

# St. Andrew's Message

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**Worship   Learn   Serve**



## **Dates to Remember**

### **January 3**

**6:30 p.m.** Life Commission

### **January 6**

**2:00 p.m.** Ladies Bingo

### **January 7**

**8:00 a.m.** Worship Service

**9:00 a.m.** Adult Education

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

**11:00 a.m.** Confirmation

**11:00 a.m.** Undecorate the Church

### **January 11**

**7:00 p.m.** Council

### **January 13**

**12:00** Fred Hauck Memorial Service

### **January 14**

**8:00 a.m.** Worship Service

**9:00 a.m.** Adult Education

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

### **January 21**

**8:00 a.m.** Worship Service

**9:00 a.m.** Adult Education

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

**11:00 a.m.**

### **January 28**

**8:00 a.m.** Worship Service

## WORSHIP



January 2024

### Pastor's Message

Happy New Year's my Friends!

I hope your Christmas and New Years were inspiring. My Christmas Eve 4pm sermon has generated some interest so I thought I'd share some

more. I took the idea of "Eras" of Christmas music from Taylor Swifts radically popular concert tour and subsequent movie. You can listen to all these songs here on a Spotify playlist, this is free with ads. [Christmas Sermon Playlist](#) Also this sermon would not have been possible without the help of my friend, DJ EarthMage aka Alex Thompson-Thank you!!

The first issue I ran into was simply the amount of Christmas music to work with. The earlier songs sung in honor of Jesus' birth were as early as 1000-these were in Latin. Most of the Christmas carols that we are familiar with come from the 1800's.

Every culture and language celebrates Jesus' birth using their own methods. The Canadian "Huron Carol" was written in the mid 1600's and was originally written in the language of the Huron/Wendat people. Translated in 1926 this tune became one of my favorites on the list. I love how God is identified as the "Gitchi Manitou" or "Great Spirit." This song reminds me of our permission to worship in our own way. We can add new aspects of our culture and language into praise of God. Other songs in this category include Feliz Navidad and even Boogie Woogie Santa.

Maria Carrey's "All I want for Christmas," is arguably her biggest hit ever. Although the song has a romantic aspect the question it asks is an important one, "What do you want for Christmas?" Are we seeking more stuff or are we seeking relationships and with whom?

"Here we come a Caroling" introduces the aspect of traveling and connecting with others in this season. Caroling started before radio and tv, singing for neighbors was a source of entertainment and connection. Christmas still represents one of the busiest times to travel, so there is a massive desire to connect with loved ones at this time. I questioned whether the connections include a welcome of those that haven't had been present at your gathering before.

We wrapped it up with "Little Drummer Boy." I wondered with you if we hold back our abilities because we don't think we have what it takes. The "Little Drummer Boy" reminds us that ANY gift to God is a blessed one. Some are

stretched so thin financially, socially, mental health, or physical ability, that we think we have nothing that God can use. Let's remember that being kind doesn't cost anything, inviting someone to come with you to church may be just the connection they need and making a new friend can help our own soul.

As we move on from the manger and Jesus grows up in front of us I hope that the Christmas message of "God with Us," continues throughout the coming year. I find music a blessing in my life and I am jamming out almost all the time to something. I pray God continues to bless you and yours!

See you Sunday, Pastor Dave

## Council Notes

- The contributions have improved over the past few weeks. Thank you for your generosity and it is much appreciated as we help to keep St. Andrew's financially stable.
- The Semi-Annual Congregational meeting will take place on February 4, 2024. More information will be sent out in January.
- The annual children's Christmas pageant and the brunch afterwards were both a huge success! We are very thankful for the excitement of the children and for the delicious food led by our resident chef, Kristine Kallesten! Thanks to all who helped with the preparation for the pageant and for the brunch.
- We are also very appreciative of the generosity of the congregation with donations of grocery gift cards and turkeys for Thanksgiving and for the toys for Hour Children, the gifts for the family we sponsored, and for the Walmart cards for Jan Peek for Christmas. We received lovely thank-you letters from the involved groups.
- We will be taking down the Christmas decorations at the church following the 10 a.m. worship service on January 7, 2024. Many hands make light work so please come out to help.



## LEARN

# Sunday School Update



2023 is now in the rearview mirror and we eagerly anticipate all the activities that the new year will bring to our Sunday School at St. Andrew's! We hope that everyone had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and we hope to see everyone as we resume classes on Sunday, January 7th with Harvest Sunday.

On December 17<sup>th</sup> the children presented the annual pageant entitled "One Starry Night." They all did a wonderful job and the audience truly enjoyed their performance! We were sorry that several children were ill and missed the performance and hope everyone is feeling much better now. Thank you to all of the teachers, helpers, and others who helped to make it a success. Special thanks to Margy Tillstrand for her musical accompaniment and to Pastor Dave for the AV assistance. And many thanks to all of the families for sharing their children with us for an hour each week so we can teach them about God's love for us all.

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! Happy New Year and may you have a healthy and Blessed 2024!

God Bless,

Sue Epting, Sunday School Coordinator

# Celebrations



## January Birthdays

- 1 Chau Vo
- 3 Brendan Golden
- 6 Erika Flemmig
- 7 Mark Dos Santos
- 8 Jack Hoffman
- 12 Rebecca Tally
- 13 Chris Thomas
- 13 Meredith Zaeh
- 14 Jennifer Dary
- 16 Diane Peragine
- 16 Amy Knapp
- 16 Tyler Olli

18 Trisha Tally  
18 Bryan Poellot  
18 Jack Ferone  
19 Rita Nehmzow  
19 Patrick Lancellotti  
21 Alyssa Kozloski  
23 Brandon Guerra  
27 Judy Jakubik  
27 Alex Garcia  
30 Lorraine Miller  
31 Matthew Semenza

## Happy Anniversary

Linda & Dan Greco 1/09

Lynn & Peter Parlman 1/11

## Financial

## YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY -

NOVEMBER

	2023	2022	Difference
Contributions	\$ 167,200	\$ 167,400	\$ (200)
Rental Income	40,400	13,300	27,100
Other Income	12,400	16,200	(3,800)
Total Income	220,000	196,900	23,100
Expenses ( <i>Budget-\$249,000</i> )	242,400	234,600	7,800
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$ (22,400)</b>	<b>\$ (37,700)</b>	<b>\$ 15,300</b>

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### St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

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