

# ST. ANDREW'S MESSAGE

*Our Mission Statement – "Inspiring Change by following Jesus"*

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Phone: 914-962-9564

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**Two Services Every Sunday**

8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.



## December

- Dec 1** Harvest Sunday  
Church Decoration Day  
Pageant Rehearsal
- Dec 2** Outreach meeting 7:00 p.m.
- Dec 4** Confirmation class 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Dec 5** Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Dec 8** Pageant Rehearsal  
Council Bake Sale
- Dec 11** Confirmation class 6:30-7:30 p.m.  
Service Group meeting 10:00 a.m.
- Dec 12** Council meeting 6:30 p.m.
- Dec 13** Youth NYC Trip 4:30 p.m.
- Dec 14** Christmas Pageant  
Dress Rehearsal 11:00 a.m.
- Dec 15** Christmas Pageant (second service)
- Dec 18** Confirmation class 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Dec 19** Bible Study 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
- Dec 20** Jan Peek
- Dec 24** Christmas Eve Service 4:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Service 9:00 p.m.
- Dec 25 Merry Christmas!**  
Office closed
- Dec 26** Office closed
- Jan 1 Happy New Year–**



## Your Prayers are requested for those:



### In Need

Daniel King

Warren Ludvigsen

### Hospitalized or recuperating

Kitty Badalamenti  
Joseph Knapp Sr

Anne Latino  
Robin Muller

Nicole Safron  
Steve Scalzi

Gemma Small

### Wrestling with long-term health issues

Massimo Berardelli  
Bill & Joan Borkowsky  
Nancy Calandra  
Alessandro Cuniberti

Debbie Dubois  
Doug Dubois  
Joanna Falcone  
Judy Gordon

Vivian Hyde  
Mary Kay McNamee  
Helen O'Brien  
Edith Raspuzzi

Tony Susi  
Brad Wheeler  
Lisa Wheeler

### Facing life's challenges

Adama Bamba  
Alyssa Billingsley

Devon Crispell  
Mark Graff, Jr. & Family

Paul Kristoffersen  
The Small Family

Tom Tillstrand

### Mourning the passing of

Myrtle Pritz  
Doug Manookian  
Ernest Piermarini  
Helen Kreiman  
Brian Irving  
Ed Wohlrab

Michael Galea  
Karen Haaland-Weyand  
Edward V. Rohle  
Lazzaro Peter Pellegrini  
Donna Scimia  
Henry Kulick

Gregorio Guerra  
Deniece Clancy  
Phil C. Novak  
Cherelle Browning  
Willie Quas

Jean Farrell  
Gjina Bujaj  
John Gordon  
Mark Graff  
David Diehl

### Restricted to home/nursing facilities

Ed Gavard

Norlene McAuliffe

Mary Shepard

### Serving in the Armed Forces

Randy Bacon  
Daniel Bendetti  
Brandon Cintron  
Paul Fosse Jr.

Gregory Gonzalez  
Kenneth Holman  
Michael Lawless

Anthony Lawrence  
Randal Middleton  
Will O'Brien

Michael J. Tillstrand  
Alex Wood  
Jayson Zuluaga

### Bishop

Rev. Paul Egensteiner

### Our Missionaries

Dr. Stephen J. and Jodi Swanson

Please fill out a **Prayer Request Card** (found in the pew holders) to place someone on or remove someone from the Prayer List and bring it to the office or put it in the offering plate.

Thank you.

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Hard to believe Advent is right around the corner. The speed of this year has been shocking. Our family schedule is full, our work schedules are full, visits from family make entire weeks disappear. I'm going to fight the impulse of joining the mad dash towards Christmas. I invite you to do the same. We need to slow down. The practice of Sabbath and Advent remind us that there are seasons to go fast and seasons to intentionally slow the pace of life. I have prepared a sermon series during Advent to focus us on what really matters. Each week we will be invited to slow down. We will begin with an invitation to slow ourselves down to feel the hope of the coming Christ. Then we will slow down for peace then joy and lastly, love. Although each week will be a stand alone message, I encourage you to make a priority of attending all four Sundays of Advent. I am excited about the message and I think we could all use the challenge; take a moment, take a breath and notice the depth of God's greatness. It will do us some good.

The four weeks of Advent seem perfect for trying a new spiritual practice. To help you, I put together an Advent Daily Devotional. Each day during Advent find a few

minutes, anywhere, to bring some silence into your world, read through the daily prayer, take some deep breaths and connect with God.

As I meditate on the meaning of God's promises this Advent, I think of the words of Jesus who warned against grasping at what actually hurts us instead of letting God give us what God made to nourish us: "Do not give dogs what is sacred; do not throw your pearls to pigs....Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!" (Matthew 7:6, 9-11)

So much of the holiday season can become harmful. Spending time with unhealthy people, drinking too much, eating habits that are less than ideal, overspending and extravagant expectations. Slow it down my friends, there is something so much better that we are awaiting, we are on the way to the manger!

### **A prayer for Advent:**

**God, you invite us to follow you. There are times to hustle and there are times to slow way down. Prepare my heart to receive the gift of your Son. Prepare my mind to seek, my soul to be open and my ears to hear your call. This Advent season, help me make time for you everyday.  
Amen**

**See you on Sunday, Pastor Dave**



# CHURCH COUNCIL

## November Meeting Highlights

- \* Using the book, *From Surviving to Thriving* as a guide, Council is creating a list of possible goals to address in 2020.
- \* Good news! St. Andrew's received \$4,300 in donations toward the new playground. Contributions came from people associated with the Montessori School and from our congregation. Thank you to all!
- \* Council's holiday bake sale will be on Sunday, December 8! Proceeds from the sale of the delicious homemade goodies will be used to purchase Walmart gift cards for the residents of Jan Peek. Please stop by our table and support this outreach endeavor!
- \* Pastor is developing a series of four Advent sermons around the theme of "Slowing Down". Don't miss these as they will give us a clear perspective of where our focus should be at this time of year!

### Pastor

Dave Dockweiler

### Council Members

Linda Bohlk - *President*  
 Judith Bailey-Hung - *V Pres.*  
 Rita Nehmzow - *Secretary*  
 David Hamm - *Treasurer*

Tim Clark  
 Dominic Justo  
 Kristine Kallesten  
 Dora Morabito  
 Lynn Parliman  
 Steve Scalzi  
 Dale Sharp

### Financial Secretary

Margaret Hauck

### Nominating Committee

Kathy DeMaio  
 Sue Epting  
 Rob Granfors  
 Carol Holodak  
 Judy Jakubik  
 Gemma Reinkraut  
 Andy Sabol

## YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OCTOBER

	<u>2019</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Contributions	\$ 154,500		\$ 144,300	\$ 10,200
Other Income	62,200		57,900	4,300
Total Income	216,700		202,200	14,500
Expenses	214,300	\$215,000	210,000	4,300
Surplus/(Deficit)	<u>\$ 2,400</u>		<u>\$ (7,800)</u>	<u>\$ 10,200</u>
Average Sunday attendance (excludes Easter)	83		86	-3%

## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

St. Andrew's Sunday School continues to go well and attendance is better than last year! Of course, we always welcome new children to join us so please spread the word that we are open and eager for business! We continue to collect food for the needy on Harvest Sunday (the first Sunday of each month) and the children enjoy hearing Pastor Dave's message on those days.

Our Advent celebration began on Nov. 10 with Cyndi Clark giving a presentation on the Advent season to all of the Sunday School students. Each child was given an Advent calendar to share with family members as we prepare for Jesus' birth.

The Annual Christmas pageant, will take place during the 10 AM service on Dec. 15! We will be presenting "The Power of the KING" and we have begun learning the songs. This is the pageant we presented two years ago and everyone loved it so we are bringing it back! Over the next month, we'll be practicing during part of the Sunday School hour and on Dec. 8 after Sunday School. Please plan on a dress rehearsal on Sat., Dec. 14 (probably in the morning) but you will be notified as soon as we've decided on the exact time. The script is humorous while still teaching the children what Christmas is really about! We always need the help so if you have time to volunteer, please let me know as we welcome everyone.



The following are some important dates to keep in mind for late Nov. and Dec.:

**Dec. 1**– Harvest Sunday and pageant rehearsal during Sunday School

**Dec. 8**– Pageant rehearsal during and after Sunday School

**Dec. 14**– Pageant dress rehearsal (time to be determined)

**Dec. 15** – Annual Christmas pageant during 10 AM service followed by Birthday Party for Jesus

**Dec. 22**– No Sunday School (attend church as a family)

**Dec. 29** – No Sunday School (attend church as a family)

**Jan. 5**– Sunday School resumes and Harvest Sunday

If your child's box of offering envelopes is depleted, please contact me and I will provide you with a new box. These are not dated so they can be used in successive years until finished.

We are always looking for more people to join our Sunday School staff so please consider volunteering as a teacher, helper, etc. We'd love to have you!

As always, please let us know if you have any questions or suggestions. You can reach me via phone at 914-715-9546 or by e-mail at [epting.susan@gmail.com](mailto:epting.susan@gmail.com).

Looking forward to seeing you all each Sunday! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

God Bless, Sue Epting

# YOUTH

# YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth Group held it's first Halloween Dance at the end of October. From Chewbacca to a Rockford Peach, all were in attendance for this Work Camp fundraiser. Youth from Trinity Lutheran Church in Brewster joined our youth and their friends for a great night of pizza, candy, snacks and dancing to their favorite songs on YouTube.



From Lil Mama's Lip Gloss to Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody, all genre's were covered and the 13 youth danced the night away! St. Andrew's Youth had so much fun, we will be hosting a Valentine's Dance February 15.



The St. Andrew's God Squad hosted their 4th Annual S'moresgiving in the beginning of November. All the traditions were in place for a great night of food, s'mores, games and friends. Joined by

youth from Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Pleasantville, the youth and their 3 adult guests began the night with a traditional pot luck Turkey Dinner.

From there, they moved on to Pastor Dave and Sarah's house for S'mores, with homemade marshmallows,



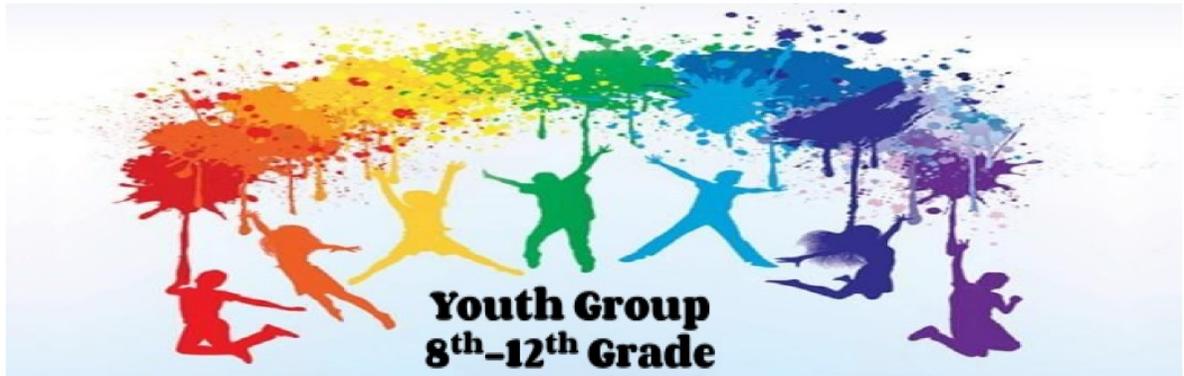
homemade Hot Cocoa, and of course, a visit with the God Dog Nugget! After under doggies on the swing and being thoroughly confused by riddles around the campfire, the youth headed back to the church for Sardines and Sleeping Bag Races! Thank you to

Pastor Dave for the amazing bon fire, and to Sarah for the homemade marshmallows and hot cocoa! Thank you to Margaret Jakubik for all your help getting



ready, thank you to Nicole O'Brien for cleaning up dinner, and thank you to our guest Winton Smith for joining us for another year of traditional fun, with a great group of kids!





## Youth Group 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade

For more info or to RSVP to any event contact Judy Jakubik by e-mail: [StAndrewsYorktownYouth@gmail.com](mailto:StAndrewsYorktownYouth@gmail.com)

Check out our Instagram @LutheranGodSquad for updates and pictures of our events

### DECEMBER



#### Decorate the Church for Christmas

Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> after 10am service

#### Annual Trip to NYC

(Sign up by November 24<sup>th</sup>)

Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

Meet at church at 4:30pm



### JANUARY

#### Winter Weekend

(Sign up by January 5<sup>th</sup>)

- \* Ice Skating at Bear Mountain

Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

7:30pm-10:00pm

- \* Snowtubing at Campgaw

Mahwah, NJ

Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>



### FEBRUARY

#### Valentine's Day Dance

Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

7:30pm-10:00pm



#### Marriage Sunday

#### Bake Sale

Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>

#### JR & SR High Retreat to Crossroads Camp in Port Murray, NJ

(\$135 per person) February 28-March 1

(Sign up by December 15<sup>th</sup>)



For more Youth Group fun, check out our Instagram @LutheranGodSquad.

For questions, to RSVP or to get more information contact Judy Jakubik at [standrewsyorktownyouth@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsyorktownyouth@gmail.com)

## HAPPENINGS

### Reminder

All Holiday Angel gifts and all new, unwrapped gifts for the Hour Children's Center at Bedford Correctional facility are due in church by Sunday, December 8. Thank you for making someone's Christmas more joyful!

### Poinsettias

Donate a Poinsettia for the altar at Christmas. If you would like to donate a Poinsettia, you may do so in Honor or in Memory of loved ones.



The Cost is \$15.00 per plant. Please make your check payable to St. Andrew's.

### Christmas Prayer Chain

Please fill out a prayer "link" and place it in the offering plate or in the Secretary's mail box in the office. The links will be joined together to form a chain and used for decoration during the Christmas season.



### Jan Peek

A meal was delivered and served at Jan Peek Homeless Shelter in Peekskill on Friday, November 15. A huge thank you to Sandy Herbst and Ellen Ottstadt for helping me prepare and serve the meal. Also; thanks so much to Angelo Letizia for supplying a large platter of cold cuts and bread. The residents loved it all! If you are able to help prepare and/or serve a meal, please let me know. We are at Jan Peek the third Friday of every month.

Kathy DeMaio



### Thanksgiving Meals

Through the generosity of the members of our congregation, St. Andrew's delivered 10 bags filled with turkeys and all the trimmings for Thanksgiving dinner to Head Start for local families in need. Thank you for your participation in gathering all of the ingredients!



### Service Group

The Service Group was busy this month setting up our Holiday Angels project for this Christmas. We have "adopted" a family of 4 (a single mom and 3 children). As usual, our generous congregation completed the gift list in just one Sunday! Thank you so much! Wrapped gifts with the label attached are due back to church by Sunday, December 8. Please place gifts on table in Narthex. Gift cards should be put in an envelope with label attached and put in Service Group mailbox in the office. Once again, your generosity will make a family's Christmas extra special this year.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, December 4 at 10 am. Please think about joining us. We will be planning our project for Lutheran World Relief.

With God's Blessing, Kathy DeMaio and Rita Nehmzow

## New Projector

As some of you may have noticed we have a projector in the sanctuary. Our new projector has been installed and is already proven to be a huge improvement over the old one. With greater clarity and screen size it has made our worship easier on everyone's eyes. We are looking forward to testing out all its capacities.



## Decorate the Church

**December 1, 2019 11:00 a.m.**  
Lunch served when the decorating is done! Come and help ready our church for Christmas!



## Fall Clean Up

The crisp fall air and clear blue skies on Saturday, November 23 energized and raised the spirits of all who participated in this year's cleanup.



Pictured here are a few of the many volunteers from



the scouts, leaders, parents, and our own congregants who helped. We were "blown away" by this year's wonderful response!

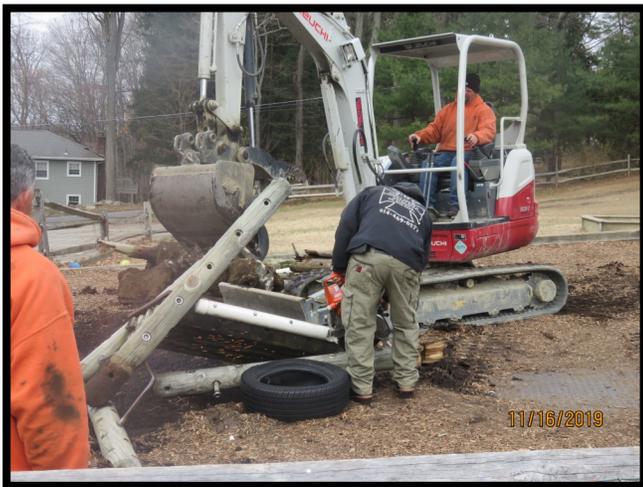


**Many thanks to all!**

# CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

## Playground Report

I am so pleased to report that the playground is under construction. The new playground will hopefully be finished by the time you read these words. This project became a reality because of your generosity. THANK YOU! In addition to funds from the church community, we received a grant from the ELCA Metro New York Synod. David Hamm took point on writing and logistics of that aspect. Betty Hengst (owner of the school) and the leadership of OMS have also helped financially. A number of parents of OMS kids donated, it's been a group effort to raise the funds.



## Thoughts on the Christmas Lights

When I first came to St Andrews, Pastor Strasser talked to me about the great location. On the phone, before we came for an interview, he told me about the great front yard and how we needed to use it, use it a lot. Once I saw it, I couldn't disagree. You embraced my crazy idea of becoming a church covered in Christmas lights. This will be our 3<sup>rd</sup> year lighting it up. Last year the comments started trickling in.



"You're the church with the lights." Yup, we are. I've had notes come in from people in the area saying how pleased they are to know they are close to home, because of our lights. Our lights converge on the manger, our lights tell everyone something about our God. The lights have become part of our brand, we are the church with the lights-rather we are the church that brings the light into the world, for all to enjoy.



## CELEBRATIONS



Thomas DiRusso, Jr,	12/1	Jeannie Hudec	12/18
Daniele Racanelli	12/3	Joseph Polizzi	12/18
Janis Zaeh	12/4	Deirdre Letscher	12/19
Madison Delgado	12/4	Patrick Gallagher	12/19
Karen Conlon	12/5	Nolah Stringham	12/23
Shane Muller	12/5	Beryl Zapp	12/24
Sonja Letizia	12/6	Jesus	12/25
Jason Singh	12/6	Mike Epting	12/26
Colton Knapp	12/6	Singh Michael	12/26
Vincent Kennedy	12/7	Hayley Cooper	12/26
Susan Frising	12/8	Genie Muller	12/27
Paul Miller	12/9	Emma Bianchimano	12/27
Travis Stern	12/9	Adam Mir	12/27
Erin Ehlke	12/11	Alex Worsley	12/28
William O'Brien II	12/13	Dennis Alfieri	12/29
Carolyn Hamm	12/17	Joanna Falcone	12/30
		John Cote	12/30

### *Happy Anniversary!*

Gemma & Scott Reinkraut	12/4
Lynette & Chris Van Tongeren	12/8
Joan & Herbert Nissen	12/11
Brenda & Joseph Middleton	12/22



## MESSAGE December 2019



*We Are Family*

**63 Years Serving Christ**

Messages are posted on our website <http://standrewsyorktown.com/> under the Newsletter tab.

**SUNDAY WORSHIP with Holy Communion - 8:30 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL (age 3 – 7th grade) – 10:00 a.m.**

Rev. Dave Dockweiler, Pastor

Margy Tillstrand, Music Director

Linda Bohlk, President

Judith Bailey-Hung, Vice President

Sarah Dockweiler, Office Secretary

**The Church office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**



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Lutheran Church**

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