



**JANUARY 2023**



*Worship Service—Sundays 10 a.m. Sunday School—Sundays 9 a.m.  
Adult Bible Study—Thursdays 10 a.m.*

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**Rev. Roger Straub, Intentional Interim Pastor**

Pastor's Phone: 517-230-3872

**Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrew,

Paul begins his letter to the Colossians in this way: “To the saints and faithful in Christ at Colossae ... We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven.”

“The saints and faithful in Christ” describes you, “the saints and faithful in Christ” of St. Andrew, Portland, as I have gotten to know you. It has been a joy getting to know you over the past three months and serving as your intentional interim pastor. In particular, I have appreciated the “one on one” visits I have had with many of you so far. I look forward to visiting with more of you in the weeks ahead, especially those I haven't yet had the opportunity to meet in person. You are missed at worship! I look forward to meeting you in person and arranging for a time to visit.

Also, a reminder: if you are in need of pastoral care, please contact me in person or via my cell phone (517-230-3872).

As we look forward to January, an abbreviated Bible Study on the Book of Acts will be offered. Please watch and listen for starting date and time. We want to make this available for those who are unable to come to the Thursday morning study. We will be continuing our chapter by chapter study of Acts on Thursday mornings at 10 am. We will resume on January 5 with Acts, chapter 10.

With respect to the intentional interim process, there are so called “developmental tasks” that St. Andrew needs to be working through as we look to the future. The five developmental tasks of a congregation are:

- #1. Coming to terms with its history.
- #2. Discovering and defining its identity.
- #3. Experiencing shifts in and broadening its lay leadership.
- #4. Affirming and strengthening its partnership with district and synod.
- #5. Determining and committing to new vision and direction in its mission and ministry.

These are the tasks the congregation needs to work through. I can assist and support you with them, but I can't do them for you. Please make every effort to be involved as you are invited and as opportunities arise.

January 2023 is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Andrew. With thanksgiving to God, we look forward to remembering and celebrating this milestone anniversary in the year ahead. Our reflection on and celebration of our history will be helpful, with several of the developmental tasks.

Please keep St. Andrew in your prayers as, together, we work through the interim process.

P.S. Thank you to the Ladies Group for their thoughtful and much appreciated Christmas gift of personal copies of The Lutheran Study Bible and Lutheran Service Book!

In Christ,

Pastor Straub

## JANUARY SCHEDULES

### Acolyte

- 1 William Roof / Elder
- 8 Bella Roof
- 15 Zach Roof
- 22 William Roof
- 29 Bella Roof



### Fellowship

- 1 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 8 Roof Family
- 15 Dave & Marty Frick
- 22 Sue Ruehs
- 29 Jack & Mary Sandborn

### Greeters

- 1 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 8 Sue Ruehs
- 15 Tracy Wineland
- 22 The Roof Family
- 29 Jeff & Elena Brooks

### Worship Readers

- 1 Elena Brooks
- 8 Mark Haworth
- 15 Jeanne Bauer
- 22 Mark Haworth
- 29 Elena Brooks

### Piano

Judy Nobis



### Altar Guild

Tracy Wineland & Ruth Helmreich

### Elder

Jeff Brooks

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday morning Bible Study is continuing it's chapter by chapter study of the Book of Acts. January's classes will be on Acts 10-13.

Reflecting on the Holy Spirit's work in the early church is insightful for a congregation like St. Andrew in transition. Come out and join in!



## FOOD DONATIONS FOR JANUARY

January 18<sup>th</sup> is our normal 3rd Sunday Food collection day and will benefit the Portland area Food Banks.



## NOISY OFFERINGS

On Sunday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 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."



## ANNUAL VOTER'S MEETING

On Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> we held our annual voter's meeting. 24 Voting Members were present. Thank you to everyone who stayed to vote!

Below is the summary of the voting:

1. Approve change to blessing Lord's supper with Pastor Straub facing the congregation (standing behind the altar).
  - A) Yes – 23
  - B) No – 1
2. Approve the proposed 2023 Budget
  - A) Yes – 19
  - B) No – 4
  - C) No Vote – 1

## ST. ANDREW FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/standrewlutheranchurchportland/>

Please follow, like and share PortlandStAndrew on Facebook. You will find information on upcoming events, bible verses, change in schedule/plans, a brief summary of Sunday services, etc. There are posts multiple times each week, we hope you will follow along! Share with family and friends and help up reach more folks!



## 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



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



## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### Privileged to Be God's Stewards

God has called us to be His stewards (Genesis 1:28; 2:15), and He equips us as His stewards to use our time, talents, and resources faithfully for His purposes. Because stewardship is about serving, enabling, taking care of, funding, helping, and bringing hope and life to all, we should seek to have a better understanding of what it means to be faithful stewards in God's kingdom. Through faith, we become God's stewards, and our deeds of stewardship come from being stewards. Stewardship is about receiving God's blessings thankfully, managing them faithfully, and giving them generously. From the LCMS Board of Stewardship we read, "Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the Church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes."

In spite of our weaknesses and unworthiness, God honors us with the privilege and responsibility to be stewards of all that He entrusts to our care. "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10). Growing in a biblical understanding of Christian stewardship is a continuing process. By our own strength, it is impossible for us to be God-pleasing stewards. In order to be God's stewards, we need the Holy Spirit to change our hearts. The Holy Spirit shapes and molds us through a lifelong process of sanctification so we can become trustworthy stewards. With new hearts, we embrace our role as God's stewards. We become new people who are God-centered rather than self-centered. We acknowledge that God owns, controls, and sustains all things. "The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). God not only calls us to be His stewards, He equips us to accomplish the work that He has prepared in advance for us to do (Ephesians 4:10).

Being a steward is a relational concept. We do not live in isolation. Our primary relationship is with God Who has created and redeemed us through Jesus. We live to love and support our neighbors, and we want them to know Jesus as we do. As God's stewards, we live in relationship with creation, so we are not to misuse the earth, the seas, or the air.

As God's stewards, it is a mistake to view stewardship as only relating to managing and giving money. As we carry out our responsibilities as God's stewards, it involves the use of money, but it is much more. God's Word tells us that our stewardship involves all of life. Through faith, we believe that God is the creator, owner, and sustainer of all things, and He has given us the wonderful privilege of being His stewards.



## LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION

Thank you again for all your donations to our Giving Basket to help those in need in our surrounding communities. We are getting the items dispersed. A special thanks also for your mite box contributions, we collected \$239.89 to help support our Mission Grants at the District and National levels. Thanks for your support and keep that mite box handy for all your loose change. Watch for updates on Grants on the bulletin board.

As we look toward the New Year 2023, we will focus on Mission Grants for the remainder of the National biennium, which ends in June of this year.

This month's emphasis is Mission Grant # 22 - Lutheran Bible Translators Mission Vehicle Fund - \$70,000. This grant will be used to help purchase two vehicles to transport program managers in Sierra Leone and Ethiopia. These managers supervise literacy programs and bring needed teaching supplies to widespread communities. The Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT) mission is to make God's Word accessible to those who do not yet have it in the language of their heart. When people read God's Word in their own language, they experience God speaking to them and they respond to His Grace in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving.

Dear Lord, we ask You to bless the work of Lutheran Bible Translators as they partner with people in Ethiopian and Sierra Leone to share the love of Christ in their own language. Please be with them and the people they touch with Your Love, guide and direct them, and keep them in Your saving grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

### FROM THE TREASURER

#### Church Finances – November 2022

For the month, income exceeded expenses by \$62.85. Year-to-date income has exceeded expenses by \$4,237.62.

The November 30th checkbook balance is \$2,744.24, the discretionary fund balance is \$33,930.80, and the building fund balance is \$3,190.06. The Temple Scholarship fund balance is \$18,706.79.

### MANY THANKS!

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, St. Andrew was decorated for Christmas. This year our Christmas trees were moved to the corner windows where they could be seen every evening beginning around 5 pm and our lighted nativity set was outdoors by the St. Andrew sign. This is a wonderful way for us to help Jesus' light shine!

Thank you to our wonderful decorating crew for helping make our church look festive for Christmas! Thank you for making the interior of the church look wonderful: Laura, William & Bella, Cheryl, Mary & Jack, Mark, Cathy & Mikey, Don, Megan & Tracy, David & Marty, Sue, Nan & Dave and Elena. Thank you to Don for putting our lighted Nativity Scene outdoors by the St. Andrew sign. A special thank you to The Ladies Group for providing lunch for our decorating team! And a special thank you to Bella for playing the piano for us!



### 2023 ALTAR FLOWER CALENDAR SIGN UP

The 2023 Altar Flower Schedule is posted on the bulletin board beside the office. Please sign up to donate beautiful flowers for our altar all year long! Due to the rising costs of everything, the cost for our Altar Flowers from Country Cupboard has increased to \$25 + \$5 (no change) for delivery. If you are unable to make it in, you can call Shannon at the office, Tues - Thurs 9am to 2 pm, and she will add your name to your preferred date(s).



## LADIES GROUP

Our next meeting will take place on January 15th at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room. All ladies are invited to attend and help us plan for the upcoming year. We plan events and activities to support St. Andrew.

## ADVENT MEALS

We were pleased to continue our tradition of a meal before Advent Worship Services this year. Meals were in the fellowship hall before midweek Advent worship services, hosted by the Ladies Group. A free will offering was collected at each meal, raising \$120.00! All funds collected go to the Ladies Group to support the projects and ministries of St. Andrew. Thank you to Elena, Marty & Dave and Judy for preparing the meals. Thank you for your continued support.

## BOOK TALK

The book for January is *Between Sisters* by Kristin Hannah. Our Book Talk will take place on January 21st at 9:15 a.m. at Riversedge Grill in Portland. Book Talk is the book club of the Ladies Group of St. Andrew. Please visit our website to learn a little about our current book and author. You can also click on the Book List tab at the top of the page to see a complete list of books that the club has read. Plan to join us whether you read the book or not, we do also enjoy great fellowship. <https://standrewbooktalk.weebly.com/>.



## CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATING

We will take down and put away our Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 8th, after worship service. With many hands, this takes just a short time. If you are available to help with this, please get in touch with Tracy.

## SERVICE MUSIC SUBSCRIPTION

We have purchased a subscription that will allow us to be able to embed hymn music into the Service PowerPoint. This subscription is \$250 a year and will allow us the freedom to have musical accompaniment if our clavinova players are unable to attend a service. If you would like to contribute toward the cost of this subscription, you can include it in the Sunday offering plate or mail a check to the church office. Please note Hymn Subscription in the memo of your check.



Blessings to those who are able to contribute to the funding of this subscription.

## 2023 ALTAR GUILD SCHEDULE

<b>January</b>	Tracy Wineland and Ruth Helmreich	<b>July</b>	Tracy Wineland and Jeanne Bauer
<b>February</b>	Laura Roof and Mary Sandborn	<b>August</b>	Elena Brooks and Ruth Helmreich
<b>March</b>	Tracy Wineland and Judy Nobis	<b>September</b>	Laura Roof and Judy Nobis
<b>April</b>	Elena Brooks and Jeanne Bauer	<b>October</b>	Mary Sandborn and Jeanne Bauer
<b>May</b>	Ruth Helmreich and Mary Sandborn	<b>November</b>	Elena Brooks and Laura Roof
<b>June</b>	Laura Roof and Judy Nobis	<b>December</b>	Tracy Wineland and Ruth Helmreich

If you are not able to serve a day or days during your designated month, please reach out to other ladies serving on Altar Guild to see if they will trade days or sub for you. Also keep in mind that Cathy Haworth is our Altar Guild sub, you can reach out to her as well, she is happy to sub.

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 giving 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 10<sup>th</sup>. The 4's program theme was "Jesus being the Best Thing about Christmas" and the 3's performed songs celebrating Jesus' Birthday. All the kids did a great 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 Preschool would like to wish everyone a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!!



# JANUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Altar Guild: Tracy &amp; Ruth</li> <li>Elder: Jeff Brooks</li> <li>10am - Worship Service</li> <li>11:15am - Fellowship &amp;</li> </ul> <p><i>HAPPY New Year</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am - Adult Bible Study @</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Epiphany</i></p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am - Sunday School</li> <li>10am - Noisy Offering -</li> <li>10am - Worship Service</li> <li>11:15am - Fellowship &amp;</li> </ul>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am - Adult Bible Study @</li> </ul>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9:15am - Ladies Book</li> </ul>
<p>15</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Newletter Deadline</li> <li>9am - Ladies Group</li> <li>9am - Sunday School</li> <li>10am - Food Collection</li> <li>10am - Worship Service</li> <li>11:15am - Fellowship &amp;</li> </ul>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm - Council Meeting</li> </ul>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am - Adult Bible Study @</li> </ul>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am - Sunday School</li> <li>10am - Worship Service</li> <li>11:15am - Fellowship &amp;</li> </ul>	<p>23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30pm - Preschool Board</li> </ul>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am - Adult Bible Study @</li> </ul>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40th Anniversary S.L. Andrew</li> <li>6:30pm - Game Night</li> </ul>
<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9am - Sunday School</li> <li>10am - Worship Service</li> <li>11:15am - Fellowship &amp;</li> </ul>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Altar Guild: Laura &amp; Mary</li> <li>Elder: Jeff Brooks</li> </ul>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10am - Adult Bible Study @</li> </ul>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>

**ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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



*happy new year*

