

AUGUST 2026

Worship Service—Sundays 10 a.m. Sunday School—Sundays 9 a.m.
3rd Sunday Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study—Thursdays 10 a.m.

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Rev. Roger Straub, Transitional Vacancy Pastor

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Mark Haworth, Vicar

Vicar Mark's Phone: (517) 526-1153

Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool

Phone: 517-526-4147 E-mail: skypeabody@gmail.com

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrew:

Fruit is a welcome thought, refreshing, especially in the long, hot days of summer.

Jesus, in John 15, speaks of himself as the vine, us as the branches, and love for one another as the fruit we bear as his disciples.

And Paul, in his Letter to the Galatians writes: "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (5:22-23).

Interestingly, and significantly, Paul says, "the *fruit* of the Spirit is ..." not "the *fruits* of the Spirit *are*..." Like a cluster of grapes, the fruit of the Spirit is a cluster: "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" – individually and together – all make up the "fruit" of the Spirit. They are all the work of the Holy Spirit in us. The Holy Spirit is growing this cluster of fruit in us. Some of the individual fruits are, perhaps, more mature than others; but we are not lacking any one of them. As we walk by the Spirit and are led by the Spirit, we are a wonderful work in progress.

The first week in August is our Vacation Bible School: August 3, 4, 5 & 6, 6:30pm – 8pm. Oriented to younger children and their families, we pray for God's blessings as we seek to embrace them with God's love in Christ.

Looking ahead to September ... September 15 is the official end date of Vicar Mark's 2-year vicarage. While we aren't sure, at this point, of details, we are looking forward to his ordination and installation as St. Andrew's pastor sometime after that.

God's blessings as we continue, in God's grace, to move through the remainder of summer!

In Christ,

The Rev. Roger K. Straub,
Transitional Vacancy Pastor

FOR THOSE WHO ARE LED BY
THE SPIRIT OF GOD ARE THE
children of God.

ROMANS 8:14



AUGUST SCHEDULES

Acolyte

- 2 William Roof
- 9 Bella Roof
- 16 William Roof
- 23 Bella Roof
- 30 William Roof



Fellowship

- 2 The Roof Family
- 9 Dave & Marty Frick
- 16 Judy Nobis
- 23 Joe & Mary Latusek
- 30 Jeff & Elena Brooks

Greeters

- 2 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 9 The Roof Family
- 16 Tracy Wineland
- 23 Andrew & Mary-Kate Mossner
- 30 Dave & Marty Frick

Worship Readers

- 2 Jeff Brooks
- 9 Elena Brooks
- 16 Joe Latusek
- 23 Chris Roof
- 30 Jeanne Bauer



Children's Message

- 2 Judy Nobis
- 9 Pastor & Karin Straub
- 16 Jeff Brooks
- 23 Andrew & Mary-Kate Mossner
- 30 Jeanne Bauer

Music

Judy Nobis

Altar Guild

Laura Roof & Elena Brooks

Elders

Jeff Brooks & Chris Roof

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Christina Sondag
- 8 Tracy Wineland
- 13 David Peters
- 15 Lance Eldridge
- 16 Dan Bekins
- Judy Bodak
- 23 Betty Martin



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Our Thursday (10 a.m.) Adult Bible study will be continuing the journey through the Gospel of Matthew.

We will continue our 3rd Sunday Bible Study on Sunday, August 16th after Worship Service. Join us with some coffee and snacks in the Fellowship Hall.

All are welcome, even if you haven't attended before!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first day of Sunday School will be September 9th at 9 a.m.

THANK YOU

Thank you for allowing us to hold Orv Hartner's Memorial Dinner in the church fellowship hall. We appreciate your generosity! Our family enjoyed time with family and friends after Orv's service. We all also appreciated Pastor Straub's words at his service and are thankful Bible Study time could be changed to accommodate his burial ceremony at the cemetery in Beaverton, MI.

The Peabody and Hartner Family *Thank You*

FROM THE TREASURER

Church Finances – June 2026

For the month, expense exceeded income by \$5,322.45. Year to date income has exceeded expenses by \$30,314.87. The June checkbook balance is \$9,671.59. The savings account balance is \$119,744.84. The Temple Scholarship fund balance is \$27,826.87.

- 24 Paul (PJ) Latusek
- 28 David Frick

ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Mark & Cathy Haworth
- Nathan & Diane Sprague



VICAR'S THOUGHTS

“Days of the Dog” or “Days of God”

Grace, Peace and Mercy from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Sirius is the brightest star that appears in the summer night sky. It is part of the constellation Canis Major or The Greater Dog. The ancient Roman's believed it was so bright it added to the long hot dry summer days. As they called it the “Days of the Dog” we have changed it to the “Dog Days of Summer”.

It sure has been. We have had several high ninety-degree days, high humidity and many hazy days from wildfire smoke. As our Gospel readings have focused on Matthew, we have had several parables with some talking about planting seeds and harvesting crops. Likewise, many of the fields around us are finished growing and farmers are starting to get ready for the fall harvest.

Likewise, we start the month with our Vacation Bible Study. Soon school will start and we will start Sunday School. Additionally, the Council, Elders, Pastor Straub and I are planning for my transition after Ordination which will likely be in October. Furthermore, we are planning with Our Savior in Lansing for support as I will have two more years of classes through Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne while I continue to work full time.

Thus, even though these seem to be the Dog Days of Summer, they are a time of great planning. As we plan, it is key not to lose focus on Jesus Christ. Like the Romans saw the brightest star Sirius in the sky, we see Jesus as the brightest part of our life. All too soon we will be celebrating the birth of Jesus with the Wisemen following the Star of Bethlehem shining in the night sky. Therefore, think of these long days of summer not as the “Days of the Dog” but the “Days of God”. With Jesus crucifixion, resurrection ascension to sit at the right hand of God the Father, He is with us every single day.

Humbly Christ's Servant, Vicar Mark

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Glorifying God

To the church in Corinth the Apostle Paul wrote, *“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God”* (1 Corinthians 10:31). Everything we do is to be to God's glory. Even ordinary daily tasks like eating or resting should be done to honor, reflect, and bring praise to God. God tells us through Paul that our primary purpose in life is to glorify God in and through whatever we do. We were born by God's purpose and for His purpose. We are alive because God wanted to create us. In Colossians 1:16, we read, *“...all things were created...through Him and for Him.”* It is only in God that we find our identity and purpose. It is in God's Word that we discover our purpose in life. God is glorified when we, through faith, seek to know and to live out His purposes for us. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to live lives that glorify God and point people to Christ.

In Scripture, God called people to fulfill different purposes. Adam was to tend the garden. Noah was to build the ark. Abraham was to become a great nation through whom all the nations of the world would be blessed. Joseph helped his people survive a great famine. Joshua led the conquest into the Promised Land. David was the greatest king of Israel. Solomon was to build the temple. Paul was to become a missionary. God called each of these people, and they responded faithfully and obediently. Through faith, we also can respond to God's leading so we can fulfill the purpose that God has given each of us. God has a purpose for each of us. When we spend time reading and meditating on God's Word, in prayer, and receiving His body and blood in worship, God will guide us into the work and purpose that He prepares for us.

Through faith, we understand that God is both our source of life and our purpose for living. Our purpose is to give God glory, honor, and service. In his book *Beyond Blessed*, Rev. Robert Morris wrote, “Deep genuine happiness and fulfillment stem from living our true purpose, not experiencing worldly, carnal pleasure. If you're fulfilling the purpose for which God created you, you can have nothing and be deliriously happy and content. Conversely you have everything the world says you should desire, and if you're not living out your God-given purpose, you'll be utterly miserable.” When we carry out God's purposes for our lives, we will find true joy and fulfillment.

May God help us all glorify Him in all that we say and do.

LWML MISSION GRANTS APPROVED

The Daily Blaze

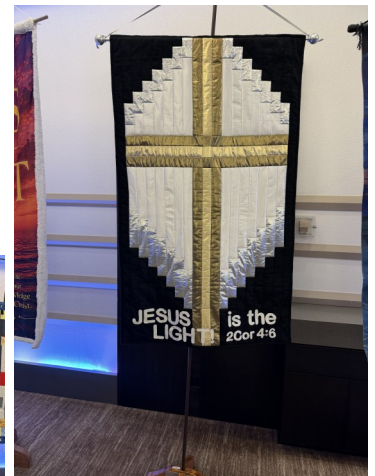
For God, who said "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus. 2 Corinthians 4:6

Approved 2026 - 2028 Mission Grants

1. CTSFW Food Co-op Purchase Food for Seminary Students -- CTS.....	\$15,000
2. I was Hungry and You Fed Me -- Orphan Grain Train.....	\$18,000
3. Life and Hope for Moms in Need --(The Luke Clinic).....	\$25,000
4. Mercy House Today and Tomorrow --- Franklin Ave Mission.....	\$22,000
5. Engage and Equip Michigan Youth 4 Life -- Lutherans for Life.....	\$25,000
6. Catalyzing Hearts Through the Love of Christ--Camp Restore Det.....	\$25,000
7. Living Word Orphanage Village in Yambia, South Sudan.....	\$25,000
8. Increasing Access to Christ-Centered Counseling--Concordia.....	\$25,000
9. Reaching Distant Nations: Open Doors for Gospel --MOST.....	\$25,000
10. Adventures to Achievement: Children's Summer Camps-- GfAGC.....	\$16,415
11. Building Bodies, Building Faith, A2E Sports Camp - LCMS MI D.....	\$25,000
12. Seeing Jesus Through Braille and Large Print -- LBT California.....	\$20,000
13. A Chance In a Christian School -- Salem Nat'l, Westland MI.....	\$14,835

\$281,250

2026 - 2028 Mission



LWML– School Kit Drive—August 2026

For the month of August, we are collecting supplies needed for school kits for Orphan Grain Train and others in need locally. Items needed **only**: *Spiral notebooks 70 count, boxes of crayons, pens, scissors, colored pencils, and glue sticks.*

Watch for the purple box near the LWML table to deposit items needed this year. Thank you for your support of this project.

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies next meeting is scheduled for August 16th at 9 a.m. in the conference room. The ladies are eager to begin planning for fall and beyond! The meetings are very casual, and all ladies are invited to attend and help support St. Andrew.

BOOK TALK

Book Talk, the book club of the Ladies Group of St. Andrew, is currently reading *The Story People* by Heather Kaufman. The club will meet on Saturday, August 29, 2026, at 9:15 a.m. at The Point in Portland for breakfast and to discuss the book. You can visit the Book Talk website to learn a little about the book and the author: <https://standrewbooktalk.weebly.com/>. Also on the website, you will find a book list of all of the books that the club has read - in case you might be looking for another book to read.

The club is very casual and welcoming. Please plan to join whether you read the book or not.

We do discuss the book, but it's also about the fellowship. The more the merrier! We hope that you will consider joining us!

FOOD DONATIONS FOR AUGUST

August 16th is our regular food collection day and will benefit the Portland area Food Banks.



NOISY OFFERINGS

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



LWML—WOMEN IN MISSION

It was an exciting LWML District convention in late June as ladies from Michigan, 435 in attendance, shared the theme "Jesus is the Light" from *2 Corinthians 4:6*. Cathy Haworth and I would like to thank you for this opportunity to represent St. Andrew as delegates for the convention. It was a wonderful weekend with ladies from around our state.

Pastor Jeffery Frechette Sr. from St. Mark Lutheran Church in Flint delivered the sermon for the opening communion service on Friday evening. He encouraged us all to look past the darkness in our lives, remembering that we are saved and knowing that God's Light will Shine through!

At the beginning of the Saturday session, Zones presented their homemade banners highlighting the theme, "Jesus is the Light." The delegates voted on a Mission Grant goal of \$281,250 and voted on 13 new Mission Grants to be funded for the next biennium. Officers were elected and revised by laws were approved.

Our Bible Study leader was Debbi Gainor from Our Savior Lutheran church in Bad Axe Mi. She led us in "Building Blocks of Bible Study" by looking at the language, history, math, science, and social studies as we study His Word.

We heard from Mission and action speakers (grant recipients) and the Rev Thomas Dunseth, who shared about the training of teachers to serve in the deaf ministry and the new ASL storybook for children.

Throughout the LWML Convention, we were encouraged to be Inspired to share the Light, Encouraged to Study God's Word, and to be Equipped to Shine the Light in all we do.

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 2 Corinthians 4:6

QUILTING—AUGUST 2026

We will be quilting on Tuesday, August 18th starting at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Judy Nobis. Please join us if you are able to attend.



WEE GROW CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director

Phone: 517-526-4147

E-mail: skpeabody@gmail.com



2026/27 REGISTRATION

Wee Grow is still accepting registration for the 2026/27 school year. We offer separate classes for 3's and 4's. The 4 year olds class meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:45 -11:45. The 3-year-old class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45-11:15.

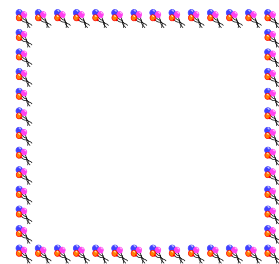
School will begin either September 14th or 15th, depending on which class your child is in. There is a \$75 registration fee (non-refundable) and tuition is \$175 a month for the 4yr olds and \$160 a month for the 3yr olds (both prices include snack). Please contact Sandy Peabody at 517-526-4147 or at skpeabody@gmail.com for more information.

Staff of Wee Grow



AUGUST EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	27	28	29	30 10am - Adult Bible Study @	31	1 Altar Guild: Laura & Elena Elders: Jeff B & Chris R
2 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	3	4	5	6 10am - Adult Bible Study @	7	8
9 9am - Sunday School 10am - Noisy Offering - 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	10 6:30pm - Preschool Board	11	12	13 10am - Adult Bible Study @	14	15
16 Food Collection Day Newsletter Deadline 9am - Ladies Group 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	17	18 9am - Quilting @ Judy's	19	20 10am - Adult Bible Study @	21	22
23 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	24	25	26	27 10am - Adult Bible Study @	28	29 9:15am - Book Talk
30 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	31 Altar Guild: Ruth & Mary Elders: Jeff B & Chris R	1	2	3 10am - Adult Bible Study @	4	5



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND PORTLAND?

- **Positively Portland MI— 8/11 @ City Hall Conference room from 6—7:30pm.** It's a fresh, upbeat gathering for people who love our community, enjoy brainstorming, and are willing to share a little time and talent. Each month we'll welcome a guest—voices from our schools, health care, city leadership, emergency services, or simply someone with something positive and meaningful to share. ALL ARE WELCOME on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.
- **Youth Makers Market—3rd Wednesday the 19th @ the Plaza from 5—7 pm**
- **10th Annual Portland Community Day @ The Red Mill, Pavillion and Water St.—8/22 9am—9pm.** This event is all about community! With food trucks, vendor booth, a vintage baseball game, kids and adult pedal tractor pulls, inflatables, pony rides and a petting farm, covered wagon rides, a chain saw carver demonstration, and much, much more!! Most of the events are at no cost or minimal cost to you.

For more information about the above or future events, please visit <https://www.miportland.org/events>