

# St. Andrew's Message

**Worship Learn Serve**



## **Dates to Remember**

**Dec 1** 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

8:15 p.m.

Zoom Guatemala Meeting

### **Dec 4 Advent 2**

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Worship Service Live  
and Zoom

**Dec 6** 6:00 p.m. Life Commission

7:15 p.m. Outreach

**Dec 8** 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

### **Dec 11 Advent 3**

8:30 a.m. Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Worship Service  
Live and Zoom

**Dec 15** 6:30 p.m. Council

### **Dec 18 Advent 4 ONE SERVICE**

10:00 a.m. Worship  
Service Live and Zoom

### **Christmas Pageant and Church Party**

**Dec 22** 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

### **Dec 24 Christmas Eve**

4:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve  
service**

**service****Dec 25 Christmas**10:00 a.m. Worship  
Service Live and Zoom

## Council President Message

While all of us have gathered in the sanctuary for worship, our Sunday School teachers and their students have been busy preparing for the return of a much-loved St. Andrew's tradition, the annual Christmas Pageant. We have not been able to celebrate this event in person since 2019, and what a blessing that we can do so again. Cyndi and I have many happy memories of Ellie and her classmates participating in several pageants. I know that families and friends will be there to cheer on their kids, but I think it is important that each of us makes an effort to attend. Wouldn't it be great for everyone in the pageant - children and teachers alike - to see pews packed with smiling faces and to hear our applause? And wouldn't this help all of us focus on what is important this time of year? After the Christmas Pageant we will celebrate another important tradition, the Birthday Party for Jesus. There will of course be a birthday cake, but the Life Commission will also be hosting a brunch with all sorts of delicious foods and drinks that kids and adults will enjoy. This is a busy time of year, but each Sunday brings us another opportunity to reconnect with St. Andrew's and with each other. See you at church.

Tim Clark

Church Council President



## WORSHIP

## Pastor's Message

The sanctuary banner this year has been placed and looks amazing! Thank you to everyone who took sometime to help make this huge project a reality.

As we gather together this Advent, we think back over the centuries. From generation to generation, we pass on this Christmas story. In this year's banner design, the *From Generation to Generation...* theme logo is centered like a family around the table sharing stories from the day, the year, or from our collective history.



Within the stained-glass window panes surrounding the logo, the stories of Christmas are depicted with simple symbols. In one pane, Mary's arms create a semicircle representing her cradling the newborn baby Jesus.

Joseph's eyes are closed as he dreams about God's calling. The full bellies of Mary and Elizabeth create a curvy pattern—facing one another, turning away, and back again. The star of Bethlehem represents the host of angels, while sheep graze in the field to depict the story of the shepherds. King Herod's crown lurks repeatedly in the top right corner as a reminder of the dangers of unilateral authority. These stories, each one so familiar, make up the structure of our faith.

## Council Notes

November 2022

- At our council meeting we discussed the need for volunteers at the Christmas Eve services.
- Please sign up to assist if you are in town for Christmas Eve.
- We crafted plans for a congregation Christmas party on Dec 18, please plan on attending.
- We reviewed our financial situation with concern. Note the data below and consider your financial support.



## Baptisms



### **Dominic Marino**

This month we are excited to welcome Dominic Marino. Parents Merete and Andrew joined our church in 2020 when they baptized their first child Angelo.



### **Tucker Cappichioni**

Last month we welcomed Tucker Cappichioni into the family of faith. Bobby and Ashley were married by Pastor Dave back in October of 2019. We are so happy to welcome your family into our church.

**LEARN**



**Sunday School students enjoying a special Advent lesson.**

## **Sunday School**

The season of Advent is upon us and that brings preparations for the annual children's Christmas pageant. After a hiatus of two years due to COVID, we are back for a grand performance during the 10 AM worship service on Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>! This year's extravaganza is a bit toned down as we get back into the swing of performing but everyone is sure to enjoy the children's excitement as they present "Sing a Song of Christmas!" We hope to see a full house on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>!

Rehearsals for the pageant are being held as part of weekly Sunday School and there will be practice after Sunday School on Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> for about 45 minutes and a dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> in the late morning. More information will be sent to parents in early December. Pizza and drinks will be served for the children following the Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> rehearsal.

November brought us a special Advent lesson and the distribution of a new Advent calendar in which the children will create a stable and attach stickers. We began lighting the Advent wreath on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> and will continue during the four Sundays of Advent.

On December 4<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate our monthly Harvest Sunday and hear a special children's sermon by Pastor Dave. Since there will not be Sunday School on January 1<sup>st</sup>, the first Harvest Sunday of 2023 will take place on January 8<sup>th</sup>. We will also do a special Epiphany craft on that day.

There will be no Sunday School on Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> nor Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> and we will resume on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup>. Please attend church as a family on those days.

As always, we welcome anyone who would like to teach or help with Sunday School, do a special lesson or craft with the children, or assist in any way. Please reach out to me with any questions at [epting.susan@gmail.com](mailto:epting.susan@gmail.com) or via cell at 914-715-9546.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Sunday School each week! Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

God Bless,

Sue Epting, Sunday School Superintendent

## Serve

### Giving Back

"It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." Mother Teresa



**December 11**

#### Holiday Outreach

For many years, St. Andrew's has participated in the Hour Children holiday toy drive so Bedford Correctional Facility mothers may provide holiday gifts for their children. **New, unwrapped toys and gifts from their acceptable gift list** will be accepted. Please bring any new, unwrapped gifts to church by Sunday, December 11.

Thank you for blessing others by sharing that which God has



**December**

#### Jan Peek

Also, for many years, we have given \$20 Walmart gift cards to 25 residents at Jan Peek Shelter for the homeless (CHHOP) in Peekskill. St. Andrew's would like to continue to provide gift cards to these residents to make their Christmas a little brighter. **If you would like to contribute to this outreach opportunity, please give a monetary donation to St. Andrew's** through online giving or in an envelope for the collection plate or mailed to

first given to you!

Outreach Commission

church labeled **"Jan Peek"** by Sunday, **December 11**. Be sure to indicate your name or contribution envelope number if you want it recorded as part of your giving statement. **Outreach will purchase the Walmart cards and give to Jan Peek to distribute.**

*holiday angel*

**December**

### **Holiday Angel**

The Holiday Angels program provides Christmas gifts for needy families in our area. Kathy DeMaio coordinates St. Andrew's response to this valuable community outreach effort. Watch for further details from Kathy!

## **Looking forward to our Guatemala Mission Trip**



On Jan 14<sup>th</sup> I have the pleasure of traveling with 8 adults to San Lucas Toliman Guatemala for a week of ministry and mission work. Congregational members Kim and Ron Guerra and Gary Grossman along with 5 travelers from other churches will undertake a time of spiritual growth. This will be a week focused on considering our relationship to Christ, rededicating ourselves to serving others and expanding our vision of what God is doing in the world.

We will do all of this by getting out of our comfort zone, learning about the lives of others, and working alongside local Guatemalans to better the world. Just as Jesus called his original disciples to leave behind their own worlds to step out in faith, this group is doing the same. Please pray for them and me as we will experience God in new ways, see challenging life circumstances and confront our own biases about the world in which we live.

Our group will work on housing construction, coffee production, learn about and experience the hardship of women in Guatemala and so much more. Thank you for supporting this ministry and our ongoing connections with the people of San Lucas Toliman.

[Click Here for more info on San Lucas Toliman Mission](#)

## Celebrations



### December Birthdays

12/1 Thomas DiRusso, Jr,  
12/3 Daniele Racanelli  
12/4 Janis Zaeh  
12/4 Madison Delgado  
12/5 Karen Conlon

### December Anniversaries

4 Gemma & Scott Reinkraut  
8 Lynette & Chris Van  
Tongeren

12/5 Shane Muller

11 Joan & Herbert Nissen

12/6 Sonja Letizia

22 Brenda & Joseph

12/6 Jason Singh

Middleton

12/6 Colton Knapp

12/7 Vincent Kennedy

12/8 Susan Frising

12/9 Paul Miller

12/9 Travis Stern

12/11 Erin Ehlke

12/13 William O'Brien II

12/17 Carolyn Hamm

12/18 Joseph Polizzi

12/19 Deirdre Letscher

12/19 Patrick Gallagher

12/23 Nolah Stringham

12/25 Jesus 12/25

12/26 Mike Epting

12/26 Singh Michael

12/26 Hayley Cooper

12/27 Genie Muller

12/27 Emma Bianchimano

12/27 Adam Mir

12/28 Alex Worsley

12/29 Dennis Alfieri

12/30 Joanna Falcone

[Give online](#)

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**Financial**

**NEW ONLINE GIVING FEATURES**

Our online giving service provider has added three new recurring donation frequencies; (i) twice a month (ii) quarterly and (iii) annual. These are in addition to the current frequencies of weekly and monthly. They have also added the option to set an end date for recurring donations

#### YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OCTOBER

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2019 *</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>2021</u>
Contributions	\$ 144,600	\$ 154,500	\$ (9,900)	\$ 169,800
Rental Income	9,800	58,800	(49,000)	28,300
Other Income	12,700	3,400	9,300	11,200
Total Income	167,100	216,700	(49,600)	209,300
Expenses ( <i>Budget-\$219,000</i> )	216,600	214,300	2,300	194,900
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus</b>	<b>\$ (49,500)</b>	<b>\$ 2,400</b>	<b>\$ (51,900)</b>	<b>\$ 14,400</b>

New lease related costs \$ 32,800 (*not included above*)  
*(fence-9.5, fire alarm-9.0, floor-5.2, couches-4.0, lawyer-2.2, electrical-0.9, other-2.0)*

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

## Serving our Church



**Pastor Dave Dockweiler**

**Council Members 22-23**

Tim Clark – President, Rita Nehmzow – VP  
Sue Epting – Secretary,  
David Hamm – Treasurer

Michael Banks , Brandon Cole, Chuck Far-  
rell ,Joanna Falcone  
Gary Grossman , Dominic Justo, Kristine  
Kallesten, Gemma Reinkraut , Steve Scalzi

**Financial Secretary**

Margaret Hauck

**Nominating Committee 2022-23**

Lisa Billingsley, Linda Bohlk, Matt Damrow  
Kathy DeMaio, Tim Gagliano, Sonja Letizia

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church**

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