

## 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  
**Pastor Ross Carmichael** 773-428-0310  
**President Sue Sabol** 412-608-9056  
**Director of Faith Formation Chris Atwood** 724-208-9169  
**Newsletter Information** 412-682-3342

*Blessings to You this New Year, St. Andrew!*

*We pray for God's blessings for a safe and healthy 2021, filled with peace, hope, and joy, for the people of the congregation and community.*

### In-Person Gatherings On Hold

We at St. Andrew remain committed to protecting the health and safety of congregations members and people of the larger community. We have been operating under the guidance of our Synod Bishop, The Rev. Kurt Kusserow, and his recommendation not to hold any gatherings in person, along with the public health advisories and mitigation efforts from Allegheny County and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Church activities will remain online, with no in-person, indoor worship, meetings, or gatherings, until further notice. Produce distribution will continue outdoors with precautions in place according to the requirements of the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank.

Please watch for additional updates and announcements in the upcoming weeks. In this Christmas season, we give thanks for the gift of Immanuel, God with us, our Savior Jesus Christ, and the promise of hope he brings, even in the midst of difficult, troubling times.

### Women of the ELCA Gathering August 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>, 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](http://www.welcatg.org).

## January 2021

### 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, January 5<sup>th</sup>  
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

**East End Cooperative Ministries  
Shelter Dinner**  
Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>  
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 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

# We are never alone

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



The room was spare and dimly lit. We sat on folding chairs in a circle—young Honduran women and some of us from the ELCA. We had come to Honduras to observe the work of AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). This is the ELCA's strategy to help youth who have been forced to flee their home countries because of violence, abuse, extortion by gangs and extreme poverty. *Amparo* is the Spanish word for shelter or refuge.

In this case, AMMPARO partnered with the Lutheran World Federation and the Mennonites to resettle returned migrants—those who had tried to seek asylum in the United States but had failed or had been denied and deported back to Honduras.

One by one they told us their stories of fear and desperation. Not a one undertook the long and dangerous trek north on a whim. They told us about the abuse they had suffered, about family members who had been killed by gangs, about the inability to make a living because of the extortion by organized crime. They talked about the bitter sadness of leaving home and family, and the uncertainty of the future.

I remember one young woman in particular. She was pregnant when she tried to migrate to the United States. She had the baby somewhere along the way. She was far from home, mostly alone and desperately wanted her mother to be with her. None of this is what she had hoped for when she was growing up. Circumstances beyond her control had forced her into this new and strange existence. She and her baby were now back in Honduras—but not at home. Home was too dangerous.

Remember last Christmas? Remember all of the preparations, the travel to be with family? Remember the holy beauty of the Christmas Eve liturgy and receiving Christ's grace and forgiveness at his table? The shopping and Christmas caroling? The in-person gatherings? All that has changed.

The pandemic hasn't forced us from our homes but into our homes, sheltering in place, isolated. Not together, but physically distanced. Not gathered with family and friends, but forced apart because of the threat of infection. Forced by circumstances beyond our control into this strange existence. Oh, there will be Christmas carols piped into grocery stores and other essential services, but they will be painful reminders of how life used to be.

We are reminded of the experience of the exiles in Babylon: "By the rivers of Babylon—there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our harps. For there our captives asked us for songs, and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying, 'Sing us one of the songs of Zion!' How could we sing the Lord's song in a foreign land" (Psalm 137)?

I told the young Honduran woman about another young woman who was forced to leave home because of a government decree. She, too, was pregnant and made a long and difficult journey. She, too, was far from home and without her mother when the baby came. She had to find shelter wherever she could. This wasn't what she had hoped for when she was growing up. Circumstances beyond her control had forced her into this new existence.

That young woman was Mary and the child was Jesus. Precisely in our distress, in our dislocation, the Lord shows up. Emmanuel—God with us—makes his home in the very places we find foreign or isolating. The young Honduran woman, and all of us, can find hope because of the birth of Mary's child. There is no God-forsaken place and we are never alone—not in hospital rooms, or sheltering in place, or Zoom calls or on dangerous roads.

Many of us will not be physically home for Christmas, but we are truly home in Christ.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

*As seen in the December 2020 issue of Living Lutheran.*

## From the Pastor

<sup>1</sup>*Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.*

<sup>2</sup>*For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.*

<sup>3</sup>*Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

Isaiah 60: 1-3, + The Epiphany of our Lord, January 6<sup>th</sup>

<sup>9</sup>*When [the Magi] had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them,  
went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.*

<sup>10</sup>*When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.*

Matthew 2: 9-10, + The Epiphany of our Lord, January 6<sup>th</sup>

One appearance every 800 years!

And it's cloudy. And rainy.

There was much excitement on December 21<sup>st</sup> as people across the northern hemisphere eagerly awaited sight of what many have speculated was the "Christmas Star" that led the Magi to the newborn Jesus. You probably read or heard about it, but the phenomenon is the convergence of Jupiter and Saturn, which align so closely in the night sky that they create a radiant light, not having done so this brightly since March 4<sup>th</sup>, 1226.

And in Pittsburgh, recently ranked the fourth-gloomiest city in the U.S. based on the number of cloudy days we have, we couldn't see it. That's a pretty big deal to miss out on, and I couldn't help but feel disappointed.

To be fair, I am writing this on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, so by the time you are reading you may have had an opportunity to see the "Bethlehem Star," even if it was not quite as bright as on the 21<sup>st</sup>. But missing out on it altogether? That would be such a shame, knowing that most of us will not likely have such a chance again.

This past year has offered us countless, often heartbreaking reminders that so much of life is fleeting, and that once a moment has passed, it cannot be recovered. Thus, it's in our nature to ponder what-ifs about the opportunities we've missed, the disappointments we've experienced. We may later look back on that week in December 2020 in the same way – what would we have felt if we saw it? Would it have restored some of our wonder and joy around the celebration of Christmas, especially in that incredibly difficult year?

This line of thinking is often unproductive, but I don't know of many people who can avoid it. We may also ponder what might have happened with the story of Jesus' birth, and God's gift of good news, if the Magi had encountered a cloudy week instead of seeing that brilliant star. Instead of dwelling on that, though, I find reassurance in the testimonies that come again and again throughout our Holy Scriptures—that even in less than ideal circumstances, God will find a way. God will make a way. God will do what God will do. God's kingdom will come, as Martin Luther wrote of the Lord's Prayer, independent of any effort of our own. We just pray that we are able to recognize it and participate in it.

Time and time again, God makes a way, not just through things whose images and symbols we treasure, but even in what the world deems less desirable, or even problematic. While Epiphany and the season that follows are filled with contrasting images of light and darkness, we know from the scripture that these images are not the whole story. God is present in the light and the darkness. At creation God made light and darkness and called them both "good." God led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt not just with a pillar of fire by night but also by a pillar of cloud by day. At the Transfiguration, which concludes the season after Epiphany, a cloud overshadows the three disciples who are with Jesus on the mountain, and from that cloud comes the gift of further revelation of who Jesus is, as a voice from heaven says, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

We are beginning a new year, but my guess is that after the 2020 we have had, even with vaccines starting to be administered, it will not be as easy as usual to muster excitement or look with hopeful expectation to joyous new beginnings. But this Christmas, we have heard once again the promise of Immanuel, God with us. We know that in Jesus Christ, God is present, amid our humanity, in all our sorrows and fears as well as our hopes and dreams, in our darkness and in our light. We may still face challenges and disappointments, we may lament moments and opportunities that we will never get back. But whether we are able to see the Light of Christ shining brilliantly or we struggle to see through all the clouds, we know that in both places, both circumstances, God is present. God is faithful. God is at work, bringing grace upon grace and the promise of new life, through Jesus Christ, who continues his revelation among us this Christmas, this Epiphany, and beyond.

In Christ,  
Pastor Ross Carmichael

---

## 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 for accessing worship:

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/](http://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](http://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](http://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/u/kbyJ8Ox75>

## 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>

## 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.

## + The Epiphany of our Lord — Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> Worship Online with the ELCA!

The Church celebrates + The Epiphany of our Lord every year on January 6<sup>th</sup>, following the twelve days of the Christmas season. Epiphany tells the story of Jesus' revelation to all the nations of the world (as represented by the Magi) by the shining of a star. The bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) who were installed in 2019 are leading an online Epiphany service this year at 8:00 p.m. on January 6<sup>th</sup>. This event will be live on Synodical web sites and Facebook pages across the ELCA, including the Southeastern Synod ([elca-ses.org](http://elca-ses.org)) and the Metropolitan Chicago Synod ([mcselca.org](http://mcselca.org)). We encourage people of St. Andrew to share in this festival day along with the larger church! For any questions or details about this service, please contact Bishop Kevin L. Strickland ([Bishop@elca-ses.org](mailto:Bishop@elca-ses.org)) or Pastor Michael Jannett, Assistant to the Bishop, Southeastern Synod ([Mjannett@elca-ses.org](mailto:Mjannett@elca-ses.org)).

# + The Baptism of our Lord — Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## Thanksgiving for Baptism and Blessing of Light

The church celebrates + The Baptism of our Lord on the first Sunday after Epiphany each year. As we recall the story of Jesus' Baptism by John in the Jordan River, we take time to remember and give thanks for our own Baptism. We invite everyone to bring a candle to worship with you for worship on Sunday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, especially if you have your own baptismal candle. At the beginning of worship, we will give thanks for those who have been baptized in the past year and offer praise to God for the gifts and promises of Baptism. The season that follows Epiphany is symbolized by the shining star that led the Magi to the newborn Jesus, and the season following that festival day celebrates the revelation of the good news of Christ Jesus to all the world. In that spirit, we will offer a Blessing of Light (as represented by the candles) in conjunction with our Thanksgiving for Baptism, as we continue responding to God's call: "Let your light so shine before others, that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven."

---

## Summary of St. Andrew's Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

Each year, usually in November, St. Andrew holds its annual congregational meeting, at which we elect members to serve on council and approve a budget for our ministry in the coming year. Reflective of the year 2020, we had to make adjustments to our custom and held this year's meeting via Zoom on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting, we did approve the budget for 2021, sent to the congregation in advance of the meeting, and we elected officers and council members. We thank the following individuals for their willingness to serve in positions of leadership in the congregation:

### *Newly Elected*

President - Sue Sabol  
Vice President - Lester Prince  
Secretary - Jan Kurth  
Treasurer - Kelly Spaninger  
Financial Secretary - David Rollinson  
Worship Liaison - Kristen Asplin  
Evangelism Liaison - Chad Hermann  
Stewardship Liaison - Jeff Denlinger

### *Continuing Service*

Sue Gaugler - Community Ministry  
Joy Givens - Christian Education  
Sue Gaugler - Community Ministry  
Jason Galyardt - Congregational Ministry  
Karl Faulkner - Property

Pastor Ross also shared a few developments and considerations for 2021. These included:

- 1) Establishment of a Congregational Assistance Fund for people in need within the congregation, which was a topic of thoughtful discussion, in which the council was encouraged to be intentional in structuring how decisions would be made about such funds.
- 2) Proposed changes to the Congregation Constitution, which would include a general election of 12 leaders to the congregation council, which would then elect its own officers and agree upon an area of focus for each council member. The duration of council terms would also change from three years to two.
- 3) A cursory assessment of the ongoing needs of the building and related costs. Major needs include replacement of windows, both upstairs and on the main level of the office wing, many of which are deteriorating; restoration of the stained glass windows in the sanctuary, the overall cost of which could be prohibitive, but which could be addressed in stages if the congregation is able and willing to commit \$3000-\$6000 per year toward the work; and the kitchen, which was damaged by water, required asbestos remediation, and will require an investment in a new ceiling, coverage for the walls, and likely new cabinets if the congregation wants to restore it to good working order.

We emphasized that a pandemic, especially when we have been unable to use the building as we would like, is not an appropriate time for making major decisions about our trajectory. Pastor Ross and Council did want to make sure the congregation is aware of what lies ahead and the difficult decisions and prioritizations that could be involved, so that we have time to plan intentionally and thoughtfully about how best to move forward in regard to the building and its needs.

We thank everyone who participated in the meeting, and we are grateful to all of you for your contributions to the community and ministries of St. Andrew!

---

## Letters to St. Andrew

### From Pastor Bob Maravalli

It was so kind of you to send to me such a beautiful plant to celebrate my mom's life. As you know, the garden is my place of solace and reflection, and to bring a sense of life indoors during this "dark winter" brings consolation and joy to my heart. Thank you.

Bob Maravalli

### From Richard Krug, Executive Director of Shepherd Wellness Center

Dear Hearts and Hands Ministry at St. Andrew:

On behalf of our members, volunteers, board members, and staff, I would like to thank you for your donation of crocheted scarves made by Sue Sabol to the Shepherd Wellness Community.

Shepherd Wellness Community is the only HIV/AIDS community in Western Pennsylvania. Our mission is helping people living with HIV/AIDS improve their wellness.

Your generous contribution makes our work possible and we sincerely appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Krug, Executive Director

*"What a blessing to have my congregation support Shepherd Wellness Community! Our thanks not only to Sue for all her beautiful work, but also to Sue Gaugler for the offer and delivery of the wonderful scarves. Our members at SWC will be blessed!" Richard*

### From ReconcilingWorks

Dear partners in ministry at St. Andrew,

On behalf of ReconcilingWorks, thank you for your recent donation of \$25.00 which we received on 11/4/2020.

ReconcilingWorks strives, in partnership with you, to create a church where all LGBTQIA+ people can experience God's genuine welcome, inclusion, and celebration. The Reconciling in Christ journey along with being active and present at Synodical and Churchwide events where advocacy, education and movement building happens is only possible because of you. **See what your contribution makes possible: [www.ReconcilingWorks.org/WhyGive](http://www.ReconcilingWorks.org/WhyGive).**

Much joy,

Aubrey Thonvold, Executive Director

### From Margie Visconti

Wishing You a Merry Christmas and a new year filled with happy delights! And love!

Dear Pastor Ross and the St. Andrew Community,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to Everyone!

Love,

Margie Visconti

### From Brian Redmond

Dear St. Andrew,

Merry Christmas and happy new year to you. Best wishes.

Brian Redmond

# In Our Prayers

St. Andrew continues to provide support for people in need through the ministry of prayer.

*As we begin a new year, we are restarting the prayer list.*

*At times there have been names on the prayer list for such a long time that we are no longer aware of who made the request or how to follow up. The concerns below reflect the current requests we are aware of and have received from the congregation as of the time of publication.*

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, or if you have a prayer request, please email [st.a.prayer.team@gmail.com](mailto:st.a.prayer.team@gmail.com) or [St\\_andrewELCA@verizon.net](mailto:St_andrewELCA@verizon.net).

Thank you all for your ministry of prayer!

**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.

**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 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** and president-elect **Joseph Biden** in this month of transition. For all our elected officials and for those who serve in the armed forces. 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 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; for those undergoing or recovering from surgery: **Carol Chonoska, Paul Rehwald, and Tom Swanson**.

**For those with cancer**, including **Bonnie Adelson, John Aitken, Paul Bonenberger, Luther Rinehart, Bob Sabol, and Sonya**.

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

For all who are in need or who have requested our prayers: **Leah Carlisle, David Conrad, Dave, Giovanna, Beth Hermann, Rachel Faulkner and her family, Abigail Litz, and Marsha Young**.

**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 those living with HIV/AIDS; for unaccompanied minors, migrants, and refugees, and for parents and children separated from one another; 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, including the **DaLonzo Family, Nancy, C.E. Pino and Miranda Pino**.

**We pray in thanksgiving ...** for Christmas and the gift of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh; for God's love and grace given in Baptism and through the Word; 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: **Betty Calvacca, Joe DaLonzo** (friend of the Kalcich family), **Sean McKenna, and John Pino**; for the promise of the resurrection to eternal life, that it would bring comfort and hope

---

## January Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 2 Kitty Brunkhorst
- 3 Joshua Givens
- 4 Natalie Armor  
David Sue  
Iris Valenta  
Alex Welker
- 11 Tyler Sallach
- 13 JoAnn Chonoska  
Zachary Zobrist
- 15 Karen Shaffer
- 17 Bruce Klotz  
Sharon Koch  
Max Novelli
- 20 Adam Stoller
- 21 Peter Moyer
- 23 Christy Ruhe
- 27 Barrett Armor  
Lydia Kovak
- 29 David Sabol

### Anniversaries

- 2 Jimmi and Timothy Kocher-Hillmer
- 17 Pastor Ross Carmichael & Laura Reynolds

## Thank You!

... to **Colleen Cooke, Jimmi and Timothy Kocher-Hillmer, Sue and Scott Gaugler, Christy Ruhe, Song Jian,** and **Hal Wilcox** for serving at produce distribution Tuesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>.

... to the many people of the congregation who contributed daily readings for St. Andrew's online Advent devotional, to **C.E. Pino** for singing "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and to **Chris Atwood** for coordinating the devotional and editing the videos.

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

... to **Amanda and Ty Best, Sue Gaugler,** the **Kalcich Family, Jimmi and Timothy Kocher-Hillmer,** and **Maria Mangano** for their contributions to worship on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>.

... to **Maria Mangano,** clarinet, and the **Asplin Family,** vocals, for leading "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah" during worship throughout Advent.

... to **Nicholas Reeder, Sylvia Reeder, Colleen Cooke, Jimmi and Timothy Kocher-Hillmer,** and **Laura Reynolds** for their contributions to worship on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

... to **Vicki Al-Ebrahim, Scott and Sue Gaugler, Richard Krug, Doug Lash, Solveig Rafanan,** and the **van Beek Family** for preparing food for the East End Cooperative Ministry Shelter Dinner on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup>.

... to **Sue Gaugler, Jimmi and Timothy Kocher-Hillmer, Richard Krug,** and **Lester Prince** for their contributions to worship on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>.

... to **Johanna Asplin, Kristen Asplin, Rebecca and Liam Barrett, Eilidh Chapman, Colleen Cooke, Isabel Doshi, Sarita Doshi, Crispin Galyardt, Sue Gaugler, Joy Givens, Ben Koch, Caley Koch, Jeremy Koch, Samuel Koch, Jimmi and Timothy Kocher-Hillmer, Maria Mangano and David Rollinson, Noël Marsh and Colten Rohleder, Oban McElwain, Alessandro Novelli, Adam Stoller, Pastor Melissa Stoller,** and **Clark van Beek** for their contributions to the Christmas worship service.

... to **Chris Atwood** and **Karen Shaffer** for preparing meals for people of the congregation for Christmas.

... to the **SWPA Synod Staff** and **congregational musicians across the synod** for providing a Service of Lessons and Carols for worship on the First Sunday of Christmas, December 27<sup>th</sup>.

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

... to **Chad Hermann** and **Chris Atwood** for their work editing videos for Sunday, Advent, and Christmas worship services.

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

## 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 December newsletter was published.

**Betty Calvacca**

**Joe DaLonzo**

**Sean McKenna**

**John Pino**

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



## Service Opportunities

### Would You Like to Contribute to Worship?

In November and December, we at St. Andrew moved to a Google “Doc” spreadsheet to organize submissions of music for worship. This has worked well and so we are looking to expand the practice. If you have previously served as a lector, cantor, musician, or assisting minister in worship at St. Andrew, or if you are interested in becoming more involved and contributing to our online worship services, we would be happy to have you participate! We are looking for people to offer a welcome to St. Andrew and our worship, provide an instrumental prelude, sing a hymn or a psalm, read a lesson, pray on behalf of the congregation, or even just share the weekly dismissal (“Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!”). As we continue with our online worship format, we would like these contributions to be submitted recordings, so we have assembled simple instructions that we will send in preparation for any date of service. If you would like to offer your gifts in worship, please feel free to sign up using our Google “Doc” spreadsheet at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XcqfBsJhm6Vn4xhM-e2X3YEQeAnOQjEOVVZkXQE4iBU/edit?usp=sharing>. The first time you go to sign up, you will receive a message about needing permission to access the document — please request permission and access will be granted. Submissions are due one week before each worship service, and the first Sunday for which we are accepting new contributions is January 10<sup>th</sup>, + The Baptism of our Lord. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ross (773.428.0310, [PastorRCarmichael@gmail.com](mailto:PastorRCarmichael@gmail.com)) or worship liaison Kristen Asplin at [kasplin@gmail.com](mailto:kasplin@gmail.com).

### Free Fresh Produce at St. Andrew Tuesday, January 5<sup>th</sup> 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: outdoors 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-produce6>.

### East End Cooperative Ministries Shelter Dinner Thursday, January 21<sup>st</sup>

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.

### 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 30<sup>th</sup> - August 5<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:campagapeprogramdirector@gmail.com) to apply.

## Service Opportunities

### 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](mailto: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.
- **Updating the Electronic Reader Board** - We are looking for a person willing to keep the outdoor LED sign up-to-date. This can be done remotely via the internet but does need to be done once or twice a week.

## 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/action/>. The links will often provide you with sample language and connect you directly with your elected officials!

### 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 have been 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. We will still accept these donations into the new year. Thank you to all who have contributed!

## Emergency Food Pantry

St. Andrew is continuously restocking our Emergency Food Pantry and Little Library for our neighbors. *We are still in need of easy-open pasta cans 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.

This winter, we are also stocking scarves and hats from St. Andrew's Hearts and Hands ministry. A few have already been placed there and have found good homes. A bag of scarves from Sue Sabol went to Shepherd Wellness Center, and we are waiting to hear back about needs from Women's Shelter.

Sundays - 10:00 a.m. Worship Service

# January 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 + Christmas 2 10:00 a.m.—Worship Online	4	5 Produce Distribution – 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.	6	7	8	9
10 + Baptism of our Lord 10:00 a.m.—Worship Online 5:00 p.m.—Youth Night	11 7:00 p.m.— Worship Com- mittee	12	13	14 7:00 p.m.— EECM Shelter Dinner	15	16
17 + Epiphany 2 10:00 a.m.—Worship Online 5:00 p.m.—Youth Night	18	19	20 <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	21	22	23
24 + Epiphany 3 10:00 a.m.—Worship Online 5:00 p.m.—Youth Night	25	26	27	28	29	30 9:30 a.m.— Council Meeting via Zoom
31 + Epiphany 4 10:00 a.m.—Worship Online 5:00 p.m.—Youth Night						