

THE ST. ANDREW MESSENGER

St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 908 Murfreesboro Road, Franklin, TN 37064



In Christ, We Worship, Love, Grow, Serve, and Send.

Vol. XXVIII No. 12

DECEMBER 2017



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

Advent Midweek Worship

December 6, 13, & 20

- ★ A catered dinner is served from **5:30-6:40 p.m. PLEASE RSVP to the church on Monday before each Wednesday dinner.** The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 children, or \$20 for a family.
- ★ **Holden Evening Prayer by Marty Haugen at 7:00 p.m.**

Our Wednesday midweek worship during Advent will feature a liturgy that is beloved by many people at St. Andrew and by others in our community, Marty Haugen's *Holden Evening Prayer*. We will gather for a catered meal (RSVP needed!) in the fellowship hall. Dinner is served from 5:30-6:40 p.m.

The worship service will begin in the nave at 7:00 p.m. Each service will be 25 minutes long, including a short homily by Pr. Lippard or Pr. Museus. **Our Advent offering is designated to go to Lutheran Services in Tennessee.**

DECEMBER AT ST. ANDREW

Advent begins on the latest possible date this year, December 3. The Advent wreath helps us prepare to celebrate Christ's birth as we move toward Christmas. On December 2, we'll decorate the church and the Christmas tree.

Wednesday evenings begin with a catered meal in the fellowship hall at 5:30 – drop in for supper and fellowship any time by 6:40, as your schedule permits. For our midweek worship services, we will use *Holden Evening Prayer*. This liturgy is beloved by many at St. Andrew and is especially appropriate during Advent. It is named for Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington state. Marty Haugen wrote the liturgy when he was the musician-in-residence at Holden in 1985-86. Our Wednesday midweek worship begins in the nave at 7:00 and concludes at 7:25.

This year, the Wednesdays between the First and Fourth Sundays of Advent are December 6, 13, and 20. Each of these days marks a lesser festival and commemoration on our calendar (cf. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 17): Dec 6 – Nicholas, Bishop of Myra; Dec 13 – Lucy, martyr; and Dec 20 – Katharina von Bora Luther, renewer of the church. You may know these individuals better as St. Nicholas (or Santa Claus), St. Lucia, and Katie Luther,

(continued on pg. 2, December at St. Andrew)

ST. ANDREW STAFF

Senior Pastor

The Rev. Dr. Michael A. Lippard
pastor@saintandrewchurch.com

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Eric C. Pearson
emeripast@saintandrewchurch.com

Associate Pastor

The Rev. Katherine Museum
pastormuseum@saintandrewchurch.com

Director for Youth & Children's Ministries

Sandy Vollmer
sandyvollmer@saintandrewchurch.com

Director of Music

Dr. Brian Russell
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Organist

Dr. Darryl Miller
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Parish Administrator Newsletter Editor

Jolene Richardson
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Administrative Assistant

The Rev. Susan Springer
assistant@saintandrewchurch.com

Children's Choir Director

Katherine Mansouri
mansouri@bellsouth.net

Nursery Attendant

Kristen Grandt

Sunday Schedule

8:30 a.m. Holy Communion

9:50 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Nursery available throughout the morning

Congregational Council:

President	Marlene Boshears
Vice President	Ed Hunt
Secretary	Sue Cox
Treasurer	Shirley Swan
Financial Secretary	Julie Bednar
Finance	Marty Emrath
Faith Formation	Jen Roberts
Membership Development	Adam McGee
Administration	Jolene Richardson
Outreach Ministries	Zach Harris
Stewardship	Doug Hale
Worship and Music	Jody Smith
Fellowship	Meredith Frantz
Nurture	Margaret Bearss
Youth Representatives	Emma Tallyn John McElroy

Martin Luther's wife. During the homilies, we'll reflect briefly on the life and witness of each of these individuals on the day of their commemoration.

The Advent Service of Lessons and Carols based on the O Antiphons will be offered on December 17.

With December 24 falling on a Sunday, we'll observe the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve on the same day. We'll have only one Advent service on December 24 at 8:30 a.m. Afterward, in lieu of Sunday School, we will fill about 800 luminaries (half-gallon plastic milk jugs minus the top half) with sand and candles; then, we'll position them around the perimeter of the church. Late that afternoon, the luminaries will be lit. There will be three Christmas Eve worship services at 3:00, 5:30, and 8:00. The 3:00 service will be oriented toward children and their families: it also will be led by children and will feature music from the Children's Choir. The Adult Choir will sing at the 5:30 and 8:00 services, and Bishop Gordy will preach.

On Sunday morning, December 31, we'll continue celebrating Christmas and resume our usual schedule with two worship services and Sunday School.

I hope you'll join us during December at St. Andrew – what a rich and wonder-filled time in our lives.

Come, Lord Jesus!



Pastor Lippard+



Sunday, December 24 Schedule Advent and Christmas Eve!

8:30 a.m. only - Holy Communion Service
Fourth Sunday in Advent

10:00 a.m. - Set Up Luminaries

(volunteers needed and appreciated!)

2:45 p.m. - Prelude Music

3:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve/Holy Communion; Children's Christmas Program

5:15 p.m. - Prelude Music

5:30 p.m. - Carol Service of Holy Communion

7:30 p.m. - Prelude Music

8:00 p.m. - Carol Service of Holy Communion

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

A few weeks ago, I attended a continuing education meeting with the other new (ordained within the last three years) pastors of our synod. This session's topic was ethics, and, in the course of our conversation on a sample case study about sexual misconduct, the women in the group started sharing our own stories. Our personal case studies ranged from being creeped out to outrightly harassed to abused, and they came from both outside and inside the church. One colleague shared some advice she'd received from her pastoral internship supervisor: how to use your worship folder and -- if necessary -- a high heel to fend off unwanted physical contact.

Our conversation matched up with the #MeToo movement which was sweeping social media and the news. Thousands of people publicly named that they had experienced sexual harassment or assault; some shared their story, others wrote more privately just the words "me too;" I imagine other women chose to stay silent about their painful experiences. In the weeks since, then more and more people have publicly named their abusers, including well-known figures. The repercussions have been stunning.

This is a timely moment for an ELCA task force to be finishing a study on "Faith, Sexism, and Justice." The study gathers around the belief that God created all people with dignity and that Jesus came that we may "have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). From there, the task force studies how and why people -- women especially, but all people -- are not experiencing God's gifts of dignity and abundant life because of the powers of sexism. The study includes topics like violence against women, economic inequality, and ways that the Bible has been misused to hurt women. (See more at www.elca.org/womenandjustice and the resources the ELCA provides at www.elca.org/our-work/publicly-engaged-church/justice-for-women).

The study will culminate in a social statement to be presented to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2019. Social statements officially adopted by the ELCA "guide the life of the church as an institution and inform the conscience of its members in the spirit of Christian liberty" (Social Statement: "The Church in Society"). If adopted, the social statement on Faith, Sexism, and Justice will give our church and its individual members an "official" resource to think and speak about these issues from a Lutheran Christian

perspective as we grapple with them personally, in the church, and in society.

It's good to know our church seeks out many ways to live out the words of Micah 6:8: "...do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God."

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Museus

FROM OUR DIRECTOR FOR YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

It is hard to believe that we are approaching the Christmas season. We have just finished with trunk or treat, and are hardly into the month of November and the retail world has already begun bombarding us with Christmas decorations and advertising. It just boggles my mind every year. I have been watching a television series on Netflix and the setting is during the 1980's. It has been fun to watch this show and reminisce about the good old days when I was growing up and in middle school. I can relate to the kids riding banana seat bicycles to the arcade to play the latest and greatest video game. You see, back in the 80's we didn't have the internet or cell phones, and we were allowed to ride our bikes all over town as long as we were home by the time the street lights came on. I guess you could say things were slower paced then and we waited for things. As hard as it was we waited, rather than rushed into the Christmas season. As your family gets ready and waits to celebrate the birth of the Christ child, I hope that you make time during this Advent season for slowing down and waiting. There are a variety of Advent devotionals and calendars that your family can use during this special and joy-filled time of the year. The faith formation committee has chosen some and they will be available in the narthex on the round table beginning November 26 and available while the supplies last. Find a devotional that is right for your family, read it, take it in, slow down and make some memories as we await the coming of the baby Jesus.

Sandy Vollmer
Director for Youth & Children's Ministries

FROM THE PASTOR EMERITUS

There are only a few people in our midst today who will remember this congregation's first Christmas Eve service. There were not many of us to begin with and the 43 years since December 24, 1974 have taken their toll. Those of us who were present will remember that we gathered in a small house behind the Brentwood United Methodists Church - the first of our four temporary worship sites. The crowd was small, but it was this family's first Christmas together and we were determined to celebrate as if we were a congregation many times larger. We were still an unnamed mission as formal organization was still some nine months ahead and a name for this new worshipping community had not yet been chosen.

It was perhaps not the sort of Christmas service most of us had left behind as we came together; no pews, no imposing pipe organ, no choir, no stained glass windows. In their place before a make-shift altar were voices singing Christmas carols in celebration of the Bethlehem birth. It was a joyous yet serene moment in an otherwise chaotic world. We were in essence a homeless bunch, finding our way in a new community, building a foundation for generations yet to come. It was a special moment in the life of this congregation and one that would never be replicated. But the spirit of that small gathering flock lives on today in circumstances and surroundings that bear little resemblance to those in that small house so long ago.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church is still a welcoming place to the spiritually homeless and we still seek out the visitor, inviting him or her to become a part of this community of believers. In that sense we are perhaps replicating the sense of those early missionaries who by the grace of God helped to make this congregation what it is today.

Grace and Peace,

Eric C. Pearson+

Pastor Emeritus

FROM THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Instagram of Gratefulness

As I am typing this article, Jason is outside on this rather brisk fall morning tossing a football. Emilene is with her grandmother ready to go to a local theater performance today. I am trying to absorb the news of the death of my cousin from a motorcycle wreck. I keep thinking how often I say in truth and sincerity, "we are blessed." And I mean it—in that moment.

Then I go back to the everyday routine of running a law practice and working full time, being a mother of three kids, trying to keep romance and understanding in my marriage, volunteering for Girl Scouts or church, chauffeuring to and from all the events and activities of our lives, and trying not to become overwhelmed with the laundry and household cleaning that inevitably is never complete. It's really hard to find gratefulness or blessing while scrubbing up the smashed raisins from the carpet, cleaning the toilets, sorting the whites and darks, or going on the endless hunt for the sock the magical dryer disappeared. I think that's okay, though, for us to know—even if we don't hold onto—that instant gratitude and grateful heart.

Maybe we should call it a heart text when we receive those daily instant moments of gratitude that cross our conscience. These texts occur when I see another soul tired as they are engaged in the regular, thankless routines. I am instantly grateful when Alex volunteers to set the table for dinner, Charlie asks for another "huggie," or Emilene reads the boys a nighttime story. I am instantly grateful when Jason holds my hand across the couch as we communicate about our work day. I am even grateful in instances for my mistakes. Mistakes empty from me and change me so that my heart may have room left for additional gratitude and blessings.

The more instant moments of gratefulness I know, the more substance I provide for that hollow heart. Sure, it takes a bit longer to fill it up as I make a million trips to refill my heart with these instant texts of praise and blessings. Each Sunday, I am instantly grateful for knowing you all and for your trust and support with my family and me. As we worship together at St. Andrew, we are gifted with these defining moments of gratefulness to know one another's beauty and strength a little deeper—a little longer. In a world where instantaneous technology so often replaces our human connection, our faith together creates a greater harmony than the individual sounds and blessings we resonate. Even if just for an instant-- we are grateful to know God's love as an instagram of faith to save to our hard drive of life. And in the context of those insta-moments, we know we are blessed.

In Christ's love and blessings,

P. Marlene Boshears

P. Marlene Boshears

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

In the Waiting God is There

Time is an important part of the Advent season. It takes time for us to experience the waiting. It takes time to live as a people walking in darkness. And only after time can we appreciate the light of the Christ child. We cannot wholly experience Advent in just a moment – it takes time.

Music, like Advent, is a time-based experience. We cannot 'flip through' music like we do a book; it must be heard in order. We cannot take a snapshot of music like a photo; we must hear it over seconds, minutes, or even hours. And time changes music; while the *Mona Lisa* is the same it has always been, there will never be two identical performances of the same musical piece.

In this way, music, like Advent, is a waiting game. We all have had experiences where music speaks to us on a profound level; times when we feel love, despair, pride, empathy, and certainly times when we feel God's very presence through musical sounds and silence. This could not be possible without time; without waiting.

In a 1521 sermon from the first Sunday in Advent, Luther said: *"This is what is meant by 'Thy king cometh:' You do not seek him, but he seeks you. You do not find him, he finds you."*

In Advent we wait for a King, knowing each year that He will come to us through the waiting. *In the waiting God is there.* In music, we wait through expositions and developments of themes, knowing that God is present all along. *In the waiting God is there.*

This Advent, I challenge you to *intentionally* wait through every musical aspect of worship. Don't hear a prelude simply as a time-filler; don't skip the opportunity to hear the marriage of sound and text during a choral anthem; don't dismiss handbells as just 'pretty' or children's choirs as just 'cute.' God is present in those notes on that page, and He deserves our best ears and open hearts. Instead, wait for the feelings. Wait alongside fellow Christians in the pew. Wait knowing the outcome – that in the waiting, God is there.

With intentional anticipation,
Brian T. Russell, D.Mus.A

FROM THE WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE

We have wonderful musical opportunities for you and your family at St. Andrew! From solo performer, participating in the choir, instrumentalist, handbells, or STAMP, all are welcome to become part of the music program. St. Andrew offers the following:

Adult Choir (Grade 8 & older)
Cherub Choir (K to 2nd)
St. Andrew Singers (Grades 3-7)
Handbell Choir (Grade 7 & older)
STAMP (contemporary music)

If interested contact: Dr. Brian Russell, Director of Music, at russell@saintandrewchurch.com or Katherine Mansouri, Children's Choir Director, at mansouri@bellsouth.net.

Fa La La Flutes & Handbell Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 10 ~ 3:00 p.m.

The Nashville Philharmonic Flute Ensemble along with St. Andrew Handbell Choir will present "Fa La La Flutes" Concert at St. Andrew on Sunday, December 10, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. Mark your calendars to come now!

COME TO THE MANGER ON CHRISTMAS EVE For All Children and Youth!



St. Andrew children and youth are invited to participate in **the 3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service on Sunday, December 24.** Carols, hymns, songs and anthems will be sung along with a manger scene (tableau) as the Gospel lesson is read.

Rehearsals will be held during Sunday School opening time at 9:45 a.m. in the fellowship hall with the **dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 23 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Children and youth may sign up to serve as greeters, play a polished piece for the prelude, recite the lessons, and/or dress in period costume as angels, shepherds and sheep. The children's choir will also be singing for this service.

Parent volunteers are needed during Sunday School opening time to fit children with period costumes. Sign up to participate during opening or contact Katherine Mansouri at mansouri@bellsouth.net

NURTURE COMMITTEE NEWS

Filling Your Nutritional Plate!

My mouth is already watering just thinking about the delicious and fun foods that I plan to cook during the holidays. Just the thought of eating during the holidays brings some angst for those who wonder how they might get through the holidays without overindulging and gaining weight. Statistics on obesity according to the US Dept. of Agriculture's (USDA) 2012 data show a rather grim picture. Seventeen percent of children and more than 33 percent of adults in the US are obese. Obesity is defined as having a body mass index over 30. Another 33 percent of adults in America are overweight.

Most American adults have grown up learning in health class about the USDA Dietary Guidelines, originally known by some as the *Healthy Eating Pyramid* then changed to *My Pyramid* then in 2011 changed to *My Plate*. The Dietary Guidelines is a critical tool for professionals to help Americans make healthy choices for eating and preventing chronic disease including heart disease, diabetes, and some cancers. In 2011, the Dietary Guidelines began to focus on balancing calories with physical activity. The Guidelines have always stressed consuming healthier foods like vegetables, fruits, whole grains, fat-free or low-fat dairy products, and seafood. The latest Guidelines also stress consuming less sodium, saturated and *trans* fats, added sugars, and refined grains. In order to simplify the Guidelines, the last food icon, a plate, was introduced to reinforce what actually goes into a healthy meal. *My Plate* found at ChooseMyPlate.gov shows one-half of the plate to be fruits and vegetables, a little over a quarter of the plate to be grains and a little less than a quarter of the plate to be protein. Dairy, while just as important as the other foods, is shown with the plate in the traditional position given to a glass of milk. One thing that *My Plate* does not communicate is how large the portions should be. Because *My Plate* is designed for ages 2 and up, an individual portion size is based on the number of calories required per day. Visually knowing how to fill your plate is the key to preventing adding unwanted pounds at any time of the year and especially during the holidays. 10 tips to a great plate and healthy holidays include:

Balance calories: Know how many calories you need per day, develop a food plan and stick to it. Physical activity can also help to balance calorie intake.

Enjoy your food but eat less: Envision how you will fill your plate before you do so. Put lower caloric foods on your plate first. Recognize fullness and hunger cues to know when to eat and when you have had enough. If necessary, choose a smaller

plate.

Focus on fresh food: Processed, packaged foods are often full of sugar and sodium and provide less nutrition and additives that can cause health risks. Prepare the food or help to prepare it so that you will know what you are eating.

Make half your plate vegetables and fruit: You might be surprised at how filling high fiber foods such as sweet potatoes, butternut squash, tomatoes, broccoli and other fruits and vegetables are. Increase the intake of these foods not just with meals but also as snacks.

Choose whole grains products: In place of highly refined bread and rice, choose whole wheat bread and brown rice. In addition there are a variety of grains such as oats, quinoa, and barley that can add variety and nutrition to your meal.

Choose fat-free or low-fat (1%) dairy. The amount of calcium in these options is the same as that found in whole milk, but they contain fewer calories and saturated fats.

Reduce foods high in sugar, salt and solid fats: Cakes, cookies and pies as well as specialty meats are tempting during the holidays. If you cannot resist all of those goodies, reserve these items for special occasions in small quantities.

Drink water instead of sugary drinks: Reduce calories by changing what you drink. Have you ever thought about the fact that filling up on sweetened drinks lowers your possibility of getting an adequate national intake of real food? Don't count on sugar-free drinks helping you to lose weight. While adding to poor nutrition these drinks make your body want more sugar.

Add nuts and seeds to your daily food intake: Nuts and seeds are considered to be ancient foods that are extremely nutritionally dense, offering calories, good fats, complex carbohydrates, protein, vitamins, minerals and fiber. A small handful can take the edge off hunger and prevent you from reaching for the donut or sweet roll.

Fill the plates of those in need! Most importantly, find ways to fill the plates of those less fortunate than you during the holidays. Filling St. Andrew's Christmas baskets, feeding the hungry at St. Paul's Breakfast and Room in the Inn, and giving ELCA *Good Gifts* help to make the holidays better for those living in food deserts.

Have a healthy holiday season!

Connie Pearson, Chair
St. Andrew Health Ministries Team

References: *Food Pyramid, Caring for Your Health*, www.foodpyramid.com;
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Center for Nutrition, Policy and Promotion, DietaryGuidelines.gov. (2015 - 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans)
USDA, ChooseMyPlate.gov



**DECEMBER WELCA
Christmas Party
December 19 at 6:00 p.m.
436 Coburn Lane, Franklin, TN**

We are so excited to celebrate the annual WELCA Christmas party at the home of Linda Strickland this year. Thanks, Linda! All ladies of the church are invited to join in great fellowship and a lot of laughs, so please plan to come. We will share a meal together with the meat and dessert provided. Please bring a side dish large enough to share with 10-12 people.

If you would like to participate in the fun gift exchange, please bring a gift valued at \$10-\$15.

A carpool will be available if you need a ride. Please contact Beth Smith at 615-479-3566 if you are interested.

December Quilting Dates!

In December, the quilting group will only quilt on the **2nd Monday, December 11**. We resume our regular schedule on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month in January at 9:30 a.m. Stay all morning or part of it to tie quilt tops.

SAVE THE DATES:

Our Winter Quilt-a-thon will be held at the church on **January 13 from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

At the **January WELCA** gathering, we will host a program on "Chair Yoga." Everyone can participate! Watch for more information.

DECEMBER 2017 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Dec. 11 | Quilting 9:30 a.m. |
| Dec. 17 | **SOAP SUNDAY |
| Dec. 19 | 6:00 p.m. Annual Christmas Party at the Stricklands |
| Jan. 13, 2018 | Quilt-A-Thon 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. |

Please bring SOAP for Lutheran World Relief each third Sunday or donate funds to St. Andrew WELCA and we will purchase for you!



ANGEL TREE FOR CHRISTMAS

Share the Christmas spirit this year by participating in our Angel Tree, found in the narthex beginning on Sunday, December 3. You are welcome to choose one or more and **return no later than December 18**. Our two recipients are Mercy Community Healthcare and Waves, Inc.

Mercy Community Healthcare provides health care for children and adults no matter their ability to pay. Dr. Amy Vehec and Dr. Anne Fortrell work to provide care to the community. **\$10-\$20 gift cards** to Target, Wal-Mart, Kroger and Publix can be purchased for Mercy.

Waves, Inc. serves adults with intellectual disabilities and children under 3 with developmental delays in Williamson and surrounding counties. There will be "Angels" of various needs and requests to select from.

Gifts do not need to be wrapped and should be brought back to church no later than December 18. Thanks for your participation for these two great agencies! For questions, please contact Peggy Bowker at 615-465-6057.



**WOMEN OF FRANKLIN & WILLIAMSON
COUNTY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
December 1 at Shoney's**

Join the Women of Franklin and Williamson County for a Christmas lunch! Meet at **noon on December 1** in the Community Room at Shoney's Restaurant on Highway 96 E. Valencia Breckenridge, CEO of GraceWorks Ministries, will speak about "Hiding in Plain Sight." The salad buffet or regular buffet will be available. For questions, call Meredith Frantz at 615-974-0457.

AROUND THE PARISH

Births:



Congratulations to Oran and Sarah Basel on the birth of their newborn son, **Oran Alvin (nickname Wren) Basel V**, on Friday, October 27, 2017 at 10:05 p.m. Wren weighed 7 lbs.

12 oz. Wren is the first grandchild of Bijan and Katherine Mansouri.

Tricia and Mitch Smith welcomed their newborn daughter, **Norah Alexander Smith**, on Monday, November 6 at 7:51 p.m. Nora weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. Proud grandparents are Buck and Rachel Haltiwanger.

Congratulations to all the families on these children of God!

Almighty God, you have blessed us with the joy and responsibility of children. Give us gracious love, calm strength, and patient wisdom, that we may teach them to love whatever is just and true and good, following the example of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Our Confirmands:



Congratulations to Mason, Patrick, Carl, Wes, Zoe, Emily, Sara, and Evelyn who were confirmed on Reformation Sunday, October 29!

Peace, Love, and Candy!



Throw backs to the 60's!? No, just **Christy-Lee Lowe and Joe York** in costume at a great Trunk or Treat family fellowship event on October 29! Thanks to all who participated!

Nursery Fun!



Thank you:

Thanks to **Wanda Jasper** for organizing and implementing the Reformation 500 Bookstore. The congregation bought Martin Luther books to celebrate and St. Andrew benefitted by receiving the bookstore samples for our library!

Please check out the new books in our St. Andrew library as well as other great reading books and devotions. The library is found in the fellowship hall. We are grateful to Wanda Jasper who organizes and manages the St. Andrew library as well as all her helpers! Many thanks to all!

Correspondence:

*Dear St. Andrew Lutheran Church,
Thank you for the afghan throws for the residents! Everyone greatly appreciates them!
Sincerely,
Southern Care Assisted Living*

To St. Andrew Congregation

Thank you for your cards, calls, expressions of concern, and especially for your prayers. This very special congregation is a wonderful blessing at all times, not just at times of illness.

May each of you be greatly blessed in this Advent season,

Jessica Jennette

DECEMBER FELLOWSHIP - ALL AGES!

**Playgroup Fun in December
Sunday, December 10 - 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Harris Home**

528 Montridge Court, Franklin, 37067

We are looking forward to a fun Christmas celebration with everyone! Please join us from 3:30-5:30 p.m. on Sunday, December 10 for some holiday merriment. This year we will be decorating gingerbread houses with the kids! Please bring a gingerbread house and decoration to share! We are looking forward to seeing everyone!



Please RSVP to harris.r.claire@gmail.com or 615-347-2940.



CAROLING

**LET'S GO CAROLING!
For all Ages!**

Meet at the church on **Sunday, December 17 at 4:00 p.m.** to travel to sing for the residents of several assisted living and

nursing facilities in the area. Afterwards, the youth return to the church for a party until 7:30 p.m. The adults will travel to the home of Meredith Frantz at 201 Churchill Place in Franklin (near the church) for a potluck meal and fellowship. Everyone is invited to join in the fun and create some smiles (maybe your own)! Wear your favorite Christmas shirt or sweater if you wish. Santa hats and bells are welcome, too! We would love to have some guitarists or other musicians help us.

**DECEMBER SASSY
Christmas Luncheon and
Music by Richard Starkey!**

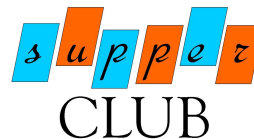


SASSY, St. Andrew congregants and friends 55+ meet the first Thursday on **December 7 at 11:30 a.m.** for a Christmas luncheon and program provided by our own, talented Mr. Richard Starkey. Richard will perform various songs

which will consist of a variety of music that has made him famous and some Christmas music, too. This will be a wonderful program, so please mark your calendars, sign up at church to attend, and enjoy!

Richard Starkey is well-known on the Nashville scene as a musician, song writer, and performer. He has been a guest performer on the Grand Ole Opry. His latest CD that he and Bobby Clark made, "Freight Train Bookie," is just wonderful. In 1992, he became associated with Martin Guitar, as a key player in the company, and has helped with construction, repair, research, and development. He actually owns the second Martin D-18 guitar.

Richard has a great story to tell and we all look forward to hearing it from him. We are in for a great time and we so hope you join us for fellowship and fine music.



THE ADULT SUPPER CLUB begins in January. Groups of six will meet monthly in homes for supper and fellowship. The host plans the main course; two people bring salad and bread; and two bring an appetizer and dessert. Each month we trade, so you will be with people for three months and become better acquainted with your fellow church members. Sign up now in the fellowship hall!

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

A Haitian Coconut Christmas Hut and HOPE

By Rev. John Gierke

I keep a Haitian Christmas crèche in my office year round to remind me of my time in Haiti and to pray for the children of Haiti and their families. I bought it at the airport in Port-au-Prince before returning home at the end of one of our Trinity HOPE mission trips. I love its vibrant colors of clothing on the wise men coming to visit baby Jesus, as well as the simplicity of the coconut hut, the shepherds and other townspeople, Joseph & Mary, and of course, baby Jesus! It's probably not too far off from the simple stable in Bethlehem, but without the barnyard smells! The artist also portrayed Jesus and all the characters with how he or she visualized Jesus and the others - as his/her fellow Haitians. It's a simple yet powerful reminder that Jesus came for all people of all nations, tribes, and languages, and came to be just like us - whether we're poor or materially blessed!

As you ponder God's greatest Gift of the Christ child for you and for all people this Advent and Christmas season, as well as all of God's multitudinous blessings for your daily life until you reach heaven's home because of that same Gift of God, treasure it all in your heart like Mary. Consider also how a simple gift of 25 cents or so will provide a hope-filled meal for a Haitian child, who receives that gift at their school while hearing the simple yet powerful Christmas Gospel of Jesus who came to love them, be just like them, die and rise for them, and fulfill their HOPE of an eternal home for them in heaven! Just like He did for you! What a gift!!!

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

*Articles and photographs for the
JANUARY 2018*

*newsletter must be
submitted to the*

Parish Administrator at

office@saintandrewchurch.com

The deadline for submissions is

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017

Haiti Hunger Fight Update

A very big thank you to all who came out to support this year's Haiti Hunger Fight. As of November 15, \$17,500 has been raised to feed the school children in Haiti.

A special thanks to:

- All our volunteers who helped set up, clean up, and worked the cashier stations: Julie Bednar, Patte Belin, Charlie Fisher, Meredith Frantz, Dale & Jackie Gustafson, Zach Harris, Diane Dalius, Stacy Higbe, Jolene Richardson, Rod & Cyndy Dyer, the Navigators Men's Group
- Sandy Vollmer and the St. Andrew Youth Group
- All those who donated items for the auction
- Our auctioneers Jack Ficken & Frank Baugh
- Katherine Mansouri, Ai Yamada, and St. Andrew Youth Choir
- Tim and Joni Donegan for the meal preparation
- Jim Adams, Tom McElroy, and Doug Elwood for the bananas foster dessert
- Jeanette Higbe, Ruth Schreiner, and Julie Schaub for work with the local and regional businesses
- Ken Cockerham and the Cholla Foundation
- Our planning committee: Jen Fisher, Frank Thomas, Jeanette Higbe, Zach Harris, Patte Belin, Ruth Schreiner, Jim Adams
- Keith Logan and Trinity Hope

A very short survey will be sent soon. As this event requires year-round planning and execution, we really appreciate your input in order that we can do better in the future.

We are also always looking for more help on our committee.

For more information on Trinity Hope please go to <https://www.trinityhope.org/>

In His Service,
Frank Thomas



ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN YOUTH

ADVENT DEVOTIONS ARE HERE!

Advent devotionals are available in the narthex on the round table. The first Sunday in Advent is December 3. Be sure to pick up an Advent devotional to use at home for personal or family devotion time as we wait and prepare for the birth of our savior Jesus. There are a variety to choose from, and something for all ages. The devotionals will be available beginning Sunday, November 26 and until the supplies last.

MANY THANKS!

- To **all volunteers** who help on Sunday mornings, youth group events and beyond! What you do is so important for the faith formation of our children and youth!
- To all **7th & 8th grade youth and parents** who helped with the confirmation banquet. Our confirmands and families were so pleased and impressed. You all did a great job.
- To the **SLY & STAKK youth** who helped volunteer with LST at the My Canvas art show. The children loved the face painting, and games.
- To **Marc Bussone, James and Stacey Stiles, Pastor Museus and Pastor Lippard** for helping chaperone during the My Canvas art show.
- To all our **SLY and STAKK youth** who took time out of their Saturday and helped with the Haiti Hunger Fight Auction.

YOUTH PARENT PERMISSION FORM

Please make sure that your parent permission form is up to date! If you have not filled one out for the 2017-2018 school year, you will need to do so. They are outside of the DYCM office in the file holder.

YOUTH MEDICAL FORM UPDATE

Youth medical forms need to be on file if you are new to youth group and have not filled one out in the past, or have any changes to medical insurance or health history. These forms are kept on file in case of an emergency, and are kept confidential.

KEEP THE KROGER CARD REWARDS COMING ~ To benefit our youth programs...



It's time to re-enroll for the 2017-2018 Kroger community rewards. Each participant currently signed up to support our youth ministries through the Kroger Community Rewards

program is required to re-enroll his or her Kroger Plus card on an annual basis through the Kroger.com website. Please visit www.Kroger.com to re-enroll your card. You will need to log in using your e-mail and password that you had set up, and scroll to find Saint Andrew Lutheran Church, or use our number, which is 59564. Sign up for the Kroger Community Rewards program at:

www.kroger.com/account/enrollCommunityRewardsNow. For more information on the Kroger Rewards program, contact Sandy Vollmer at 615-794-1624.



Children's choir performance at Hunger Fight for Haiti, November 4!

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS ALL YOUTH ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!

- Dec. 3 -** STAKK 5th & 6th grade youth, Christmas fun, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 10 -** SLY 7th - 12th grade youth, Christmas fun, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 17 -** Christmas caroling all ages meet at church at 4:30 p.m. Youth come back to the church after caroling for fellowship and snacks. Bring a snack to share. We will end at 7:30 p.m.
- Dec. 24 -** 10:00 a.m. set up the Christmas luminaries. 4:00 p.m. light luminaries.
- Dec. 24 -** No Sunday school, come help set up luminaries. Attend any Christmas Eve worship service

FAITH FORMATION AT ST. ANDREW

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:50 A.M. FOR ALL AGES CHILDREN, YOUTH, & ADULTS



**SAVE THE DATE - Children's
Christmas Tableau Program
December 24 at 3:00 p.m.!**

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Studies of the Sunday Lectionary

This adult class meets at **10:00 a.m.** in Pearson Hall to study scripture appointed for the day. Bring your coffee and join Pastor Lippard or Pastor Museus.

Newcomer/Inquirer's Class

New Class Begins on November 12

The Newcomer/Inquirer's classes are designed for those who are interested in learning more about St. Andrew or membership. **Please join the class in session on Sundays at 9:50 a.m. in Pearson Hall off the gathering area.** Anyone new to the church are welcome to sit in on the class. Bring your coffee and your questions! Speak with Emeritus Pastor Eric Pearson on Sundays for more information.

Companions in Christ (CIC)

The Companions in Christ Sunday School Class meets off the fellowship hall in Room 124 at **9:50 a.m.**

Active Parenting Class

Please join the Active Parenting Sunday School class **Sunday, December 3 and 17 at 9:50 a.m.** for fun, fellowship and to grow in Christian marriage and parenting. Meet in room 126/127. All are welcome!

SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

Mark your calendars to attend on **Sunday, December 3, 2017 at 12:15 p.m.** in the nave for all confirmed members. On the agenda is to review, discuss and adopt the May 2017 meeting minutes and to adopt the proposed 2018 Ministry Spending Plan.

Please bring your meeting minutes and Ministry Spending Plan that were mailed to your home. If you did not receive these and wish a copy, contact office@saintandrewchurch.com.



A nursery is provided for children 4 years and younger. Older children not able to vote will have activities and pizza with our Director for Youth and Children.

Monday Evening Bible Study

The Gospel of Luke

7:00 p.m. - Pearson Hall

The Monday Night Bible Study is studying the Gospel of Luke with the help of N. T. Wright, one of the world's most well-known Bible scholars and a onetime bishop in the Church of England. His commentary, *Luke for Everyone*, provides historical information and personal insight to the Gospel in short, easy-to-read segments. The book is available on Amazon and other sites. (The author may be listed as "Tom Wright"; we are using the book that is by him alone, not the study guide written by Patty Bell.) Everyone is welcome to show up at anytime to read and discuss Luke – no need to read the N. T. Wright book! It's easy to jump into the conversation at any point, and we're still in the early chapters of the Gospel.

There is no Bible study on December 25 or January 1, 2018.

WEDNESDAY WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The women's Bible study meets from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall continuing the study of Phillip Keller's *A Layman Looks at the Lord's Prayer*. Please join us! If babysitting is needed, please call Wanda Jasper at 615-972-4110.

There is no Wednesday Bible study on December 20 and 27, or January 3, 2018.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

FOR HEALTH & HEALING

Vic & Sue Hundt	Susanna Armstrong	Ann Moeck
Ron Lau	Bill & Lynn Robinson	Edwin Myers
Judith Anderson	Sharron McFarland	Don Carlenius

Amy Bachman, niece of Carol Edwards
Kathy Hanson, friend of Shirley Swan
Sue Rogers, sister-in-law of Laura Rogers
Jennifer Mueller, daughter of Jane Franks
Dave Brown, friend of Elizabeth Short
Gordon & Judy Eyer, friends of Eric & Connie Pearson
Dick & Sue Beatty, friends of Paula Kelling
Larry & Sharon Dowdy, friends of Paula Kelling
Amy Bachman, niece of Carol Edwards
Kathy Hanson, friend of Shirley Swan
Tom Hyde, friend of Ai Yamada
Michael Lyons, friend of Ai Yamada
Jamey Kitlinski, friend of John & Fran Helfrich
Liz Butcher, friend of Stacy Higbe
William Blue, brother of Michael McBlane
Brandy Chandler, cousin of Marlene Boshears
Dorothy Henges, grandmother of Matt Coleman
John Mims, uncle of Laura Rogers
Joan & Ed Daugherty, sister & brother-in-law of the Combiths
Kristie Pennington, friend of Julie Bednar
Judy Trosper, member of the congregation
Helen Thoma, friend of Jolene & Mike Richardson
Bill Frost, husband of Peggy Frost
Pat Mettee, wife of Pastor Howard Mettee
Laran Philpott, friend of the congregation
Dolores Bateman, sister of Libbie Quinn
Bob Holloway, husband of Linda Holloway
Liam Daniel Baumann, nephew of Juli-Kay Baumann
Lanier Schreiner, daughter-in-law of the Schreiners
David Eyer, friend of Eric & Connie Pearson
The Grills family, friends of the Hunt family
Gwen Hampton, sister of Jeanne Parr
Michael Paul Lewis-Cooper, nephew of Cathy Miller
Matt Capell, cousin of Connie Pearson
Carolyn Galegor, friend of Ken Cockerham
Janice Williams, friend of the Blanchards
Cody Brown, great-nephew of the Richardsons
Matthew Hodge & family, friends of the Vollmers
Dianne McClendon & family
John Rogers & family, friends of Ken Cockerham
Steve Reckard, brother of Julie Anderson
David Downey, cousin of Lisa Blanchard
Mary Brogan, friend of Connie Pearson

OTHER:

For our St. Andrew Council; for wisdom and leadership
Bishop H. Julian Gordy, Pastor Morgan & family
Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton
Area ELCA congregations & those in transition
Mission Partner - Peace Lutheran Church in Springhill
The Trinity/HOPE Feeding Program & the people of Haiti
St. Andrew Building Debt Reduction
Pastor Palmer Clemmer
Pastor Jill Henning
For an end to violence against one another
For elected leaders who lead our country

For healing, hope, peace for our country and other countries
For communities to love one another as brothers and sisters
For communities suffering from domestic violence
For the communities healing from loss
For communities to live in peace
For communities and countries suffering from natural disasters
For those suffering from domestic violence
For caregivers who care for loved ones
For service men & women who defend our country & their families who have lost loved ones
For those battling depression & mental illness
Those unemployed, under-employed, or seeking jobs
For those leaving prison & seeking life and work outside
For those contemplating surgery
Mistreated, abandoned & homeless animals

IN MEMORIAM:

Frank Vann, father of Helen Moseley
Rita Brashear, friend of Wayne & Marilyn Kruse
John Cain, husband of Evonne Cain

REMEMBER THOSE DEPLOYED FOR MILITARY SERVICE:

If you know of someone who is in the military or has been deployed for duty, please let the church office know so that we can list them in prayers.

Ian King, step-grandson of Marty & Al Dieterle
Diane Slaten, friend of Beth Smith
Barbi Miller, niece of Mike & Jody Smith
Jay Tully, son of Jim & Becky Tully
Andy Richardson, nephew of Mike & Jolene Richardson
Jacob Moxley, great nephew of Jim & Pat Pitt
William Lehmann, nephew of Diane & Art DeVooght
Joey Ladnier, nephew of Morgan Gordy
Jeffrey P. Hill, son of Jeff & Tina Hill
Nick Smith, son-in-law of Jeff & Tina Hill
Tony Wirth, cousin of Dana Nethercutt
Matt Parr, grandson of Jeanne Parr
Cole Jorgenson, son of Barbra Jorgenson
& grandson of Ron & Sue Hartman

*****Please note that all names will be removed after two months on the prayer list. If you would like for someone to remain on the prayer list indefinitely, please let us know.***



Congratulations!

December Birthdays:

December 1	Julie Anderson Kyle Brown Jessica Jennette
December 3	Fred Bess Dana Nethercutt Tim Pearson Stephen Randa
December 4	Judy Hanson Isla Ziadeh
December 5	Dan Farrell Nicole Fikejs
December 6	Duncan Ayers
December 8	Al Dieterle Robert Haltiwanger
December 9	Sue Hartman Michael Mansouri
December 10	Kim Jones
December 11	Hilda Pearson Mason Schey Michael Shanklin
December 12	Gary Wicks
December 13	Kelly Feasel Hannah Lippard
December 14	Charles Fisher
December 17	Zoe Butler
December 18	Wanda McIntyre Jeff Moseley John Shaw
December 19	Matt Kroeger Anica Meyerhoff Susan Pavlos Carol Strubbe Cheryl Tallyn
December 21	Melissa McElroy
December 22	Dale Gustafson
December 23	Bill McIntyre
December 24	Larry Eltoft
December 25	Jane Franks Jan Nastoff
December 26	John Stewart James Stiles
December 28	Evelyn Harris
December 30	Alaia Gutierrez Livi Gutierrez David Lowder
December 31	Steve Tallyn

December Anniversaries:

December 1	Rand & Beth Smith
December 8	Lax Vardhanapu & Mary Dayam
December 14	David & Carla Temple

December 17	Ted & Stephanie Forsberg Troy & Jody Mizell
December 18	Kirk & Carlotta Rutter
December 19	Wayne & Marilyn Kruse Jeff & Helen Moseley
December 20	Julian & Morgan Gordy
December 21	Ken & Gretchen Reynolds
December 22	Darryl & Susie Miller Ken & Bonnie Sersland
December 27	Gary & Sherre Wicks
December 28	Rod & Cyndy Dyer Ed & Julie Hunt Eric & Connie Pearson
December 29	Buck & Rachel Haltiwanger
December 30	Dan & Brenda Farrell

*****Please let the office know if you don't see your special date listed!***



CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

As the holidays approach, having enough food on the table is a major concern for the nearly 1000 families who have applied to GraceWorks Ministries for food for the holidays.

St Andrew will provide food to **thirty-six of these families on Saturday, December 16 at 8:30 a.m.** Please consider signing up to help wrap boxes, pack items and deliver to these homes.

A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. You can also sign up using a yellow pew card or by emailing Jeanette Higbe at higbej@yahoo.com.

Another way to help is by giving a monetary donation to help defray the costs of the food. This year the estimated cost is \$125 for a small family and \$150 for a large family.

MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES

In memory of John Lillie, husband of Joan Lillie, to the Pipe Organ by Nona Jane Kroha

In honor of Kris Nethercutt to the Building Debt Reduction by Pastor Eric & Connie Pearson

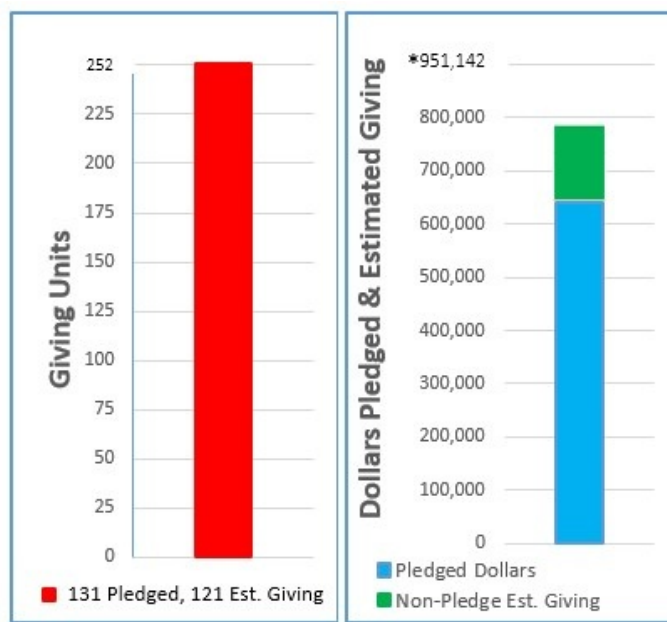
St. Andrew Lutheran Church				
Designated Funds				
January 1 to October 31, 2017				
Designated Fund	Beg Balance January 1	Deposits	Payments	End Balance June 30
Benevolence:	30.00			30.00
Disaster Relief	1,125.00	4,450.00	5,535.00	40.00
World Hunger	90.00	2,155.00	2,240.00	5.00
God's Global Barnyard		210.07		210.07
Memorials - General	1,335.94	1,440.00	1,412.80	1,363.14
Columbarium	32,543.26	4,000.00	2,460.00	34,083.26
Meditation Garden	5,354.49	860.00		6,214.49
Debt Reduction/Organ	430.00	25,291.11	23,321.11	2,400.00
Youth Fund	13,796.52	5,682.36	4,101.97	15,376.91
Capital Replacement Reserve	38,557.96			38,557.96
Wedding Deposits	800.00	650.00	1,000.00	450.00
Misc. Designated	1,977.91	8,224.60	6,010.50	4,192.01
Total Designated Funds	\$ 96,011.08	\$ 52,313.14	\$ 39,070.88	\$ 102,922.84
Financial Update	OCT. Budget	OCT. Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Actual
Total Revenue	68,808.00	103,400.37	688,084.00	779,516.16
Total Expenses	71,853.00	71,646.11	765,154.00	724,102.70
Surplus (Deficit)	(3,045.00)	31,754.26	(77,070.00)	55,413.46
Mortgages	Beg Balance	Principle Payments	End Balance	
Mortgage #1	2,325,317.90	74,166.58	2,251,151.32	
Cash Balances				
Checking	Savings			
105,633.31	409,847.47			



FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Thanks to all for their commitments of time, talent and resources to St. Andrew for the upcoming 2018 calendar year. As you can see from the below chart, we still have a little way to go to measure up to the anticipated Ministry Spending Plan needs for 2018. Your Stewardship Committee appreciates your commitments to our Church and will continue to seek your help with the ongoing stewardship needs of St. Andrew during 2018.

In His Service,
Doug Hale
Stewardship Chair



*Proposed 2018 Ministry Spending Plan

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

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ADVENT



⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. John 1:6-8