

JULY 2026



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

8867 Kent Street, Portland, MI 48875 Office Phone: 517-647-4473  
Email: portlandstandrew@gmail.com Website: www.portlandstandrew.com

Rev. Roger Straub, Transitional Vacancy Pastor Mark Haworth, Vicar  
Pastor’s Phone: 517-230-3872 Vicar Mark’s Phone: (517) 526-1153

Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool  
Phone: 517-526-4147 E-mail: skpeabody@gmail.com

FROM THE PASTOR’S DESK

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrew:

In his Letter to the Romans, St. Paul writes: “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (8:1).

Martin Luther, in The Large Catechism, comments: “We fell under God’s wrath and displeasure and were doomed to eternal damnation, just as we had merited and deserved. There was no counsel, help, or comfort until this only and eternal Son of God – in His immeasurable goodness – had compassion upon our misery and wretchedness. He came from heaven to help us (John 1:9). So those tyrants and jailers are all expelled now. In their place has come Jesus Christ, Lord of life, righteousness, every blessing, and salvation. He has delivered us poor, lost people from hell’s jaws, has won us, has made us free (Romans 8:1-2), and has brought us again into the Father’s favor and grace.”

Similarly, in his Second Letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul writes: “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself ... that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them” (5:17-19).

This is the gospel, the heart of our hope and faith. It shapes our daily lives as God’s people.

Our July calendar is simple and reflects the basics: Sunday Worship with Holy Communion at 10am, Third Sunday Bible Study on a Parable of Jesus at 11:30am and Thursday morning Bible Study on the Gospel of Matthew at 10am. Along the way, we will be preparing for Vacation Bible School the first week in August (August 3-6).

Our Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod will be meeting in convention, July 18 – 23 in Phoenix, AR. Chris Roof will be attending as Lay Delegate for our St. John’s circuit. Please keep Chris and our Synod in your prayers.

Please continue to keep Vicar Mark also in your prayers as he continues to prepare for ordination as St. Andrew’s next Pastor this Fall.

Finally, as we celebrate our nation’s 250th anniversary on July 4th, remember St. Paul’s words in his Letter to the Philippians: “our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (3:20); and, his words in his First Letter to Timothy: “First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time” (2:1-6).

In Christ,

The Rev. Roger K. Straub,  
Transitional Vacancy Pastor

## JULY SCHEDULES

### Acolyte

5 William Roof  
12 Bella Roof  
19 William Roof  
26 Bella Roof



### Fellowship

5 Jeff & Elena Brooks  
12 Jack & Mary Sandborn  
19 Sue Ruehs  
26 Andrw & Mary-Kate Mossner

### Greeters

5 Jeff & Elena Brooks  
12 The Roof Family  
19 Tracy Wineland  
26 Dave & Marty Frick

### Worship Readers

5 Jeff Brooks  
12 Elena Brooks  
19 Joe Latusek  
26 Chris Roof



### Children's Message

5 Elena Brooks  
12 Vicar & Cathy Haworth  
19 Mary Sandborn  
26 Andrew & Mary-Kate Mossner

### Music

Judy Nobis

### Altar Guild

Judy Nobis & Tracy Wineland

### Elders

Jeff Brooks & Chris Roof

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

3 Brookelynn Meyers  
8 Sue Scheurer  
10 Charlotte Kleitch  
12 June Simon  
14 William Roof & Karen Sprague  
20 Diane Sprague  
21 Cathy Haworth  
24 Fisher Brooks  
27 Steve Ward  
31 Briana Straub

## 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 Third Sunday Bible Study on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> after Worship Service. Join us with some coffee and snacks in the Fellowship Hall.

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



## NOISY OFFERINGS

On Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>, the Noisy Offering will go to LCMS—Armed Forces Ministry. 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 JULY

July 19<sup>th</sup> is our regular 3rd Sunday Food collection day and will benefit the Portland area Food Banks.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will be held August 3rd-6th from 6:30-8:00 pm. Watch for more information on way you can help.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND PORTLAND?

- **Fireworks—Independence Celebration—7/3/2026** @ Bogue Flats from Dusk thru a 20 minute spectacular show.
- **Independence Parade—7/4/2026** Starts at 10 a.m. Runs from Orchard St., North on Kent, to Grand River.
- **Youth Makers Market—7/13/26** - 3rd Sundays 5pm—7pm @ the Plaza on Kent St. Crafts made by 5—17yr olds!



For more information about the above or future events, please visit the below website.

<https://www.miportland.org/events>

## 4th of JULY PARADE

We will once again be participating in the July 4th Parade. If you would like to help pass out flyers, ride in the vehicle, or simply join us in representing our congregation, please contact Chris Roof for more information.

We hope you can be part of this fun community event!



## STEWARDSHIP CORNER

### Becoming God's Giving Channels

Our heavenly Father, who has created us and redeemed us through Jesus, has chosen to work through us to support and carry out His work here on earth. God blesses us financially not to only provide for our needs but to have resources that He can channel through us for purposes that He directs. God uses us as giving channels to help the poor, support His Church, and extend His kingdom here on earth. God gives through us.

In Martin Luther's Large Catechism, we read the following sentence in his explanation of the First Commandment, "Creatures are only the hands, channels, and means by which God gives all things." As Luther tell us, "God gives all things" through us. Our heavenly Father uses us as His channels to fund His mission and ministry. So how wide is your channel? Is it as wide as a roaring river like the Poor Widow (Luke 21:1-4), who gave away all she had? Or is it like the Rich Ruler (Matthew 19:16-22), who was no channel at all because he kept all that He had even after Jesus told him to give his riches to the poor? The size of our channels will vary. As our faith matures and our relationship with Jesus deepens, our channels will become wider. In our Christian journey, our channels may begin as little trickles until they become wider, and, for some, as wide as a roaring river.

While we may be more focused on the amount of money that flows through our channels, God looks at our hearts. He wants us to give from loving and giving hearts. When our hearts are right, our channels will be wide open. God knows that what we can give is also determined by our income and the savings and investments that we may or may not have. God has given us different amounts of wealth, so our giving capabilities vary. As our faith grows and we begin to understand the importance of giving, our giving channels will widen. Our hearts determine the flow and our wealth or lack of it reflects the size of our offerings. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to give and to keep on giving for the purposes for which God will direct. The openness of our channels is much more important than size of the gifts that goes through them. Through faith, our giving will increase as God increases our income and wealth. The Apostle Paul wrote, "You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Corinthians 9:11). God provides each of us with resources not just for our personal comfort but in order to enable us to be generous. Through our generosity, the recipients of our gifts will give thanks and praise to God.

In closing, may we not only be God's giving channels but be channels for His love through our hands, feet, and words. By God's grace, may we all become wide-open giving channels through whom God uses to support and fund His work here on earth.

## VICAR'S THOUGHTS

### Fireworks, Fireflies, Bonfires, and Faith

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

With the sunset almost gone, the fireworks launch into the sky showering down in every color with percussive explosions. That is how we often start July. Additionally, the fireflies come out at the same time. Many also have bonfires with the leaping flames and sparks shooting upward many a night.

This month the **Lutheran Women's Missionary League** (LWML) has their convention at the end of June with the theme, "Jesus is the Light (*2 Corinthians 4:6*). Also, Pastor Straub lead us through the bible study on *Matthew 5:13-25*. Jesus had just finished the Beatitudes and tells the disciples and those gathered they are the Salt and Light of the world. Additionally, in *Genesis 1:14-19*, Light is the first thing God created that He called good.

So, as you attend the many fantastic festivals, travel to various vacation spots or the other endless summer activities, take time to appreciate what God has created for us. As you watch various firework shows, admire the fireflies glittering at night and attend the many bonfires with family and friends throughout July, take time to thank God through your prayers. For it is through our Faith we are saved. In **Luther's Small Catechism** that many of us studied, the introduction states it perfectly. What is the Christian Faith? "**The Christian faith is the confession that Jesus Christ is the world's only Savior and Redeemer.**" (pg. 43)

Therefore, let your Light of Christ shine to the world like the fireworks, fireflies, and bonfires that light the darkness of night.

Humbly Christ's Servant, Vicar Mark.

## **FROM THE TREASURER**

### **Church Finances – May 2026**

For the month, income exceeded expenses by \$696.07. Year to date income has exceeded expenses by \$35,637.32. The May checkbook balance is \$5,349.71. The savings account balance is \$129,389.17. The Temple Scholarship fund balance is \$27,826.87.

## **LADIES GROUP**

The Ladies are currently on summer break, as they traditionally take the months of June and July off. Although the ladies will not meet in July, they are still active and are working to support our summer VBS program, which will take place August 3-6, 2026. Watch future communications on how you can help support our VBS program.

The Ladies will meet again in August to begin planning for fall. Watch the next newsletter and weekly bulletins for the date and time of the next meeting.

## **BOOK TALK**

Our next book is *Wrapped in Rain*, by Charles Martin. Our Book Talk will take place on Saturday, July 11th at 9:15 a.m. at Riversedge in Portland. You can visit the Book Talk website at <https://standrewbooktalk.weebly.com/> to learn a little about the book and the author.

Our club is very casual and welcoming. Please plan to join us whether you read the book or not. We do discuss the book, but it's also about fellowship. The more the merrier! We hope you will consider joining us!



## **VOTER'S MEETING RESULTS**

At the June Voters' Meeting, the congregation voted to extend Pastor Straub's contract through the ordination of Vicar Mark. We are thankful for Pastor Straub's continued service and leadership during this transition period and ask for God's blessings on both Pastor Straub and Vicar Mark as they serve our congregation .

## **LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION**

The LWML Michigan District Convention will end its activities in the last week of June at the Kellogg Center in East Lansing. Cathy Haworth and I will have a report of activities, speakers and Mission Grants chosen in the August Newsletter.

Our National Mission Grant focus this month is Grant #13 - Reaching God's Children in Haiti, Trinity Hope, Haiti - \$61,782.

Trinity HOPE began collaborating with Lutheran schools in Haiti in 1999. Originally feeding 42 children in one school, the ministry now feeds 65,000 children, teachers, and cooks in over 265 Christian schools across the country. Haiti is the poorest country in the western Hemisphere where more than 4.7 million people suffer from acute hunger.

Eleven of the 36 feeding program directors are Lutheran Pastors who visit their schools twice a month to teach lessons from God's Word. Before each meal, a prayer is said, and children profess their faith in Jesus. The children receive the light, love, and warmth of knowing Jesus Christ as their Savior with each meal served. This Grant will fund 160,472 meals served to children and teachers over two years. Blessings abound sharing God's Love.

Remember your mite box with your extra change. These mites help support all our Mission Grants. Updates can be found on the LWML bulletin board. We will collect mites again this fall. Thanks for all your support!

*Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.  
Sing to him, sing praise to him; tell of all his wonderful acts. Psalm 105: 1-2*



# **WEE GROW CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL**

**Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director**

Phone: 517-526-4147

E-mail: [skpeabody@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:skpeabody@gmail.com) for more information.

Staff of Wee Grow

## **LWML QUILTING GROUP**

The ladies quilting group of St. Andrew will resume quilting on Tuesday, August 18th at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Judy Nobis. We can always use full size sheets and material for cutting squares.



# YBS!

## JESUS LOVES ME!



BRING A FRIEND AND COME LEARN HOW MUCH JESUS LOVES YOU!

**DISCOVER GOD'S LOVE THROUGH EXCITING PARABLES OF JESUS!**

Kids will learn how much Jesus loves them through stories, songs, games, crafts and more!

**4 FUN DAYS!**

**AUGUST 3-6, 2026**

**6:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

**St. Andrew Lutheran Church**  
8867 Kent St.  
Portland, MI 48875

**★ AGES 3-11 WELCOME! ★**

**JOIN US FOR:**


- BIBLE STORIES
- MUSIC & SONGS
- CRAFTS
- GAMES
- SNACKS
- FUN WITH FRIENDS

**FREE TO ATTEND!**

**NO PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED!**

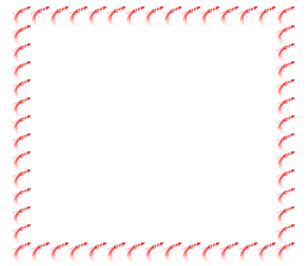
We can't wait to see you there!

# JULY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 LWML MI District 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	29	30	1 Altar Guild: Judy & Tracy Elders: Jeff B & Chris R	2 10am - Adult Bible Study @	3	4 10am - 4th of July Parade  9:15am - Book Talk
5 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	6	7	8	9 10am - Adult Bible Study @	10	11
12 10am - Noisy Offering - 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	13	14	15	16 10am - Adult Bible Study @	17	18
19 Food Collection Day Newsletter Deadline 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	20	21	22	23 10am - Adult Bible Study @	24	25
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

**ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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



**SATURDAY,  
JULY 4th  
2026**



**\*\*See Page 2 for Fireworks & Parade Dates\*\***