

St. Andrew's Message

Worship Learn Serve



Dates to Remember

February 4

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Zoom

Annual Meeting

February 11

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Zoom

Marriage Sunday

February 14 Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

February 18

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

February 21

7:00 p.m. Lent Wednesday Service

February 25

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Zoom

February 28

7:00 p.m. Lent Wednesday Service

WORSHIP



February 2024

Lent Wednesday Series

Love In Lent

The English word "love" gets a lot of press. I can somehow say, "I love my wife" and "I love tacos." Isn't this a strange word? During the Wednesdays in Lent we will start

pulling apart the concept of love as we come together at 7pm. The ancient Greeks had no less than 6 different words that today get smashed into this one little word, "love." For five weeks between Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, we will discuss these deeply important words one at a time. Philia, Ludus (one of my favorites) Agape, Pragma, Philautia all mean different kinds of love. They are all important and every one is needed for a fully formed faith.

I invite you to join us on Wednesday evenings at 7 in the sanctuary for a brief prayer service focusing on the different kinds of love. During this season of Lent I pray that you carve some time out of your schedule and focus on loving God, self and others in ways both deep and playful.

February 2024

Pastor's Message

When Jesus calls his first disciples, he calls them to leave what they know and try a new kind of life. And he said to them The last year has been a year of our congregation taking steps of faith down a path knowing that we cannot see its conclusion. The mission year got started when we gathered, prepared and blessed 9 travelers representing 4 different churches to help house, feed and support the people of San Lucas Toliman Guatemala.

We had some changes on our council. I blessed and celebrated the stepping down of multiple council members upon learning of the struggles they were facing. God provides, every leadership transition, although difficult, has resulted in a realignment of the leadership team that can address the current demands.

We took some steps in faith in ways we have never done before. Our church took part in two outreach events that were new to us, and demonstrated that A.

FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS of MEN



we survived, B. it was pretty fun and C. everyone brings something positive to the table. The Outreach team worked a table at the Jefferson Valley Mall and increased awareness of our church to the greater community. Building on this experience, we hosted a beverage station at the San Gennaro Festival and not only increased our presence in the community but netted (pun intended) some money for our church.

We have welcomed many new friends into the community. Our Sunday School teacher crew now includes teachers who are multi-decade members of the church and new comers who have dove right in. You should get to know John Leisher who within about a year went from first

time visitor to council member, AV team member and all-around awesome guy. Shake hands with any of the Hedke family and you'll meet people who were greeted as newcomers and are now regulars in both Sunday School and church events. Norma, this sweet soft spoken disciple is a blessing to everyone she interacts with, again moving from first time visitor to a pillar of support for our church. Talk to Joan, whose life took her away from church for a while and after her hesitatingly return she found a warm-welcoming group. I could continue but I think you get the idea.

In worship we launched a major overhaul of our Biblical understanding as we shifted from the traditional lectionary to the Narrative Lectionary. Might not sound like a lot, but meant that we have heard and learned stories from the Old Testament that many haven't heard since their own Sunday School days. This also ushered in a revived interest in personal Biblical literacy to which we made time in our worship schedule allowing a weekly Bible study. We often need to bring out more chairs and sometimes entire tables to accommodate our Bible study group. You should come, we have had some great conversations empowering our faith.

Funerals, and spending time with the sick and their loved ones are a sacred part of my calling to this place. These are often deeply meaningful times and have lasting impacts on how the family members see our church or their life within our church.

Thank you, for calling me your pastor. It is a title I hold with deep humility and honor. I am so blessed to be part of this awesome church!

See you Sunday, Pastor Dave

Council Notes

February 2024

- The Landscaping Plan has kicked into motion with the removal of trees and bushes possibly destined to present issues by the tree experts. Many thanks to the guys who helped with raking and spreading of woodchips, etc. over the past several months including Dennis Alfieri, Mike Epting,

Gary Grossman, Angelo Letizia, and Ken Muller. And we are especially grateful to Connie Grossman who is the coordinator of the Landscaping Plan. Over the coming years, St. Andrew's will be looking beautiful as new trees are planted and mature.

- Thank you again to our members who have stepped up to help St. Andrew's financially. The end-of-year contributions increased enough to decrease the deficit below what we expected. We are very appreciative as we want St. Andrew's to not only survive the coming years but also to thrive so our children and grandchildren can enjoy what we have enjoyed for the past 66 years.
- Lenten services will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 14, 2024. The services will be held on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m. throughout Lent and will culminate in Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday). Easter is early this year and is celebrated on March 31, 2024. Watch for more information about services in the upcoming weeks.



The Mulch Crew

2024 is off to a great start! Although we have had a few issues with snow, Sunday School is back in full swing and the children are enjoying learning!

Harvest Sunday will next take place on February 4th so we hope the entire congregation as well as the Sunday School students will help to fill the shelves at St. Mary's Food Pantry with their donations.

February will bring the start of the Lenten season so we will be distributing the Lenten boxes to the Sunday School children on Sunday, February 11th. Please save your loose change so that we can fill those boxes and the kids will then choose where to donate the money again this year. For the past two years, we have purchased animals, mosquito nets, and water through the ELCA catalog and the kids really enjoyed that!

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 or via cell at 914-715-9546.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Sunday School each week!

God Bless,

Sue Epting, Sunday School Coordinator

Celebrations



February Birthdays

2 Noah Dockweiler
3 Connor Anderson
3 Nadia Williams
4 John Markiewicz
4 Sue Wagner
4 Stephen Scalzi
6 Lila Muller
7 Mary Haley
7 Kyra Gustavson
7 Erica Brisson
8 Brianna Kelly

9 James Piteo
9 Victoria Zupa
12 Henry Borgelt
13 Barbara Fischer
13 Gustav Hellman
13 Karl Grutzmacher

13 Larry Herbst
14 Randal Middleton
14 Cassandra Fox
15 Joyce Vo
16 Connor Bergstrom
16 Tara Bergstrom
16 Hailey Behen
17 Peter L. Seith
17 Kristen Kelly
17 Jonathan Justo
22 Christine Mattson
23 Richard Van Tongeren
23 Michelle Van Tongeren
24 Bill Gallagher
24 Randi Polizzi
25 Carolyn Seith
25 Robert Headley
25 Ryan Manfredonia
26 Christopher Holodak
26 Devon Rose Leaver
27 Ryan Headley
27 Alyssa Frickmann
28 Carol Holodak

Financial

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

| | 2023 | 2022 | Difference |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Contributions | \$ 203,000 | \$ 193,500 | \$ 9,500 |
| Rental Income | 44,200 | 16,800 | 27,400 |
| Other Income | 13,100 | 16,400 | (3,300) |
| Total Income | 260,300 | 226,700 | 33,600 |
| Expenses (<i>Budget-\$278,000</i>) | 264,400 | 256,000 | 8,400 |
| Deficit | \$ (4,100) | \$ (29,300) | \$ 25,200 |

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St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

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