



MAY 2026



Worship Service—Sunday 10 a.m.

Sunday School—Sunday 9 a.m.

3rd Sunday Bible Study— 11:30a.m.

Adult Bible Study—Thursday 10 a.m.

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Rev. Roger Straub, Transitional Vacancy Pastor

Mark Haworth, Vicar

Pastor’s Phone: 517-230-3872

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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:

The month of May encompasses both Mother’s Day and Memorial Day. Both days stir up a mixture of sentiments and feelings. Both are days of appreciation and sadness.

We thank God for our mothers, their love, nurture, and care. Nevertheless, some heartaches surface in relationships between mothers and children connected with death, loss, heartbreak, and brokenness. We honor and celebrate those who made the ultimate sacrifice for freedom and country. Nevertheless, we feel their loss. We observe both days and all they bring in the grace and promises of our crucified and risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

In the last chapter of Matthew, final verse, Jesus promises: “I am with you always” (Matthew 28:20). This is reflected in our church year as, this year, it plays out during the month of May. We continue to celebrate Easter, observe our Lord’s Ascension, celebrate Pentecost and Holy Trinity. Praise God who shepherds us, day in and day out, in his grace, love, forgiveness and hope.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd, says: “My sheep hear my voice, and 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 10:28-30). This is a promise to recall and in which to walk, in faith, each day and every day.

Our risen Lord continues to walk with St. Andrew as we move forward in transition. God continues to bless us and Vicar Mark as he moves along in the process of pastoral formation leading to ordination, in the Fall, as St. Andrew’s next pastor. Thank you for your continued prayers for St. Andrew and Vicar Mark, and for your continued support.

“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever” (Psalm 136:1). A blessed month of May to all!

In Christ,

Pastor Straub,
Transitional Vacancy Pastor

MAY SCHEDULES

Acolyte

- 3 William Roof
- 10 Bella Roof
- 17 William Roof
- 24 Bella Roof
- 31 William Roof



Fellowship

- 5 Sue Ruehs
- 10 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 17 Andrew & Mary-Kate Mossner
- 24 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 31 The Roof Family

Greeters

- 3 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 10 Andrew & Mary-Kate Mossner
- 17 Tracy Wineland
- 24 Dave & Marty Frick
- 31 Jack & Mary Sandborn

Worship Readers

- 3 Chris Roof
- 10 Joe Latusek
- 17 Jeff Brooks
- 24 Elena Brooks
- 31 Jeanne Bauer



Children's Message

- 3 Jeff Brooks
- 10 Vicar Mark & Cathy Haworth
- 17 Andrew & Mary-Kate Mossner
- 24 Elena Brooks
- 31 Judy Nobis

Music

Judy Nobis

Altar Guild

Judy Nobis & Elena Brooks

Elders

Jeff Brooks & Chris Roof

MAY BIRTHDAYS

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



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Thursday's (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, May 17th 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 OFFERING

On Sunday, May 10th, 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 17th 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 and more. The date has not been set as of this publishing. Please look for more information in the Sunday Service announcements and our June Newsletter!

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.

We will announce the recipient in our June newsletter.



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 17 Ed & Karen Sprague
- Michael & Kyleen Williams
- 18 John & June Simon
- 24 Steve & Becky Ward



VICAR'S THOUGHTS

Sunlight and Your Light

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

The theme for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Spring Fling was from Matthew 5:16. "Serving in His Light". Currently the sunrises are earlier and sunsets are later. Many of us feel better having more light during the day. It is by no accident for God knows this too.

The second thing God created was "light". Also, after God created it, He said it was "Good". We take light for granted. We can have it anytime needed. Just flip a switch. However, when Jesus was incarnate there were just a few sources such as candles, torches, fires and lamps filled with oil. Nonetheless, just one candle is powerful. In the dark one light candle can be seen 1.5 to 2.0 miles away. Now remember that for a minute.

In John 8:12 Jesus tells us He is the light of the world and all who walk with Him will not be in darkness but have the light of life. We know through our Baptism, the Holy Spirit lives through every one of us. For Jesus tells us to continue spreading his light in Matthew 28:19-20, the Great Commission.¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Every single one of you is a candle filled with the light of Jesus. Gathered as the LCMS to support the preaching and teaching of Jesus, currently there are roughly 2 million baptized members. That would be 2 million candles. On a clear day at high noon, we have the light of roughly 100,000 candles lighting the day.

Thus like the single candle in the dark, together all of you continue to witness Christ and shine His light we eliminate the darkness of Satan. As everyone of us that is Baptized in the blood of Christ, reflect the light of Christ, the Holy Spirit guides our good works that please God. Thus, it is indeed "Good" to keep shining your light of Jesus Christ. Amen

Humbly Christ's Servant, Vicar Mark

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Giving with Purpose

Giving is an important part of our lives as Christians. Giving expresses our love and trust in the Lord. Our giving reflects God's character. It is a response to His grace in our lives. Giving is an act of worship and obedience. Faith prompts us to give with purpose to express our gratitude for all of God's blessings and gifts, to help those in need, to support His Church, and expand His kingdom.

When we give with purpose, we are giving planned, thoughtful, heart-motivated gifts that reflect God's generosity to us. A person who does not have a plan and purpose for giving would be someone who, minutes before the offering is received in Divine Worship, decides what he or she can spare to give. Giving with purpose is not a haphazard or impulsive act. It is not giving leftovers. It is a deliberate act of stewardship.

Let's focus on the prepositions "from" and "to." These two prepositions will be helpful to understand the motivation for our giving. We are giving with purpose when we give "from" all the blessings God gives to us. Every day, God gives us His love, grace, and mercy. Through faith, we know that all we are and have are gifts from Him. He provides for our daily food, shelter, and clothing. He has not only created us, but He has also redeemed us through His Son, Jesus. We give "from" hearts filled with thanks and gratitude for all that God has done and continues to do for us. "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever!" (Psalm 107:1). Our motivation to give "from" what God gives to us should inspire each of us to give regularly and generously with purpose.

The other preposition "to" also encourages giving with purpose. God's Word is clear that we are to give "to" the poor and those in need. "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and He will repay him for his deed" (Proverbs 19:17). In the words of James, we are to provide support for the "orphans and widows" (James 1:27). God wants us to give with purpose "to" our churches to support the sharing of the gospel with all people. "In the same way, the Lord commanded that those who proclaim the gospel should get their living by the gospel." (1 Corinthians 9:14). God works and gives through us "to" help the poor, support His Church, and extend His kingdom.

May God help each of us give generously with purpose "from" our blessings that He entrusts to us and "to" the needs that He places in our hearts so that God is honored through our giving.

EASTER BREAKFAST—THANK YOU

Thank you to the men of the congregation who gave their time and talents to prepare the Easter breakfast. Their early morning efforts and servant hearts helped create a warm and welcoming time of fellowship. It was a meaningful way to begin our Easter celebration together as a church family.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

There will be no Sunday School on May 24th (Memorial Day weekend) and the final day will be May 31st.

LOVE OFFERING – THANK YOU

I wanted to take some time and thank EVERYONE for the last Love Offering. As I am working with Pastor Straub, the Elder's, and Council on the transition late this fall, I continue to be floored by the enormous amount of support! This also comes from our local circuits and pastors who now know better who I am. I deeply appreciate the kind words, prayers, and gracious financial support. I am excited to fully take over and keep guiding everyone with teaching and preaching of God's word, administering the sacraments, and spreading the love of Christ. Again, a Huge Thanks to everyone!

In Christ, Vicar Mark.

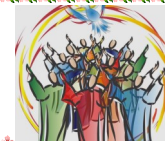
WALL VERSE

During the December Voters Meeting, it was announced that at the upcoming June Voters Meeting, you will have the opportunity to vote on a Bible verse to be displayed as you leave the building.

The following verses have been selected for consideration:

- “Andrew found his brother Simon and brought him to Jesus.” (*John 1*)
- “Tell them what the Lord has done for you.” (*Mark 5:19*)
- “Go in peace, serve the Lord.” (*Luke 7:50*)

Please take time to reflect on these passages as we look ahead to the June meeting.



May 24,
2026
Pentecost

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 2026

For the month, income exceeded expenses by \$4,254.16. Year to date income has exceeded expenses by \$42,745.96. The March checkbook balance is \$5,774.36. The savings account balance is \$136,668.74. The Temple Scholarship fund balance is \$27,231.29.

SUMMER CAMPS STARTING JUNE 7, 2026



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/1/1/2/3/112309127/2026.brochure.final.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

Our next meeting will take place on May 17th 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 *And Then You Loved Me*, by Ingloth Cooper. Our Book Talk will take place on Saturday, May 30th at 9:15 a.m. at The Point (formerly Fabiano's River House Grill) 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 SCHOLARSHIP

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!



OPEN COUNCIL POSITION

Our church is looking for a volunteer to serve in a Media and Public Relations role. This person would attend church council meetings and help share information about church events and activities with the congregation and community.

The individual in this role would also work alongside Tracy, who manages our church's social media posts, helping communicate the good things happening in our church. This is a great opportunity to support the church's outreach and keep others informed about our ministries.

If you are interested in serving in this role or would like more information, see Jeff.

LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION

It was a Joy to share the LWML Spring Rally/Gathering at St. Andrew on Saturday, April 18th. We had a group of 32 ladies from the LWML Capital Zone join us to celebrate the theme "Serving in His Light" from Matthew 5:16. Vicar Mark led our opening devotion followed by Bible Study with Pastor Klammer, all focusing on serving our Lord. Melissa Harnden shared her ministry and training in the Deaconess program from Ft. Wayne Seminary. She is currently serving as a teacher at St. Peter Riley Lutheran School in St Johns and working in various ministries in the church. We collected a generous donation for our ingathering items for Portland's Backpack for Bellies, and the ladies enjoyed a wonderful lunch provided by the ladies of St. Andrew. A wonderful time of fellowship was shared by all who attended.

Our LWML National Mission Grant emphasis this month is Grant #2 – Help for Ukraine's Orphans and Displaced Persons – \$100,000 – Orphan Grain Train. OGT is working with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine and other Christian churches as it distributes aid, currently assisting twelve orphanages in the Kherson area and three orphanages in the Kyiv area. The donated supplies assist people who have lost all their worldly goods and help children whose parents have been killed in the war. Through acts of mercy shown by followers of Jesus, recipients see the love of God as they live in this war-torn area. This grant has been fully funded, and containers have been sent to help these people in need. We give God the Glory!

Thank you for your continued support of all these Mission Grants with your mite offerings. More updates are on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Michigan LWML District Convention is this summer in June, and delegates will be voting on new mission grants for the District.

Quilting at St. Andrew will continue on Tuesday, May 19th at the home of Judy Nobis at 9:00 a.m.

Be Joyful always, pray continually. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1Thess. 5:16-18



WEE GROW CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director

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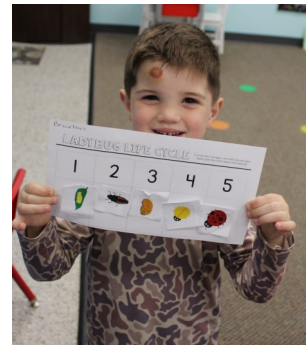
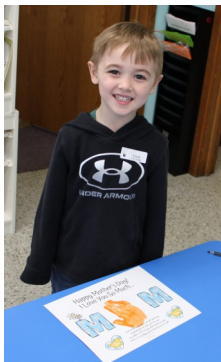


After spring break, we learned about the life cycle of caterpillars, lady bugs, and frogs. We made a sketch book, completed a ladybug worksheet and put speckles on a green frog. We also painted a butterfly for a "thank you" gift for our guests at Grandparents' Day. The preschool hosted over 100 guests for Grandparents' Day! Our day was filled with 11 different stations, and we served our guests brunch at the end of the day. We played bingo, made a fishing pole, created a spring wreath, went fishing, created fossils, played games, decorated a cookie with sprinkles, and other activities. It was a special day for all!





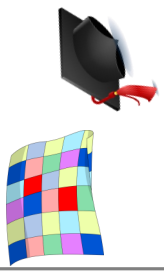



We ended the month with our bible story was about Noah's Ark and the Promise of the Rainbow. We colored an ark with animals and made a rainbow with fruit loops. The kids also had a chance to play with animals and arks. We also started making our Mother's Day presents.

In May, we will be going on a field trip to Boulder Ridge Wild Animal Park, Hosting Farm Day at the preschool, and getting ready for our spring programs. Our graduation program will be Monday, May 18th at 6:30 and the 3-year-old class will have their program on Tuesday, May 19th at 6:30. We hope you can join us!

Staff of Wee Grow

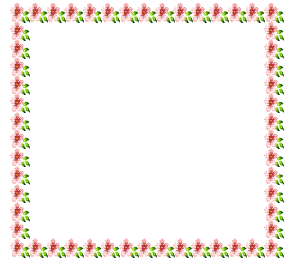


MAY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preschool Conferences 4's 	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altar Guild: Judy & Elena Elders: Jeff B & Chris R 	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11am - Constitution 11:15am - Fellowship & 	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Day of Prayer 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mother's Day 9am - Sunday School 10am - Noisy Offering - 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm - Preschool Board 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - Preschool Farm Day 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ascension of Our Lord 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</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>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm - 4's Graduation 	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - Quilting @ Judy's 6:30pm - 3's Spring 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm - Council Meeting 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pentecost 10am - Pentecost Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Day 	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:15am - Book Talk 
<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Holy Trinity 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altar Guild: Jeanne & Mary Elders: Jeff B & Chris R 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER MAY 7th

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). Join other Portland Christian Churches, 6:30pm at the Plaza in downtown Portland to pray. We hope to see you there!

Thursday, May 7, 2025 at 6:30 PM — The Red Mill Pavilion — 450 N Water St, Portland, MI 48875



**SUNDAY
MAY 10th
2026**