

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

304 Morewood Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213
Sunday Morning Worship is at 10:00 a.m.

Email: St_AndrewELCA@verizon.net
Website: www.standrewpittsburgh.org
St. Andrew Church Office 412-682-3342
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Public Health Concerns Leave Christmas Worship Uncertain

As you are likely aware, with a spike in coronavirus numbers, Allegheny County remains under a stay-at-home public health advisory. Bishop Kurt Kusserow of our Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod also sent a letter on November 17th urging congregations not to hold any in-person gatherings for at least four weeks, through December 15th. Despite these measures, pandemic numbers have continued to rise. Since the public health situation remains uncertain, the worship committee and council will continue to watch the numbers and listen for additional guidance from church and public health officials to determine whether or not we may be able to offer worship in the building for Christmas. Many of us were hoping that we would be able to celebrate the holiday together in worship, even if it would have to look different than in most years. The prospect of not doing so is disappointing, but we at St. Andrew remain committed to protecting the health and safety of congregations members and people of the larger community. Please watch for additional updates and announcements in the upcoming weeks, and remember the promise of Immanuel, God with us, even in the midst of our most difficult times.

Taking Faith Home

You can now view Taking Faith Home — a resource for prayer and Bible readings at home previously featured as an insert in St. Andrew's weekly bulletins. Please find it in the "This Week at St. Andrew" Friday email.

Women of the ELCA Gathering August 3rd - 5th, 2021 in Phoenix, Arizona

Renew your spirit with thousands of faithful women who are eager to grow, learn, pray, and share in community together! Join the group in Phoenix and live your faith in love that leads to justice.

Register at www.welcatg.org.

December 2020

Love Everyone ~ Exclude No One



St. Andrew Lutheran Congregation welcomes all who are seeking a place of healing and wholeness, a nurturing, faith-forming spiritual home. Our community embraces people of all races, abilities, cultures, gender and sexual identities, ages and family constellations. Come and See!

Opportunities for Service

Fresh Produce Distribution
Tuesday, December 1st
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.



East End Cooperative Ministries
Shelter Dinner
Thursday, December 17th
5:30 p.m.



Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 a.m.

Via Zoom or by Phone

Click the following link, which includes an encrypted version of the password.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84733322183?pwd=UStXUEN4c2FvNE5LY2luczAvbExHQT09>

+13126266799,,84733322183#,,,,,0#,,2005177# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,84733322183#,,,,,0#,,2005177# US (New York)

Meeting ID: 847 3332 2183

Passcode: 2005177

ELCA Youth Gathering

Has been rescheduled. New Dates:

July 24th-28th, 2022

From the Pastor

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn ...

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising

God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

Luke 2: 1-14, + The Nativity of our Lord — Christmas Eve

Some of my fondest memories from childhood are of Christmas Eve. The night evokes for me a sense of anticipation—certainly for the presents that I hoped were to come, but also for time spent with family and the beauty of that evening's worship. When I think of Christmas Eve, I think of a darkened church, the lighting of candles, and the singing of "Silent Night." I remember looking up to the sky and seeing the beauty of the stars on the car rides home. I remember the saints of the church with whom I have been blessed to share in the celebrations.

I have been thinking for some time now about all that we will be missing this Christmas — Loved ones and friends in the congregation who have died in the past year, the beloved traditions of gathering in a crowded church and singing Christmas carols, the opportunity to gather with family for the holidays — all against the backdrop of such immense and unfathomable loss, during a pandemic that has caused so much pain and sorrow for so many throughout the world. Even if we are able to gather in smaller numbers for worship at Christmas, things just would not be the same. We are already exhausted from the nature of this year and the isolation it has required, and having to forego a primary source of stability and comfort through church and worship during this season would be a huge loss. It would be entirely natural to be frustrated and anxious about this Christmas. It is entirely natural if our response is to grieve.

Yet on the First Sunday of Advent we were reminded in Mark's Gospel that though heaven and earth pass away, Jesus' words will not pass away. The Word of God remains with us. We have continued to hear and proclaim it throughout this year and the church will proclaim and hear its good news through Luke's Gospel once again this Christmas. In it, Joseph and Mary's plans and hopes were completely disrupted by circumstances beyond their control. At a time when the ideal would have been to stay home with family and prepare to deliver their baby, the census requires that they instead make a long, difficult journey to Bethlehem. They are out in the cold, searching for lodging but finding none. Left with little choice, they finally find refuge in a stable, and a dirty animal's feedbox becomes the cradle to welcome and hold the Word made flesh, the incarnate Son of God.

While Mary and Joseph are far from home, separated from family, trying to make the best of their challenging circumstances, God still shows up. God's promises to the world, and to us, are still fulfilled on Christmas through the birth of Jesus Christ. An angel confirms this fulfillment by appearing to the unsuspecting shepherds with a message: "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

This Savior is with us now and will be with us this Christmas, no matter what our observance looks like. God will still show up for us, too. God enters this broken and hurting world and shares our humanity in Jesus, that we would know comfort, peace, and the hope that one day all would be redeemed. In this promise of redemption brought to new life this Christmas, even in this year, we may join our voices with the angel chorus in celebration: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

In Christ,
Pastor Ross

St. Andrew Congregational Meeting, Sunday, December 13th After Worship via Zoom at 11:00 a.m.

The annual meeting of St. Andrew will be held on Sunday, December 13th. Due to physical distancing requirements and the capacity of our indoor space, along with acknowledgement of those who have risk factors or are not yet comfortable gathering in person, the council has decided that the most equitable means to hold the meeting would be to simply have it via Zoom so that anyone with access to a phone can take part.

The agenda for the meeting will include updates on ministry and building repairs, election of officers and congregation council members, and presentation of a budget for our mission together in 2021. We have included a copy of the budget with this communication, and we encourage you to review it and to contact Pastor Ross or Treasurer Kelly Spaninger with any questions and we will do our best to answer them.

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church Congregational Meeting

Time: Dec 13, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Three ways to join Zoom Meeting:

1) One-step method with direct link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81573015071?pwd=ZERTbnBnWGIDMWZBdXpTTmR3bUc5dz09>

2) Step-by-step method

A) Go to zoom.us

B) Click “Join a Meeting”

C) Type in the Meeting ID: 815 7301 5071

D) Enter the Passcode: Meeting

3) Dial in on your audio-only phone and enter the Meeting ID and Numerical Passcode

+13126266799,,81573015071#,,,,,0#,,7441243# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,81573015071#,,,,,0#,,7441243# US (New York)

Passcode: 7441243

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81573015071?pwd=ZERTbnBnWGIDMWZBdXpTTmR3bUc5dz09>

St. Andrew Seeking Office Help

St. Andrew is need of a few people to help with office tasks. Please see the list below. If you are able to help, or have questions, please contact Chris Atwood at director.faith.formation@standrewpittsburgh.org or 724-208-9169.

•**Editing and proofreading** - We are looking for a few people willing to edit and proofread the newsletter once a month, as well as other documents periodically.

•**Assembling and mailing** - We are looking for a few people willing to help assemble and mail the newsletter once a month (we currently mail out about 35 copies to people in our community without computer or internet access.

•**Filing Documents** - We are looking for a few people willing to help come to church two times a month and file documents in the cabinets.

•**Updating the Electronic Reader Board** - We are looking for someone willing to keep the outdoor LED sign up to date and with current information. This can be done remotely via the internet but does need to be done weekly.

Christmas Outreach — Giant Eagle Gift Cards for Clients in Need at Allies for Health and Wellbeing

For St. Andrew's Christmas/Holiday outreach this year, we are collecting Giant Eagle gift cards in the amounts of either \$10 or \$20 for Allies for Health and Wellbeing. Their mission is: "To improve health and wellbeing, Allies provides integrated medical care, supportive human services, and community-based education for individuals living with, or at risk of HIV, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections." Allies gives their clients \$20 Giant Eagle gift cards for the holidays, but they never have enough to provide for everyone. So that they may give the same gift to all, please **ONLY donate GIANT EAGLE cards in the amount of either \$10 or \$20**. Please place cards in an envelope labeled "Allies" and drop through the mail slot in the back office door of St Andrew.

Sunday Worship via Phone, Tablet, or Computer

For the time being, St. Andrew's primary worship service each week will remain online. There are several options:

Zoom, 10:00 a.m. – The Zoom platform allows people of the congregation to interact with one another before and after the service. Sign on or call in starting at 9:45 a.m. Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.

Facebook, 10:00 a.m. – Worship (which currently is pre-recorded, will be posted to Facebook at 10:00 a.m. www.facebook.com/standrewlutheranchurchpgh/

YouTube – Worship will be posted to St. Andrew's YouTube channel, making it available to watch at any convenient time. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjNotsDrdK70XkmEYiutY8Q/videos>

St. Andrew Web Page – Worship will also be posted to our website, www.standrewpittsburgh.org, for viewing at your convenience.

For those accessing the service via Zoom, there are three ways to enter:

1) The one-step method

Click the following link, which includes an encrypted version of the password.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84733322183?pwd=UStXUEN4c2FvNE5LY21uczAvbExHQOT09>

2) The step-by-step method a) go to zoom.us b) click "join a meeting" c) type in the Meeting ID: 847 3332 2183 d) then the passcode: worship

3) Dial in on your audio-only phone and put in the Meeting ID and numerical passcode.

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84733322183#,,,,,0#,,2005177# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,84733322183#,,,,,0#,,2005177# US (New York)

Meeting ID: 847 3332 2183, Passcode: 2005177

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84733322183>

Camp Agape Recruiting Workers for Summer 2021

Camp Agape in Hickory, PA, an outdoor ministry of the Lutheran church, is recruiting for summer positions in 2021, from May 30th - August 5th. The camp is hiring:

- Camp Chaplain
- Camp Counselors and Assistant Counselors
- Lifeguards
- Program Assistant
- Day Camp Assistants
- Health Room Assistant
- Kitchen Assistant

Employment includes room, board, and meals. Applicants must be 18 years or older. Please contact Karen Reardon at campagapeprogramdirector@gmail.com to apply.

Advent Opportunities

Advent Calendar Daily Devotional

This Advent we have made a Daily Scripture cards advent calendar, which you can print and cut out to use at home. You can also follow along on Facebook and YouTube. If you have questions, or would like additional resources, please contact Chris Atwood at director.faith.formation@standrewpittsburgh.org or 724-208-9169.

Holden Evening Prayer Services

The season of Advent, a time of waiting and active preparation for the coming of Christ, began on Sunday, November 29th. This is a time when churches have traditionally held additional services for prayer and reflection in the middle of each week. This year, St. Andrew will provide a service of Holden Evening Prayer, a contemplative worship setting, on the Wednesdays of Advent: **December 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd**. These services will not be livestreamed or include a Zoom gathering—they will simply be prerecorded and available for people to access at their convenience via Facebook or YouTube. Blessings in your Advent devotions!

Community Cohorts Return

Community Cohorts will be back for the four weeks of Advent. We will be meeting on Wednesdays in December - the **2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd** at **6:00 p.m.** We will be in cohorts of up to ten (10) units. Units are households that live together. They can be single persons, families, roommates, couples, or any other household constellation. We will meet on Zoom as one large group for a gathering activity, then split into our cohorts for the activities of the week. Then the group will come back together for a prayer and blessing at the end. [Sign up Here.](#)

Christmas Pageant via Zoom — Sunday, December 20th

During this most unusual Advent, we are unable to gather in person to share the Christmas music we love. However, in true 2020 fashion, we are excited to host a casual Christmas Pageant via Zoom! All households are invited to sign up to perform a carol, share a reading, or simply tune in and join the chorus at the end. Our Christmas Pageant Zoom Social will be held on the Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, at 3:00 p.m. You can register for a performance slot or RSVP as an audience member [HERE](#).

We Continue “Brightening the Corners” of our World — Invitation to Commitment for 2021

Now that St. Andrew has completed our “Brightening the Corner” painting project, as we move into the season of Advent we look ahead to where the light of Christ will lead us in the year ahead. We seek to continue brightening the corners of God’s beloved world not just at Centre and Morewood but in all the places God takes us in our daily life and ministry.

Our focus on God’s call to be good and faithful stewards of our gifts continues over the next two weeks. We will explore how about God has brightened our lives even in the midst of a painful and difficult year, and discern our call to share the light of Christ more fully in help and support of others. The focus will culminate on Sunday, December 13th with an invitation to commitment and the opportunity to make a financial pledge through St. Andrew for the year ahead.

As we do this, we are reminded that we offer our gifts not primarily to support a budget, but as an act of worship and trust in God’s goodness and our embrace of God’s reign in every aspect of our lives. We invite you to watch for a letter and commitment card in the mail in the upcoming week, along with third quarter giving statements. Thank you for the gifts you share as we renew our commitment to the mission and minister of Christ’s church in the year ahead.

Pen Pals for Children of St. Andrew

This fall, in an effort to help the children and youth of the congregation feel better connected to the congregation, St. Andrew is launching "Pen Pals for Children." Every month, each child will receive a card, letter, drawing, postcard, or some other form of mail from an appointed adult pen pal. If you do not want your child to participate, or if you are an adult who would like to be a pen pal, please reach out to Director of Faith Formation Chris Atwood at 724-208-9169 or by email at director.faith.formation@standrewpittsburgh.org.

Advocacy Opportunities

There is an easy way to connect to advocacy opportunities through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Advocacy Center and Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa). You can sign up for ELCA Advocacy Alerts via email at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy?ga=2.100603678.1476695542.1594990714-1992371135.1579724075> or visit the Advocacy Action Center to see the latest topics being discussed and voted on. LAMPa also has an email signup for Action Alerts at <https://www.lutheranadvocacy.org/get-involved/actionet/>. The links will often provide you with sample language and connect you directly with your elected officials!

Brightening the Corner Painting Project Completed and Fundraising Goal Reached!

St. Andrew received a historic preservation matching grant from the Pittsburgh History and Landmarks Foundation for the restoration and painting of exterior wood around the windows and doors of the church. The work was completed in September, and we are pleased to announce that we have surpassed our fundraising goal of \$10,000! Thank you very much to everyone who has donated! The overall cost of the project was just over \$23,000, so if you are still considering a donation, or have not yet sent yours, please know that we will welcome them through the end of the calendar year. Use the self-addressed, stamped envelope enclosed with the letter (check may be made to St. Andrew Lutheran Church, with "PHLF Matching Grant" in the memo line. Gifts can also be made at www.standrewpittsburgh.org with the "Donate Online" button. Please enter your donation in the "Special Funding Drive" section.

Stewardship Thanks

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting St. Andrew through offerings online, through your banks, and by mail this year. Your gifts have helped to keep the congregation going during this challenging economic time. While the forms of our ministry have changed, St. Andrew's work of loving, caring for, and supporting God's people continues. Thank you as always for the many ways you support the congregation's ministry. You can easily give using this link: www.standrewpittsburgh.org
https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?aver3=wWsk24ZWJSTZKsGd1RMKlg0BDvsSG3

Letters to St. Andrew

From Reconciling Works — Dear Community of St. Andrew Lutheran, Thank you for your gift of \$25! It will be put to good use supporting the Reconciling in Christ program. Blessings, Aubrey Thonvold, Executive Director.

From Paulette Houston — It was wonderful to hear that St. Andrew has been chosen to receive a grant to restore and help with repairs. The building has been a welcoming presence for all who entered. May the grant help the congregation remain the welcoming and loving place that always gave me comfort when I attended and that I so fondly remembered. God bless your mission in administering Christ's word to so many.

In Our Prayers

St. Andrew continues to provide prayer support to those in need. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please email st.a.prayer.team@gmail.com or St_andrewELCA@verizon.net. If you have a prayer request for yourself, your family, or friends, please email those requests as well.



We pray for St. Andrew... for the pastors associated with our congregation: **Pastors Ross, Janet and Keith, Bob, Bruce, Deb, Dona, Erin, Kim, Jocelyn, Larry, Martin, Melissa, Paul, Peter, and Sarah**; for discernment and wisdom as we seek new ways of sharing the Gospel; for safety and protection for the congregation and community as we resume some activities in the building.



We pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and **Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**; for the **Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, Bishop Kurt Kusserow**, and our **Assistants to the Bishop, Pastor Peter Asplin** and **Pastor Melissa Stoller**; for **Bethesda Lutheran Services** and the **Growing Young Initiative**; for our companion church, the **Tulear Synod of the Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar** and its **bishops, Modeste and Octave Benil Andrianjafy**.

For the United States and its people, that all may know justice and peace; for the president, **Donald Trump**; president-elect **Joe Biden**, and all our elected officials. For God's blessing upon all nations, especially those suffering from internal strife, oppression, violence, and terrorism; for those who suffer from the effects of natural disasters; for all who serve in the armed forces, especially **Aaron Bott, Eric, and Teddy**.

For healing... for all who are sick with covid-19 and for those grieving loved ones who have lost their lives to the virus; for all who work in healthcare; for those in the hospital, including **John Pino**; for those undergoing or recovering from surgery: **Ian Brown, Carol Chonoska, Taumi Kalcich, Paul Rehwald, Tom Swanson** (Christy Ruhe's dad), and **Alex Welker**.



For awareness and mindfulness on World AIDS Day (December 1st), for support for those living with HIV/AIDS, and in memory of those who have died from an AIDS-related illness.



For those with cancer, especially **Luther Rinehart, Joni Novoselic, Tucker, Cyndy, Bob, Bob Sabol, Rachel Bekelja, Rafaela, Paul Bonenberger, Joanne Black, Crystal, Cindy, Kim, Jim Aiello, Rhonda, and Cheryl Zalanski**.

For those whose needs are ongoing: **Ruth Krug, Larry Lash, Marissa, Rhonda, Matthew Sill, Mary Sommerfeld, and Hal Wilcox**.

For all who are in need or who have requested our prayers: **Amy Bartoli, Linda Boslett, David Conrad** (Conrad Kalcich's uncle), **Giovanna, Beth Hermann, Renee Jordan, Pastor Sarah Lee-Faulkner** and **Rachel**, and **Abigail Litz**.

For those with special needs: for those who are unemployed, who are furloughed, and all who have suffered financial loss due to the coronavirus; for those seeking racial justice and equity; for the LGBTQIA+ community; for unaccompanied minors, migrants, and refugees, and for parents and children separated from one another, especially at the border; for those who are differently-abled; for those who are in prison; for all who are awaiting additions to their families; for those who are in discernment and those who are making difficult decisions; for those who travel; for those with addictions; for those in difficult or disintegrating relationships; for those who have personally experienced the fragility of life; and for those who mourn.

We pray in thanksgiving ... for God's love and grace given abundantly in Word and Sacrament; for the Christian community and the gift of the Holy Spirit; and the many ways God continues to bless us.



For all the saints; for those who have recently died: **Jo Arney** (Jennifer Novelli's cousin), **Coszette** (Sue Gaugler's aunt), **Dorothy Maravalli** (Pastor Bob Maravalli's mother and Jeff Denlinger's mother-in-law), **Diane Steinmiller**, and **Alexander Tribble** (Joy and David Givens' family member); for the promise of the resurrection to eternal life, that it would bring comfort and hope to all who mourn.

Free Fresh Produce at St. Andrew Tuesday, December 1st from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

St. Andrew continues its Produce to People Distribution following the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank's current precautionary guidelines: with masks, no-touch sign-ins, and pre-packaged food brought directly to people's cars (when applicable). If you would like to help, assistance is needed at 11:30 a.m. until the delivery arrives to unload the truck, then at 5:00 p.m. to help move food outside, record names and direct cars, then to distribute food boxes from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080544AAAC22A1F58-produce5>.

East End Cooperative Ministries Shelter Dinner Thursday, December 17th

St. Andrew provides a meal once a month, on the third Thursday, for guests at East End Cooperative Ministries (EECM) in East Liberty (6140 Station St., 15206). This month, we will deliver our dishes to the front desk of the shelter by 5:30 p.m., so please use containers you do not want returned to you. We will not stay and help serve the meal.

Emergency Food Pantry

St. Andrew is continuously restocking our Emergency Food Pantry and Little Library for our neighbors. Items for this month will be the same as last month: easy-open pastas like ravioli or Spaghettios and Energy Bars. If you would like to donate, the items can be left in the bin by the back office door to the church.

Ten Thousand Villages Shopping to Benefit St. Andrew

St Andrew has traditionally sponsored an annual Christmas shopping night at the Ten Thousand Villages store in Squirrel Hill. Ten Thousand Villages strives to create opportunities for artisans in developing countries to earn income by bringing their products to their stores. Things are different this year. There will not be a dedicated shopping event at the store, but there are still opportunities to support these artisans AND share a portion of your purchase proceeds with St. Andrew **ANYTIME from November 16th to December 12th**.

1. Shop at the store in person and at checkout identify that you would like your purchase share to go to St Andrew Lutheran Church.
2. Use the store's physical or online catalog, call the store to place your order ,and mention St Andrew LUTHER-AN <https://simplebooklet.com/holiday2020fundraisingcatalog> Curbside pickup is available.
3. Use the Pittsburgh store's online Square Store. <https://ten-thousand-villages-pittsburgh.square.site/> (This is NOT the same as ordering online at the main tenthousandvillages.com website.) We will soon provide a coupon code for the Square Store site that will credit your purchase toward St Andrew.

ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS
CATALOG



If you are looking for additional ways to make a difference this Christmas, please take a look at the ELCA Good Gifts catalog, which allows you to share your gifts with people around the world. Purchase anything from a pack of chicks to a set of vaccinations where needed. Check out <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> and order online. We will not distribute paper catalogs this year.

December Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Benjamin Koch
- 2 Mark Difilippo
- 5 Pastor Susan Schwartz
- 6 Charlotte Scott
John Tymitz
- 7 Monica van Beek
- 8 Eleanor Joy Kennedy
- 9 Wayne Sommerfeld
- 11 David Chapman
Eilidh Chapman
Cassie Lepsch
Stephen Sue
- 12 Timothy Klitsch
- 17 Lee Szymkiewicz
- 18 Sheena Van Dyke
- 20 Noelle Armor
- 21 Micah Byrum
- 26 Leslie Montgomery
- 28 Erna Gambogi
- 29 Randy Aiello Winslow
- 30 Jason Kennedy
- 31 Debi Caraway



Anniversaries

- 27 Pastor Paul and Sharon Koch, 1969
30 Mike and Renee Sallach

Thank You!

... to **Sarita Doshi, Ty and Amanda Best, Colten Rohleder, Kristen Asplin, JoAnn Chonoska, and Jimmi Kocher-Hillmer** for their contributions to worship on Sunday, November 1st.

... to **Chris Atwood, Sue and Scott Gaugler, Song Jian, and Hal Wilcox** for serving at produce distribution Tuesday, November 3rd.

... to **Maria Mangano, Jeff Denlinger, and Richard Krug** for their contributions to worship on Sunday, November 8th.

... to **Bishop Kurt Kusserow and Women Pastors of the SWPA Synod** for leading worship in conjunction with Synod Assembly on Sunday, November 15th, in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Lutheran church in the U.S.

... to **Vicki Al-Ebrahim, Sue and Scott Gaugler, Richard Krug, Doug Lash, and Dixie and John Tymitz** for preparing food for the East End Cooperative Ministry Shelter Dinner on Thursday, November 19th.

... to **Joy Givens, Richard Krug, Noël Marsh and Colten Rohleder, Joseph Paetz, and Matthew Tesch** for their contributions to worship on Sunday, November 22nd.

... to **Kristen Asplin, Amanda and Ty Best, Sue Gaugler, Joy Givens, Jimmi and Timothy Kocher-Hillmer, Maria Mangano and David Rollinson, and Rebecca Sue** for their contributions to worship on Sunday, November 29th.

... to **Sharon Koch** for coordinating musicians and singers for worship.

... to **Chad Hermann and Chris Atwood** for their work editing videos for Sunday worship.

... to **Kristen Asplin and Amanda Best** for serving as Zoom hosts for worship on Sundays.

... to **Chris Atwood and Karen Shaffer** for preparing meals for people in the congregation on Thanksgiving.

... to **Jeff Denlinger** for coordinating this year's stewardship focus, and to the **Kalcich Family** and **Vanessa Brown** for sharing their stories.

... to **Joseph Paetz, Jonathan Paetz, and Laura Reynolds** for leading Holden Evening Prayer services during Advent.

In Sympathy

We offer sympathies and prayers for the family and friends of those beloved by the St. Andrew community who have passed away since the November newsletter was published.

Jo Arney

Coszette

Dorothy Maravalli

Diane Steinmiller

Alexander Tribble

*Rest eternal grant them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Borrowing a Hymnal

Hymnals are available for home use until we gather again at church for worship. Sign up at the link below and we will deliver one to your home. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/XVT8H6S>

Celebrations of the Season: Lights Across Pittsburgh

December 17th, 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

This event will be a celebration of Pittsburgh's diversity presented by JCC PGH Center for Loving Kindness, Christian Associates of Southwest PA, and the Frick Pittsburgh. A demonstration of holiday lighting rituals will be followed by a roundtable discussion, led by Rabbi Ron Symons of the Jewish Community Center and Rev. Liddy Barlow of Christian Associates of Southwest Pennsylvania. Including Tracy Baton, Pittsburgh Mennonite Church member; Rev. Canon Eric McIntosh of St. James Episcopal Church in Penn Hills; Rabbi Aaron Meyer of Temple Emanuel of the South Hills; Rev. Jane Thickstun of North Hills Unitarian Universalist Church; KS "Venkat" Venkataraman, Hindu community member; The Rodman Street Missionary Baptist Church choir.

Panelists will reflect on: What connections do we see across these traditions? How do these traditions inspire us to find hope and move toward acts of service and kindness? What inspiration can these traditions offer to our city at the ending of such a challenging year?

Register at [Celebrations of the Season: Lights Across Pittsburgh \(thefrickpittsburgh.org\)](https://thefrickpittsburgh.org)

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) Hope for the Holidays Campaign

In an effort to bring hope and light to thousands of migrants in the United States, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service has launched its sixth-annual **Hope for the Holidays** campaign. The program collects cards and gifts for distribution at migrant detention centers across the country and at shelters along the border, reminding individuals and families that they are not forgotten during the holiday season. Download the toolkit to send a message of hope at:

[Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service \(list-manage.com\)](https://list-manage.com).

Lutheran Disaster Response—Hurricanes Eta and Iota

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

On November 2nd, Hurricane Eta, a powerful Category 4 storm, hit Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala. Throughout Central America, at least 171 people died. Winds as high as 150 mph caused power outages and structural damage while heavy rains caused catastrophic flooding and landslides, damaging homes, crops, roads, and bridges. Just two weeks later, Hurricane Iota made landfall in Nicaragua, 15 miles from where Hurricane Eta had made landfall. Iota was the first Category 5 hurricane of the 2020 season, but it weakened to a Category 4 hurricane as it made landfall. It brought strong winds and rains to areas already devastated by Hurricane Eta, hampering any ongoing recovery.

To assess the immediate needs and initiate a response, Lutheran Disaster Response is engaging with many companion churches and ecumenical partners in the region, including ACT Alliance, Iglesia Cristiana Luterana de Honduras, Comisión de Acción Social Menonita, Church World Service, Iglesia Luterana Augustina de Guatemala, and Iglesia Luterana de Nicaragua "Fe y Esperanza." While the extent of the damage is not yet known, we will accompany devastated communities from immediate relief through long-term recovery. This is an important part of Christ's call on our church.

[Please give today. Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those whose lives have been devastated by hurricanes Eta and Iota. Gifts designated for "Hurricane Response" will be used entirely \(100%\) for direct response until it is complete.](#)

Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support for those whose lives have been impacted by hurricanes. Please join me in prayer and partnership, and stay connected to the latest events and our response to this and other disasters through the Disaster Response [Facebook](#) page.

Sundays - 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

December 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Produce Distribution – 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	2 6:00 p.m.—Community Co- horts	3	4	5
6 + Advent 2 10:00 a.m.—Worship Online 5:00 p.m.—Youth Night	7	8	9 6:00 p.m.—Community Co- horts	10	11	12
13 + Advent 3 10:00 a.m.—Worship Online 11:00 a.m. - Congrega- tional Meeting (Zoom) 5:00 p.m.—Youth Night	14	17	16 Newsletter Deadline 6:00 p.m.—Community Co- horts	17 7:00 p.m.— Shelter Dinner	18	19
20 + Advent 4 10:00 a.m.—Worship Online 3:00 p.m.—Christmas Pageant via Zoom	21	22	23 6:00 p.m.—Community Co- horts	24 + Christmas Eve Worship TBD	25 Christmas Day	26
27 + Christmas 1 10:00 a.m.—Worship Online	28	29	30	31		