Council, taught Sunday School for over 15 years, served on the Fellowship Committee, and acted as both an altar guild and lector. Dennis has also served on the Council, and has supported the Fel-

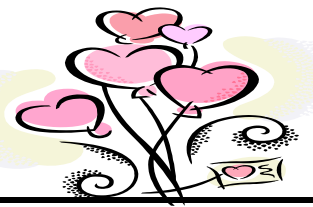
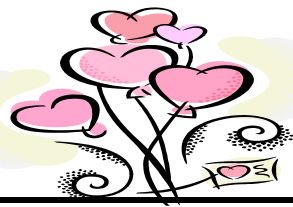
lowship Committee for the past 20 years. Additionally, he has been a lector, property chairman, a member of the choir, and even was a mechanic for the years that St. Thomas had a van.. Both Kim and Dennis have been instrumental at leading St. Thomas' support for the Habitat for Humanity – Faith House projects.

Today Kim works in the IT department at Kendall Regional Medical Center and Dennis, who has worked for Boston Scientific as a Sr. Engineering Technician for the past 16 years, was recently part of a 1,500 employee layoff, and is now looking forward to what new opportunities may be ahead.

St. Thomas is their home and family. They are part of that glue that bonds members through their support, and the warmth and love they exhibit. This is so evident in their personal lives as they just celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Off-duty from St. Thomas, their other passions include their love of animals, sports activities, air shows, and gardening.

Kim and Dennis truly are part of the St. Thomas foundation. Their active participation, friendliness and ongoing willingness to help have been a blessing to St. Thomas and its members.

February 2012



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 <i>Worship Service With Healing 7:00 PM</i>	2 <i>Bible Study 10:00 am</i>	3	4
5 <i>9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Communion 11:00 Choir Practice Food Pantry Collection Youth Group Super- bowl Party at the Coys 6:00 pm</i>	6 	7	8	9 <i>Bible Study 10:00 am</i>	10	11
12 <i>9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Choir Practice Valentine Talent Show 6:00 pm Apps & Desserts</i>	13 	14 		16 <i>Bible Study 10:00 am</i>	17 	18 <i>Monthly Munchers at Ginni Egan's 7:00 pm</i>
19 <i>9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Communion 11:00 Choir Practice</i>	20 <i>HAPPY PRESIDENTS DAY!</i> 	21 <i>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 pm</i>	22 <i>ASH WEDNESDAY Lenten Soup & Bread Fellowship 6:00 pm Service 7:00 pm</i>	23 <i>Bible Study 10:00 am</i>	24	25
26 <i>9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 Worship 11:00 Choir Practice Feed the Homeless</i>	27	28	29 <i>Lenten Soup & Bread Fellowship 6:00 pm Service 7:00 pm</i>			