



+ Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 16, 2023



St. Andrew Lutheran Church
304 Morewood Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
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www.standrewpittsburgh.org



+ Seventh Sunday after Pentecost Order for Worship

*God's word is like the rain that waters the earth and brings forth vegetation.
It is also like the sower who scatters seed indiscriminately.
Our lives can be like seeds sown in the earth: even from what appears to be little, dormant,
without energy or vigor, God promises a harvest.
At the Lord's table we are fed with the bread of life, that we may bear fruit in the world.*

Welcome to St. Andrew!

- 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 ages, ethnicities, cultures, abilities, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, and family constellations. Come and See!
- Worship Services are live streamed to multiple online platforms. By attending worship, you agree that your image and voice may be broadcast.
- Everyone is invited to make a nametag at the black bookcase in the back of the worship space if they would like. There are stickers indicating pronouns on the bookcase if you would like to include them on your name tag.
- Worship “toolkits” to help children engage with the service, along with “busy bags” for younger children, are available in the bookcase at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take one to use with/for your children.
- Holy Communion is served with bread (gluten-free available) and wine or grape juice. The presiding minister will distribute the bread (host). Please consume this and then pick up an empty glass from the tray. The Communion Assistant will pour wine or grape juice into your glass. Please step to the side to consume the wine or grape juice. Feel free to kneel at the altar for prayer and reflection. As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty trays on either side of the center section.
- A restroom is available on the main level of the church, through the doors to the Social Hall and to the right in the main office.

Abbreviations

P: Pastor/Presiding Minister
A: Assisting Minister
L: Lector
C: Congregation

ACS: All Creation Sings hymnal
ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal

Pre-Service Music

Welcome

Prelude

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Confession and Forgiveness

*Please rise as you are able.
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at Baptism,
as the presiding minister begins.*

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

P: Merciful God,
**C: we confess that we have sinned.
We have hurt our community.
We have squandered your blessings.
We have hoarded your bounty.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Righteous God,
**we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest.
We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely.
In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy. Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst.
God offers boundless grace when we fail.
Claim the gift of God's mercy:
you are freed and forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.
C: Amen.

1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
 2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.
 3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.

For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
 In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.
 For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.

For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
 In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,
 For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872–1958

Text © 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.
 Outside USA: Arr. from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

Almighty God, we thank you for planting in us the seed of your word.

By your Holy Spirit, help us to receive it with joy, live according to it,
and grow in faith and hope and love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Word

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song

First Reading – Isaiah 55: 10-13

¹⁰For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return there until they have watered the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout,
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;
it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

¹²For you shall go out in joy,
and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you
shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

¹³Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress;
instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle;
and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial,
for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 65: 9-13

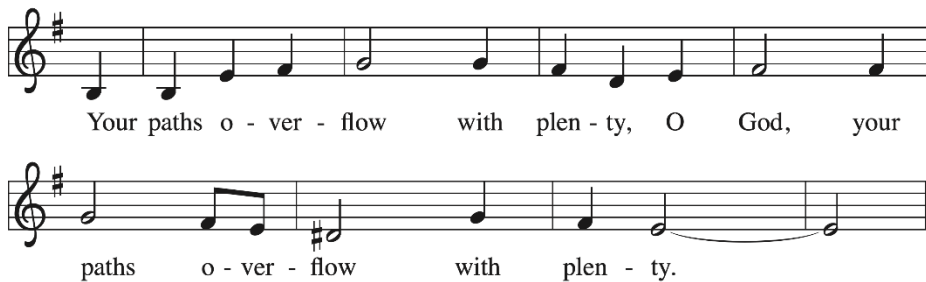
*The psalm will be led by the cantor,
with the congregation invited to sing the alternate verses and the refrain.*

Psalm tone



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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Psalm refrain



Psalm 65:11
Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.
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⁹You visit the earth and water it abundantly; you make it very plenteous; the river of God
is ¹ full of water.

You prepare the grain, for so you provide ¹ for the earth.

¹⁰**You drench the furrows and smooth ¹ out the ridges;
with heavy rain you soften the ground and ¹ bless its increase.**

¹¹You crown the year ¹ with your goodness,
and your paths over- ¹ flow with plenty.

¹²**May the fields of the wilderness be ¹ rich for grazing,
and the hills be ¹ clothed with joy.**

¹³May the meadows cover themselves with flocks, and the valleys cloak them- ¹ selves with
grain;
let them shout for ¹ joy and sing. **R**

Second Reading – Romans 8: 1-11

¹There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For the law of the
Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. ³For God has done
what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending God's own Son in the likeness of

sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, God condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through God's Spirit that dwells in you.

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please rise as you are able.

Gospel Acclamation Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil

ELW 512

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Gospel – Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

P: The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ²Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³And he told them many things in parables, saying: “Listen! A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. ⁶But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹Let anyone with ears listen!”

¹⁸“Hear then the parable of the sower. ¹⁹When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. ²⁰As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. ²²As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. ²³But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

*A time of silence for prayer and reflection follows the sermon.
When the hymn of the day begins, please rise as you are able.*

Hymn of the Day

O God, Whose Word Well Planted

Following page



Hymn of the Day

O God, Whose Word Well Planted

ACS 975



1 O God, whose word well-plant - ed yields fruit a hun-dred - fold,
2 O God of seed and har - vest, of sun and soil and rain,
3 O God, your fi - nal har - vest of his - t'ry's an - cient field



we praise your grac - es grant - ed to those who sowed of old,
at - tend the word we sow, lest its plant - ing be in vain.
will test with truth the proud - est that hu - man work can yield.



who by their wit - ness scat - tered good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of your Spir - it, bright sun - shine of your grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;



where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered the har - vest of their toil.
that mul - ti - tudes who hear it your gos - pel may em - brace.
and love and joy will flour - ish to clothe the earth with peace.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ABIDING PRESENCE, Stephen P. Folkemer, b. 1952

Text and music © 1990 Augsburg Fortress

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Prayers of the People

A: Confident that God receives our joys and concerns, let us offer our prayers for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

After each petition

A: Hear us, O God;

C: Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers

P: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray,
in the name of the one who reconciled all creation with you, Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

Peace

The presiding minister and the assembly greet one another in the peace of the risen Christ.

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*The people may greet those around them with a sign of Christ's peace and may say
Peace be with you or similar words. Please be mindful that not everyone will be comfortable
with sharing the peace, so please seek consent before shaking hands or hugging. Other possible
ways to share the peace include a simple bow with the verbal greeting of peace, or simply a
verbal expression of peace.*

When the greetings of peace have concluded, please be seated.



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

Offering

We offer ourselves, our gifts, and our faithful service to God.

*As the offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need,
the table is set for Holy Communion.*

Music during the Offering

As the gifts are brought forward for presentation, please rise as you are able.

Offertory Song

ELW 680

Aramos nuestros campos / We Plow the Fields and Scatter



A - ra - mos nues-tros cam-pos, y lue - goel sem - bra - dor
1 We plow the fields and scat-ter the good seed on the land,
2 You on - ly are the mak - er of all things near and far.
3 We thank you, our cre - a - tor, for all things bright and good,



en e - llos la si - mien - te es - par - ce con a - mor.
but it is fed and wa - tered by God's al - might - y hand,
You paint the way-side flow - er, you light the eve - ning star.
the seed-time and the har - vest, our life, our health, our food.



Mas es de Dios la ma - no que laha - ce ger - mi - nar,
who sends the snow in win - ter, the warmth to swell the grain,
The winds and waves o - bey you, by you the birds are fed;
No gifts have we to of - fer for what your love im - parts



ca - lor y llu - via dan - do a to - dos por i - gual.
the breez - es and the sun - shine, and soft re - fresh - ing rain.
much more to us, your chil - dren, you give our dai - ly bread.
but what you most would trea - sure— our hum - ble, thank - ful hearts.

Text: Matthias Claudius, 1740-1815; English tr. Jane M. Campbell, 1817-1878, alt.;

Spanish tr. Ernesto Baricio, 1866-1948

Music: Luis Olivieri, b. 1937

Music © 1989 Abingdon Press, admin. The Copyright Company

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

God of field and forest, sea and sky,

C: you are the giver of all good things.

Sustain us with these gifts of your creation,

and multiply your graciousness in us,

that the world may be fed with your love,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Dialogue

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ...

... we praise your name and join in adoring song:

Sanctus

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory; Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!

Hosanna in the highest!

Eucharistic Prayer

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord ...

... to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,

be all honor and glory, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Fraction and Invitation

Agnus Dei / Lamb of God

C: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Please be seated.

Holy Communion

- *All who seek God and desire a deeper and stronger life in Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*
- *Worshipers from the pulpit side will proceed forward first, followed by the center section, and then the lectern side.*
- *Please inform an usher if you would like the ministers to bring Communion to you.*
- *Holy Communion will be served with bread and wine/grape juice.*
- *The presiding minister will first distribute the bread (host) to each communicant. Please indicate if you require a gluten-free host.*
- *Once you have consumed the bread, please pick up an empty glass from the tray next to the presiding minister. The Communion Assistant will pour wine from the chalice or grape juice from the cruet into your glass.*
- *Please step to the side to consume the wine or grape juice.*
- *Feel free to kneel at the altar rail for prayer after receiving the sacrament.*

- *As you return to your pew, glasses may be returned to the empty trays on either side of the center section.*
- *A blessing will be provided for anyone who does not yet receive the sacrament.*
- *All are invited to join in singing the hymns during Holy Communion.*

Hymns during Holy Communion

As Rain from the Clouds

ELW 508



1 As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth,
 2 As grain that is scat - tered your word has been sown,
 3 As rays of the sun shall your word light the world,

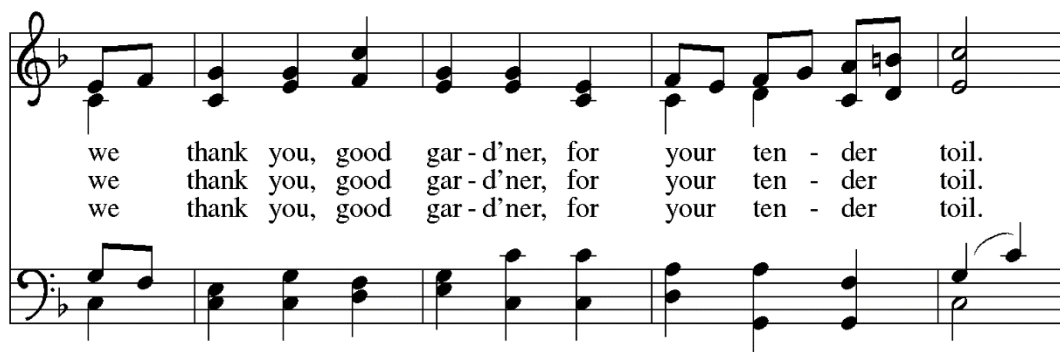
as snow from the heav - ens re - fresh - ing the land.
 on rocks and on road - ways, in good earth and sand.
 a - wak - ing and warm - ing and heal - ing our land.

Then soft - en our soil that the good seed may grow
 Make fer - tile our soil that the good seed may grow
 Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow

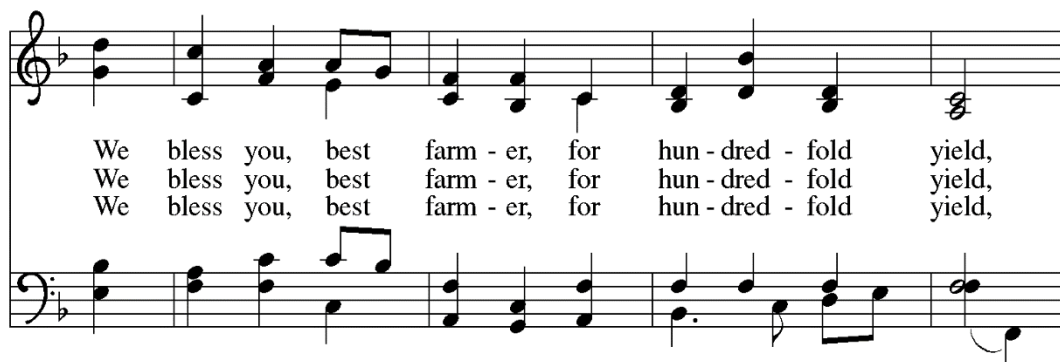
and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.
 and rip - en rich fruit to re - turn to your hand.




We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word;
 We praise you, our God, for the light of your word;



we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.
 we thank you, good gar - d'ner, for your ten - der toil.



We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,
 We bless you, best farm - er, for hun - dred - fold yield,



for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.
 for har - vest of grace in our once - bar - ren soil.

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Music: AFTON WATER, Jonathan E. Spilman, 1812–1896; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1983, 2003 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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Hymns during Holy Communion

Word of God, Come Down on Earth


ELW 510



1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, SJ, b. 1919

Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673

Text © James Quinn, SJ, Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent. www.selahpub.com.

When all have returned to their places, please rise as you are able.

Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Prayer

A: Let us pray.

We thank you, generous God,
for the refreshment we have received
at your banquet table.

Send us now to spread your generosity into all the world,
through the one who is our dearest treasure,
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Announcements

Please rise as you are able.

Benediction

P: The God who calls across the cosmos
and works through the smallest seed

✠ bless, keep, and sustain you,
now and to the end of the age.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

Sent forth by God's Blessing

Following page

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Sending Hymn

Sent forth by God's Blessing

ELW 547

1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,

the peo - ple of our God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—

The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,

the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.

The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.

Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing

to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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Those serving in worship today

Altar Care
Assisting Minister
Audio-Visual Ministers

Cantor
Lector
Minister of Music
Preaching and Presiding Minister

Christy Ruhe
Colleen Cooke
Kristen Asplin
Colten Rohleder
Miriam Bohlmann Kunz
Joyce Compton
Laura Reynolds
Pastor Ross Carmichael

Liturgy and Hymnody Acknowledgements

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Please use the QR code below to link to St. Andrew's Announcements online!



St. Andrew Lutheran Church Announcements
July 16th, 2023

- **Welcome to worship at St. Andrew on the Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, July 16th, 2023** – We are so glad you are here, and we offer a special welcome to all visitors and guests connecting for the first time! Worship attendees are invited to make a name tag at the back of the worship space if you would like. There are worship “toolkits” to help children engage with worship and “busy bags” for younger children available in the bookcase at the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to take one to use with/for your children.
- **Shelter Dinner at East End Cooperative Ministry – Thursday, July 20th, 6:30 p.m.** – The congregation’s monthly dinner for guests of the shelter at East End Cooperative Ministry (6140 Station St., 15206) will be Thursday, July 20th. We ask anyone dropping off food to deliver it by 6:00 p.m. so that service can begin at 6:30 p.m. If you would like to contribute a portion of the meal, or would like to help serve, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/5080544AAAC22A1F58-july>.
- ***Christ in Our Home* Devotional Booklets for July – September Available at Church Entrances** – Throughout the year, St. Andrew makes available to the congregation *Christ in Our Home*, a booklet with daily Bible readings, reflections, and prayers. The July – September 2023 edition is available at the church entrances. Please take one!
- **St. Andrew Updating Information - Please Respond!** – St. Andrew is looking to update our records with current information and contact information from newer attendees, such as name, preferred pronouns, email, phone number, birthdays, anniversaries, and more. The information will only be used within the congregation. Please fill out the form at: <https://forms.gle/fTwpdG2uA7pYD2ta8>.
- **Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center (FACE) Seeking Household Items Donation** – Macedonia Family and Community Enrichment Center (FACE) serves families experiencing hardship in our community. Their mission is to encourage the development of healthy families. They have been seeing an increase in requests for household items that people are not able to afford. Many necessities cannot be purchased with supplemental food benefits (SNAP). As a part of their Juneteenth service project, Macedonia Face is seeking donations of household items such as toilet paper and paper towels, shampoo/conditioner (Black haircare), soap, feminine hygiene products, and cleaning products (laundry soap, dish soap, disinfecting wipes). Items can be left on the table next to the pantry shelves in St. Andrew's Social Hall.
- **Synod Youth Day at Lutherlyn & Kickoff for 2024 National Youth Gathering Sunday, August 20th** – Join SWPA and NWPA Synod Youth (7-12th grade) and adult leaders for a Sunday afternoon gathering at Lutherlyn. There will also be a time for the adults to meet about planning for the 2024 National Youth Gathering. Suggested donation, \$5 per attendee to offset the cost of dinner. [Click here for the registration form, which is required by August 13th.](#)

Stand Up for Fairness for All Pennsylvanians



This month, the nation's largest organization devoted to the rights of LGBTQ+ Americans **declared a "state of emergency"** in the U.S. amidst a growing number of dangerous and discriminatory policies. In Pennsylvania, more than half a million LGBTQ+ residents are vulnerable to discrimination every day because of a lack of express and enduring statutory protections at the state level. Tell your lawmakers it's time to make our Commonwealth a safe place for everyone to live, love and work as their authentic selves without fear of discrimination.

Pennsylvania remains the only state in the Northeast without an inclusive statewide nondiscrimination law. Passage of protections in Pennsylvania is a critical step to ensure LGBTQ people are treated with dignity in employment, housing, and public spaces.

Contact your lawmakers here.

Sign up here to join fellow Lutherans working for protections for LGBTQ+ Pennsylvanians and receive alerts about rallies and other opportunities to act. Please include FAIRNESS in the subject line.

The seven Pennsylvania bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America released a letter in support of legislation that would prohibit such discrimination.

"At this moment there is an opportunity for us to add our voices in support of legislation that could provide continuing legal protection for one particularly vulnerable group of our people," the bishops state in their letter "Fairness for All Pennsylvanians."

Read the full letter.

The letter points to the imagery of the "peaceable kingdom," described in Isaiah 11: 6, in which "the wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them." The words anticipate a renewal of all creation in which the identity of each creature remains but none experiences any harm from the others. "It is the fulfillment of this vision for which people of faith yearn, and toward which they call their neighbors," the bishops say in the letter. "The work of public advocacy, at its best, replaces the timid silence of resignation to what is, with a bold voice giving expression to what could be."

*We recognize that the links above are not accessible on the printed page but we wanted to be sure to publish the information. Please see your "This Week at St. Andrew" email or scan the QR code above to access the clickable links. **Thank you for your Advocacy!***