

St. Andrew's Message

Worship Learn Serve



Dates to Remember

Feb 1

8:00 a.m. Worship Service Live

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

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

Feb 4

6:30 p.m. Worship and Music

Feb 8

8:00 a.m. Worship Service Live

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

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

Feb 12

7:00 p.m. Church Council

Feb 15 Marriage Sunday

8:00 a.m. Worship Service Live

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

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

Feb 18 Ash Wednesday

7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship

Feb 22

8:00 a.m. Worship Service Live

9:00 a.m. Bible Study

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

Feb 25

7:00 p.m. Lenten Worship

WORSHIP



February 2026

The Pastor's Pen

The writer of Psalm 119, proclaims that God's word is a "lamp unto his feet." These words are for our comfort in times of trial, they are often read at funerals. The imagery of someone walking a dark path with a lantern offers a sense of security. And again, when Jesus taught the disciples to

pray he did so with the words, "*daily bread.*" This is another comforting image so that I can trust in God's providence no matter how messed up my world might look. There is a problem with both divinely inspired teachings, it's me. I want more than just a bit of illumination for my feet when walking a dark path, I want a searchlight showing me all the way home. Jesus' promise of daily bread comes with a hitch, I don't want *just* today's bread, I want a Costco sized cart of bread to last me a month, I don't want to worry about bread everyday. We have to recognize and be honest with ourselves so that we can better understand the ways of the Lord. God doesn't just want our prayers and worship today, God wants a lifetime of prayers and worship, therefore it's implied that we will be back tomorrow with our prayers, our confessions and our concerns. My selfish nature wants to take care of my needs on a scale much larger than one day's worth of bread or a lamp that can only shine light a few feet in each direction.

This year at St. Andrew's we have been peering into the darkness trying to find God's direction. This happens at every church council meeting, every commission meeting and even at every worship service. We do our very best to discern where God is calling us, to whom should we serve and how. This process has been going on at St. Andrew's for 70 years. It started long before many of us where part of this community and will happen (God willing) for generations after we have gone, but now it is our turn. In a world so full of voices competing for our attention, we must seek out God's path and do everything we can to faithfully follow.

It has been another interesting year of ministry. We have updated our building in several ways with a new entryway and stairs in the back. This entrance is now

a welcoming experience. The front of our building has been painted and refreshed. Our worship experience is more uplifting with the addition of the new Clavinova (electric piano) and we have ensured warmth for our worshipping community with the replacement of our Boiler. All of these upgrades and maintenance items have had significant discussion (usually at multiple levels), funding considerations and time spent researching, quoting and installing.

Those are the outside things, let us consider some of the inner workings of our community. We read and prayed our way through the “Sailboat Church” which each of us consider so many aspects of our faith-life. We elected a new bishop, one with direction and drive. Bishop Foster has brought much energy to the synod office and connected ministries. I was asked to chair the synod Candidacy Committee, a group who accompanies those feeling called to ministry. This work has shown me just how different becoming a pastor today is compared to just a few years ago (16 actually) when I was journeying through the path of ministry. I also experienced the deaths of two family members an uncle and my father. Placing me in the shoes of our Psalmist, thanking God for the light and comfort that God provides, but also selfishly wanting more.

The coming year will likely be more of the same. Seeking, discerning, trying, learning and trying again to follow God’s call. I’m reassured by the stories of the disciples. They often appear clueless, asking questions to which they should already know the answer. Yet, time and time again, Christ is gentle with them, rebukes are soft, direction is corrected, teaching happens with grace, mistakes are forgiven. I look forward to the coming year not because I assume to know what will happen, but that we are given the guidance and support needed and because we make this journey of faith together. My fellow disciples I love being your pastor, let us continue to walk the journey of faith together.

Pastor Dave

February 2026

Council Notes

Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting – The Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 1, 2026 immediately following the 10 a.m. worship service. Please try to attend either in person or via zoom as we need to obtain congregational approval for the 2026 budget.

Boiler – The new boiler was installed by Plitnick Plumbing & Heating over two days with completion on January 23, 2026. Thank you to Pastor Dave, David Hamm, and Mike Epting for overseeing the installation.

Tenant Update – Our tenant, Exploratory Play Center of Yorktown (EPCY) is currently taking a pause from operating in the church’s space to reorganize the



business. We are in close contact with the owner and will keep you updated on the situation with the tenant as we learn more.

2025 Final Budget – We completed 2025 with a \$30,000 operating surplus and record contributions. Thank you to everyone who enabled us to achieve this milestone. 2026 may be more financially challenging so we ask you to continue supporting St. Andrew's.

70th Anniversary of St. Andrew's – We will be celebrating the 70th 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.

LEARN

February 2026

Sunday School Update

Sunday School Update for the February 2026 Message

Happy Ground Hog Day! 2026 is off to a great start! Sunday School is back in full swing and the children are enjoying learning about Jesus and his love for us.

Harvest Sunday will next take place on February 1st 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.

On Sunday, February 1st, the Sunday School children will also be treated to a special lesson about the church presented by Cyndi Clark. She always does a great job, and the children enjoy her presentations so please try to attend.

On February 8th, we will again try to have "Bring a Friend to Sunday School." If you have a friend who would enjoy visiting our Sunday School, please bring him/her along. Each of you will receive a special treat!

St. Andrew's also will celebrate Scout Sunday on February 8th so if you are involved in any type of scout troop, please wear your uniform so we can recognize your achievements.

Sunday School will not be in session on Sunday, February 15th as we celebrate President's Day weekend but we will resume the following Sunday, February 22nd.

Ash Wednesday is on February 18th so we will be distributing the Lenten boxes to the Sunday School children on Sunday, February 22nd. 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 several 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

Financial

[Give online](#)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31,

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Contributions	\$ 229,000	\$ 220,700	\$ 8,300
Rental Income	73,800	27,300	46,500
Other Income	17,200	19,800	(2,600)
Total Income	320,000	267,800	52,200
Expenses (<i>Budget-\$292,000</i>)	289,800	275,300	14,500
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 30,200	\$ (7,500)	\$ 37,700

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

2405 Crompond Rd, Yorktown Heights
United States of America

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