



MAY 2025



*Worship Service—Sunday 10 a.m. Sunday School—Sunday 9 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study—11:30a.m. Adult Bible Study—Thursday 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:

Midpoint in the Season of Easter, the Fourth Sunday of Easter is Good Shepherd Sunday. We reflect on and celebrate the Risen Christ as our Good Shepherd. Jesus lives and “shepherds” us as pictured in the familiar and beautiful words of Psalm 23. The Psalm begins, “The Lord is my shepherd ...” and then continues with compelling images that remind us that He leads us, is beside us and follows us, day in and day out. He surrounds us with goodness and mercy.

In chapter 10 of John’s Gospel, often referred to as the “good shepherd” chapter, Jesus says: *“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ... I lay down my life [death on a cross] that I may take it up again [resurrection]. ... My sheep hear my voice, I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are one”* (John 10:11, 17, 27-30).

As we move through our daily lives, with all they bring, Jesus walks with us. He’s with us in all that life brings; good and bad, challenges, struggles, disappointments, loss, grief, and surprises. In Luke, chapter 24, we read of two disciples on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus on Easter evening. Our risen Lord came near and walked with them, “but their eyes were kept from recognizing him.” We often move through our daily lives, unaware of our risen Lord’s presence. “He is risen! He is risen, indeed!” He walks with us! He lives to “shepherd” us! We need to remember that we are in hands, hear his voice and allow him to “shepherd” us.

As Jesus and those two disciples continued on together, Jesus “shepherded” them. He “interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.” He stayed with them. He broke bread with them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. In reflecting back on all of this, they said: “Did not our hearts burn within us ... while he opened to us the Scriptures?” As Jesus “shepherded” them, so he “shepherds” us.

God continues to “shepherd” St. Andrew, in this time of transition, through his Word and sacraments. Vicar Mark continues to move forward, with God’s blessings, in the Specific Ministry Pastors process.

He is nearing the end of his third class through Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne, with about a year and half to go in his classes toward ordination in the Fall of 2026 as St. Andrew’s next pastor. Your prayers and support as a congregation are very much appreciated.

We celebrate our Lord’s resurrection during the 50 Days of Easter. A joyous and blessed Easter season to all!

In Christ,

Pastor. Straub,
Transitional Vacancy Pastor

MAY SCHEDULES

Acolyte

- 4 Bella Roof
- 11 William Roof
- 18 Bella Roof
- 25 William Roof



Fellowship

- 4 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 11 Dave & Marty Frick
- 18 The Roof Family
- 25 Sue Ruehs

Greeters

- 4 Dave & Marty Frick
- 11 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 18 The Roof Family
- 25 Jeff & Elena Brooks

Worship Readers

- 4 Jeff Brooks
- 11 Jeanne Bauer
- 18 Chris Roof
- 25 Joe Latusek



Music

Judy Nobis

Altar Guild

Ruth Helmreich & Tracy Wineland

Elders

Jeff Brooks & Chris Roof

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
- 24 Steve & Becky Ward

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

The Sunday morning (11:30 a.m.) Bible Study group is continuing their study of Luther's Small Catechism. The Thursday morning (10 a.m.) Bible Study group is continuing their study of the Book of Revelation. The May 8th meeting will take place at 1 p.m. instead of 10 a.m. 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 11th, 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 18th 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 in June to reaffirm Pastor Straub as our Transitional Vacancy Pastor. The date has not been set as of this publishing. Please look for more information in the Sunday Service announcements and our June Newsletter!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will take place July 21-24. 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 22 equally deserving applicants from Portland High School.

We will announce the recipient in our June newsletter.

VICAR'S THOUGHTS

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

“Spring” has a few sayings that come to mind such as “Spring Forward,” “Spring Showers Bring May Flowers” and many others. Most of us think of the weather and foliage outside. Warmer temperatures, everything becoming green (leaves, trees, grass), early flowers, baby deer, cows, and other farm animals. In short, new life and birth.

Jesus often used these visual images through His parables and teaching. One of the most powerful uses is found in John 3:3 “Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God’.” Also, in Luke 21:29-30 “Look at the fig tree, and all the trees. As soon as they come out in leaf, you see for yourselves and know that the summer is already near.”

Thus, as we all enjoy the beauty, growth, and new birth of Spring, take time daily to give thanks to Jesus for our new birth through our baptism and growth in faith. I leave you with a wonderful piece of scripture found in **Isaiah 61:1** “**For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.**” As Jesus has risen from the dead, we too have been reborn in Christ through our Baptism and Lord’s Supper. Then with the Holy Spirit we now spring forward and proclaim the Good News. Christ has paid for all our sins and now enjoy the showering of God’s grace upon us!

Humbly Christ’s Servant, Vicar Mark

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

“Watch Out!”

Jesus said, “*Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions*” (Luke 12:15 NIV). Speaking to His disciples and us, Jesus warns about the selfish temptation of wanting more and more things. As God’s people, we are not expected to live as paupers. Having a desire for some comforts is normal. However, Jesus cautions His listeners about making riches the most important thing in their lives. We are to control our desire for things and not to be greedy. Rather than focusing on material possessions, we are urged to “*seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you*” (Matthew 6:33). Things of the world cannot fill the void that God put in us and meant for Jesus alone to fill.

So how are we able to guard against greed? Because of our sinful nature, we are unable by ourselves to stop focusing on worldly things. God calls us to be in the world but not of the world. As John wrote, “*Do not love the world or the things in the world*” (1 John 2:15).

The Apostle Paul knew both the secret of contentment and how to receive it. He wrote, “*...I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance, and need.*” Then he revealed his power source: *I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me*” (Philippians 4:12-13 NIV). The Holy Spirit is our power source too. He gives us new hearts that learn to love the will of God regardless of the circumstances in which we find ourselves. We become contented people, because we have a relationship with God, far richer than all the riches of the world.

Like Paul, we receive grateful hearts. With grateful hearts, we understand that we don’t deserve what we possess and enjoy. With grateful hearts, we see God’s grace and love that provide for our daily blessings. With grateful hearts, we can stop desiring riches. With grateful hearts, we are thankful for the little things that are often taken for granted. We are content because we are satisfied with whatever God gives us.

May God help us “watch out” so that our lives are not on a never-ending quest for more things. With God’s help, we can find our peace and contentment in Him.

EASTER BREAKFAST UPDATE

Our annual Easter Breakfast was again well attended and received by 20-25 members and guests. Thank you to Chris Roof and the men of St Andrew for cooking up a great meal for everyone!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School on May 25th (Memorial Day weekend) and the final day will be June 1st.



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 2025

For the month, expenses exceeded income by \$2,074.23. \$44,000 was transferred to the Church Extension Fund savings account. The March checkbook balance is \$7,861.17. The savings account balance is \$153,954.29. The Temple Scholarship fund balance is \$23,983.47.

SUMMER CAMPS STARTING JUNE 8, 2025

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. For information about Camp you can go to the following link:



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

Please see page 5 of this newsletter for a scholarship opportunity to Camp Concordia sponsored by the Ladies Group of St. Andrew.

LADIES GROUP

The next meeting for the Ladies Group will be May 18th at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room. All ladies are welcome to join us as we plan activities, events and more to support the ministry of St. Andrew.

BOOK TALK

Our next book is *Magic Hour*, by Kristin Hannah. Our Book Talk will take place on Saturday, May 10th 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!

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!



EASTER GOODY BAGS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

Before Wee Grow Christian Preschool students left for the long Easter weekend, an Easter goody bag was tucked into their backpacks! Each Easter goody bag was filled with an Easter puzzle to be colored, a Jesus themed coloring book, crayons, and Easter stickers. The Ladies Group was pleased to provide these for our preschoolers to remind them that Jesus Christ Is Risen!



LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION

Our spring Rally/Gathering at First Lutheran in Charlotte was well attended. We had several guests from the Michigan District LWML, and everyone enjoyed the presentation from our speaker, Becky Grossmann, from Lutheran Bible Translators. She shared about her work in Liberia among the people and how much more work needs to be done to get the message of Jesus to the people.

Thank you all for your donations of items for our in-gathering for the Charlotte Teen Center in Charlotte.

Quilting – we have finished 15 quilts so far this season, and will get together on Tuesday, May 20th, to work on quilts at the home of Judy Nobis. We will then take a break for June and July and start quilting in August again.

The National Mission Goal of \$2,350,000 for the 2023-2025 biennium has been reached. Praise God for His Blessings! New mission grants will be chosen this summer at the National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, under the theme "Growing in God's Grace," based on 2 Peter 3:18. The delegates will be voting on a new mission goal, mission grants, officers, and bylaw changes. Please keep everyone who attends in prayer for decisions to be made and safe travels.

Thank you for your support of all Mission Grants, both National and Michigan District. through your generous donations to our mite offerings. Watch for updates on Mission grants on the bulletin board and grab a new mite box.

"Praise the Lord, all you nations, extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord." Psalm 117: 1-2



WEE GROW CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director

Phone: 517-526-4147

E-mail: skpeabody@gmail.com



We are excited to have Spring arrive! After Spring break, we focused on Holy Week. The children had a parade for Jesus, made cross projects and painted with their feet. We also learned about the resurrection of Jesus and made crafts to reinforce the story. We have been learning about caterpillars and their life cycle. The children are making a sketch book to document the process.

The preschool also hosted Grandparents' Day. We had over 80 guests and enjoyed exploring Spring Activities. The children and their grandparents decorated an arm-print tree and made a snail with colorful stickers. They had a chance to play bingo, decorated chocolate covered cookies, created a frog habitat, made a flower to hang on the wall and other activities. Before our guests left, they enjoyed watching the children sing songs, had brunch and received a special "thank you" gift.

At the end of April, we went on a field trip to Swisslane Dairy Farm. We learned about what items are made from milk, fed calves, went on a straw ride to see teenager cows and visited the milking parlor.




In May we will be making gifts for our moms, learning about different animal habitats, and will be hatching chicken eggs in our classroom. The preschool will also be hosting transportation day. We will have 15 different stations including snacks, crafts, car ramps, rocket launching, bike riding and a boat station.

The 4-year-old class will graduate on May 19th, and the 3-year-old class will sing some of their favorite songs on May 20th. We hope you can come at 6:30pm and enjoy the entertainment.

Staff of Wee Grow

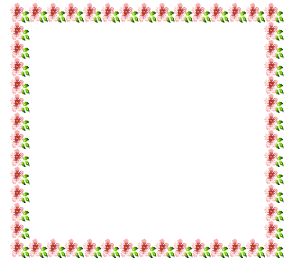


MAY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - Confirmation 9 a.m. 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm - Preschool Board 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altar Guild: Ruth & Tracy Elders: Jeff B & Chris R 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 6:30pm - National Day of 		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<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 				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1pm - Adult Bible Study @ 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:15am - Book Talk
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<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 						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm - Council Meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Day 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 		

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



SUNDAY
MAY 11th
2025