



MAY 2024



Worship Service—Sundays 10 a.m. Sunday School—Sundays 9 a.m.
Adult Bible Study—Sundays 11:15 a.m. & Thursdays 10 a.m.

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Rev. Roger Straub, Vacancy 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:

The 6 Sundays of Easter (April 7 – May 12) this year feature Epistle Readings from the First Epistle of John. One of the main themes of this letter is love. John writes: “this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. ... By this we know love, that he [Jesus] laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for one another... Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth. ... Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he [Jesus] abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us” (1 John 3:11, 16, 18, 24).

Christ’s commandment is the commandment he gave at his last supper with his disciples, after he took a basin of water and a towel, went from disciple to disciple, and washed their feet. Having done this, he said: “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:34-35).

Simply put, love (*agape*) is more than a warm, fuzzy feeling. It is an act of the will, doing what is in the best interest of another. It is genuine care for one another. It plays out in a variety of ways in the church. One way, in particular, is through our mutual support of one another as we seek to live out our faith in our daily lives.

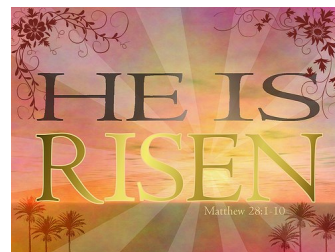
We live in a broken, confused, confusing and corrupt world. Living out our faith with integrity and courage is challenging. This is where listening to one another, and listening to God’s Word together, sharing our insights and understanding, and prayerfully supporting one another is love.

It happens when we gather for worship and fellowship. It happens in our Bible studies as we gather around God’s Word and listen to God’s Word, sharing our questions, experiences, understanding and insights. It happens in our meetings, as we prayerfully face challenges, issues, and questions. All of this is at the heart of our mission and ministry as the body of Christ. God has given us one another; we need one another. Christ, crucified and risen, lives among us to build us up as his people.

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

In Christ,

Pastor Straub,
Vacancy Pastor



MAY SCHEDULES

Acolyte

- 5 Bella Roof
- 12 Zach Roof
- 19 William Roof
- 26 Bella Roof



Fellowship

- 5 Judy Nobis
- 12 The Roof Family
- 19 Linda Hubert
- 26 Jeff & Elena Brooks

Greeters

- 5 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 12 Dave & Marty Frick
- 19 Tracy Wineland
- 26 The Roof Family

Worship Readers

- 5 Elena Brooks
- 12 Jeanne Bauer
- 19 Mark Haworth
- 26 Jeff Brooks



Music

Judy Nobis

Altar Guild

Judy Nobis & Mary Sandborn

Elders

Jeff Brooks & Chris Roof



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday morning & Thursday morning Bible Study groups are continuing their study of Luther's Small Catechism.

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!



NOISY OFFERING

On Sunday, May 12th, the Noisy Offering will go to our Ladies Group for Mother's Day. 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 MAY

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



VOTER'S MEETING IN JUNE

We will hold a voter's meeting on June 9th to confirm a new Executive Director and renew Pastor Straub as our Vacancy Pastor.

Nominations/volunteers for Executive Director can be submitted to the Elders or Mark Haworth.

CONGRATULATIONS MARK HAWORTH!

His application to the SMP Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne has been accepted! His journey will start in early September 2024!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will take place the end July/ beginning of August. Watch for emails, our announcements, and future newsletters for ways to get involved!

TEMPLE TRUST FUND SCHOLARSHIP

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. This year we have 15 equally deserving applicants from Portland High School.

We will announce the recipient in our June newsletter.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 10 Pastor Straub
- 14 Emily & Sophia Lloyd
- 24 Sue Ruehs
- 27 Jeanne Bauer
- Mary Latusek
- 30 Mary Sandborn



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 John & June Simon
- 19 Todd & Jill Fullet
- 24 Steve & Becky Ward



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STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Guided by the Tithe

God has demonstrated His love for us by creating and redeeming us. A meaningful way we express our gratitude to God is through our faithful giving. By God's grace, we can make giving important, and, when we do, we give Him the glory and honor that He deserves. Faith enables us to give freely and generously. Our giving can have no greater foundation than the Gospel of forgiveness and God's promises.

In His Word, God gives us giving principles. We are called to give cheerfully, regularly, sacrificially, and proportionately of our firstfruits. Even with all these giving principles, one question that all of us have likely asked is, "How much should I give?" In the Old Testament, God answered that question. God's people were commanded to tithe, which meant they were to give one-tenth of their crops, livestock, and gold and silver. The tithe does not answer the question, "Why give?" However, it does help to answer the question, "How much should I give?"

The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 16:2, "On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside and store it up, as he may prosper..." According to the income that we receive, we are to give proportionately. The tithe acts as a Biblical guide to calculate the dollar amount to give. Because Abraham, Jacob, and Moses tithed even before the law was given, could the tithe be a benchmark for us to consider as well?

In the New Testament, Jesus affirms the tithe when He told the Pharisees to continue tithing but not to neglect "the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness" (Matthew 23:23). It is interesting that, other than the tithe, the only giving referenced in the New Testament exceeded the tithe. Jesus asked His disciples to follow Him and leave everything they owned behind. He directed the Rich Young Ruler to give all His money away. Jesus commended the widow when she gave her last two mites. When He changed Zacchaeus' heart, Zacchaeus gave half of his wealth to the poor. Jesus said, "Freely you have received, freely give" (Matthew 10:8 NIV), and, in Acts 20:35, He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

When we examine what we give, remember that God wants our hearts more than our gifts. May God grant us hearts of faith that give freely and generously.



EASTER BREAKFAST UPDATE

Our annual Easter Breakfast was again well attended and received by 20-25 people. Thank you to Chris Roof, Dave Frick, Joe Latusek, and Dave Wheaton for cooking up a great meal for everyone! The free will offering totaled \$75, and we thank all who donated!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School on May 26th (Memorial Day weekend) and the final day will be June 2nd.

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.

Church Finances – March 2024

For the month, income exceeded expenses by \$2,387.06. The March checkbook balance is \$15,284.03. The discretionary fund balance is \$109,641.95. The Temple Scholarship fund balance is \$23,307.97. We still have \$6,823.14 in the checking and discretionary accounts of storm insurance money, which will be used for the shed delivered in March.

SUMMER CAMPS STARTING JUNE 9, 2024

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 following link: https://www.campconcordia.org/uploads/1/1/2/3/112309127/2024_summer_1-page_w_links.pdf



LADIES GROUP

The next meeting for the Ladies Group will be May 19th at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room. All ladies are welcome, we hope you can join us!

BOOK TALK

Our next book is *Heaven Adjacent* by Catherine Ryan Hyde. Our Book Talk will take place on Saturday May 18th at 9:15 a.m. at Fabiano's 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!



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 Laura or Elena to receive the scholarship. It's that simple!



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 2nd

Everyone is invited to join together and pray for our nation on this National Day of Prayer, hosted by the Portland Area Ministerial Association (PAMA). The local pastors will unite to pray for our nation. It only takes a few minutes but it's important and powerful to join together in this way. We hope to see you there!

Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 6:30 PM — The Red Mill Pavilion — 450 N Water St, Portland, MI 48875

LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION

You are invited to join us for the Spring/Fling Rally, Saturday, May 4th at Ascension Lutheran in East Lansing, beginning at 8:30 with registration. Randy and Cheri Carlson from Youth Haven Ranch in Jackson will be our speakers. They will share about their ministry at the camp in video and song. We will be collecting ingathering items; bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, and combs to be given out to campers when they attend the camp this summer. Please let me, Judy Nobis, know if you need a ride, and if you would like to donate any of the items for me to take along. I hope you can join us for this special event of Bible Study, hear great speakers and fellowship at Ascension.

We will continue with our quilting projects on Tuesday, May 14th beginning at 9:00 a.m. I hope you can join us in this service project.

Our National Mission Grant emphasis this month is Grant #20 - Sharing Christ with Women and Children in Kazakhstan - \$100,000 - (LHM)

The mission of Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM), based on the clear teaching of Scripture, is bringing Christ to the Nations and the Nations to the Church. Effective outreach methods have included Christian training programs, resources, and media that allow them to share the love of Jesus. Outreach through media and Christian discipleship materials allow families to hear God's message of salvation in culturally appropriate ways. This grant will support the powerful Christian witness of love to strengthen relationships, provide encouragement, and build faith in Jesus.

Please watch for updates on Mission Grants on the bulletin board or check out the Women's Quarterly for some great mission deeds that are done by various ladies throughout the United States.

Thanks for your generous support of Missions through your mite offerings. We collected over \$300 dollars in March to be sent on to assist in these mission grants.

You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you, give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His love endures forever. Psalm 118:28-29

We are excited to have Spring arrive! After Spring break, we focused on the resurrection of Jesus and made crafts to reinforce the story. We have been learning about caterpillars, lady bugs, ants, worms, and our chick eggs will soon be in our classroom. We will be learning about animal habitats and making crafts. The eggs are in the incubator, and we will be patiently waiting for them to hatch. We will be making ant tunnels, using patterning skills to make caterpillars, creating butterflies, and focusing on the letter B. It is always busy, but a fun time of year. We turned our kitchen area into a pizza station and talked about pizza. We read the book *Pete's A Pizza*, made pizzas in our pizza station, and we also made pizza for snack.

The preschool also hosted Grandparents' Day. We had over 80 guests and enjoyed exploring Spring Activities. The children and their grandparents made baby birds in a nest and a flower wreath. They had a chance to play games, decorate a flower sugar cookie, made rain sticks and enjoyed brunch before they left.

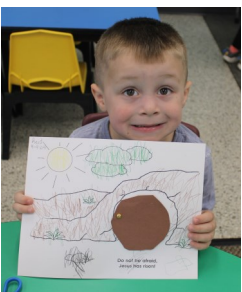
In May, we will be making gifts for our moms, and we will be going to Boulder Ridge Wild Animal Park in Alto. We will be enjoying an animal encounter, exploring the zoo, and feeding birds. The preschool will also be hosting a special beach day. We will have 15 different stations including snacks, crafts, shell painting, fishing, limbo, sandcastle building, beach ball toss, and other games.

The 4-year-old class will graduate on May 20th, and the 3-year-old class will sing some of their favorite songs on May 21st. We hope you can come at 6:30pm and enjoy the entertainment.





Staff of Wee Grow

MAY

- 1 - Field Trip Boulder Ridge (Both Classes)
- 8 - Beach Day 4's
- 9 - Beach Day 3's
- 20 - 4's Graduation @ 6:30 p.m.
- 21 - 3's End of Year Program @ 6:30 p.m.

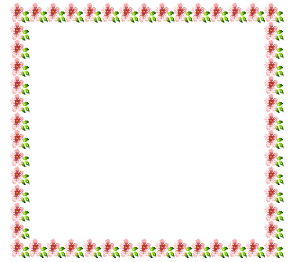


MAY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - Sunday School 10am - Preschool Singing 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altar Guild: Judy & Mary S Elders: Jeff B & Chris R 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7pm National Day of Prayer 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study 	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm - Preschool Board 	<p>9</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascension Day 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother's Day 9am - Sunday School 10am - Noisy Offering - 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study 	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:15am - Book Talk
<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Collection Day Newsletter Deadline 9am - Ladies Group 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study 	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Day 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm - Council Meeting 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altar Guild: Mary L & Elders: Jeff B & Chris R

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



SUNDAY
MAY 12th
2024