

## St. Andrew Lutheran Church

August 2021



Reverend Ed Filter, Pastor

*Worship Service—Sunday 10 a.m. Sunday School—Sunday 9 a.m.*

*Adult Bible Study—Thursday 10 a.m.*

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Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool

### *From The Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends and Members of St. Andrew,

A great idea that gets lost in the business of the day. A dream that fades in the light of difficulty and challenges. America struggling to find her way back to being the greatest country the world has ever seen. It is so hard to keep going when things are not going well.

Take a moment and remember Nehemiah as he was called by God to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. He faces all kinds of challenges. Complaints, conspiracy, and people trying to sidetrack the project. In spite of loan sharks, deceit, espionage, and attempted assassination, Nehemiah and his dedicated band of brick layers keep on going and complete the city wall in less than two months--a feat even Israel's enemies perceive is "done with the help of...God" Nehemiah spells it out this way: "And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God." (Nehemiah 6:16, NKJV)

The key to his success? He stayed focused on the goal. He trusted God's word knowing that the ultimate victory is always rooted in faith!

The importance of keeping our focus in life might be illustrated from a short observation from Max Lucado, as he reflected on what Paul was thinking as he sat in a jail cell waiting to die for his faith:

"I sit a few feet from a man on death row. Jewish by birth. Tent maker by trade. Apostle by calling. His days are marked. I'm curious about what bolsters this man as he nears his execution. So, I ask some questions."

"Do you have a family? I have none.

"What about your health? My body is beaten and tired..."

"Any awards? Not on earth."

"Then what do you have, Paul? No belongings. No family...What do you have that matters?"

"I have my faith. It's all I have. But it's all I need. I have kept the faith."

"Paul leans back against the wall of his cell and smiles."

It is my prayer that you will ask the Holy Spirit to help you stay focused on your goal which is eternal life through faith in King Jesus. Stay true to your faith. Stay connected with your conviction that God's Word is the foundation for our day-to-day living. In the end it is well worth the effort and all that matters. In the end God will open up the gates of heaven as we spend eternity with God our Father, Jesus our Savior, and the Holy Spirit as our guide. This quote from Clair of Assisi is one of my new favorites. I leave it with as you start gearing up for another school year and the end of what hopefully has been a relaxing summer. "Our work here is brief, but its reward is eternal. Do not be disturbed by the clamor of the world, which passes away like a shadow; rather keep your focus on King Jesus and He will bring everything into balance." (Clare of Assisi, adapted)

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Filter

## AUGUST SCHEDULES

### Acolyte

- 1 Chase Fullet
- 8 Zach Roof
- 15 Bryce Fullet
- 22 William Roof
- 29 Chase Fullet

### Fellowship

- 1 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 8 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 15 Dave & Marty Frick
- 22 Pastor & Nancy Filter
- 29 Fullet Family

### Greeters

- 1 Tracy Wineland
- 8 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 15 Dave & Marty Frick
- 22 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 29 Jeff & Elena Brooks

### Worship Readers

- 1 Nancy Filter
- 8 Elena Brooks
- 15 Mark Haworth
- 22 Mary Sandborn
- 29 Elena Brooks

### Altar Guild

Elena Brooks & Laura Roof

### Elder

Jeff Brooks



## ADULT BIBLE STUDY & WALK



On Thursday August 5<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. we will begin a new six-week study called Lutheran Spirituality Cross. In this study we'll unpack what Scripture has to say about afflictions in the life of the Christian, that is, the cross we will endure in various shapes and sizes, not even though, but because we are Christians. Plan now to join us and learn to understand how God works in the tough times in our lives as well as the good.

We will meet in person at 9:30 a.m. to walk before Bible Study. We will take a casual walk through the nearby neighborhood, then return to church to begin Bible Study at 10 a.m.

We encourage anyone who is interested to join us - wear your walking shoes, and bring a water bottle.

Come and join us for one or both every Thursday!

## FOOD DONATIONS FOR AUGUST

August 15<sup>th</sup> is our normal 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday Food collection day and will benefit the Portland area Food Banks.

## NOISY OFFERING

On Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, the noisy offering will go to the Concordia University (Ann Arbor). Save your change (and bills) and bring them to church and drop them in the buckets to help us "Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord."



**ENRICH** of Ionia County continues to serve families and individuals who have trouble meeting their day to day needs through its Community Circle program. Families are asked to donate gently used furniture, appliances and other household items and they are given to these families as they are recommended through local helping agencies. ENRICH also has a Thrift store in Ionia where items are sold to support the program. Present needs include Refrigerators, Kitchen tables, and bed frames. If you have these items call ENRICH at 616-522-1126 or contact Pastor Filter who is on the non-profit's Board of Directors.

ENRICH of Ionia County at 343 W Main St, Ionia, MI 48846

Hours: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 10:00am to 1:00pm

Wednesday 9:00am to 11:00am

Other times by appointment: 616-522-1126.

Please contact them via email at [enrichionia@gmail.com](mailto:enrichionia@gmail.com).



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Trissa Sandborn
- 8 Tracy Wineland
- 10 Ricky Simon
- 11 Michelle Perry
- 12 Jeff Dole
- 13 David Peters
- 14 Cooper Ruehs
- 15 Mya Collins
- 16 Dan Bekins  
Judy Bodak
- 20 Dorothy Vollen
- 26 Caleb Felzke
- 28 David Frick  
Chase Fullet
- 30 Brock McCrumb



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Bruce & Kathy Kenyon
- 12 Mark & Cathy Haworth  
Nathan & Diane Sprague
- 17 Sam & Karlyn Beavers
- 28 Pastor Charles & Ruth  
Burhop



## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### Not in Vain

Through faith, we know and believe that God's grace is a gift, and His grace is poured out on us daily and abundantly. Daily we rejoice in our baptisms through which God's grace makes us His children. Sunday after Sunday we celebrate the Easter message of God's grace made available to us through the suffering and victory of His Son. His grace is given to our physical bodies as well as our spiritual lives. In the words of Martin Luther, God provides "our daily bread," including "everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body."

In the Apostle Paul's letter to the people in Corinth, he wrote, "*Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain*" (1 Corinthians 15:58). How is it possible that we could receive this grace in vain? When we ignore the Giver of this grace, when we use His gifts for our own good rather than in service to others, and when we attribute our gifts, our abilities, our successes to ourselves, then we receive God's grace in vain.

The life of good stewardship cannot be accomplished on our own, for such an attempt not only is doomed to failure but demonstrates our receiving "*the grace of God in vain*" (2 Corinthians 6:1). Faithful stewardship that pleases God results when we, in response to His grace in our lives, use all the gifts He has given us to serve Him by serving others.

May God help us all receive His gifts thankfully, manage them wisely, and share them generously.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST

The ladies are beginning to meet in person in August so we would like to bring back the Men's breakfast and fellowship which meets at the same time. The first date will be Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at the River's Edge Grill downtown at 8:30 a.m. Put this on your calendar and plan now to join us for good food and fellowship with some great Christian men.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

First day of Sunday School for 2021/22 will be September 12, 2021.

## ARE WE BACK TO NORMAL AT ST. ANDREW?

Several people have asked, “Are things back to normal at St. Andrew?” Interesting question! Our Sunday morning services look very similar to what they were like before Covid-19:

- We pass the offering plates, come to the altar for communion, and all social distancing and mask requirements are gone (although you may if you feel more comfortable).
- We plan to resume Fellowship on Sunday morning on August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Our Thursday Bible study meets in person at 10 a.m.
- In September we will bring back our Sunday morning Bible study and Sunday School.

So, in a lot of ways, I guess we could say yes. Covid-19 has, in a lot of ways, changed “normal.”

Pastor continues to write song devotions that people enjoy and that never happened before Covid-19. We are looking at live-streaming our Sunday morning services to continue the recorded services that stopped in mid-July, again something we never considered before Covid-19. So, in some ways we are better than normal.

We are still missing some of you. If you are at an-risk person, we understand that. If the devil is keeping you away by telling you that it would be embarrassing come back after this long of time and people that have been back for a while might judge me, stop. None of that is real. We are past that. We just miss you and as Jesus welcomed the 1 sheep that was lost and found with joy, we would be ecstatic to see you.

Pray about it and we hope to see you soon!

## FELLOWSHIP & COFFEE HOUR STARTING AUGUST 1!

Volunteers are needed to provide the snacks and set up and clean up each week since it has been close to a year and half since we have been able to do this. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex if you willing to again serve in this way. You may also contact Elena Brooks as she is the one who will set up the schedule. Thanks in advance for helping in this way. We are very excited to have this opportunity to gather after such a long break!

## PRAYER GROWTH MEETINGS

After much discussion we have decided to postpone bringing back our monthly Prayer Growth meeting until school has started and people are back from vacations.

The September events will be planned at the Ladies’ group meeting on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. This will include a potluck on the second Sunday in September to celebrate the beginning of Sunday School and our Sunday morning Adult Bible class.

## CHURCH ENVELOPES

Church envelopes are available upon request. There is a signup sheet on the table between the church and the fellowship hall or you may ask David Frick. Envelopes are available for anyone who requests them and can be used by members and non-members alike. Contribution statements are provided for tax purposes for cash and check contributions received in church envelopes and for all contributions received by check, even if not placed in a church envelope.

## LADIES GROUP

The next meeting for the Ladies Group will take place on Sunday, August 15th at 9 am in the Conference Room. We will begin planning for our fall events and beyond. All ladies are welcome to attend, even if you have not attended previously - the more the merrier! Hope to see you at the meeting!

## BOOK TALK

Our next book is *The Last Letter From Juliet* by Melanie Hudson. Our Book Talk will take place on Saturday, August 7th at 9:15 a.m. at Riversedge Grill (formerly the Red Tomato). You can visit our Book Talk website at: <https://standrewbooktalk.weebly.com/> to learn a little about the book and the author. We hope you can join us! We are looking forward to our first Book Talk in a restaurant in over a year!

## LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION

What an awe-inspiring, uplifting 39th Biennial LWML Convention held in Lexington, Ky attended by 2,787 delegates and guests. Under the theme "Running the Race... Looking to Jesus," the voting body adopted a Mission Goal of \$2,150,000 for the 2021-2023 biennium. This goal by the grace of God will fund 28 Mission Grants that were chosen:

1. Deaconess Ministry Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch — Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, \$81,680
2. Healing the Invisible Wounds of War through Horses — Spirit Warrior, Central Maine, \$95,000
3. Thirst to Learn: Bible Books for Africa's Children — Lutheran Heritage Foundation, \$100,000
4. Making the Next Generation of Disciples for Life — LCMS Life Ministry, \$92,000
5. Helping Hands for Lutheran Deaf Outreach — Lutheran Deaf Outreach, \$50,000
6. Hope of Christ for Cancer Patients — Phil's Friends, \$70,000
7. Training Pastors to Serve the Church in Russia — Lutheran Theological Seminary, Novosibirsk, Siberia, \$100,000
8. Light of Christ in Eastern Europe — Mission Central, \$56,000
9. Propelling the Gospel — LAMP Ministry, Inc., \$65,000
10. Educating Pastors in Africa — Mission Central, \$100,000
11. Redeeming Life Maternity Home, Illinois Expansion — Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, \$100,000
12. Mercy Medical Care for Tanzania — Mwadui Lutheran School and Community, \$68,182
13. Gospel Outreach to Women and Children in Mongolia — Lutheran Hour Ministries, \$100,000
14. Caring for and Sharing Christ with Hurting People — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, \$100,000
15. The Littlest and Least of These — St. Paul Lutheran Church and Christian Academy, Dallas, Texas, \$42,000
16. Bring the Inner-City Children to Camp — Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado, \$25,000
17. Spiritual and Physical Food for Children of Peru — La Mision Luterana del Peru, \$56,750
18. "Ends of Earth" Scholarships — Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries, \$50,000
19. Sharing Jesus' Love in India — Lutheran Braille Workers, \$100,000
20. Mission & Outreach to the Least of These — Victory Lutheran Church, K. I. Sawyer Community, \$51,356
21. Mercy House Belize Lutheran Campus — Belize Mission Society, \$100,000
22. Ministry Vehicle Fund, Ethiopia, and Sierra Leone — Lutheran Bible Translators, \$70,000
23. Showing God's Love in the International District, Albuquerque, New Mexico — God Cares About You Mission, \$98,000
24. Reaching the Homebound with God's Word — Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc. (DBA Worship Anew), \$100,000
25. Missionaries to America Project — Mission Nation Publishing, \$88,000
26. Strengthening the Lutheran Mission to Kuna, Idaho — Friendship Celebration Lutheran Church, \$100,000
27. Expanding God's Love in Uganda — LCMS Office of International Mission, Africa Region, \$92,000
28. Christ-Centered Materials for Hmong Language School and Outreach — St. Paul Hmong Outreach Ministries, \$70,208.

Thank you for your generous donation to the Noisy Offering in July that went to help support these new mission grants. Give thanks to the Lord for all He does for us.

## ALTAR GUILD

<b>August</b>	Elena Brooks & Laura Roof	<b>November</b>	Jeanne Bauer & Elena Brooks
<b>September</b>	Judy Nobis & Mary Sandborn	<b>December</b>	Nancy Filter & Tracy Wineland
<b>October</b>	Ruth Helmreich & Tracy Wineland		



# WEEGROW CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director

Phone: 517-526-4147



## **IMPORTANT PRESCHOOL DATES**

- Aug 12 — Activity Time — 10-11 a.m. — All registered children are invited to come and enjoy!
- Aug 26 — Open House — 5-7:30 p.m. — All registered children and parents are invited.
- Sept 8 — Parent Orientation — 6:30 p.m. — All parents of registered children are asked to attend.
- Sept 13 @ 8:45 a.m. — 4 yr. olds start
- Sept 14 @ 8:45 a.m. — 3 yr. olds start

## **FROM THE TREASURER**

### **Review of First 6 Months of 2021**

In 2021 income exceeded expense by \$10,717. We had a large contribution at the beginning of the year to put us in a good position at six months.

Our cost for pastor, secretary, and janitorial services accounts for 64% of our total expense. Operating expense take another 21%. Our caring ministry accounts for 15% for others in need. This does not include the many projects of the church such as coat drive, support for preschool, food bank donations, Christmas tree gifts for children, and other projects throughout the year.

Donations included \$3,292 to support Michigan District-LCMS, which supports Michigan churches, education, and worldwide missions. \$1,500 was used for three scholarships as established by the Temple Fund. The remaining \$5,757 went to the Portland Area Ministerial Association and Noisy Offering charities.

As Treasurer, I would like to thank each one of you who have tirelessly given hours of your time, talents, and service to keep things going during the pandemic. This along with your financial support is what makes this church a loving church. As the pandemic concerns lesson, we hope to see our members return to live services. Our minister has given notice that he will retire in June 2022. The council will need your input and support on how to proceed with the mission of the church.

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church  
Abbreviated Income Statement 6/30/2021

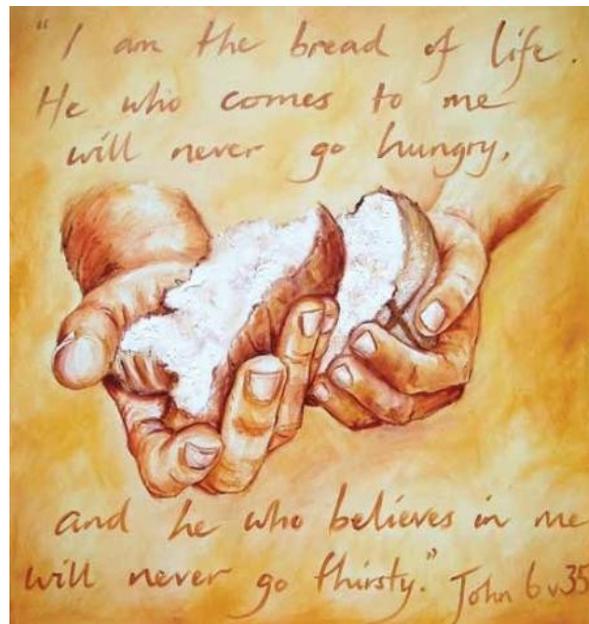
Contributions	78,909	
Investment Income	<u>3,169</u>	
Total Income		82,078
Payroll & Benefits	45,653	
Supplies, Maintenance, Utilities, & Insurance	15,159	
Donations	<u>10,549</u>	
Total Expense		<u>(71,361)</u>
Total to Savings		<u><u>10,717</u></u>

# CHURCH EVENTS CALENDAR

## August 2021

August 2021							September 2021						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
29	30	31											

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Aug 1</b> Alter Guild: Elena Brooks & Laura Roof Elder: Jeff Brooks 10:00am Worship Service 11:15am Fellowship and Coffee Hour	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Preschool Board Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:30am Walk 10:00am Adult Bible Study	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:00am Noisy Offering - Concordia Univ (Ann Arbor) 10:00am Worship Service 11:15am Fellowship and Coffee Hour	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9:30am Walk 10:00am Adult Bible Study 10:00am Preschool Activity Time	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Food Collection Day! 8:30am Men's Meeting (Breakfast) (River's Edge) 9:00am Ladies Group / Book 10:00am Worship Service 11:15am Fellowship and	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 9:30am Walk 10:00am Adult Bible Study	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Newsletter Deadline 10:00am Worship Service 11:15am Fellowship and Coffee Hour	<b>23</b> 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 9:30am Walk 10:00am Adult Bible Study 5:00pm Preschool Open House	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:00am Worship Service 11:15am Fellowship and Coffee Hour	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Pastor at Circuit Visitors Conf (Ann	<b>Sep 1</b> Pastor at Circuit Visitors Conf (Ann	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>



**ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool

8867 Kent Street

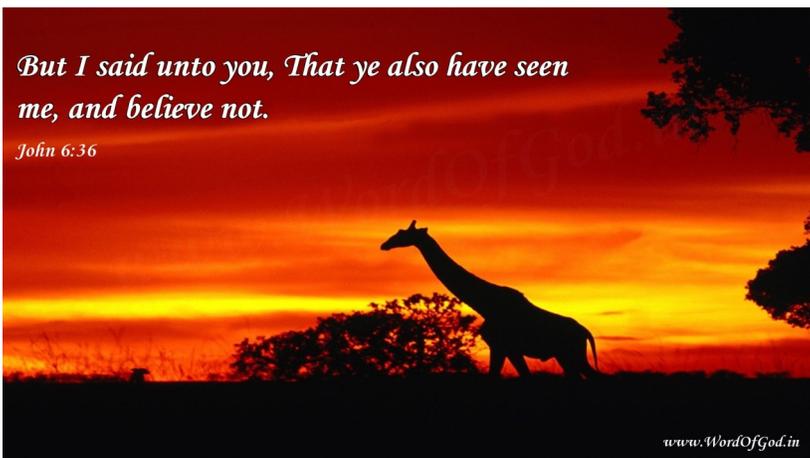
Portland, MI 48875



**Since the relaxing of the COVID-19 restrictions by the Governor and the MDHHS, we are happy to announce that our church services and events are completely back open! We hope to see you all very soon!**

*But I said unto you, That ye also have seen me, and believe not.*

*John 6:36*



[www.WordOfGod.in](http://www.WordOfGod.in)

I am  
the Bread  
of Life  
John 6:48