

# St. Andrew's Message

**Dec 2021**

Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Phone: 914-962-9564

***Our Mission Statement –  
“Inspiring Change by following Jesus”***

Email:

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[www.standrewsyorktown.com](http://www.standrewsyorktown.com)



## December

- Dec 5** 8:30 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Dec 6** 8:00 p.m. Confirmation
- Dec 7** Holiday Cheer donations due
- Dec 12** 8:30 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Holiday Angels gift cards due
- Dec 13** 7:15 p.m. Outreach  
8:00 p.m. Confirmation
- Dec 16** 7 p.m. Council Meeting
- Dec 19** 8:30 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Dec 20** 8:00 p.m. Confirmation
- Dec 24** 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service  
9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- Dec 25** *Merry Christmas*
- Dec 26** 8:30 a.m. Worship Service  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service



Give Online



# In our Prayers :

## Hospitalized or recuperating

James Byrne  
Linda Greco

Barbara Hogan  
Joseph Knapp Sr.  
Anne Latino

Patricia McGregor  
John McGuirk  
Karen McIntyre

Nicole Safron  
Stephen Small

## Wrestling with long-term health issues

Nancy Calandra  
Chuck Cassidy  
Jonathan Cope  
Andrea Cummings  
Alessandro Cuniberti  
Debbie Dubois  
Doug Dubois  
Jen Epting Dary  
Katie Epting- Harris  
Anna Errico

Joanna Falcone  
Judy Gordon  
Mary Gus  
Tom Gurba  
Laura Heiss  
Vivian Hyde  
Mike Lekhmus  
Roseann Lella  
Christina Morris

Mary Kay McNamee  
Robin Muller  
Helen O'Brien  
Ed O'Connell  
Lucille Oricchio  
Liz Prinz  
Anita Porter  
Rick Raggi  
Edith Raspuzzi  
Tom Riordan

Cindy Berg Sauter  
Samantha Shores  
Steve Scalzi  
John Smith  
Tony Susi  
Peggiann Thorp  
Bella Tufano  
Brad Wheeler  
Lisa Wheeler

## Facing life's challenges

Alyssa Billingsley  
Devon Crispell  
Dominic Enriquez  
Eric Enriquez

Cathleen Famular  
Mark Graff, Jr. & Family  
Daniel King  
Laura Heiss

Paul Kristoffersen  
Beth Marsden  
Sean and Sarah Prinz  
Tom Riordan

Ann Robertiello  
Joanne Saylor  
The Small Family  
Cathy Souza

## Mourning the passing of

Charlette Hamm

Delores Shuler

Audrey Conlon

## Serving in the Armed Forces

Randy Bacon  
Daniel Bendetti  
Brandon Cintron

Paul Fosse Jr.  
Gregory Gonzalez  
Tajae Hickson

Kenneth Holman  
Michael Lawless  
Randal Middleton

Michael J. Tillstrand  
Alex Wood  
Jayson Zuluaga

## Restricted to a Nursing Home

Ed Gavard

Norlene McAuliffe

Mary Shepard

Gus Hellman

## Our Bishop

Rev. Paul Egensteiner

## Our Missionaries

Dr. Stephen J. and Jodi Swanson

## Residents of Jan Peek

Please call or email the office  
to place someone on or re-  
move someone from the  
Prayer List.



## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The time between Thanksgiving and New Year's may hold more social expectations than any other time of the year. Our Thanksgiving tables are supposed to be filled with amazing food surrounded by smiling happy people. Christmas gets painted Norman Rockwell style with fluffy snow draping a perfect church service followed by patiently waiting children around a cover-shot-perfect Christmas tree. New Year's get rung in at a thoughtfully planned party with fancy drinks for all. The expectations of the season rarely match the reality.

In our house wrapping presents can be stressful as the kids want to help, but don't understand the basic geometry skills needed to get the paper around the box. Baking Christmas cookies should be fun, until you realize we are out of some needed ingredient so off the to store for the 19<sup>th</sup> time this week.

Take a breath my friends. Slow down. Christmas isn't going to be picture perfect, you are doing just fine. You are doing your best and that it all that anyone can expect. The photoshopped depictions of Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus don't help. The original Christmas was spent in a barn, surrounded by smelly animals because the pregnant couple wasn't shown any place better. God chose to break into our world by being born

of a teenage mom, far from anywhere important in a backwater town, the announcement of God's birth brought only the shepherds-some of the lowest folks on the socio-economic ladder. Even modern childbirth isn't pretty and baby Jesus cried plenty.

So let me say it one more time, you are doing great. Thank you for making your families Christmas as best you can. Thank you for coming to church and being as connected to this family of faith as you are. Thank you for your gift, regardless of your thoughts about it being big or too small. You are loved and you are welcomed-this is the message of Christmas that is so often lost. We are loved by God so much that Jesus is birthed into our world. We are welcomed into the barn to see the newborn Jesus and welcomed to journey with him throughout his life.

So let the expectations go. Let us land on the core message of Christmas this season. Love and Welcome, everything else is icing on the cake. May God bless you anew with a sense of being welcomed into God's family and being a beloved child of God.

**God loves you and so do I,  
Pastor Dave**



# CHURCH COUNCIL

## November 2021

- ◆ Council regretfully accepted the resignation of Lynn Parlman as Council member and as Council's secretary. Lynn's additional work responsibilities at Fordham University are demanding much more of her time. We will miss Lynn and wish her well!
- ◆ Sue Epting was unanimously approved to be the new Council secretary. Congratulations, Sue!
- ◆ Council accepted the Audit Committee's final report and recommendations.
- ◆ Improvement of our Zoom services was discussed at length. One of the suggestions was to move Zoom to the 10:00 a.m. service and have a second volunteer in the booth to monitor the quality of the Zoom and assist with the technology.
- ◆ MaryEl School of Manhattan is interested in leasing our available space for a sister school in Yorktown. An informational meeting for the congregation will be held after the 10:00 a.m. service on November 28.

### Pastor

Dave Dockweiler

### Council Members 2021

Linda Bohlk – President  
 Tim Clark – VP  
 Sue Epting – Secretary  
 David Hamm – Treasurer

Michael Banks  
 Matthew Damrow  
 Chuck Farrell  
 Gary Grossman  
 Dominic Justo  
 Kristine Kallesten  
 Rita Nehmzow  
 Lynn Parlman  
 Gemma Reinkraut  
 Steve Scalzi

### Financial Secretary

Margaret Hauck

### Nominating Committee

#### 2021

Lisa Billingsley  
 Linda Ferone  
 Judith Bailey Hung  
 Dale Sharp  
 Sonja Letizia  
 Kristin Quaid

## YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OCTOBER

|                      | <u>2021</u>      | <u>Budget</u> | <u>2020</u>      | <u>Difference</u>  | <u>2019 *</u>   |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Contributions        | \$ 169,800       |               | \$ 152,200       | \$ 17,600          | \$ 154,500      |
| Other Income         | 39,500           |               | 76,900           | (37,400)           | 62,200          |
| Total Income         | 209,300          |               | 229,100          | (19,800)           | 216,700         |
| Expenses             | 194,900          | \$198,000     | 202,000          | (7,100)            | 214,300         |
| Surplus <sup>1</sup> | <b>\$ 14,400</b> |               | <b>\$ 27,100</b> | <b>\$ (12,700)</b> | <b>\$ 2,400</b> |

1 - does not include \$41,000 of ERTC received in 2021 and the \$30,000 PPP loan received in 2020

\* 2019 is presented to show the last normal "pre-Covid" period

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

At the end of May 2021, (i) year-to-date contributions were 20% lower compared to 2019 (ii) we had already gone through half of the \$60,000 we had at the end of 2020 and (iii) we realized we would not be able to obtain a new large tenant to replace the Montessori School. This was an unsustainable financial situation.

What a difference six months has made. We sent out a plea to the congregation in June asking members to catch-up with or increase their giving and as is usually the case, you responded like gangbusters. Several members made large, one-time contributions, and regular weekly giving has since been running at high amounts. We've also received over \$40,000 of Employee Retention Tax Credits (ERTC, explained in November's Message).

As a result of the above and continued austerity measures, St. Andrew's now has over **\$130,000** (and we expect to receive another \$10,000+ of ERTC). This is in addition to the combined \$100,000+ in the Memorial and Capital Expenditures Funds. This is particularly remarkable given that (i) we've been without a large tenant for more than a year (ii) the virus continues to have a negative impact on our ability to hold normal services and other church activities and (iii) many churches in our Synod are experiencing financial difficulty. We are in this strong financial position because of your undying financial support, the above and beyond efforts of Pastor Dave and an awful lot of "free" government money.

That being said, we will need to use and set aside a big chunk of the \$130,000. As explained last month, we may have to return up to two-thirds of the ERTC received. We are still without a large school tenant; and even if we obtain one, the school would not start until September 2022 and we probably would not start to receive a meaningful amount of rent until September 2023. And we may need to spend a large amount of money to make improvements to our space for any new tenant.

Because we now have so much money and since we need to set aside much of it for at least two years, Council has decided to invest up to \$32,500 (the amount of the ERTC subject to return) in a select group of diverse, "safe", high dividend paying stocks collectively yielding close to 6.0%, and \$10,000 in a US Treasury Series I Savings Bond with a current rate of 7.12%. The alternative would be to put the money in a bank savings account earning a mere 0.5%. We want to point out the amount invested in stocks is not money from member contributions but a portion of the "free" money received from the government (the ERTC and the forgiven \$30,000 PPP loan from 2020).

*The ERTC for the fourth quarter has been eliminated by the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure law recently passed. The maximum ERTC we can receive is now \$53,000.*

## Maryel School Update

On Sunday November 28<sup>th</sup> the church council was excited to share with the congregation news about our potential renters. Celi and Juan Cacho are seeking to rent our space. Originally from Spain, where they opened their first school, Celi and Juan have a passion for education. They opened Maryel School of New York 9 years ago and are now looking to open a 2<sup>nd</sup> location in Westchester at our location. Maryel is a bi-lingual school for preK-5<sup>th</sup> graders, for students desiring fluency in English and Spanish upon completion.

The Maryel School will begin in September offering kids at the youngest levels and will add a grade level each year for the next 5 years. We have agreed upon a ten year lease which offers both the church and the school a great level of continuity. There is no substantial construction planned for our space at this time. The church is planning on installing a fire alarm and a new fence around the playground as part of the negotiation. Depending on the total cost of these items a congregational meeting to approve the expense may be needed.

To learn more about the school check out Maryel's website [maryelschool.org](http://maryelschool.org).

## Christmas Happenings

Our Sunday School youth will present their Christmas Poem video in our worship service on Dec 19<sup>th</sup> at both services. There will be songs and lots of youth participation in the service. Due to Covid and the youngest members of our community still unable to receive the vaccine we need to be careful

with exposure.

Christmas Eve worship services will take place at 4 and 9pm. The early service will be super kid friendly. The later service complete with candlelight at Silent Night.

To get ready for these services we will be preparing a large banner for the sanctuary. This group art project will be available for you to join. It will be a "cut paper" banner. A simple but beautiful image of Christmas traced onto a large piece of paper with lots of shapes to cut out giving the banner a special look. All the materials will be ready before and after church in the Gathering Space Dec 5 and 12, it will be installed in the sanctuary on for worship on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>.

Advent Devotional Booklets are available on the back table of the sanctuary.

We have chosen to cancel the Drive Thru Nativity this year. A late start in planning, competition for volunteer times and the leadership time needed to secure our long-term renter has complicated in this requirement. These obstacles will be overcome next year.

Our Christmas light decorations are up and looking great. The manger scene has over 100 strings of lights along with almost life-sized statuary of the holy family. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped with this display!





## Wood Chip Update

Our band of wood chip spreaders led by Ken Muller have managed to cut back weeds and foliage along the drive and parking lot and spread all of those piles of wood chips! Not an easy task! Beautiful job! Ken's helpers over the past several months have included Dennis Alfieri, Pastor Dave, Gary Grossman, David Hamm, Dominic Justo and his son, Jonathan, and Angelo Letizia. Thanks to all!



Thank you to the members of the Service Group for this month's Jan Peek Meal. Providing the meal was Rita and I, Janis Zaeh, Carolyn Seith and Lorraine Miller. We delivered a lot of food and I know the residents are so appreciative. I'm happy to include anyone who wants to contribute in a future meal. Just let me know. Thank you to the Service Group and Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

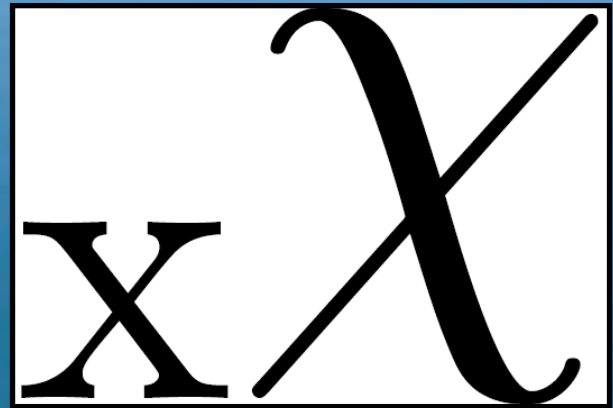
**Kathy DeMaio and Rita Nehmzow**  
**Service Group Coordinators**

## Why do we shorten Christmas as Xmas?

Words change over time—their meaning, their usage, and even their spelling. Take Christmas and its shortened version, Xmas, for example. We see Xmas written nearly everywhere, from holiday advertisements to Christmas cards. The word Christmas comes from the combination of the words 'Christ' and 'mass.' But where did the X in Xmas come from, and what does it mean?

In the Greek alphabet, X is the symbol for the letter 'chi.' Chi (or X) is the first letter in the Greek word for Christ. In the early days of the Christian church, Christians used the letter X as a secret symbol to indicate their membership in the church to others.

If you know the Greek meaning of X, Xmas and Christmas essentially mean the same thing: Christ + mas = Christmas.



## Holiday Cheer Opportunities

### Hour Children's Center at Bedford Correctional Facility:

**Ages 0-2:** V Tech (6-36 month— need 26 of the same type); Clothing: For Newborn to 4t (**No blue, black, orange, or gray**); Baby Blankets (Toddler size —**no solid colors of blue, black, orange, or gray**); Rattles; Teething Rings (Nuby Brand); Muslin Swaddles; Winter Hats (newborn—1 year); Stacking Cups/rings; Baby Einstein or Fischer Price Toys; Shape Sorters.

**Ages 3-5:** Large Trucks; Baby Alive Dolls; Disney Character Items; Craft Sets; Baby Dolls; Disney Princess Dolls.

**Ages 6-10:** Legos; K'Nex/Playmobile; Barbie/Bratz/Monster High Dolls; Trucks; Transformers; Action Figures- Captain America, Star Wars, Superman, etc.; Matchbox Car and Truck Sets; Plastic Knitting and Crocheting Kits; Cranium, Brain Quest; Painting Sets; 3D Gasses and Books; Train Sets; Card games such as: Skip Bo and Uno.

**Ages 11-17:** Craft Kits; Sports Balls—basketball, soccer, football, baseballs, mitts (**No Bats**); Chess and Checkers; Friendship Bracelet kits; Make Up Kits Only (**No Mirror or Glass**) Burt's Bees lip gloss, shower gel, body wash, face wash (**No Alcohol in Ingredient List**); Wallets (boys and girls); sunglasses (**No Bling**); Headphones/ Ear buds, Board games for ages 10 and up such as: Apples to Apples, Life, Trivial Pursuit etch.; Leather Bracelets; musical Instruments (**No Recorders**)

Donate a new unwrapped toy or gift from the list included in this newsletter. The donation box is in the Narthex by the closet. Or, give a monetary contribution to St. Andrew's and the Outreach Commission will purchase \$20 Target or Walmart gift cards. Please label your monetary donation as "Holiday Cheer". This can be done in person, through the mail or through online giving.

### Walmart gift cards for Jan Peek:

Please give a monetary contribution labeled as "Holiday Cheer" as indicated above. Outreach will buy the gift cards.

**These two options are due by December 7.**

For either of these options, please contact Linda Bohlk (914-400-3631) or Gemma Reinkraut (914-646-8938) if you have questions.

**Holiday Angels:** We will be helping a family of eight to have a brighter Christmas. Again this year, gift cards are desired. Kathy DeMaio is coordinating this. Pastor's email dated November 18 has a link to the gift organizer page. If you have questions, contact Kathy (914-497-5307).

**Holiday Angel gifts are due by December 12.**

**Linda Bohlk and Gemma Reinkraut, Outreach Commission**



# Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who very generously contributed to the Thanksgiving gift card drive for the Yorktown Food Pantry! We donated \$2,855 in Acme gift cards. Pantry representatives were extremely grateful to receive the cards which will help them feed many families experiencing food insecurity.



**Our recent Produce Sale was one of our biggest ever in terms of visitors and funds brought in. Thank you to all those who helped, shopped, set up and tore down!**



## So many leaves!

So many wonderful helping hands from BSA Troop 164, Girl Scout troop 1480, their leaders and parents and our congregants who spent Saturday morning, November 20th, cleaning up the yard.

**Thank you to all!**





## SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday School continues to move along since we have moved back inside due to the cooler weather. All classes meet in the back room and everyone is masked and socially distanced. If you have any questions about COVID and our policies to keep the children safe, please reach out to me.

Harvest Sunday continues the first Sunday of each month. The children bring a nonperishable food item and we process into the church where they hear a children's sermon from Pastor Dave before returning to their classrooms. The next Harvest Sunday is on **December 5<sup>th</sup>**.

On November 21<sup>st</sup>, the children were treated to a special Advent lesson. Many thanks to Cyndi and Ellie Clark for presenting the class. They all received a special Advent workbook to help them get ready for the birth of Jesus.

As the pandemic continues to linger, we will not be doing a Christmas pageant as we had been doing pre-COVID. Similar to last year, the children will be sharing some short poems which Matt Damrow will then put together into a recording to be shared during the services on **December 19<sup>th</sup>**. The children will also sing a few Christmas songs for the congregation which will be presented "live" during the 10 AM service.

Since COVID is still here and younger children are not yet vaccinated, please be respectful of others and **wear your**

**face mask** whenever you are inside the building. Sometimes children attend the 8:30 service and we are trying to keep our children safe.

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 so please give it your prayerful consideration and let me know if you are interested.

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 [ept-ing.susan@gmail.com](mailto:ept-ing.susan@gmail.com).

Looking forward to seeing you each Sunday! Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**God Bless,  
Sue Epting, Superintendent**





## All Saint's Day

The Covid Pandemic has made the last year or so unlike any other year in recent human history. Each of us has been forced to consider death and end of life choices. For months we saw the numbers of sick and dying as we debated in-person schooling, church services and all variety of lifestyle options. The church celebrated All Saints Sunday on November 7th, as a time to remember and honor all who died this last year. We celebrated the lives of 58 people whose names were read and for whom a candle lit.



Pictured Right: Sal Salvatore with Pastor Dave after First Communion, celebrated on Oct 24th.





# Happy Birthday

|                     |       |                   |              |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------|--------------|
| Thomas DiRusso, Jr, | 12/1  | Joseph Polizzi    | 12/18        |
| Daniele Racanelli   | 12/3  | Deirdre Letscher  | 12/19        |
| Janis Zaeh          | 12/4  | Patrick Gallagher | 12/19        |
| Madison Delgado     | 12/4  | Nolah Stringham   | 12/23        |
| Karen Conlon        | 12/5  | Beryl Zapp        | 12/24        |
| Shane Muller        | 12/5  | <b>Jesus</b>      | <b>12/25</b> |
| Sonja Letizia       | 12/6  | Mike Epting       | 2/26         |
| Jason Singh         | 12/6  | Singh Michael     | 12/26        |
| Colton Knapp        | 12/6  | Hayley Cooper     | 12/26        |
| Vincent Kennedy     | 12/7  | Genie Muller      | 12/27        |
| Susan Frising       | 12/8  | Emma Bianchimano  | 12/27        |
| Paul Miller         | 12/9  | Adam Mir          | 12/27        |
| Travis Stern        | 12/9  | Alex Worsley      | 12/28        |
| Erin Ehlke          | 12/11 | Dennis Alfieri    | 12/29        |
| William O'Brien II  | 12/13 | Joanna Falcone    | 12/30        |
| Carolyn Hamm        | 12/17 | John Cote         | 12/30        |
| Jeannie Hudec       | 12/18 | Breanna Vo        | 12/30        |



# Happy Anniversary

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

Merry Christmas



## MESSAGE December 2021

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

*We Are Family*

**65 Years Serving Christ**

**SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.**

Rev. Dave Dockweiler, Pastor

Margy Tillstrand, Music Director

Linda Bohlk, President

Tim Clark, Vice President

Sue Epting, Sunday School Superintendent & Council Secretary

Sarah Dockweiler, Office Secretary



St. Andrew's  
Lutheran Church

Inspiring Change by Following Jesus