

St. Andrew's Message

Worship Learn Serve



Dates to Remember

December 1

8:00 a.m. Worship Service Live

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

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

December 4

6:30 p.m. Life Commission

December 5

7:00 p.m. Memorial Committee

December 8

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

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

December 12

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

December 14

9:30 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant Practice

December 15 Children's Christmas Pageant

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Zoom

11:00 a.m. Church Brunch

December 22

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Zoom

December 24

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

December 29

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Zoom

WORSHIP



December 2024

The Pastor's Rambling Pen

Buy gifts, clean the house, deal with terrible weather, figure out what to do with kids during time off from school, coordinate plans with extended family...the holiday to-do list can become overwhelming. When you can get to church, we light another candle on the Advent wreath and get reminded to slow down, prepare our hearts

and quiet our souls to meet the Lord. Sometimes I think that my reminders towards *Soul Care* tend to land with the same tenor as “finish the laundry.” Yes, we should spend some time reflecting during this season. We should allow ourselves some time to consider how, where and in what fashion the Lord is being born into our world now.

Whether or not you get to all those things on the to-do list doesn't really matter to God. God isn't interested if the baseboard has been recently cleaned or if the kids are in matching clothes. Jesus was born into chaos. His father was rejected by even inn keepers, whose job it is to be welcoming. Mary and Joseph had no place prepared for baby Jesus or any of the many items we would consider essential for proper child rearing.

Yet this is how the Savior of the world comes to us. Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. Perhaps one of our “endings” should be on our expectations. Perhaps we should end our desire of a perfectly decorated house in which a blemish free Hallmark holiday event unfolds. Friends, cut yourselves some slack. Trust that the important stuff will get done,

Like Mary let's allow God to do a new thing in our lives, that might be a new tradition or new expectations. Like Joseph, let's do our best, even if it feels like our best isn't very good. Like the shepherds, let's try to listen to God and do what we can even if it seems crazy (no one was expecting the Savior to be born in Bethlehem, that place was a dump).

They simply did the most good they could. That is perhaps the best thing we can ask of ourselves, to do our most good today. Some days that will be a lot, other days it may be just scrapping by.

Take a breath and breath deeply of the Spirit of God. Exhale the confining expectations you have of yourself. Let your breath, (pneuma in Greek meaning breath, Spirit and wind) bring you closer into contact with the Savior who loves you just as you are. That same breath is shared by others reminding us that we are not on this journey alone. I pray that your Advent season is filled with blessings AND that you can recognize them.

Merry Christmas, I Love You, Pastor Dave

Council Notes

December 2024

Photo Directory – 67 families/couples sat for photos in early November and 15 others sent in pictures for the 2024 version of St. Andrew's photo directory. Everything has been submitted to the company and you should be receiving your photos any time. The directories will be available in several months. Thank you so much for your participation and we look forward to seeing everyone's smiling faces in the new directory!



Lease-related matters – On Sunday, November 24, 2024, a Special Congregational meeting was held with active participation by many members of the congregation, both in-person and on zoom. Many thanks to all who participated. The congregation voted to allow the Council to enter into a lease with a new company, "Exploratory Play Center of Yorktown." We are currently working with the lawyer to have the lease finalized after which it will be signed by the tenant and a representative of the Church Council. We will keep you updated as to progress. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Epting or David Hamm.

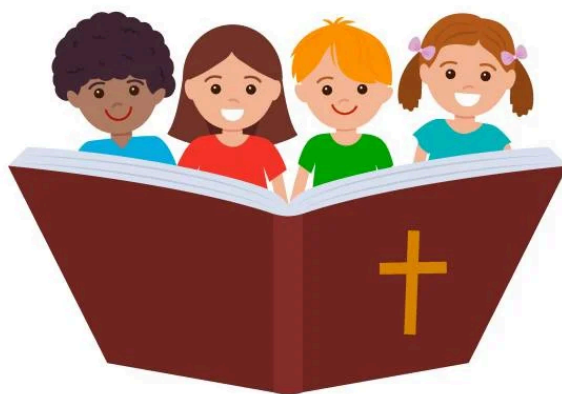
Produce Sale – Many thanks to all who volunteered their time to make the November produce sale a huge success! The final proceeds were \$3,203. Thank you to Tim Gagliano for donating the produce and for all of your help with set-up, during the sale, and clean-up. Members of St. Andrew's are very appreciative of all you do for us, Tim.

Christmas Brunch – The annual children's Christmas pageant will be presented during the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 15, 2024. A delicious brunch for all attendees will be held immediately after the service so please try to attend as we usher in the Christmas holiday season. Kristine Kallesten will be cooking so we are in for a treat! Thank you, Kristine.

Stewardship Campaign – Our annual Stewardship Campaign kicked off with short presentations by Kristine Kallesten, Sue Epting, and Kathy DeMaio. Thanks to all for sharing your faith journey with the congregation. If you have not yet done so, please send in your pledge cards for contributions for the coming year. Thank you very much for your continued support of St. Andrew's.

LEARN

Sunday School Update



Sunday School Update for The December Message

The children continue to enjoy coming to Sunday School each week and learning about Jesus and his love for them. They are treated to Pastor Dave's children's sermon at the beginning of the service before heading off to class.

Harvest Sunday continues to be held on the first Sunday of each month and we ask the rest of the congregation to share their non-perishable food to help those less fortunate than us. The next Harvest Sunday is December 1st so let's make it a big day! Next month it will take place on January 5th.

Rehearsals for the annual Christmas pageant will begin on December 1st. The children will be presenting "Jesus is the REAL Reason for the Season" during the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, December 15th. We give our heartfelt thanks to Margy Tillstrand and Cheryl Badalamenti who wrote the script for the pageant. There will be a rehearsal for about an hour immediately following Sunday School on Dec. 8th. And a dress rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 14th at 9:30 a.m. and pizza will be served following the

practice. It's important that everyone attend as we need to rehearse the songs for the pageant.

Sunday School will not be in session on December 22nd and 29th so please enjoy attending church as a family. We will resume classes on Sunday, January 5th.

We welcome your questions, suggestions, and concerns so please reach out to me at 914-715-9546 or via e-mail. And we are always eager for even more teachers and helpers to join us in sharing our faith with the children. It is so rewarding, and you always get back more than you give.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2025! We look forward to seeing all the children each week in Sunday School!

God Bless,

Sue Epting, Sunday School Coordinator

Serve



Hour Children and Holiday Angels

HOUR CHILDREN

The "Hour Children" is a program that provides Christmas gifts and gift cards to children of women incarcerated at the Bedford Hill and Taconic Correctional Facilities. Children of incarcerated women are given 1 hour with their kids during the holiday season, thus the name. For many years, St. Andrew's has assisted this program allowing our sisters in Christ an opportunity for them to give a Christmas gift to their children.

Every year up to 500 kids receive a gift from their mother, who would be unable to provide it, except through this program. Children that are unable to visit their mom during the Christmas season get a handwritten card from their mom with a gift card provided through our work.

You can help in two ways. Bring a gift or a gift card. Requirements for gifts are available at the church (significant because they are going into the jails). You can also provide \$25 gift cards from

Visa/Mastercard, Amazon, Target or Walmart.

Bring your unwrapped (requirement meeting) gift or gift card to church by December 15. Gift cards can be dropped in the Offering Plate, gifts placed in the marked box.

The deadline for all donations is Dec 15th.

Please refer any questions to Chuck Farrell at CHUCKFARRELL56@YAHOO.COM or call 914-573-6057.

Thank you for helping bless the holidays for a loving mother and appreciative child!

In addition to the Hour Children ministry, we also sponsor at least one local family for our Holiday Angels Program. This outreach ministry ensures that a local family in an area school district will have adequate gift opportunities and help mom and dad to provide a Christmas experience that is a blessing for all.

To become an angel, click on this link and select a product to purchase, bring to church or get to Kathy DeMaio by Dec 14. [Holiday Angels](#)

Financial

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OCTOBER

| | 2024 | 2023 | Difference |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Contributions | \$ 167,100 | \$ 147,900 | \$ 19,200 |
| Rental Income | 27,300 | 36,500 | (9,200) |
| Other Income | 16,300 | 9,200 | 7,100 |
| Total Income | 210,700 | 193,600 | 17,100 |
| Expenses (<i>Budget-\$238,000</i>) | 229,000 | 220,200 | 8,800 |
| Deficit | \$ (18,300) | \$ (26,600) | \$ 8,300 |

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St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

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