

Worship Service—Sunday 10 a.m. Third Sunday Bible Study— 11:30a.m.

8867 Kent Street, Portland, MI 48875 Email: portlandstandrew@gmail.com

Rev. Roger Straub, Vacancy Pastor

Pastor's Phone: 517-230-3872

Sunday School—Sunday 9 a.m. Adult Bible Study—Thursday 10 a.m.

Office Phone: 517-647-4473

Website: www.portlandstandrew.com

Mark Haworth, Vicar 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,

The first Thanksgiving is commonly considered to be the autumn harvest feast in 1621 shared by English colonists (Pilgrims) and native Wampanoag people in Plymouth, Massachusetts. In 1777 Congress issued the first national Thanksgiving proclamation; in 1789 George Washington issued the first Thanksgiving proclamation under the new U.S. Constitution; in 1863 Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation designating the last Thursday of November as a permanent national holiday, a tradition that continues today. The proclamations invite people to observe the day with thanksgiving and praise for blessings such as peace, liberty, a plentiful harvest, and with prayers for the nation and for those affected and afflicted by hardship. Today, our national Thanksgiving observance has become a four-day weekend of family gatherings, food, football, parades, shopping, and the kickoff to "Christmas" or "the holiday season."

Giving thanks is good! Repeatedly, the Psalms invite: "Come, bless the Lord" ... "Praise the Lord" ... "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever" ... give thee thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart." Paul writes in his Letter to the Philippians: "in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (4:6).

Examples of thanksgiving abound, thanksgiving proclamations are made, people are invited, exhorted, and encouraged to give thanks; but, thanksgiving happens, actively and genuinely, only when people recognize God as Giver and the source of all that is good in our lives. And, as such, giving thanks is not something reserved for just one day a year, but something to be practiced every day.

On Sunday evening, November 23 at 6pm, a Community Thanksgiving Service has been planned and is being offered by the seven Churches that make up the Portland Area Ministerial (Association (PAMA) of which St. Andrew has been a long-standing member congregation. The service is happening this year at the Portland United Methodist Church. You are invited to come together with other Christians from our community to give thanks. The offering at this service will support the ministry of PAMA to help the needy in our Portland community. (In past years, our Thanksgiving Eve offering has gone to support the ministry of PAMA. If you're unable to attend the community service and would like to make an offering, you may designate and include it along with your regular Sunday offering at St. Andrew.)

Sunday, September 2, is All Saints Sunday. On Sunday, September 9, children from our Wee Grow Christian Preschool will be singing in our worship service. We look forward to welcoming them and their families. On Sunday, November 16, at 11:30am, we continue with our Third Sunday Bible Study on Parables of Jesus. Our first two in September and October were well attended, insightful and much appreciated. The First Sunday in Advent, which begins a new church year, falls on Sunday, November 30. In order to have our sanctuary decorated for the Advent season, we are planning on "hanging the greens" Sunday, November 23, following our worship service. Everyone is invited to stay and help with the decorating.

A blessed November and Thanksgiving!

In Christ,

Pastor Straub,

Transitional Vacancy Pastor



NOVEMBER SCHEDULES

Acolyte

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

<u>Fellowship</u>

- 2 Judy Nobis
- 9 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 16 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 23 The Roof Family
- 30 Joe & Mary Latusek

Greeters

- 2 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 9 Dave & Marty Frick
- 16 The Roof Family
- 23 Tracy Wineland
- 30 Jeff & Elena Brooks

Worship Readers

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

Music

Judy Nobis

Altar Guild

Judy Nobis & Tracy Wineland *Elders*

Jeff Brooks & Chris Roof

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Cameron Roof
- 13 Hunter Eldridge
- 16 Marion Koeppen
- 23 Elizabeth Eldridge

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Tom & Judy Fryover
- 14 Andrew & Mary-Kate Mossner



BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

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

Our 3rd Sunday of the month morning Bible study class on November 16th (11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.), will continue to focus on a parable of Jesus. Join us with some coffee and snacks in the Fellowship Hall.

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

FOOD DONATIONS FOR NOVEMBER

November 16th is our regular 3rd Sunday Food collection day and will benefit the Portland Area Food Banks.



NOISY OFFERINGS

On Sunday, November 9th, the Noisy Offering will go to the Wee Grow Christian Preschool. 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."



MY HUMBLE APPRECIATION!

I had just arrived home, pulling into the garage. There was a new voice mail. Thinking it was something important from work, I listened to the message while still in the car. This was in case I needed to return to fix a problem. It started out with a well-spoken man saying, "Hi Mark, this is Dr. Rast from Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne congratulating you on being accepted into our seminary".

I sat in silence for a minute. I felt very humbled. The same has been true for the last year. The support from our District and circuits has been nothing but love and support. However, even more moving has been the support of friends, family and especially everyone at St. Andrew! It is impossible to say how much I appreciate the prayers, cards, kind words and nosy offerings. Thank You to everyone!!!

Humbly Christ's Servant, Vicar Mark

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS 2 a.m. SUNDAY, NOV. 2nd

Remember to change your clocks back one hour before you go to sleep on Saturday, November 2nd or when you get up Sunday morning!

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Showing our Gratitude

God gives us His love, goodness, and mercy daily. He has given us victory over sin and death through His Son. Christ has given us the blessings of forgiveness of sins, justification, a new life, and an eternal 2 hope. Because of His bountiful blessings, we should be compelled to show our gratitude. Do we? Could we, at times, be taking all that we receive for granted?

If Christ were to come into our homes in physical form, certainly we would express our thanks in tangible ways. Before He arrived, we would clean our homes thoroughly, and, when He arrived, we would make Him comfortable, run errands for Him, offer Him our best food, and give Him our time and 🙋 attention. Since we don't have that opportunity, we show our gratitude in other ways.

One way that we express our gratitude is to give thanks throughout the day. When we see life and its blessings as gifts, we are prepared to offer our thanks. Our thanksgiving is demonstrated when we use the faith God has given us to live in obedience to His Word. God hears and sees our gratitude through the lives we live. When we generously share our time and money with others in Christian love, we show our thanksgiving for our gifts. Our giving reflects Christ's love in us. We express our thanks to our heavenly Father when we joyfully receive His gifts in private and corporate worship.

As stewards, we find that gratitude to God opens our hearts to receive more of God's love which of enables us, in turn, to be more faithful with our time, talents, and treasures. In response to God's love, grace, and mercy, we give ourselves and our resources. When we acknowledge God as our creator and redeemer, Who is the core for everything good in our lives, we will serve the Lord faithfully out of gratitude for all His amazing blessings and gifts to us. Our gratefulness to God will enable us to experience joy in Him even during tough times because God promises to comfort and sustain us in all things. When we know that heaven awaits us, in Jesus, it changes the way we look at life here and now.

Through the eyes of faith, we understand that being thankful to God is the key to living life.

VICAR'S THOUGHTS

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

Hot steaming turkey, ham, stuffing, mashed potatoes, yams covered in brown sugar and marshmallows are just a few of the festive foods that will show up on our Thanksgiving tables. Grandma, Grandpa, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and friends are just some of the people that will gather at these & meals where we give thanks.

I wrote a short article for my class on "The Song of Zacharia". It is found in our Lutheran Service Book on page 226. It is better known as the "Benedictus". It is classified as a Song of Thanksgiving which comes from Luke 1:68-79. As Zacharia was filled with the Holy Spirit he prophesized while

taking his new son, John the Baptizer, to be circumcised. Zacharia expressed his thanks to God that his son was to be messenger of God making the way of the promised Messiah. The key verses are 76-77:

76And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;

for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,

77 to give knowledge of salvation to his people

in the forgiveness of their sins,

The name "Benedictus" is Latin for "Blessed". Although it is only used in morning Matins, it is one of many times scripture tells us how thankful we need to be for God's only Son, Jesus Christ. Therefore, I encourage everyone this month to read Luke 1:68-79 and personally reflect and give thanks to God for everything He does and has given us in our forgiveness of sins and salvation through His Son, Jesus everything He does and has given us in our forgiveness of sins and salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.

Humbly Christ's Servant, Vicar Mark

FROM THE TREASURER

Church Finances – September 2025

For the month, expenses exceeded income by \$2,145.78. Year to date expenses have exceeded income by \$16,832.49. During the year we have had extraordinary expenses of \$47,629.99 for the parking lot and \$6,500 for an air conditioner. The September checkbook balance is \$1,820.79. The savings account balance is \$96,403.13. The Temple Scholarship fund balance is \$25,126.18.

END OF YEAR CHARITABLE GIVING

As the Christmas and New Year's holidays approach, you will receive solicitations from many charities. It has been reported that many of these charities retain a high percentage of your donations for fund-raising costs. When you contribute to Saint Andrew Lutheran Church:

- 100% of your funds are used to support the missions of our church. The church budget is very lean.
- A copy of our balance sheet and income statement is available to any member upon request.
- Individual contributions are confidential.

As we budget for next year, we need to do some forward thinking on when to do some large projects. All three of our furnaces are getting old, and at some point, we will need to replace all or several windows. Our church may require other long-term maintenance. We have saved some money in our discretionary fund; however, not nearly enough to cover all these items.

Last year many members made financial commitments and placed them on the altar. Have you honored your commitment, or can you do more? Please remember Saint Andrew Church, when making your weekly and end-of-year charitable contributions.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

We are looking for volunteers to help with Christmas decorating at St. Andrew. Decorating will take place on Sunday, November 23rd immediately following worship service. This will allow us to have our Christmas decor in place for the first Sunday in Advent, which is November 30th. Previous decorating experience is not necessary. We have gotten our Christmas decorating down to such precision it should take about an hour. We will decorate, fairly quickly, leaving you with the afternoon to enjoy! If you are available to help decorate, please talk to Tracy Wineland.





PCFA COAT DRIVE AND GIVEAWAY

The Giveaway was a great success! The school bus was stuffed and the PCFA was able to help 177 people get coats plus other winter outer wear on Saturday, Oct 18th! All remaining winter gear went to the many other local charities that were in great need.



Thank you to all who came out and volunteered their time and efforts with the set-up and giveaway. A special thank you to our St. Andrew crew: Vicar Mark, Dave Frick, Judy Nobis, Shannon Walsh and her family who joined her: Mike Barry, Mona Barry, Tyler Barry, and Katie Barry.



The next meeting for The Ladies Group will be on November 16th at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room. We will work on plans on how we can support St. Andrew. All ladies are welcome to join us as we plan activities, events and more!

BOOK TALK

Laite at https://standrewbooktalk.weebly.com/ to find



If you are part of the Secret Soul Sister group, please continue praying for your SSS and showering her with notes and gifts on special occasions.

ALTAR GUILD

Altar Guild members- we are working on creating the schedule for Altar Guild for 2026. Please watch your email as Tracy Wineland will be sending out communication asking for the months that you prefer to serve in 2026. We will need each altar guild member to serve three months to cover the entire year.

We appreciate your time and talents, thank you for your continued service

LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION

Our Fall Rally/Gathering at Living Word Church in Lansing was well attended on Saturday, October 18th. We shared our theme of "Growing in God's Grace" with Bible Study led by Pastor Klamer from § Fowler and our Worship message led by Pastor Dangba of Living Word. The Sudanese ladies shared their songs in their native language and also shared a lunch of Sudanese dishes for us. We viewed the Convention highlights from this summer on video and presentations from attendees, Judy, Rebecca, Laurie, and Kara.

Quilts were distributed in October to Lutheran World Relief, Orphan Grain Train, and Lansing City Rescue Mission. We will be quilting again on Tuesday, November 18th at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Judy Nobis. Donations of material and sheets are always welcome.

Our Michigan District Mission Grant emphasis in November is Grant #4: New Shepherds for South Sudan - \$18,000. The people of South Sudan are in need of the Gospel, living in extreme poverty, civil war, famine, and disease, with average life expectancy of only 56 years. The need for pastors is great, with 200 congregations and fewer than 80 pastors to serve them. Lutheran Heritage Foundation in Macomb, MI, has partnered with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sudan to establish a seminary to provide theological education for pastors. This grant would support five South Sudan seminarians for one year, providing tuition, supplies, room, and board.

Thank you for your mite donations in October as we celebrated LWML Sunday. We gathered Thank you for your mite donations in October as we celebrated LWML Sunday. We gathered \$\ \$193.58\$ to help support the mission grants that are highlighted each month. Please pick up another mite box to fill with your coins, Thank you again for your support of all these Mission Grants!

Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done. Psalm 105:1



WEEGROW CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Phone: 517-526-4147

Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director



In October we were busy exploring fall themes and fire safety. The 4-year-olds investigated apples, painted leaves with oil, learned about pumpkins, and made scarecrows. We have been working on the numbers 1-5 and the letters A and P. The children found out if pumpkins would sink or float, planted pumpkin seeds, and learned when we should call 911. The 3-year-old class learned about being a good friend and painted a picture with marbles together. They also decorated pumpkins, painted colorful fall trees, practiced stop/drop & roll, and made fall windsocks.

The 4's also went on a field trip to Fenner Nature Center where they learned how to make apple butter. The children enjoyed their time going on a hike, peeling apples, and stirring the apple butter. The children had fun making tree rubbings and using magnifying

glasses to look at leaves in the woods.

Both classes enjoyed fall parties. The 4-year-old class made a candy corn craft, played bingo, hammered golf tees into pumpkins, played tic-tac-toe with gourds, and enjoyed other fall activities. The 3-year-old class tossed candy corn into cups, enjoyed candy corn bowling, made a fall head band, and played other games.

We are looking forward to our November activities. We will be learning about what a blessing is, all about squirrels/acorns, reading the "The Old Lady that Swallowed a Pie" book, how to make pumpkin pie and other themes. Our bible stories will be about the 10

lepers and Jesus feeds 5,000.

Staff of Wee Grow













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1:15am - Fellowship &	AND						
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10am - Worship Service	Non						
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Newsletter Deadline							
Group							
School							
10am - Worship Service							
11:15am - Fellowship &							
- Bible Study							
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10am - Worship Service							
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6pm - Community							
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School Altar Guild: Mary L & Laura		6pm - Advent Gathering	ring	0am - Adult Bible Study @			
10am - Worship Service Elders: Jeff B & Chris R							

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool

8867 Kent Street

Portland, MI 48875



