

# St. Andrew's Message

**Worship    Learn    Serve**



## **Dates to Remember**

### **Dec 3**

6:30 p.m. Life Commissions

### **Dec 7**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service Live

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

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

11:00 a.m. Pageant Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Church Decorating w/ Confirmands

### **Dec 11**

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

### **Dec 13**

10:50 a.m. Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal

### **Dec 14 Kid's Christmas pageant**

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

11:00 a.m. Christmas Brunch

### **Dec 21**

8:00 a.m. Worship Service Live

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

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

### **Dec 24**

4:00 p.m. Candlelight Family Service

9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service

**Dec 28**

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

## WORSHIP



**December 2025**

### **The Pastor's Pen**

I hope you are doing well my friends. We are in the midst of a conflicted time, and I feel this way every year about this time of year. Advent, in the church calendar is a season dedicated to waiting, being expectant, becoming more observational as we look for the Savior. I like all of those

ideas, I'm least psyched about the waiting, but I understand the Spiritual practice of simply being. The problem is that this church season happens to land on top of one of the busiest times of year for many of us. My spiritual world and my physical world are butting heads. To live into our Spiritual lives means hard work. It means making priorities and challenging ourselves to see God first in our lives and in our schedules. We also need heaping portions of forgiveness, as we fail to meet our own goals and witness others failing theirs. We are called to be gracious to ourselves and others as we follow Jesus. Remember, we are the disciples in the story, they fail alot.

That's the beauty of the church. Behind the scenes we've been dealing with the completion of a beautiful upgrade to our campus. Part of our long term landscaping plan has come to fruition. It is a great improvement to our welcome and represents years of work. Thank you to all involved.

You've heard about our boiler situation which instead of repeating details I'd like to ask you a favor. Thank the folks who have been on the front line of this, especially Sue, David, Mike, Erik, Adam and Doug. This is a big job and has already required many hours from many people. It will all work out, we will drain substantial amounts from our savings accounts. But we will get through it, because we are going to keep working together.

Thank you for your financial gifts. We probably don't talk about money enough, but I want to thank you for being such a generous congregation. To those in our church who write the regular check, or set up an online giving plan, to those who have made a financial contribution to this church a priority, THANK YOU. We are so gifted in so many ways as a community, we need Time, Talent and

Treasure. Whatever you have given to God through this church, thank you.

I can't wait to celebrate Christmas with you, it is still one of my favorite times of year. The Christmas story never gets old. I'll work up something crazy for our Kids focused Christmas Eve service. It's getting hard to think of new ideas so let me know if you have suggestions. Our Bible study will be diving into some of the challenges of Christmas. Like: "Does it mean something that Jesus was born poor?" We have some great discussions so consider joining.

I'm glad to be home after some travel. I miss St. Andrew's whenever I leave. Thank you for your support and prayers for me and my family, they are deeply appreciated. Take care of yourselves friends and if you, give a hand to another. See you Sunday, Pastor Dave

**December 2025**

## **Council Notes**

**Boiler Issues** – On Sunday, November 23, 2025, 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 unanimously voted to allow the Council to enter a contract with a plumbing company to replace the boiler in the main building. It needs to be replaced after more than 30 years. Eight companies have consulted with us, and we are awaiting bids after which the Council will analyze them and choose the most appropriate. 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! Despite a rainy weekend, the final proceeds were approximately \$3,100. Thank you to Tim Gagliano for donating the produce and to everyone who helped with set-up, during the sale, and clean-up.

**Christmas Brunch** – The annual children's Christmas pageant will be presented during the 10 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 14, 2025. 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. A birthday party for Jesus will cap the celebration!

**Stewardship Campaign** – Our annual Stewardship Campaign kicked off with short presentations by Dale Sharp and Carol Holodak. Thank you both for sharing your faith journey with the congregation. Pledge cards were sent with the annual Stewardship letter and fall giving statements and will be collected during worship services on December 7, 2025. Thank you very much for your continued support of St. Andrew's.

**Landscaping Update** – The landscaping of the main building’s back yard is almost completed. If you haven’t yet had a chance, wander out the back door to enjoy the beautiful additions.

**70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Andrew’s** – We will be celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Andrew’s on April 19, 2026. Bishop Katrina Foster will worship with us and the event will be celebrated with a brunch. Please contact Sue Epting (914-715-9546) if you are interested in serving on the planning committee.

**Traditional Worship Services** – At the request of some members of the congregation, we will be returning to the use of the traditional liturgy (the red hymnal) on a limited basis. The exact schedule has not yet been determined but we will be alternating the traditional service with the more contemporary liturgy we have been using for the past 8 years. Stay tuned for more information. Please contact Pastor Dave with questions.

## LEARN

December 2025

### Sunday School Update

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.

We have welcomed three new families with children to St. Andrew’s so far this fall and the children bring so much joy and laughter to the classes! We are fortunate and so happy to have these sweet children join us so if you know of any friends who are searching for a church, please invite them to attend worship and Sunday School!

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 7<sup>th</sup> so let’s make it a big day! Next month it will take place on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Rehearsals for the annual Christmas pageant will begin on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The children will be presenting “Sing a Song of Christmas” during the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. There will be a rehearsal for about 30 minutes immediately following Sunday School on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. A dress rehearsal will take

place on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. 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 21<sup>st</sup> and December 28<sup>th</sup> so please enjoy attending church as a family. We will resume classes on Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>. Harvest Sunday will also be celebrated when Sunday School resumes on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

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 2026! We look forward to seeing all the children each week in Sunday School!

God Bless,

Sue Epting, Sunday School Coordinator

## Financial

### YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL SUMMARY - OCTOBER

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Contributions	\$ 174,000	\$ 168,100	\$ 5,900
Rental Income	58,600	27,300	31,300
Other Income	13,100	15,300	(2,200)
Total Income	245,700	210,700	35,000
Expenses ( <i>Budget-\$244,000</i> )	248,300	229,000	19,300
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>\$ (2,600)</b>	<b>\$ (18,300)</b>	<b>\$ 15,700</b>

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#### St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

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