



SEPTEMBER 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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Rev. Roger Straub, Transitional Vacancy Pastor

Mark Haworth, Vicar

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FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrew:

In the Summer 2026 edition of *Michigan in Touch*, President Davis in his column "From the President" offered several thoughts on *what the community needs from the Church*. Among them were these: the community needs us to read our Bible; the community needs us to pray – a lot; the community needs us to love its children; and the community needs us to quit selling Jesus.

On this last point he elaborates: "Sharing Jesus is more than talking people into a few religious talking points. Studies indicate that most people know the story of Jesus, but they're not buying it. Instead of introducing Jesus as if He is a product to buy, let's share Him as a dear friend of ours who is a friend of sinners. We want, by the power of the Spirit, to win people, not sell them."

Jesus "friend of sinners." That's how we know and experience Jesus. "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" is the title of one of our most familiar and best loved hymns. Jesus "friend of sinners" is the Jesus we want to introduce to others as we engage with them in our daily walk; in our words and our actions; in our compassion, kindness, and love.

This is the Jesus we shared with little ones from our church family and the community during our Vacation Bible School the first week in August. In our Bible stories, songs, activities, crafts, and interaction with the children and one another, we shared Jesus "friend of sinners." Our VBS team provided an amazing experience for the little ones present.

Michigan District Church Extension Fund is offering a financial grant to each district congregation for an outreach into the community in the upcoming months. We need to prayerfully and creatively work on planning an outreach to share Jesus "friend of sinners" with our community.

On September 15, Vicar Mark completes his 2-year vicarage and becomes eligible for ordination as St. Andrew's pastor. Once he receives final authorization from Concordia Seminary and our District, an ordination/installation date will be set. We are looking forward to a Sunday afternoon service, one service only that Sunday, hopefully in October or perhaps in November. Your prayers and support these past 2 years have been greatly appreciated.

Hoping that your summer has been blessed and praying that September will be blessed as we move forward together with Jesus "friend of sinners"!

In Christ,

The Rev. Roger K. Straub,
 Transitional Vacancy Pastor

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULES

Acolyte

- 6 William Roof
- 13 Bella Roof
- 20 William Roof
- 27 Bella Roof



Fellowship

- 6 Sue Ruehs
- 13 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 20 Andrew & Mary Kate Mossner
- 27 Jeff & Elena Brooks

Greeters

- 6 The Roof Family
- 13 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 20 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 27 Tracy Wineland

Worship Readers

- 6 Chris Roof
- 13 Elena Brooks
- 20 Jeanne Bauer
- 27 Jeff Brooks



Children's Message

- 6 Vicar Mark & Cathy Haworth
- 13 Jeanne Bauer
- 20 Elena Brooks
- 27 Judy Nobis

Music

Judy Nobis

Altar Guild

Ruth Helmreich & Mary Latusek

Elder

Jeff Brooks & Chris Roof

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

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

We will continue our 3rd Sunday Bible Study on Sunday, September 20th after Worship Service. Join us with some coffee and snacks in the Fellowship Hall.

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The first day of Sunday School will be September 6th at 9 a.m.

FROM THE TREASURER

Church Finances – July 2026

For the month, expense exceeded income by \$2,621.87. Extraordinary expense for the month was \$4,103 for front doors. Year to date income has exceeded expenses by \$27,693.00. The July checkbook balance is \$6,367.34. The savings account balance is \$120,085.24. The Temple Scholarship fund balance is \$28,168.85.

FOOD DONATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

September 20st is our regular 3rd Sunday Food collection day and will benefit the Portland area Food Banks.



NOISY OFFERINGS

On Sunday, September 13th, the Noisy Offering will go to Mission Central (LCMS Missionary Operation). 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."



LWML QUILTING

Our next quilting gathering will be held at Judy's on September 15th at 9 a.m.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Megan Kleitch
- 4 Joe Latusek
- 12 Karin Straub
- 14 Ed Sprague
- 17 Becky Ward
- 23 Marty Frick
- 28 John Simon
- 30 Elena Brooks



SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Don & Bonnie Miller
- 14 Dave & Marty Frick
- Dave & Kathy Peters
- 29 John & Jeanne Bauer



VICAR'S THOUGHTS

Labor in the Lord

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

With a brisk wind, thousands peered through the grates. Dark blue water swirls with small waves passing below them. As is customary, many on Labor Day walk the Mackinac Bridge in the morning. This started in June 1958, during its dedication Governor G. Mennen Williams and 68 people walked the bridge. Much earlier the first Labor Day was officially celebrated on September 5th, 1882, in New York City.

We also know that God created work for us found in Genesis 2:15. However, after Satan caused Adam and Eve to sin, work became hard and difficult. Jesus knew this as He did not avoid physical work but worked with His earthly father Joseph. In Mark 6:3 we are told soon after His baptism and temptation of Satan, Jesus began to teach at the synagogue in His hometown, Nazareth. His wisdom and knowledge shocked those who were there to ask, "is this not the carpenter, son of Mary...?"

Jesus often used physical labor as a setting for His parables. Just as important Jesus knew we all need rest from our work. God the Father also knew how important it was. We know on the seventh day of creation God rested. Moses tells us this in Exodus 20:8 to "remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

Today at St. Andrew we use Sunday as a day to rest and focus on God with our worship service. Just as important is the fellowship before and after the service to reflect on the successes and challenges of the previous week. Therefore, every Sunday attending church can be seen as walking the Mackinac Bridge. We can walk hand in hand with Jesus, confess our sins, receive God's forgiveness. On special occasions just like the blue water swirling and passing under the bridge, we have baptisms where the water and Word wash the sins away and connect the child or adult with the Triune God and become part of His family, snatching them out of Satan's hands. Additionally, we become strengthened through the Lord's Supper. We are then spiritually refreshed and ready for the next week not just for our labor but to also to labor in the love of the Lord.

Humbly Christ's Servant, Vicar Mark

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Serving God

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, we live to serve God rather than ourselves. By grace, we acknowledge that God has created and redeemed us and that He is in control. Our joy and peace come from worshiping and serving Him. We understand that our purpose in life is to serve our heavenly Father. Unfortunately, we live in a "me" era. Our society promotes a selfish and egotistical attitude. Our culture tells us to make every effort "to look out for number one" at any cost. "Have it your way" is a phrase that captures the philosophy of life in America. Money, selfish ambition, power, and success are the important things in life to many people.

In our faithful service toward those in need, we are serving the Lord. Jesus said, "...*Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me*" (Matthew 25:40). When we help others and extend God's kingdom, we become channels through which He works. We are His hands, feet, and mouth.

We become faithful and dependable workers because "*His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness...*" (2 Peter 1:3). God has equipped us to do His will. Paul wrote, "*I can do all things through Him Who strengthens me*" (Philippians 4:13). God has made us for the purpose of doing good and serving others. In writing to the church in Galatia Paul exhorted, "*And let us not grow weary of doing good...*" (Galatians 6:9). Whether we are working in the church, volunteering in our communities, helping others wherever we meet them, we toil in the strength of the Lord.

God gives us both strength to do good and joy in our service. Solomon tells us, "*Whoever brings blessing will be enriched...*" (Proverbs 11:25). General Peyton Conway March writes, "There is a wonderful mythical law of nature that the three things we crave most in life—happiness, freedom, and peace of mind—are always attained by giving them to someone else." In his book *Give to Live* Dr. Douglas M. Lawson writes, "But there is one kind of experience that delivers emotional and psychic satisfaction time after time, day after day: helping other people. Volunteer efforts, charitable acts, generosity of spirit, and gestures of compassion all enrich and sustain our lives."

VBS 2026

What a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School! This year, our children learned about the parables of Jesus and the important lessons they teach us about God's love, forgiveness, kindness, and caring for others.

A special thank you to everyone who helped make VBS possible! We are grateful for our volunteers and those who donated supplies. Your time and talents made VBS a meaningful and fun experience for our children.

Most of all, we thank God for the opportunity to share His Word and help plant seeds of faith in the hearts of our children.

Thank you for making VBS a blessing!



VICAR MARK

HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

On Sept. 15th, Mark Haworth will be celebrating his 2nd anniversary as St. Andrew's Vicar!



PCFA COAT DRIVE 2026

St Andrew will again be hosting this community event. Volunteers will be needed from 1:45 p.m. – 4 p.m. on Friday, Oct 23th and from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct 24^h. Please email Shannon at portlandstandrew@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

LADIES GROUP

The next meeting for The Ladies Group will be on September 20th at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room. We will begin planning for and 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.



SECRET SOUL SISTER

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

COLLEGE PALS

College can be challenging, especially for first year students. The Ladies like to remind the students that God loves them and that folks at home support them. The Ladies Group sends the students a note or card every month during the school year. If you have a college student this year, please reach out to Tracy Wineland to provide your student's current college address so that we can get started with our mailings in September.

LWML—WOMEN IN MISSION

As we move into the Fall months, we look forward to LWML events coming ahead and carrying out the theme from this summer's convention, "Jesus is the Light." October will be our Fall Rally Gathering at St. Peter, Riley, in St. Johns. The theme, date, and time will be announced in a few weeks.

School kit materials were collected in August. Thanks to your generous donations, we were able to assemble 40 School kits for the Orphan Grain Train in Sebewaing, Mi, where they are sent out globally, and some distributed locally in Portland and Ionia.

We have resumed quilting and completed 5 more quilts in August. Thank you, ladies, for your help in tying quilts. Quilting will be on Tuesday, September 15th at 9:00 a.m. at the home of Judy Nobis. Thank you also for the material and sheets donated for this project.

LWML Sunday will be held in October, and mite boxes will be collected. Please save your change in that little mite box to help support District and National Mission Grants. Updates are posted on the LWML board.

Our National Mission Grant spotlight this month is Grant #22 – Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, - New Moms and Babies Transition Home Illinois - \$100,000.

Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries is a pro-life ministry that cares for single, pregnant women who are in crisis because of unexpected pregnancy and lack of family support. This maternity home opened in East Dundee, Illinois in 2024 and has several women in residence. These women hear the Gospel message as they receive care that focuses on faith, family, and education. There is now a need for a transition home where women may receive support and services to ensure stability and future independence for themselves and their babies. This grant will fund the planning and building for the new transition home for these young women and their babies.

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



WEE GROW CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director

Phone: 517-526-4147



2026/27 REGISTRATION

Wee Grow is still accepting registration for the 2026-27 school year. We offer separate classes for 3's and 4's. The 4-year-old class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:45-11:45. The 3-year-old class is held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45-11:15.

School will begin September 14th or 15th, depending on which class your child is in. There is a \$75 registration and tuition is \$175 a month for the 4's class and \$155 a month for the 3's class (includes snacks). Please contact Sandy Peabody at 517-526-4147 or at skpeabody@gmail.com for more information.

Staff of Wee Grow

IMPORTANT PRESCHOOL DATES

Wed., Sept 10 @ 6:30 p.m. — Parent Orientation—All parents of registered children are asked to attend.

Mon., Sept 14 @ 8:45 a.m. — 4 yr. olds start.

Tues., Sept 15 @ 8:45 a.m. — 3 yr. olds start.



LIVING WORD ORPHANAGE VILLAGE BENEFIT DINNER

A benefit dinner will be held Sept. 26th at Our Savior Lutheran Church from 6 - 8 p.m.

In Yambio, the South Sudan war and disease have left many orphans to fend for themselves. Living Word Orphanage Village (LWOV), a mission of Living Word Lutheran Church is asking for your help in this mission. We ask for your help to build the village needed to help these children. We should give back some of what we have been blessed with in the United States. As Jesus said in Mathew 19:14 "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs to the Kingdom of Heaven."

There is a flyer in the Narthex with details. Scan the QR code on the flyer or the above picture to register. You may visit <https://livingwordlansing.com/lwov/> for more information about LWOV and its mission. If you have any questions, please email us at lwovmission@gmail.com. Please prayerfully consider joining us in this mission. Thank you, The Ambassador Team of LWOV

SEPTEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	31	1 Altar Guild: Ruth & Mary Elders: Jeff B & Chris R	2	3 10am - Adult Bible Study @	4	5
6 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	7 	8	9 6:30pm - Council Meeting	10 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 6:30pm - Parent Orientation	11	12
13 9am - Sunday School 10am - Noisy Offering - 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship &	14 8:45am - 4-yr Start	15 8:45am - 3yr Start 9am - Quilting @ Judy's	16	17 10am - Adult Bible Study @	18	19
20 Food Collection Day Newsletter Deadline 9am - Ladies Group 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - 3RD SUN BIBLE 11:15am - Fellowship &	21	22	23	24	25	26 6pm - LWOV Benefit Dinner
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 @	2	3

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

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



ST. ANDREW'S FACEBOOK PAGE

We share a lot of information and updates on our Facebook Page. Be sure to follow, like, and share our Facebook page - Portland St. Andrew.

<https://www.facebook.com/standrewlutheranchurchportland/>

