▪ children & youth news ▪

HELP & SUPPLIES WANTED! Our Sunday School Program is looking for a few hands and supplies as we begin the process of filling out our Godly Play Story collections! We are thrilled to have grant money coming in from the Diocese and we'd like to stretch these dollars as far as they can go by making as much as we can in-house and purchasing only the most specialized items. So, if you're looking for something to keep you busy while we're still limited on what activities we can do in the community, give Barbara McCall a shout! (bmccall@stthomasop.org or 913.909.7318)

A few things we're looking for...

- Remnant/leftover wood stains/seals - any colors/shades welcome! (And any person interested in doing some staining/sealing of our wood pieces.)
- Any woodworkers out there looking for a project...scroll saw work, shelf building, maybe more!
- Seamstresses and/or Felt/Fabric Crafters...we'd love some seasonal frontals and/or banners for our Family Worship Service and Children's Chapel when we're able to return to that!

St. Thomas Children & Youth Celebrations! We think everyone should be celebrated for new levels of creative ways to spend your time, learning how to be alone, or maybe reaching new levels on video games!

*** Congratulations to Hope Fritton! She not only got inducted into the National Honor Society but she was also featured in a recent article in the Shawnee Dispatch about her life and perspective during Covid. She even gave St. Thomas a shout out in the article! ***

Keep 'em coming, friends! Email any special news about your child to Barbara—bmccall@stthomasop.org or Kelly—kdemo@stthomasop.org so that we may add it to our feature in Tower Talk and each month's Children & Families Newsletter!

St. Thomas Family Forum on Facebook
https://www.facebook.com/StThomasOPFamilies

Stay connected with other St. Thomas families with children & youth via our new page! This page will be where you can find Sunday School each week along with activities/resources daily to keep the kids entertained during these long days at home. This is a challenging time, and we hope that this can be a source of connection and community until we can be together again. Also, please know that the church is here to support our families! If you have any needs during the extended school break, please reach out to Barbara McCall, Dir. of Children and Families, 913.909.7318 or bmccall@stthomasop.org or via call/text to let the church know how we can support you.

Youth Group meets each Sunday outside from 6-7:30pm. All 6th through 12th graders are welcome to come for fun distanced socializing and a time to connect with friends and God!

In this year when so many things get cancelled we are so excited to announce we will be hosting....COVID-SAFE TRUNK OR TREAT! On Halloween from 3-4 pm the children of the parish and neighborhood are invited to come in their costumes to walk the St. Thomas parking lot to gather goodies. The youth will have prepared them ahead of time so children can pick them up at each station with no contact.

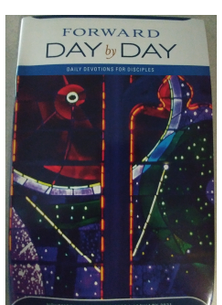
In order to keep the event small enough to be safe we will need to restrict how many cars/families participate. We will send out a signup link in the coming weeks. However, everyone can participate in other ways. The first is that we would so appreciate donations of candy or small toys, pencils, stickers, glow sticks, etc. Secondly, on Halloween please watch the St. Thomas Facebook page where we will post pictures and videos of the fun!

Donations of goodies (packaged only/not homemade) can be dropped off at St. Thomas during office hours or during our services. We will have nut-free stations for kiddos with allergies as well. Thank you all for helping our kids have some semblance of "normal" during this very strange time!

S'more Prayers are Coming!
Friday, November 5
6:30pm - Outdoor Altar/Fire Ring
Join Ms. Barbara and Ms. Addy for an evening around the campfire for some sweet praise and prayer! This roughly 30 minute formational activity will include a look at a very simple prayer format based on the parts of a s'more, some recorded music and a story. The church will provide each family will receive their own individually packaged s'more fixin's as well as their own roasting sticks. You will simply need to bring your lawn chairs, dress for the weather and wear your masks.

Please sign up by Wednesday, November 4, to ensure that we have plenty of time to safely package your items.

https://stthomasop.breezechms.com/form/79701f



Day by Day daily devotion booklets are now available for November, December, and January. They are located in the lobby on the Welcome desk. Feel free to come pick one up during our open hours. If you'd like us to mail one to you, contact the office—mrisebig@stthomasop.org or 913-451-0512.

TOWER TALK

October 24 & 25, 2020

▪ Sunday Christian Education ▪

Adult Forum this Sunday at 10:00am on ZOOM. Links to follow will be sent in an email on Friday.

Children & Youth: Zoom Sunday Schools This Weekend:
9 AM - "Pre(school) through Grade 3" Join us this week as we follow Moses back to Egypt to tell Pharoah to "LET MY PEOPLE GO!"

9:30 AM - Bible Brunch Bunch (Older Elementary/Middle School)
We are embarking on our Pray and Praise with the Psalms journey - those who missed Psalm Trivia last week will have a chance to challenge the grown ups, while Ms. Addy takes the others on an art-filled journey with the Good Shepherd through Psalm 23.

Children's Church/Family Morning Prayers - *Check it out on Facebook or the You Tube Channel's "Children's Ministry" Playlist anytime after 8 AM on Sunday!*

▪ In-Person Services ▪

Services are scheduled for in-person worship in the Sanctuary, currently limited to 25 people. **Communion services** coming up this weekend are on Saturday at 5:30pm and Sunday at 11:00am. All are welcome! We do need you to sign up ahead of time, wear a mask, and social distance. If you sign up and end up with a fever, congestion or other symptoms, or have been told you were exposed to COVID-19, you need to stay home. You can sign up here:
https://reopen.church/r/e2dW8tj0

Family Worship and Communion Service at 11am THIS SUNDAY in Parish Hall 1. Sign up with the reopen link below.

▪ Worship with us Online! ▪

Saturday, 5:30pm—Holy Communion
Sunday, 9:00am—Holy Communion
Monday—Friday, 8:00pm—Compline

Services will be available to watch anytime after that on both YouTube and Facebook. www.youtube.com/c/stthomasop and www.facebook.com/stthomasop

Visit our website www.stthomasop.org for bulletins for the weekend services and LIVE services (on the home page click on the **Red Arrow** under "Live Stream")

▪ Outreach at St. Thomas ▪

Thank you!
Caring for Kids – Comanche Elementary "Call for Calming Kits"
Thank you to all who helped make the sensory mazes that will be included in the Calming Kits for the Students at Comanche Elementary. And thank you to Thom's Helpers for putting the full kits together as well. Completed kits will be delivered to the school on Monday, October 21.

Though the kits are done, it's not too late to still sponsor a kit for a student… Completed kits may be sponsored for $8/kit **through October 31**.

Please make checks payable to: St. Thomas the Apostle
Include "Outreach – Comanche Kits" in the memo line.

Reaching Out To the Homeless In Our Community

Everyone's life has been impacted by the Corona Virus. Thankfully most of us are still in our homes, but for some families and single women living close to the edge of their income, this virus is making a homeless shelter look good. That is so sad. JoCo Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) continues to serve situationally homeless families and single women here in Johnson Co. They have been providing this ministry since 2004.

Due to the virus, the 2020 plan is that IHN guests will be staying at New Haven Seventh Day Adventist Church during the evening and overnight. Network congregations will provide all the meals and snacks and trained volunteers will volunteer at New Haven. During the week of Oct 25 & Nov. 1, St. Thomas will have a number of trained volunteers at New Haven. Our "support" churches, Church of Jesus Christ (LDS) and OP First Assembly of God volunteers will assist. Food will be provided by St. Thomas, Atonement Lutheran Church and the LDS congregations.

Please pray for IHN guests, the continued work of IHN and all the Network congregations. If you have questions or can help, contact Margaret Walkenshaw at mwalkenshaw@kc.surewest.net or phone 913 897 4766.

An Altar Flower Memorial has been given to the Glory of God and

In honor of our 29th anniversary—
Peter & Stacie Gram

Please schedule gatherings with office

To hold a small group meeting or gathering at St. Thomas, we ask that you clear the date/time/space with Meribeth in the church office to eliminate any conflicts. 913-451-0512 or email mrisebig@stthomasop.org. Thank you!

▪ The week ahead at st. thomas ▪

Saturday, Oct. 24: Holy Communion, 5:30pm Online and Nave

Sunday, Oct. 25: Children & Youth Sunday School-9-10am Online; Holy Communion-9:00am Online; Adult Forum—10am Online; Holy Communion-11:00am Sanctuary; Family Worship & Holy Communion, 11am in PH 1; EfM (Educ. for Ministry), 12-3pm PH 1; Youth Group– 6-8pm PH

Monday, Oct. 26: Thom's Helpers– 10:30am-1pm PH 1; Finance Committee, 5:45 Online; Brass Ensemble reh– 6:30-8pm Nave; AA-6:30-8:30pm LL; Journeymen, 6:30pm Online; Vestry Mtg, 6:45pm Online; Compline-8pm Online

Tuesday, Oct. 27: Sword Guild Practice-7-9pm PH 2, 3; Compline-8pm Online

Wednesday, Oct. 28: Thom's Helpers-10:30am-1pm PH 1; Staff Meeting-1:30pm PH 1 or 2; IHN AA Fellowship-7:30pm LL; Compline-8pm Online

Thursday, Oct. 29: Bible Study (Roller/Strom), 10-11am Online; Brass Ensemble, 7-8:30pm Nave; Young Adult Small Grp, 7-8pm PH 1; Al-Anon Family Grp-7-8pm LL; Compline-8pm Online

Friday, Oct. 30: AA-8-9pm LL; Compline, 8pm Online

Saturday, Oct. 31: Trunk or Treat, 3-4pm Parking Lot; Holy Communion, 5:30pm Online and Nave

St. Thomas the Apostle Episcopal Church
12251 Antioch Rd, Overland Park, KS 66213
913-451-0512

email address: stthomas@stthomasop.org
Visit us on the website: www.stthomasop.org
Facebook: St. Thomas Episcopal OP

**** You can access the parish database at any time by going to stthomasop.breezechms.com and logging into your account. If you don't have access, let us know and we will get that to you. ****

Get Connected!

Contemplative Prayer Small Group—I want to remind our community that we have a Contemplative Prayer small group. We are back to our normal schedule of 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7:00pm at the church. We have been meeting outside but as temperatures begin to fall we will move into the Nave. Wherever we are we are wearing our masks and social distancing ourselves. 2020 has been full of distraction and anxiety. Contemplative prayer can bring us back to the present moment so we can rest in the Presence of the One who loves us so dearly. We aren't extreme in our silence. It is typically about 20 min. or so. You are also able to come as often as you want or need and it is a nice way to maintain community in these strange times. We would love to see you. If you have any questions, or would like to be on the reminder email that is sent out, you can call me at 913-221-9618 or email stevencps12@gmail.com.
Your friend on the Vestry-Steve Connelly

PEACE Challenge—We would like everyone to submit a new Peace video or picture to be used during the online St. Thomas service. Please submit your most creative Fall theme 'Peace Be with You' video to share with your fellow St.Thomas members. Send videos and pictures to gdemo@stthomasop.org

Love your (St. Thomas) neighbor! We are going to be starting St. Thomas neighborhood clusters so you can learn who from your church lives in your neighborhood! In this time of uber disconnectedness this is another opportunity to stay connected. Our hope is that neighborhood groups will meet periodically in person (maybe your neighborhood park or someone's driveway) in a covid responsible way. Then neighbors can know each other and help each other as well. Need to borrow some sugar? Ask your St. Thomas neighbor! Going out of town and need someone to water your plants? Ask your St. Thomas neighbor!

The church will be open for prayer 9am-4pm M-Th and 9am-12pm Fri. Please let the church office know ahead of time if you'd like to come pray in the Nave. The office will be open during those hours but limited to staff. We ask that you continue to contact us by phone or email.