

# St. Andrew's Message

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**Worship    Learn    Serve**



## **Dates to Remember**

### **September 5**

7:00 p.m. Outreach Committee Meeting

### **September 8**

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

11:00a.m. Rally Day Lunch

### **September 12**

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

### **September 14**

2:00 DeMarchis/Barsuch Wedding

### **September 15**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

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

### **September 16**

Improvement work begins on front patio/entrance area

### **September 21**

9:00 a.m. Produce Sale

### **September 22**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Zoom

11:00 a.m. Volunteer Training

## September 29

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Zoom

11:00 a.m. Volunteer Training

# WORSHIP



September 2024

## Pastor's Message

How did I get here and where am I (maybe we) going?

I grew up a suburbanite in a demographically shifting area Chicago. Through my random collection of interests and activities as a young person (football, band and church youth group) I had a pretty wide range of friends. When it came time to figure out my life direction, I admit I

was clueless. I only knew that I didn't want to work for someone else, which left working for myself or working for God. I flirted with the former before diving into the pool of ministry headfirst. I figured working through the church was the way that I could do the most good. It took me awhile, but I found my direction.

Fast forward about 25 years, a marriage, handful of kids and some other life experiences. I believe think that I am called by God to lead the congregation of St. Andrew's. Lead yes, but where and how and when and to whom shall we go? We are in changing times. Fewer people are growing up in the church because their parents don't see the value, or they left their church for any of a variety of reasons. Church activities compete for time and interest of potential participants at every age. Worldviews are being reformed, old models and methods simply don't work anymore, technology is present and influencing everything we do. How people spend their money, and their time is not the same as it was when I was wondering the halls of high school.

A lot has changed, but has God's voice quit calling us? Has Jesus' invitation to follow him stopped just because many are distracted? Is God still showing us the way to be better versions of ourselves everyday? OF COURSE NOT. God is showing us how to be generous and kind and understanding, even if we aren't paying attention. Let's start paying attention. Let's start asking questions that matter.

I'm going to be spending a lot of time in prayer asking what God wants me to do in this place. I don't know where God is going to take me. Will you pray for me, will you pray for this church, will you pray for our family of faith? I hope so, see you on Sunday and we will start to take this journey together.

Pastor Dave

***"The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why."***

***- Mark Twain***

## Council Notes

### September 2024

1. Rally Day and the resumption of Sunday School will be held on Sunday, September 8, 2024 with one service at 10 a.m. This service will be held outside and will be followed by a family picnic. If you signed up to bring a side dish for the picnic, please remember to bring it that morning and thanks so much!
2. Plans are being made for retraining of worship service volunteers (ushers, Altar Guild, lectors, communion assistants, counters, AV, etc). Even if you have volunteered in these roles for many years, we ask that you attend as processes and expectations will be reviewed. Training dates are 9/22 & 9/29 following the 11 a.m. service. Attendance at only one session is required. Please let us know if you are interested in volunteering to serve.
3. As you are aware, we lost our tenant at the end of July. We are actively working to seek another tenant or tenants and will keep you informed as we are able. We had an excellent Q&A session following worship on August 11<sup>th</sup> and thank you for sharing your opinions and constructive ideas. If you missed the session, please reach out to Sue Epting, David Hamm, or Pastor Dave so we can update you. And thank you for your patience and support as we move into this next era at St. Andrew's.
4. Attendance has increased this year as have the contributions which help to make St. Andrew's more financially stable. We appreciate all that you continue to do for our wonderful congregation and are happy to see the pews (and Zoom) filling up again! Thank you!
5. The Photo Directory Committee is working on securing a company to help us in creating a photo directory for St. Andrew's. Please watch for further information in early fall.
6. The Landscaping Committee is working on the front entrance to the church. Two teak benches have been donated and you can view one of them in the narthex. The Memorial/Landscaping Funds are separate from the general church funds and have been designated for the landscape work that is in process. Watch as we beautify the church grounds!





The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May each year the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. Each week will feature both a "primary text" and a gospel passage. The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture. They invite people to hear the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, Jesus, and Paul. Listening to the many different voices within Scripture enriches preaching and the life of faith." This year's we'll be moving through Year 3 which means we'll focus on the gospel of Luke in the Spring.

Come join us at 9 am throughout the fall between the services as we dive into the book of Luke. There is a place for you at the table!

**LEARN**

**Sunday School Update**



### **September 2024 Sunday School Update for The Message**

Welcome to the kickoff of the 2024-25 Sunday School year! We are excited to welcome everyone back as we celebrate Rally Day with worship outside on September 8<sup>th</sup>. A picnic for the entire congregation will follow the service so come hungry and prepared to enjoy great food and fellowship.

As we did last year, all students will begin each Sunday by sitting with their families or classes in the sanctuary. Following a kid-friendly start to the service, all children will go to their classrooms for lessons and activities and parents will then pick them up at the conclusion of Sunday School.

At least to begin the year, all classes will meet in the back rooms of the church. We are excited to welcome back teachers Jeanna Shepard, Karen DosSantos, Tracey Blechner, Norma Webster, Sarah Dockweiler, Debra Gagliano, Rita Nehmzow, and Donna Kellett. And we are excited to have Joan DiSalvatore, Ellie Clark, Kaleigh Hung, Carson Rai, and Haiden Rai helping out with the classes.

Harvest Sunday will continue to be held on the first Sunday of each month and we invite all members of the congregation to donate to this effort. St. Mary's Food Pantry is always grateful for the generosity of St. Andrew's members so let's keep helping those less fortunate.

Important information about Sunday School has been e-mailed to all families with children enrolled in the Sunday School program. Please complete the Contact Info form and return to me via e-mail at [epting.susan@gmail.com](mailto:epting.susan@gmail.com) or drop it off in the office when you attend church. And please let me know if you are aware of any children who might want to enroll (ages 3 years through 6<sup>th</sup> grade).

We are always looking for more volunteers to help with Sunday School so please reach out to me via e-mail or cell phone at [914-715-9546](tel:914-715-9546). You will get back so much more than you put into this important ministry!

Enjoy the rest of the summer and we'll see you on September 8<sup>th</sup>!

God Bless,

Sue Epting, Sunday School Coordinator

# Serve

# Financial

## YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY -

## JULY

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Contributions	\$ 126,300	\$ 94,300	\$ 32,000
Rental Income	27,300	24,900	2,400
Other Income	9,600	6,700	2,900
Total Income	163,200	125,900	37,300
Expenses ( <i>Budget-\$175,000</i> )	167,400	160,000	7,400
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$ (4,200)</b>	<b>\$ (34,100)</b>	<b>\$ 29,900</b>

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### St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

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