

OCTOBER 2025



*Worship Service—Sunday 10 a.m. Sunday School—Sunday 9 a.m.
Bible Study - 3rd Sundays 11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study—Thursdays 10 a.m.*



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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrew,

We read in Romans chapter 3: “no human being will be justified in God’s sight by deeds of the law, since through the law comes knowledge of sin. ... since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, they are justified by grace as a gift ... through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus ... to be received by faith.”

We also read in Ephesians chapter 2: “by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God – not because of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”

To summarize: foundational statements of our faith and life as Christians – Lutheran Christians.

During the month of October, we enjoy fall colors, football, and Halloween. As Lutherans, we also remember and celebrate the Reformation. The three pillars of the Lutheran Reformation are grace alone, faith alone and Scripture alone. Grace, faith, and Scripture are also the foundation of St. Andrew’s life together and our mission and ministry as a congregation.

In our life together as a congregation, we are in mission and ministry. Our mission and ministry is a “we” effort. Good works are never not part of the equation. We strive to walk together in the “good works, which God has prepared” for us to do. Good works that, as Jesus put it, “give glory to God.”

On Sunday, October 5, we will remember with thanksgiving to God the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML) and its mission past, present, and future. On display that Sunday will be the fruits of the labor of St. Andrew’s quilting group – quilts destined for Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train. October 17 & 18, St. Andrew will open its doors to host the community coat drive. And we will be planning a Trunk or Treat to coincide with Portland’s Trick or Treat. As we celebrate Reformation on Sunday, October 26, the Rite of Confirmation will be part of our worship service as Bella Roof is confirmed.

For about 40 years, our Preschool has been a mission and ministry of St. Andrew to the children and families in our community. As with most congregations, their Christian schools, preschools, and day care ministries don’t result in significant numerical growth for the congregation. Nevertheless, they are mission and ministry to the community. As members of St. Andrew, it’s important to welcome, relate to, engage with, and affirm our Preschool staff, children, and families as opportunities arise. November 9 is one such opportunity. Families from our Preschool will be in worship with us, and their children will be singing. Refreshments, fellowship and informal “we” activities will follow.

We are God’s people by grace, through faith, as affirmed by Scripture. God’s love in Christ is love to be celebrated and shared.

In Christ,
Rev. Roger K. Straub,
Transitional Vacancy Pastor

OCTOBER SCHEDULES

Acolyte

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



Fellowship

- 5 Sue Ruehs
- 12 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 19 Dave & Marty Frick
- 26 The Roof Family

Greeters

- 5 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 12 Dave & Marty Frick
- 19 The Roof Family
- 26 Jeff & Elena Brooks

Worship Readers

- 5 Chris Roof
- 12 Elena Brook
- 19 Jeanne Bauer
- 26 Jeff Brooks

Music

Judy Nobis

Altar Guild

Elena Brooks & Ruth Helmreich

Elders

Jeff Brooks & Chris Roof



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9 Pastor Ed Filter
- 13 Jan Moffatt
- 20 Cheryl Pugsley
- 22 Donovan Hartman
- Andrew Mossner
- 24 Shannon Walsh



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 18 Jack & Mary Sandborn



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, October 19th (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 OCTOBER

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



NOISY OFFERINGS

On Sunday, October 12th, the Noisy Offering will go to the Portland Food Pantry. 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."



FROM THE TREASURER

Church Finances – August 2025

For the month, expenses exceeded income by \$6,771.19. This month we had to replace the preschool air conditioner for \$6,500. \$7,500 was transferred from savings to checking in August. 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 August checkbook balance is \$4,175.32. The savings account balance is \$96,194.38. The Temple Scholarship fund balance is \$25,126.18.

LWML QUILTING

We finished 25 quilts to be sent out to Lutheran World Relief, Orphan Grain Train, and Lansing City Rescue Mission in early October. Quilts will be on display at church on Sunday, October 5th as we celebrate LWML Sunday. We will pack the quilts at church on Tuesday, October 7th.

Our regular quilting day will resume on Tuesday, October 21st at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Judy Nobis.

VICAR'S THOUGHTS

Vicar's Thoughts – Holyween Instead of Halloween

A day celebrated with costumes and candy not just by kids but adults we call Halloween. The first recorded celebration was when Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome to the Vigran Mary. It was called "All Hallows Day." However, it was done on May 13, 609 AD. Then on November 1st some 160 years later Pope Gregory III changed it to celebrate Christian martyrs then later included All Saints who had died. Lastly, as commonly done, many would gather the night before and hold a vigil. Thus, the celebration emerged October 31st.

As Lutheran's we also celebrate this day not only as the creation of our denomination in 1517 on October 31st with the infamous nailing of the 95 theses from Martin Luther on the church door of Wittenburg Germany. We also celebrate the correction of false teachings and corruption of the Roman Catholic Church. However, Luther did not throw the baby out with the bath water. Instead, he made observations and suggestions on what needed correcting in the Roman Catholic Church.

The key is to do what Luther did. With Love and Compassion, we must stay firm in our beliefs and actions—where the focus in on Jesus Christ. Luther absolutely condemned those who used violence and murdered those that they saw as the "opposition." As we have recently experienced, there are those who hate all Christians and use violence and murder to silence them. This is clearly Satan and his evil spirits hard at work.

Therefore, this Halloween think of it as Holyween, focus on Christ and His Holy kingdom instead of Satan and his evil spirits. As the kids enjoy their costumes and candy, we must enjoy being clothed in Christ and God's gift, Jesus paying for all our sins by being crucified for us, dying, rising from the dead and ascending into Heaven to sit at the right hand of God the Father.

Humbly Christ's Servant, Vicar Mark

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Called to Be Ambassadors

In Webster's New World Dictionary, ambassador is defined as "the highest-ranking diplomatic representative of one country to another." An ambassador of the United States to another country holds a very prestigious position. This person speaks for our country. The honor of a country is in the ambassador's hands. The responsibility of an ambassador is to represent his/her country in a very honorable way.

By His grace, God calls us to be ambassadors for Jesus by representing and speaking on His behalf. We bring Jesus' message to the world. As important as it is to be an ambassador who represents a country, it is a much greater privilege and a much more significant responsibility to represent Jesus. The Apostle Paul wrote, "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making His appeal through us" (2 Corinthians 5:18-20). Just as Jesus sent Paul to be an ambassador, He is sending us. As ambassadors for Jesus, we share the Gospel with whomever God places in our paths.

God makes His appeal to unbelievers through us, and, therefore, it is imperative that we share the Gospel, which is the life-giving truth. We are to preach and teach the Word of God. We choose to be among those workers in the harvest field (Matthew 9:36-38) who share our testimonies of faith, always pointing others to Christ and His Gospel. As ambassadors, we share the good news that God has reconciled us sinners with Himself through His Son, Jesus. Because Jesus, who knew no sin, took upon Himself our sins, we are made righteous in Jesus. We are called to take this life-saving message to our homes, neighborhoods, schools, places of work, and the entire world.

God not only gives us His marching orders; He empowers us to carry them out. What God expects He enables. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, God changes us into people who are up to the task of being ambassadors. As we spend time in God's Word and in prayer, we are emboldened to speak the Good News so that others may experience the joy and peace that God gives.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 31, 2025
6 to 8 p.m.

This Is A Free Event

TRUNK OR TREATING
HOT DOGS
HOT CHOCOLATE

All Are Welcome

Bring Friends

All activities will be indoors to provide trunk or treaters warmth & protection from outdoor elements. Restrooms will be available. This is a free event. Our facility is ADA accessible.



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PCFA COAT DRIVE AND GIVEAWAY

St. Andrew is proud to be hosting this important community event again!

The Drive - Starting October 3rd, the Portland Community Fund Association will be collecting new or **clean**, gently used (no holes/rips/etc.) **winter outerwear**: jackets, hats, scarfs, snow pants/suits, gloves, boots/shoes, etc. to be given away to our Community. You can drop off your donations to the collection bus that will be parked at Bill's Party Store from Oct 3 to Oct 17.

The Giveaway - The bus of donations will be unloaded at our church Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 17th at approximately 2pm. The Giveaway will be the next day, Saturday, October 18th from 10am – 1pm.

How You Can Help

1. Friday, Oct 17th @ 1:45pm - set up tables and chairs in the hall and help the PCFA unload and organize the donations from the bus.
2. Saturday, October 18th @ 9:30am to 1pm - assist PCFA with the giveaway.
3. Saturday, October 18th after event has ended - pack left over items for PCFA, clean tables/chairs, remove tables/chairs, clean floors and all common areas used for event. It always goes very quickly, at most it takes an hour.

Please email portlandstandrew@gmail.com if you will be volunteering, as we need to get a head count for the PCFA.

LADIES GROUP

The next meeting for The Ladies Group will be on October 19th at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room. We will finalize details for Trunk or Treat and begin planning other ways to support St. Andrew. All ladies are welcome to join us as we plan activities, events and more!

BOOK TALK

Please visit the Book Talk website at <https://standrewbooktalk.weebly.com/> to find information on our next book, author and date for our meeting.



TRUNK OR TREAT

We are looking for volunteers to help with this year's Trunk or Treat event. We are looking for folks to pass out candy during the event - you can decorate your table if you'd like. We are also accepting donations of candy to be passed out during Trunk or Treat. We ask that all candy donations are dropped off no later than Sunday, October 26th. (See the Trunk or Treat flyer in the newsletter for all of the details.)

PRESCHOOL SINGING

Volunteers Needed. The students of Wee Grow Christian Preschool will sing during worship service on Sunday, November 9th. After the service we will have a simple turkey craft event, provided by the Ladies Group, for preschool students and their families, along with refreshments. Each table in the fellowship hall will serve as a craft station where snacks and fellowship can be enjoyed (we will have the same craft at all tables). We are looking for volunteers, one for each table, to oversee and assist the students and siblings with the craft and to share fellowship with the students and families. This is a great opportunity for our members to welcome, meet, and get to know our preschool families. Please see Elena with any questions and to sign up to volunteer for this outreach activity.

LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION

The ladies from Living Word at Trinity Lutheran church in Lansing will be hosting the Fall Rally/Gathering on Saturday, October 18th with the theme, "Growing in Grace" based on 2 Peter 3:18. Registration will begin at 8:30, followed by Bible Study with Pastor Klamer, then our devotion led by Pastor Moses from Living Word. The program will be a presentation of the National Convention Highlights by the ladies that attended the convention in Omaha, and a video of the Mission Grants selected. Hope you can join us for the morning LWML activities.

We had a great Servant Day packing School Kits for Orphan Grain Train on September 20th. Everyone enjoyed a light breakfast, devotion, and fellowship working on this service project. Special thanks to all the volunteers that helped that day and also to those who contributed donations of items for the Kits. We completed over 50 Kits. Your kindness was very much appreciated.

Our Mission Spotlight this month is Michigan District Grant #6 - Welcoming all God's Children (Lutheran Special Education Ministries) - \$25,000. Lutheran School Education Ministries (LSEM) is a national ministry headquartered in Michigan, serving children with special needs for 150 years. LSEM continues to reach out to serve children with special needs, helping these children remain in a Lutheran School setting to receive academic growth and to hear about God's Love. Funds will be used to purchase appropriate curriculum, materials, and equipment to support the growth and continued outreach of LSEM programs.

LWML Sunday will be observed on Sunday, October 5th. Please bring your mite boxes that day for a special collection of mites for the selected District and National Grants. Watch for the LWML display at the church for pictures from the National Convention in Omaha and an update on the mission grants that are completed.

Enter his gates with Thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

Psalm 100: 5-6



WEE GROW CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director

Phone: 517-526-4147



WELCOME CLASS OF 2025/2026!

The Preschool is excited to begin a new school year and Grace Timmer, Amy Sutherland and Sandy Peabody will all be returning for the 2025-26 school year. We had a great first week celebrating our opening theme, "Wild About Wee Grow!" The children had fun playing with animals in sand, matching zoo animals, building houses for animals, and using play dough with zoo cookie cutters. We are getting to know our new friends and learning about the classroom. We have had lots of fun playing, making crafts, having snacks, and learning new songs.

The 4-year-old class has started learning about how God created the world and the 3's are learning about how much Jesus loves them and how special they are.

In October, we will be going to the Fenner Nature Center for a field trip and having Fall Parties. The children will also be learning about fall, scarecrows, pumpkins, apples, and how to show your light for Jesus to others.

We are looking forward to a great year with these special little ones and spreading the love of Jesus to them and their families.


The Staff of Wee Grow

OCTOBER

- 6 - Picture Day 4's
- 7 - Picture Day 3's
- 10 - No School 4's
- 15 - Fenner Nature Center Field Trip 4's
- 30 - Fall Party 3's
- 31 - Fall Party 4's



OCTOBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 9am - Confirmation Check- 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	29 6:30pm - Preschool Board	30	1 Altar Guild: Elena & Ruth Elders: Jeff B & Chris R	2 10am - Adult Bible Study @	3	4
5 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	6	7 9am - Pack Quilts	8	9	10	11
12 9am - Sunday School 10am - Noisy Offering - 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	13	14	15 6:30pm - Council Meeting	16 10am - Adult Bible Study @	17 1:30pm - Coat Bus Unload 9:30am - Coat Giveaway	18 8:30am - LWML Fall Rally 9:30am - Coat Giveaway
19 Food Collection Day Newsletter Deadline 9am - Ladies Group 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study	20	21 9am - Quilting @ Judy's	22	23 10am - Adult Bible Study @	24	25
26 Reformation Sunday 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 10:01am - Confirmation of 11:15am - Fellowship &	27	28	29	30 10am - Adult Bible Study @	31 6pm - Trunk or Treat 	1 Altar Guild: Judy & Tracy Elders: Jeff B & Chris R

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool

8867 Kent Street

Portland, MI 48875

