



St. Andrew Lutheran Church



January 2022

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,

It's January! Another year is beginning. 2022. And there are so many questions to be answered. Will Covid-19 finally be brought under control? Will inflation keep climbing or will someone figure out how to get it under control? And people make goals, lists, and plans about what might be different this year. Some folks call them New Year's resolutions and resolutions are just ripe to be broken because most often we don't have a plan to carry them out. That's why I like to think of a plan for the year instead of resolutions because a plan indicates that we have an idea where we are going. Better yet, the beginning of the year is a great time to pray for help in finding God's plan for our lives.

As God's people, we are called to be part of His divine plan to share the life-saving Gospel with our families, friends, neighbors, and co-workers. It is God's plan that we take responsibility to share the Good News of the Gospel. God "*desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth*" (1 Timothy 2:4). He gives us the privilege to be His channels through which He works, and we become His hands, feet, and mouth to the world. We are His instruments, but He is the one Who changes the hearts and minds of those to whom we tell of God's love and grace.

In his book, *The Power of Pure Stewardship*, the sainted Carl Berner, Sr. wrote:

"The Lord Jesus Christ has made us His priests and stewards to deliver the salvation [message] to churches, schools, offices, homes, shops, factories, fields. Nearest His heart is the concern to bring people into His kingdom for life. This concern ought to be nearest our hearts, too. He has given us His Spirit and appointed us His partners in His mission of love. "*As My Father hath sent Me, even so I send you.*" (John 20:21). The mere thought of the enormity of this assignment could trigger a shudder of fright. Why didn't He enlist a corps of angels for this work?"

God chose us rather than sending His legions of angels out into the world. God was certainly aware of the magnitude of this mission He gave us to cover the entire world with the Gospel of salvation. He knew the resistance we would be facing in sharing the gospel. He knew what vast resources of time, energy, thought, and money this task would demand. Yet He chose to assign this formidable mission to us. Through faith, we understand the great honor and trust that we are given to be part of God's plan. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can respond to His call to focus on this very important and urgent mission. I would suggest to you that together we make God's mission to be the center of our plans for 2022. Together we can open opportunities for the Holy Spirit to bring our friends, co-workers and relatives into the Kingdom and look forward to spending forever with them in heaven!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Filter

JANUARY SCHEDULES

Acolyte

- 2 Bella Roof
- 9 Gwen Fullet
- 16 Bryce Roof
- 23 William Roof
- 30 Chase Fullet

Fellowship

- 2 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 9 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 16 The Roof Family
- 23 Dave & Marty Frick
- 30 The Fullet Family

Greeters

- 2 Tracy Wineland
- 9 The Roof Family
- 16 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 23 Dave & Marty Frick
- 30 Jeff & Elena Brooks

Worship Readers

- 2 Nancy Filter
- 9 Mark Haworth
- 16 Elena Brooks
- 23 Mary Sandborn
- 30 Chris Roof

Piano

- 2 Judy Nobis
- 9 Nancy Filter
- 16 Judy Nobis
- 23 Nancy Filter
- 30 Judy Nobis

Altar Guild

Laura Roof & Brandee Novara

Elder

Jeff Brooks



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Our Thursday morning Adult Bible study will resume its weekly pattern on Thursday, January 6, 2022, at 10 a.m. after a short Christmas break on the last Thursday in December. We continue our series on Rural and small-town churches entitled “A Time to Plant, A Time to Grow.” We will finish around the end of February. Plan to join us in the new year if you haven’t come before as each week is a lesson in itself. The beginning of the year is a great time to spend more time with God in His Word.

New for 2022 is a new offering for our Bible study. On Monday, January 17th at 6:30 p.m., we will start a once-a-month Bible study for those of you who work during the day or have other commitments on Thursday mornings. We will meet the 3rd Monday of the month for the next four months. Our topic will be “Fear” and God’s way of dealing with it. Fear is something that all of us face in some shape or form and this will be a great opportunity to see where it comes from and how we can better deal with it. Pray about joining us and put it on your calendar before life gets too busy.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

There will be no Confirmation Class held on January 5th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School held on held on January 2nd.

NEW ACOLYTES

On the first two Sundays in December, Gwen Fullet, and Isabella Roof participated in service as an acolyte for the first time. Thanks to both of you for serving in this way!

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 any items except clothing. 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.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Amanda Filter
Mark Haworth
8 Judy Nobis
Christy Eldridge
10 Emma Wakley
15 Julia Veale
16 Nancy Filter
17 Laura Roof
21 Thomas Chapin
Don Miller
Easton O'Neill
31 Zachary Roof



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Joe & Mary Latusek
20 Tim & Beck Ruehs



CHRISTMAS THANKS

A special "Thank you" from Pastor and Nancy to all of you for your kindnesses and gifts during the Christmas season. You are a blessing to us all year but especially at this special time of the year. You are all in our prayers daily!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Stewards Living with Purpose

In the book of Psalms, King David wrote, "The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me" (Psalm 138:8). In spite of David's sinful life and the difficulties he had with Saul and Absalom, the Lord fulfilled His purpose for David. Just as God had a purpose for David, so He has for us as well. Have you given much thought to what purpose God may have for your life? By grace, we understand that we were created for God's purpose, not ours.

One important purpose God gives His people is to care for His creation and His people. We are given the honor to be His stewards. Stewards care for all that God entrusts to us according to His will. As His stewards, we understand that He is the creator and owner of all things. When we responsibly care for the earth and provide for His people both physically and spiritually, we honor God as His stewards,

God's Word reminds us that by nature we are sinful fallen people who are spiritually dead and unable to accomplish the purpose that God has designed us to do. The Apostle Paul tells us that "We once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us...made us alive together with Christ..." (Ephesians 2:3-5). The only way we can do anything to please Him and to live with a God-pleasing purpose is to be recreated by the Holy Spirit and to be converted into new people in Christ (2 Corinthians 5).

As people of faith, our purpose is not to live for ourselves but for Jesus Who "died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him Who for their sake died and was raised" (2 Corinthians 5:15). In our lives as stewards, we can, with God's help, put Him first in all things. "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). When we serve, let us serve "by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 4:11).

Thomas Carlyle, an historian and author, wrote, "The man without a purpose is like a ship without a rudder—a waif, a nothing a no man." We need purpose in order to have meaning for our lives. We are blessed because in Christ we have purpose for living. May we all thank God that He has given us faith and wisdom to understand that our purpose in life is to give Him glory, honor, and service.

DECEMBER VOTER'S MEETING CHALLENGES!

On December 22, 2021, the Voter's of St. Andrew gathered after church and unanimously passed our budget for 2022. In order for us to meet the budget and continue to do God's work here, we will have to continue to give sacrificially, not only financially but as our Stewardship emphasis in November taught us, of our time and talents as well. If you haven't adjusted your weekly giving based on your commitment made in November, now is the time.

At the Voter's meeting we also nominated Pastor Dave Davis as the next District president and Pastor Ryan Winningham as the next West Region Vice-President. Please pray for them and for all who are nominated until the elections take place at the District convention in June.

LUTHERAN BIBLE TRANSLATION

Experiencing Scripture

The fast-paced North American lifestyle conflicts with taking time to enjoy God's Word. Life could be so different if you could just spend more time engaging and experiencing Scripture. Well, you can! Many international language communities put Scripture to song. Lutheran Bible Translators is bringing that experience to you as a part of the 500th anniversary celebration of Luther's New Testament. For the first time, you will hear the whole New Testament to music. A group of highly talented vocalists sing the words of Scripture. A musical film score style captures the range of feeling and emotion of God's Word.

The Living Water project is the first of its kind. Before, only portions of Scripture had been performed in English. To undertake the entire New Testament is a challenge. A life engaged in the Word makes it worth it. Book by book, chapter by chapter – **starting in January 2022** – the ESV New Testament will be released to commemorate the year during which Luther translated and published the New Testament 500 years ago. Lutheran Bible Translators will release the Living Water tracks one chapter per day starting January 2022.

Listen to John 19 and experience Scripture: <https://lbt.org/livingwater/>

COMMITMENT 2022

If you have been unable to return your Commitment as of yet, please drop it by the office at your earliest convenience. If you did not receive your letter and form in your church mailbox or in the regular mail, please let Pastor or Shannon know and we will print you our another set. Thank you all for your Commitment to St. Andrew, our Lord, and God.

NOISY OFFERING

On Sunday, January 9th, the Noisy Offering will go to PAMA. 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."



FOOD DONATIONS FOR JANUARY

January 16th is our normal 3rd Sunday Food collection day and will benefit the Portland area Food Banks.

HERE WE STAND

Here We Stand is a campaign of the Michigan District of the Missouri Synod designed to raise funds for several causes including Church worker scholarships, innovative mission ministry, international ministry, and donations to the District endowment fund. This campaign is scheduled to end in June of 2022 and to date St. Andrew has not participated. Just short of 50% of the congregations in Michigan have donated. Pastor Filter and Nancy will be donating and would encourage others to join in. This donation will allow St. Andrew to join that group and get the District closer to the 50% mark. They plan to donate \$5000 in St. Andrew's name to the Here We Stand campaign. They made the donation as a special Christmas Eve gift to Jesus and designated their money toward the Church worker Scholarship Fund as that fund helped their daughter Amanda through college. We will take donations until the end of January. Checks should be made out to the church. Please pray about joining Pastor and Nancy, understanding that this would need to be over and above your regular offerings so that we may continue to perform our local ministry on a tight budget. God bless you as you consider this.

LADIES GROUP

The next meeting for the Ladies Group will be January 16, 2022, at 9 a.m. in the conference room. We will begin planning activities, events, and support for St. Andrew for the new year. Please consider joining us, even if you haven't attended before. We are a small group and welcome new members!

BOOK TALK

Our next book is *A Distant Shore* by Karen Kingsbury. Our Book Talk will take place on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at 9:15 a.m. at Courageous Coffee in Portland. You can visit the Book Talk website at <https://standrewbooktalk.weebly.com/> to learn a little about the book and the author. Plan to join us at Courageous Coffee to discuss the book and for fellowship-even if you haven't read the book. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions, talk with Ruth, Nancy, or Elena. Happy reading!

GAME NIGHT

Our next Game Night will take place on Saturday, January 22, 2022, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Bring your favorite board game or cards or play one of ours. Bring a snack to share if you can. Game night is for all ages, so bring the family, invite friends, and join us for a fun night of games.

THANK YOU

Not only did our midweek Advent meals provide a delicious meal and fellowship for our members, but the meals also raised \$160 from free-will donations. This money will be used to help the Ladies Group continue to support events, activities, and ministries of St. Andrew. Thank You for your support!!

ALTAR GUILD 2022

<u>Month</u>	<u>Altar Guild Members</u>
January	Laura Roof & Brandee Novara
February	Nancy Filter & Mary Sandborn
March	Judy Nobis & Tracy Wineland
April	Nancy Filter & Ruth Helmreich
May	Jeanne Bauer & Elena Brooks
June	Laura Roof & Judy Nobis

<u>Month</u>	<u>Altar Guild Members</u>
July	Ruth Helmreich & Brandee Novara
August	Elena Brooks & Mary Sandborn
September	Jeanne Bauer & Tracy Wineland
October	Ruth Helmreich & Laura Roof
November	Mary Sandborn & Tracy Wineland
December	Elena Brooks & Judy Nobis

LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION

As we look forward to the year 2022, we will highlight each month a different Mission Grant from the Mission field, and how our mite gifts can make a difference in the lives of so many.

Through Mission Grant #14 - Caring for and sharing Christ with Hurting People - \$100,000, much needed scholarships for deaconess students and assistance with seminary cost will provide these students with doctrinally sound resources and training programs specifically designed to encourage and inspire them to boldly share their faith to those who are hurting and suffering - physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Please continue your prayers and mite offerings for these important Mission Grants. Check out the Mission table for updates on Mission Grants and get a mite box/calendar.

Important note of change: The LWML District Convention next summer, Thurs, July 7- Sat, July 9, 2022, which was supposed to be in Gaylord, MI has been moved to Frankenmuth, MI.

Fill our hearts with your love. - *"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."* Matt 6:21.



WEEGROW CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director

Phone: 517-526-4147



We have been busy getting ready for Christmas!! The children have been making a lot of crafts to celebrate this special time of year. They have created parent presents, stockings, gingerbread babies, and cinnamon ornaments. We read the book, "Miracle Mouse" and the mouse found out how important it is to be kind to others. The preschoolers RACK'ED (Random Acts of Christian Kindness) family, friends, and community workers by making them cards and gave away candy canes. The children were very excited to share kindness to others.

Our Bible Stories this month were The Angel Visits Mary and the Birthday of Baby Jesus. It is important to remember the real reason we receive presents during this holiday season...Jesus' Birth!!! We made angels, manger pictures, and Christmas trees to help the children understand the true meaning of this busy, but joyous time.

Both classes had their programs on December 11th. The 4's program was based on The Candy Cane Story, while the 3's performed songs celebrating Jesus' Birthday. All the kids did a wonderful job getting up on stage and singing for their parents, extended family, and friends.

We were also excited to have Christmas Parties this year for both classes with special guests. We played games, made Christmas lava jars, experimented with batteries and lights, enjoyed making crafts and created Christmas Trees.

The staff of Wee Grow Christian would like to wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



JANUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

Dec 26	27	28	29	30	31	Jan 1, 22
<p>10:00am Worship Service</p> <p>11:15am Fellowship & Coffee Hour</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00am Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Altar Guild: Laura & Brandee</p> <p>Elder: Jeff Brooks</p> <p>HAPPY New Year</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service</p> <p>10:00am Nursery Offering - PAMA</p> <p>11:15am Fellowship & Coffee Hour</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <p>3:00pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00am Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9:15am Book Talk</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Food Collection Day</p> <p>Newsletter Devotee</p> <p>8:30am Men's Meeting</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>9:00am Ladies Group</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service</p> <p>11:15am Fellowship & Coffee Hour</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30pm Evening Bible Study</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <p>3:00pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10:00am Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:30pm Game Night</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service</p> <p>11:15am Fellowship & Coffee Hour</p>	<p>24</p> <p>5:30pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>3:00pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10:00am Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00am Worship Service</p> <p>11:15am Fellowship & Coffee Hour</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>Feb 1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool
8867 Kent Street
Portland, MI 48875



happy new year

*The Epiphany of Our Lord
(Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12)*

