

OCTOBER 2026



*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,

Paul began his First Letter to the Corinthians: “to the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours. ... I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge – even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.” (1 Corinthians 1:2, 4-9).

The same can be said of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Portland, Michigan: “sanctified” ... “saints” ... “because of the grace of God ... given ... in Christ Jesus” ... “enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge” ... “not lacking in any spiritual gift ...” (to lift just a few of the highlights).

It has been three years already since we celebrated St. Andrew's 40th anniversary. We gathered then in thanksgiving to celebrate that milestone, remembering all of God's blessings to and through the people or “saints” of St. Andrew. During the past few years, following Pastor Filter's retirement, we've been speaking of St. Andrew as a congregation “in transition.” That's not a negative but, rather, a positive affirmation. Congregations are constantly, to some degree or another, in transition. God is continually and faithfully at work growing, building, and developing his present saints on the strengths, gifts, and health of saints past; on the sure and solid foundation of Jesus Christ.

Every year in October we remember and celebrate the Lutheran Reformation; the three pillars of the Reformation being grace alone, faith alone, scripture alone. Through the Reformation, God caused the light of the Gospel to shine clearly and brightly. We are Lutheran Christians; our foundation is Jesus Christ as Lord.

We are currently, and anxiously, awaiting the ordination of Vicar Mark as St. Andrew's pastor. He has completed his two year “vicarage” and is now in a period designated “placement.” That is to say he, as pastoral candidate, and we, as calling congregation, are at the mercy of the seminary, district and synod certification and call process for SMP pastors. The process is, to some degree, involved and lengthy. Nevertheless, the process is in play. We look forward to its completion and an ordination date at some point in the future.

In the meantime, we continue to walk in faith, trusting God who is “faithful” and “not lacking in any spiritual gift” in the ministry to which he has called us.

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

OCTOBER SCHEDULES

Acolyte

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

Fellowship

- 4 Dave & Marty Frick
- 11 Andrew & Mary-Kate Mossner
- 18 The Roof Family
- 25 Judy Nobis

Greeters

- 4 The Roof Family
- 11 Andrew & Mary Kate Mossner
- 18 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 25 Tracy Wineland

Worship Readers

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

Children's Message

- 4 Jeff Brooks
- 11 Andrew & Mary Kate Mossner
- 18 Chris & Laura Roof
- 25 Mary Sandborn

Music

Judy Nobis & LSB

Altar Guild

Elena Brooks & Ruth Helmreich

Elders

Jeff Brooks & Chris Roof

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9 Pastor Ed Filter
- 20 Cheryl Pugsley
- 22 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 epistle of 1 Corinthians.

We will continue our 3rd Sunday Bible Study on Sunday, October 18th (11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.), after Worship Service. 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 18th is our regular 3rd Sunday Food collection day and will benefit the Portland area Food Banks.



NOISY OFFERINGS

On Sunday, October 11th, the Noisy Offering will go to the Portland Food Bank. 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 2026

For the month, expense exceeded income by \$683.66. Year to date income has exceeded expenses by \$27,009.4. The August checkbook balance is \$5,343.81. The savings account balance is \$120,425.11. The Temple Scholarship fund balance is \$28,168.85.

SPECIAL OFFERING—VICAR MARK

On Sunday, October 4, we will collect a special offering to purchase Vicar Mark an alb and stole as a gift from the congregation. This gift to Vicar Mark will also serve as our gift to Pastor Straub for his years spent as our vacancy pastor.

This gift is a meaningful way for our congregation to celebrate and support Vicar Mark as he continues in his ministry as our Pastor. If you would like to contribute toward this special gift, please place your donation in the special offering on October 4.

LWML QUILTING

Our Ladies completed 5 more quilts in September for a total of 29 and will be packing them on October 1st to be sent to Lutheran World Relief, Orphan Grain Train, and the Lansing City Rescue Mission.

Next quilting day will be Tuesday, October 20th at 9 a.m. at the home of Judy Nobis.

VICAR'S THOUGHTS

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

Pumpkin spiced coffee, tan corn stalks with orange pumpkins, green gourds scarecrows and many stories of ghouls or ghosts. For some, it is their favorite season of the year. With the cooler days and crisp nights, we end the month with Halloween. "Spooky" stories are everywhere including the news, movies, television shows, and the ever-popular podcasts.

It was no different in ancient times. In Egypt, Greece, Mesopotamia, etc., ghosts were often associated with the dead. For example, in Greece when someone died a coin was placed in the deceased mouth. This was to pay the ferryman to take their souls across the river Styx to the afterlife. The coin was more a sign of respect than payment.

Thus, all the disciples would have been very familiar with this belief due to their contact with the gentiles who held pagan beliefs. Therefore, just after Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the five thousand in Matthew 14:13-21 our Lord was understandably fatigued and tired. Jesus had the disciples immediately get into the boat and go before Him. Jesus then went up to the mountain by Himself to pray.

Then, like we often have in late fall, a storm developed. The disciples battled a storm for much of the night. Then as Matthew tells us, on the "fourth watch" (3:00 to 6:00AM) the disciples were terrified as they first saw someone walking towards them on the water. They cried out "It is a ghost." They may have been thinking it was a dead person traveling across the water. Perhaps they feared it was an evil spirit attacking them. Also, being trapped in the boat there was nowhere for them to retreat.

However, as Jesus always does, He reassures them saying, "Take heart; it is I. Do not be afraid." Just as He did after His resurrection when appearing to the disciples in a locked room two times Jesus said "Peace be with you" each time.

Therefore, as you enjoy pumpkin spiced coffee, pumpkin pie, bonfires, Halloween parties and the various ghost stories this fall, do not be like the disciples in the boat. When life is like a storm, be like Peter in the boat and reach out to the Lord. Because Jesus died on the cross paying for all our sins, rose from the dead and ascended to God the father, He is always with us. For in Matthew 28:19-20 just before Jesus ascended, He told the disciples, "I am with you always, until the end of age".

Humbly Christ's Servant, Vicar Mark

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Winning the Prize

We like winning! How did you feel the last time you won a card game, a board game, a tennis match, or a round of golf? Winning gives us great joy. Whether the winning prize is money, ribbons, trophies, or just an "atta boy" or "atta girl," we work harder, and we give it our maximum effort to earn the prize.

In the 9th chapter of 1 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul refers to the contest of running. To be the fastest runner, runners go through disciplined training to make themselves faster so they can cross the finish line first and win the prize. 1 Corinthians 9:24 reads, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize So run that you may obtain it." The Apostle Paul urges Christians to live their faith with that same drive, purpose, and commitment seeking to honor God. He refers to a much more important event than runners running a race to win a prize that won't last. He refers to a race that involves life and death. The prize is a life with Jesus forever!

God calls us to be faithful in our service to Him through serving others. "So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith" (Galatians 6:10).

As God's people, we need to keep our focus on the all-important prize and, with God's help, not to allow temporary successes in this life interfere with the goal of receiving the most wonderful prize which is eternal life with Him. As the Apostle Paul told the church in Corinth, "Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

TRUNK OR TREAT

October 31, 2026 ~ 6 to 8 p.m.





This is A FREE EVENT

Trunk or Treating

Hot Dogs

Hot Chocolate

OCT
31

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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Bring Friends

PCFA COAT DRIVE AND GIVEAWAY

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

The Drive - Starting October 2nd, 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 2 to Oct 22.

The Giveaway - The bus of donations will be unloaded at our church Fellowship Hall on Friday, October 23rd at approximately 2pm. The Giveaway will be the next day, Saturday, October 24th from 10am – 1pm.

How You Can Help

1. Friday, Oct 23rd @ 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 24th @ 9:30am to 1pm - assist PCFA with the giveaway.
3. Saturday, October 24th 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 18th 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 watch for upcoming information on the next book for Book Talk, the book club of the Ladies Group. The club will meet on a Saturday morning for breakfast and a little 'Book Talk'. You can also check the Book Talk website at <https://standrewbooktalk.weebly.com/> for updated information.



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 25th.

A NEW LOOK FOR OUR CHURCH NEWSLETTER

You may notice some changes coming to our church newsletter over the next few months. Microsoft is phasing out the program we currently use to create the newsletter, so we will be transitioning to Canva for future editions.

While the newsletter may have a new look and layout, its purpose will remain the same—keeping our church family connected and informed about worship, upcoming events, ministry opportunities, celebrations, and other important news from St. Andrew.

LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION

The LWML Fall Rally/Gathering is all set for Saturday, October 17th at St. Peter, Riley, 8990 Church Rd. St. Johns. Registration will begin at 8:30, with a Chapel service to follow at 9 a.m.

The theme is "Give Thanks" from 2 Thess. 5:18 - "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

Our speaker is a representative from the Basic Needs Center in St. Johns. The in-gathering items will be for the Center: non-perishable foods, canned fruit/vegetables, tomato sauces, pasta, mac & cheese or household products, paper towels, dish or hand soap, kleenex. They appreciate any needs that you will bring to help families in their community. Let Judy Nobis know if you would like to attend on that Saturday morning for service and fellowship with the Capital Zone ladies.

We will celebrate LWML Sunday on October 18th and will collect our mite boxes. Please check out the LWML items that will be on display and the chart on how mites are helping support the Mission Grants selected, be sure to grab a new mite box.

Our National Mission Grant emphasis this month is Grant # 5 - Growing together to share Braille and Large Print - \$100,000. Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) serves millions of visually impaired people worldwide who struggle to access Scripture-based materials. LBW provides braille and specialized large-print Christian resources at no cost. With this grant, LBW will establish five new Ministry Production Centers in the U.S. and host five servant events at LWML Conventions, schools, and youth gatherings. The funding will help LBW produce and freely distribute about 10,000 additional volumes of Bibles and other Christian materials.

Thanks for your support of all our Mission Grants through your mite offerings.

*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



WEE GROW CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director

Phone: 517-526-4147



WELCOME CLASS OF 2026/2027!

The staff at Wee Grow are excited to start a new school year. Amy Sutherland and Sandy are happy to have April Debler join our staff. She has 15 years of experience in early childhood and recently retired. Amy is starting her 12th year, while Sandy is beginning her 27th year. Even though our enrollment is down this year, we are excited to create a new curriculum and to share Jesus' love.

We began our year with a Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom theme. We are so Glad YOU are in our Room. We read the book *Chicka, Chicka, Boom, Boom*; made a friend's classroom book; made a page with our names going up the coconut tree; and designed a bag to keep all of our papers in.

We continued the month of September by learning how much Jesus loves us, how special we are and that we can make a difference. The 3-year-old class used watercolors to paint a picture, and both classes practiced their gluing skills creating a star fish with cheerios. The 4-year-old class completed a page all about how special they are and made a self-portrait.

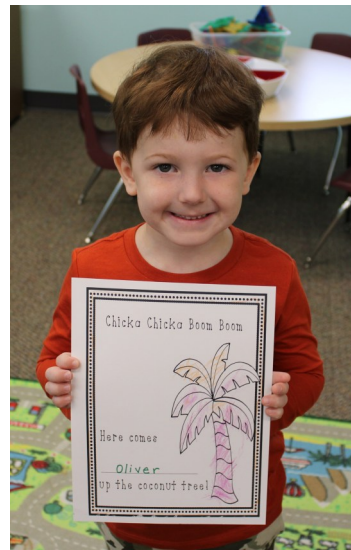
At the end of September we made applesauce, experimented with apples and other fall items to see if they would sink or float in our bin of water. We also made apple trees with cereal. We learned about the letter "A," made a book with directional words, and talked about what type of apple food we like.

In October we will be learning about seasons, hibernation, and will be attending a field trip to Woldumar Nature Center. Our class will also be learning about the letter "P," investigating pumpkins, making a leaf project, and having a fall party. We are excited to have our parents visit and spend time with us.

The Staff of Wee Grow

OCTOBER

- 1 - Picture Day 3's
- 2 - Picture Day 4's
- 9 - No School 4's
- 14 - 4's Woldumar Nature Center Field Trip
- 29 - Fall Party 3's
- 30 - Fall Party 4's



OCTOBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	28	29	30	1 Altar Guild: Jeanne & Judy Elders: Jeff B & Chris R 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 8:35pm - Class Pictures	2 8:35am - Class Pictures	3
4 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	5	6 6pm - Grief Group 6-8pm @	7 6pm - Preschool Board	8 10am - Adult Bible Study @	9 No School	10
11 9am - Sunday School 10am - Noisy Offering - 10am - Worship Service 10:30am - Preschool 11:15am - Fellowship &	12	13 6pm - Grief Group 6-8pm @	14 9:30am - Woldumar Nature 6:30pm - Council Meeting	15 10am - Adult Bible Study @	16	17 9am - LWML Fall Rally @
18 Food Collection Day LWML Day Newsletter Deadline 9am - Ladies Group 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - 3RD SUN BIBLE 11:15am - Fellowship &	19	20 9am - Quilting @ Judy's 6pm - Grief Group 6-8pm @	21	22 10am - Adult Bible Study @	23 11:30am - PFCA Coat Drive	24 10am - Coat Giveaway
25 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	26	27 6pm - Grief Group 6-8pm @	28	29 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 10:30am - Fall Party	30 10:45am - Fall Party	31 6pm - Trunk or Treat 

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool

8867 Kent Street

Portland, MI 48875

