

# St. Andrew's Message

**Worship    Learn    Serve**



## **Dates to Remember**

### **January 5**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service Live

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

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

### **January 8**

6:30 p.m. Life Commission Meeting

### **January 9**

7:00 p.m. Church Council Meeting

### **January 12**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

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

### **January 19**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Zoom

### **January 23**

7:00 p.m. Memorial Committee

### **January 26**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service

9:00 a.m. Adult Education

10:00 a.m. Worship Service and Zoom

# WORSHIP



January 2025

## The Pastor's Rambling Pen

Happy New Year!! Even though NYC's NYE ball drop was pretty lame this year due to weather, there are still lots of reasons to be excited about the coming year. Glancing backwards just to get an idea of where we have been this year. From a ministry perspective we have had a year of pretty solid growth with new

members, baptisms, marriages, attendance (the things that are easy to count). We started a new schedule and introduced a regular Bible study, I am so pleased with a regular attendance of 15, amazing. Financially, this year has been a roller coaster. We began the year with our previous tenant, went through a time of vacancy and now we have a new tenant. 6 months ago, at our July congregational meeting we shared with you our expectations to end the year with a substantial deficit of \$20k. Your amazing donations blew away previous records, we ended the year much stronger than reasonable predictions forecast AND AND AND, we now have a new tenant. Call me crazy but it feels like a surfer just catching a wave. There is excitement in this place. I can't wait to see where God is taking us.

I'm into a new book and can't wait to share it with you. "Sailboat Church; Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Practice" by Joan Grey. We are going to put a book club together in February to discuss this work. Using the metaphors of a sailboat vs a rowboat. Both can get from place to place, but one works with the Creator while the other relies on its own strength. There are sailboat churches and rowboat churches, I hope that this discussion can get us wondering together whether we are working with the wind or against it.

Another reason I am excited...have you heard about our new tenant? The Exploratory Play Center of Yorktown, EPCY (rhymes with Pepsi), will be using our space to bring in loads of kids from Yorktown and the surrounding area to play and learn in *our* building. Moms and Dads will be hanging out in *our space* possibly wondering what kind of church is this? It could be awesome for everyone involved; I really think this relationship can be mutually beneficial. It is in our best interests to help EPCY be successful. I will be sharing their news and opportunities with you in hopes that their services not only support some of you, but we can share with others.

My friends these last few years have been strange, which may be a trend. I don't know what the coming years hold. I only know really know two things. 1. God will be with us. 2. We will not be alone on the journey.



## Council Notes

### January 2025

**Photo Directory** – The 2024 edition of St. Andrew's Photo Directory is completed and everyone should have received their photos. If you have any issues with what you received, please contact the customer service number on the package insert as they are very amenable to making sure you are happy with your photos. If you did not order any additional photos and did not pick up your free 8x10 picture at the church, please contact Sue Epting or Carol Holodak. The finished directories will be mailed to the church and should be available in a few months. You will be notified when they have arrived and can pick yours up.



**Lease-related matters** – The lease with a new company, "Exploratory Play Center of Yorktown" was signed on December 19, 2024. The business should be opening in early January, and we are excited to see the launch of this new endeavor and wish them well. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Epting or David Hamm. We will notify you of any updates with regard to leasing the Chapel House.

**Christmas Pageant and Brunch** – The annual children's Christmas pageant was presented during the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 15, 2024. A delicious brunch for the congregation was held immediately following the service with great attendance. The Council wishes to thank Kristine Kallesten and her sous chefs for a job well done!

**Staff Salaries** – The Executive Committee, in its role covering personnel issues, reviewed and recommended salary increases for the three paid St. Andrew's staff members. The Church Council approved the salary increases, which go into effect in January 2025, at the December 12, 2024 meeting.

**Scouting Update** – We welcome back the scouts to St. Andrew's. Several dens of Cub Scout Pack 164, chartered by St. Andrew's, have resumed meeting on several nights of the week at the church. A newly formed Scouting America (formerly Boy Scouts) troop, involving most of the girls previously active in Troop 164, has been chartered by the local Greater Hudson Valley Council. They have asked for and Council has approved offering them meeting space at the church. The girls will most likely be meeting on Monday evenings and have committed to volunteering to support our church just as our previous Troop 164 had done. Welcome to all Scouts!

**Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting** – The semi-annual congregational meeting will be held immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, February 2, 2025. Reports need to be submitted to the office for the packet by January 15, 2025. Thank you for your support of this meeting. More information will be available in January.



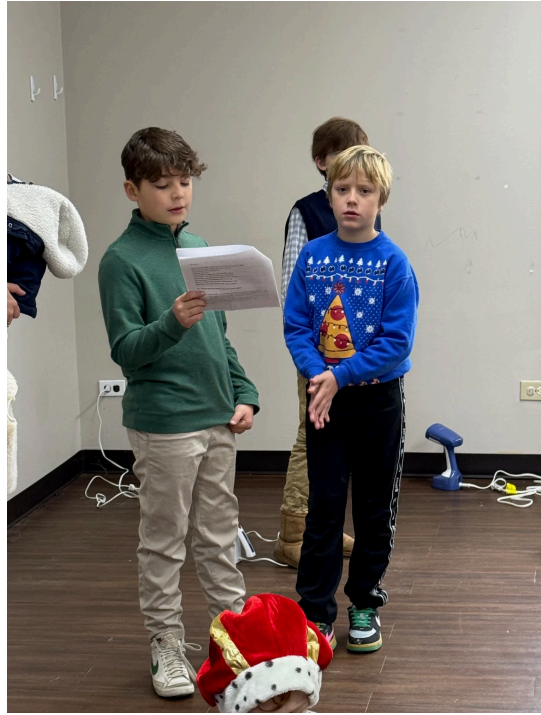












LEARN

January 2025

## Sunday School Update



As we look back on the successes of 2024 with fondness, we eagerly anticipate all the activities that 2025 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 5th with Harvest Sunday.

On December 15<sup>th</sup> the children presented the annual pageant entitled "Jesus is the Real Reason for the Season." They all did a wonderful job and the audience truly enjoyed their performance! We wish to thank Margy Tillstrand and Cheryl Badalamenti for writing the script for us. We were sorry that several children as well as Margy 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 the pageant a success. Special thanks to Pastor Dave for all of his help with the last minute search for the music and for all of the AV assistance and support of the Sunday School. 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 2025!

God Bless,

Sue Epting, Sunday School Coordinator

## Financial

### YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY - NOVEMBER

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Contributions	\$ 188,200	\$ 167,200	\$ 21,000
Rental Income	27,300	40,400	(13,100)
Other Income	18,900	12,400	6,500
Total Income	234,400	220,000	14,400
Expenses ( <i>Budget-\$257,000</i> )	246,700	242,400	4,300
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$ (12,300)</b>	<b>\$ (22,400)</b>	<b>\$ 10,100</b>

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#### St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

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