



JUNE 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 hard to believe that this is the last letter like this that I will write. For 34 years I have been doing these (the 1st year as your vicar and the last 33 as your pastor). A lot has changed since then. There wasn't an internet (I don't think), and there weren't any electronic newsletters like this one which will come to most of you by email. The building was much smaller, we didn't have a Preschool, and only a few of you were part of St. Andrew's family. It has been bittersweet as retirement comes closer. You have all been a blessing! We have shared much together. For some of you at least, you may think this is bad. We don't know what we will do without Pastor. Remember, it's not about the pastor. It's about what he preaches and if you remember nothing else, I pray the one thing you remember I preached is Christ crucified. And that will continue with an intentional interim, a vacancy pastor, or the new pastor. Whatever you decide, God will provide. So I thought I would use this last letter to share a little encouragement with you, especially those of you who think this ending might be bad – that things are not going well. And the place to go for help is, as always, God's Word.

Psalm 31 is a psalm seeking God's help and protection in a time when things are not going well, and you need support and encouragement. It is a Psalm that can change everything in your life. When you find yourself deep in need, when things are not going well, or you feel alone, this psalm will help you find words to express what's in your heart. The psalmist calls upon the LORD for deliverance in a time of need. He makes his request with an understanding of God's character and His ability to make a difference. God is righteous and loving and desires to deliver His people. He desires to bring His love and mercy to your heart and set you free.

Our faith in Jesus Christ makes a difference in how our life unfolds. Think about your own life and the times when your faith has been tested. Remember these words:

"Lord, I have come to You for protection; don't let me be disgraced. Save me, for You do what is right. Turn Your ear to listen to me; rescue me quickly. Be my rock of protection..., Pull me from the trap my enemies set for me, for I find protection in you alone. I entrust my spirit into Your hand. Rescue me, Lord, for you are a faithful God. (Psalm 31:1-5, NIV84).

Take some time to read Psalm 31 and let the Holy Spirit speak to you, guide you, and lead you to a place of total surrender and complete trust in our faithful and sovereign Lord. Use the gift of prayer and tell God what is on your heart. Allow for some time to listen to Him as He speaks to you the truth of His Word. Think about Jesus and remember the empty tomb and focus your day on His love and forgiveness. He is there waiting to hear from you, it is going to be a great day!

Looking forward to celebrating with you during this month, from the potluck on the first Sunday in June until the last service and the open house on the last Sunday of the month. Looking back over the last 34 years, the one thing I know for sure, God is a faithful God!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Filter

JUNE SCHEDULES

Acolyte

- 5 William Roof
- 12 Gwen Fullet
- 19 Bella Roof
- 26 Chase Fullet

Fellowship

- 5 Potluck
- 12 Dave & Marty Frick
- 19 The Roof Family
- 26 The Fullet Family

Greeters

- 5 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 12 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 19 Dave & Marty Frick
- 26 The Roof Family

Worship Readers

- 5 Nancy Filter
- 12 Chris Roof
- 19 Mary Sandborn
- 26 Elena Brooks

Piano

- 5 Nancy Filter
- 12 Judy Nobis
- 19 Nancy Filter
- 26 Judy Nobis

Altar Guild

Judy Nobis & Laura Roof

Elder

Jeff Brooks



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Our Thursday morning adult Bible study continues to meet each week at 10 a.m. We continue to study the book of Mark. This study is scheduled to be completed on Thursday, June 23rd. This date is one week before Pastor Filter will retire. Most likely the group will meet for one more one session study on June 30th. After that it will be the responsibility of the new Pastor to decide when the Bible study will meet. Pastor will suggest a few one study topics as the date gets closer and the group will decide which topic will be used. Plan to join us to study God's Word even if you haven't done so before as we continue to celebrate the end of Pastor Filter's ministry.

Some of the ladies of the group have started to walk again before the Thursday Bible study, weather permitting. If you would like to join them just meet in the front entrance at 9:30 a.m. and look for Nancy Filter or Ruth Helmreich. They would love your company.

NOISY OFFERINGS

On Sunday, June 12th, the Noisy Offering will go to the Armed Forces ministry of the LCMS. 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 JUNE

June 19th is our normal 3rd Sunday Food collection day and will benefit the Portland area Food Banks.



ENRICH For the present, Pastor Filter continues to be part of the Board of Directors of ENRICH. ENRICH has a thrift store in Ionia on Main St. to help support their Community Circle project which gives furniture, appliances and other household good free to those in need in the county. Families are referred through churches and other helping agencies in the County. If you have new or gently used furniture, appliances or other household goods to donate talk to Pastor. ENRICH also says thanks to all of you who supported their fundraiser at the Wagon Wheel in Portland in early May. Thanks to you over \$400 was raised to help support families in Ionia County.

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.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Robin Ward
11 Karlyn Beavers
Dwain Dennis



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 11 Jeff & Elena Brooks
21 Ed & Nancy Filter
27 Mike & Elaine Hartman
Kevin & Julia Veal
28 Jeff & Kathy Dole
30 Chris & Laura Roof



THANK YOU FROM SUE RUEHS

“St. Andrew friends and family,
A big thank you to all for
all the prayers, cards, rides, and
food I have received during all
my issues.
God’s Blessings,
Sue”

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Be in a Hurry!

Three apprentice devils were coming from hell to earth to serve their time. They were telling Satan before they left what they proposed to do. One said, “I will tell men that there is no God.” “That,” said Satan, “will not do because in their heart of hearts they know there is.” “I will tell men,” said the second, “that there is no hell.” “That,” said Satan, “is still more hopeless for even in life they have experienced the remorse of hell.” “I will tell men,” said the third, “that there is no hurry.” “Good,” said Satan, “tell them that and you will ruin them by the millions.”

In Luke 12:13-21 we read about a wealthy man who had a bumper crop so he went about tearing down his barns to build bigger ones so he would have a place to store his grain. His goal was to retire and sit back, eat, drink, and be merry. He was interested only in himself. In fact the pronoun “I” is used six times. His whole life was turned in on himself. His inner conversations were with himself, not with God. God received no credit for his success as a farmer, nor did he have any interest in sharing his treasures with others.

The story did not end as the man had expected it would. In verse 20 we read, *“But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things that you have prepared, whose will they be?’ ”* We discover that his life had ended and someone else would enjoy the fruit of his labor. Jesus closes the parable by saying, *“So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”* The Rich Fool certainly believed in Satan’s lie, “there is no hurry,” thinking that he had plenty of time. The Rich Fool forgot that man’s days are numbered, and time does run out.

In the Parable of the Hidden Treasure in Matthew 13:44, we find a man who with God’s help understood that the material things he currently possessed had no value in comparison to the treasure he discovered in the field. He was in a hurry to give up lesser treasure for greater treasure. In his joy, he sells everything he has for this new treasure. The treasure in the field is heavenly, eternal treasure. He refused to accept Satan’s lie that “there is no hurry” because, we are told, he immediately goes and gives all he has built up in his life so that he might acquire his new treasure.

Because our time and the time of others is in God’s hands, we need to be in a hurry. As Pastor Filter retires, don’t forget the lesson of this Stewardship corner article. Please continue to be in a hurry to share God’s love with the gifts of time, talents and treasures that God has given you. Be in a hurry to share Jesus so that you might take as many of your friends and relatives to heaven with you as possible!



FROM THE TREASURER

Church envelopes are available upon request. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. 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.

HYMNAL DEDICATION

Marion Koeppen recently donated enough copies of the new Lutheran hymnal (Lutheran Service Book) in memory of her husband, parents and sister to outfit the entire church along with the supporting worship books, including the altar book and the musical books needed by those who play for our services. This also included a year's subscription to the Lutheran Service builder which will help us construct the bulletins and the power point for the services. We plan to dedicate and bless the use of these hymnals and to begin to use these hymnals on Sunday, June 5th. Please plan to attend and help us to celebrate this blessing to the worship life of St. Andrew. Thank you, Marion.

CONGREGATIONAL VOTER'S MEETING SUNDAY JUNE 5

On Sunday, May 15, 2022, St. Andrew was blessed with the presence of Rev. Doctor Rob Kasper of the Michigan District of the LCMS. One of his main responsibilities is the Intentional Interim ministry for the Michigan District. He gave a great presentation on just what the Intentional Interim ministry does and why it might be of great value for St. Andrew as Pastor Filter retires. After the meeting the leaders of St. Andrew met and decided the best way to proceed is to hold a Voter's meeting on Sunday, June 5th after the service. The purpose of the meeting is to decide whether to proceed in requesting an Intentional Interim Pastor from the District or to find a vacancy Pastor to serve until a new Pastor can be called. At the end of the meeting a vote will be held on which way to proceed. Please plan to attend and help the leaders to decide what God's will is for the congregation as we enter the new era of Pastoral leadership as Pastor Filter retires.

PASTOR'S RETIREMENT OPEN HOUSE JUNE 26

SAVE THE DATE! We will be holding a retirement open house to honor Pastor Filter for his **34 years** of service here at St. Andrew. It will be on **Sunday, June 26th from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** There will be a short program at 2:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.



TEMPLE TRUST FUND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 2022

The 2022 Portland High School awardees were Molly Johnson and Tycen Frohriep. This scholarship was established by Ann Dennis in memory of her mother Ann Temple and is to be granted to a student who is in need of encouragement to continue their education. There is no limitation to be placed on the type of degree, educational institution, or grade point average, only that the student continues their education beyond high school graduation.

SUMMER CAMPS STARTING JUNE 12, 2022

Camp Concordia exists to provide opportunities for children, youth and their families to encounter Christ in the midst of God's creation: Enriching Body and Soul and resulting in strong missional skills and actions. Information about Camp is posted in the narthex or you can go to the website at <https://www.camppconcordia.org/registration-information.html>.

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies do not meet for the months of June and July. The next meeting for the Ladies Group will be August 21st at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room. All ladies are welcome, we hope you can join us!

BOOK TALK

Next Book Talk will be Saturday, June 18th. We will meet at Courageous Coffee at 9:15 a.m. Please visit our Book Talk website at <https://standrewbooktalk.weebly.com/> to discover our next book and learn a little about the book and the author. If you have any questions, talk to Ruth, Nancy, or Elena.



GAME NIGHT

Game night is now on break and will resume in September. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor.

CAMP CONCORDIA

The Ladies Group is once again pleased to offer scholarships to our youth who will attend Camp Concordia, located in Gowen, Michigan. A \$50 scholarship per youth is available. Visit the Camp Concordia website at <https://www.campconcordia.org/> to view camp dates, find registration information and to learn more about the camp. Once your youth is registered for camp, please see Elena to receive the scholarship. It's that simple.



"Since 1957, Camp Concordia's goal has been to provide opportunities for children, youth and their families to encounter Christ in the midst of God's creation, enriching body and soul and resulting in strong missional skills and actions. Today we would say the whole person is enriched: spiritually, physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially. That's how we do camp."



JUNE 5th POTLUCK

The ladies group will be hosting a potluck to celebrate the end of the school year and Pastor's final month at St. Andrew. It will be held on Sunday, June 5th after the voter's meeting. The ladies' group will provide the meat. Please bring a dish to pass.



LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION

Our Mission spotlight for this month is one of the National LWML projects. This is Grant #12 - Mercy Medical Care for Tanzania Mwadui Lutheran School and Community - \$68,182.

Southeast of Lake Victoria, the Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania was created on December 12, 2012. The Mission of the Diocese is to connect all people to Jesus - to serve all people spiritually, mentally, and physically through Jesus' name. The school is a valuable Christian outreach to the community and region known for its pagan spirit and ancestor worship.

Healthcare and Medical supplies for Students and Community in Tanzania - The money from this medical grant over the next 5 years will help provide needed physician staff, medical supplies, and medicines to help treat the various illnesses in this poverty stricken area.

The clinic will serve not only the students of Mwadui Lutheran School, but also serve as a mercy ministry to the community and the region that needs healthcare.

We pray: give strength to the staff as they share the love of Christ with their students and bless the medical staff as they care for the sick in Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Our Michigan District is getting ready for its Convention in July, where our delegates will be selecting new Mission grants for the next biennium. Thanks for the gifts and donations to the LWML Mite projects which help support Global and at home Missions.

"Give Thanks to the Lord for He is Good, His Love endure forever." Psalm 136:11

Everyone had a great time at Transportation Day! The children enjoyed vehicles outside and participated in 13 different stations when they came back inside. They went fishing, washed cars, had snacks, made crafts, raced cars, and painted airplanes. We even played outside at an obstacle course, shot off rockets, and threw up parachutes. The staff were very fortunate to have lots of volunteers in for the day! We could not have done it without them!!

A special "thank you" to:

- Mrs. Nichols for finding the old car & truck, a Schwan's truck, a firetruck, an ambulance, and the Reed and Hoppes tow truck.
- A grandpa from the 3-year-old class brought a tractor.
- Todd Ness furnished a tree truck.
- A 4-year-old parent organized for an asphalt company to come. They brought a dump truck, asphalt rollers, and a big truck.

Our day was a big success thanks to all of you!

The staff is always sad to have the year come to an end, but we feel very blessed to have a chance to spread God's Love to each family that has been here this year!

We appreciate the support of the parents, Pastor Filter, and the members of St. Andrew. Have a great summer!!

Staff of Wee Grow



JUNE EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>29</p> <p>9am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Altar Guild - Judy & Laura Elder: Jeff Brooks</p>	<p>2</p> <p>9am - Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <p>8am - Last Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Voters 11:30am - Potluck &</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p> <p>9am - Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <p>10am - Noisy Offering 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:30pm - Preschool</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>9am - Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:15am - Ladies Book</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline 10am - Food Collection 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>9am - Adult Bible Study</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <p>10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 1pm - Pastor Open</p>	<p>27</p> <p>6:30pm - Council</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p> <p>Altar Guild - Ruth & Elder: Jeff Brooks</p>	<p>2</p>

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



SUNDAY
JUNE 19th, 2022



PASTOR FILTER'S
OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY
JUNE 26th, 2022



1 - 4 p.m.

@ St. Andrew

