

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

DECEMBER 2021

VOLUME 66, ISSUE 11

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FROM THE PASTOR.....	2
MUSIC NOTES.....	3
COUNCIL.....	4
TREASURER'S REPORT.....	4
SAW.....	5
COMFORT QUILTERS.....	5
YOUTH	6
CHURCH CALENDAR.....	7
BIRTHDAYS.....	8
MEMORIALS.	9
POINSETTIAS.....	9
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY.....	10
MISCELLANEOUS GOOD STUFF.....	10

COVID WORSHIP GUIDELINES.....ON WEBSITE

BUILDING USE GUIDELINESON WEBSITE

It's that time of year again!

All weather related service cancellations will be posted on



Channel 69
News,
wfmz.com,
and our
church
office
voicemail.

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

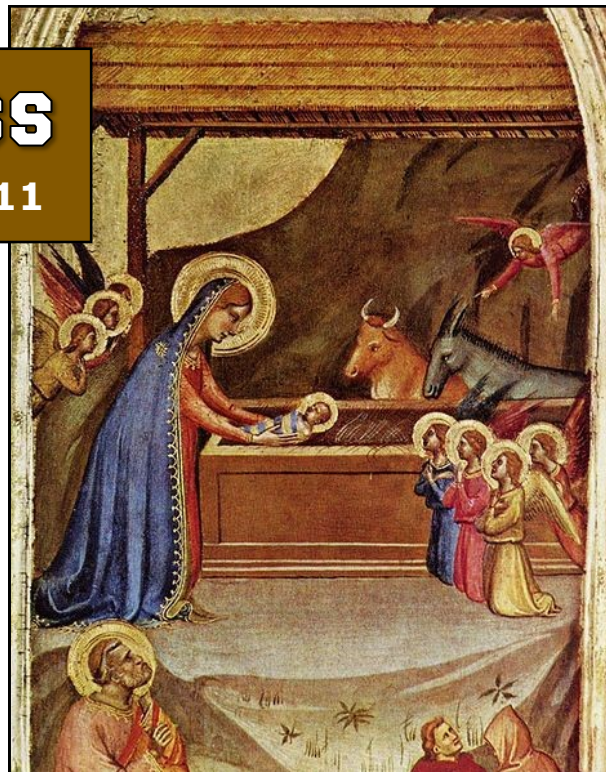
IS PUBLISHED TWELVE TIMES A YEAR BY:

ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

3900 FREEMANSBURG AVENUE
EASTON, PA 18045
610.252.2258 (OFFICE)
610.252.4950 (FAX)

WWW.STANDREWSPALMER.ORG
STANDREWS@RCN.COM

*Oil on wood
painting depicting
the Nativity by the
Italian artist
Bernardo Daddi
(1280-1348).*



December Worship Calendar

Wednesday, December 1

7:00pm Advent Service via Zoom

Sunday, December 5/Advent #2

*9:00am Holy Communion Service
followed by Annual Budget Meeting

Wednesday, December 8

7:00pm Advent Service via Zoom

Sunday, December 12/Advent #3

*8:30am Holy Communion Service
10:30am Holy Communion Service

Wednesday, December 15

7:00pm Advent Service via Zoom

Sunday, December 19/Advent #4

*8:30am Holy Communion Service
10:30am Holy Communion Service

Wednesday, December 22

7:00pm Advent Service via Zoom

Friday, December 24/Christmas Eve

*7:00pm Family Christmas Service (mask required)
9:00pm *Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 26

*9:00am Worship Service

**In-Person and Live-Streamed via Zoom*

The Annual Budget Meeting

will take place on December 5th
after the 9:00am service. Masks will be worn.
The meeting will also be live-streamed.

FROM THE PASTOR

This little message came from an Episcopal Priest. Please read it. I save my comments for the end.

“As church attendance numbers fade across the nation and online services become very convenient it’s important to remember why church attendance for you and your family matters so much. You can’t serve from your sofa. You can’t have a community of faith on your sofa. You can’t experience the power of a room full of believers worshipping together on your sofa.

Christians aren’t consumers. We are contributors. We don’t watch. We engage. We give. We sacrifice. We encourage. We pray by laying hands on the hurting. We do life together.”

I have to say that I agree with what this Rector has to say, but I also must say that I understand the balance that many are struggling with as they try and figure out when it is okay to come back to the church building. There are a lot of things in all our lives that must be balanced, but we cannot be a full and complete worshipping community on Zoom, rather that type of community puts us on hold while we wait for the pandemic to be over.

I pray for the day that we can come back together fully when we can do life together.

Pastor Neel

Mid-Week Advent Services **Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom**

This Advent, St. Andrew’s will be holding services via Zoom each Wednesday at 7:00pm, beginning December 1st. We will be using the *Holden Evening Prayer* liturgy for these services. The prayer service booklet has been mailed to those on our mailing list and also sent via email. In addition, it can be found on our website.

As candles represent the light of Christ, feel free to light a candle during worship time or before the service.

All candles may be extinguished after worship is concluded, signifying that our loving God has heard our prayers.



Holden Village, Washington

MUSIC NOTES

By Mark Jonkman, Director of Music

It's not too late!!! The SHORT TERM membership program for the Chancel Choir is still in effect!

Did you ever want to sing in the choir, but was afraid of the 'commitment'? That's no longer a problem!

You can be a short term member for the Christmas Season. Although you are always welcome to be with us each Sunday the Chancel Choir sings, the only 'requirement' is to sing at one or both of the Christmas Eve services.

The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7pm in the Chancel of the Sanctuary. We all hope to see you there!!!

You can speak to any choir member or contact Mark at mlk-sp2000@gmail.com or 610-248-6910 or... just show up on a Thursday night!

Musically in Christ, Mark



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Luke 2:1-16)

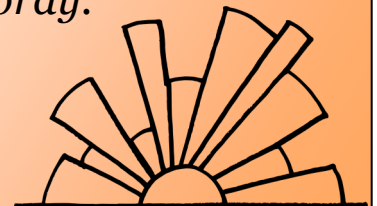
12-19-2014

IT HAD A STAR ON TOP SO I FIGURED IT
SHOULD HAVE A MANGER AT THE BOTTOM

DID YOU KNOW?

"Vesper" comes from the Greek word that means evening.

Even before the 4th century, there is evidence that the early Christians gathered at sunset to pray.





Church Council—Stronger Together



Any member of the congregation can attend a Council meeting with full voice, but no vote. Follow the Zoom link found on the calendar page of our website. Council minutes are public record after they have been reviewed by the Council for the purpose of determining correctness. Copies can be obtained from the church office.

Listed below are some highlights from the November 8th Council meeting.

The Treasurer's Report showed that we had an increase in households committing to contribute this year, and we also had many families that increased their commitment. While we don't yet know the amount or percentage, all felt it was a positive sign.

Property Team reports that the parking lot situation is now on hold until Spring. The depressed area of the lawn has been seeded and they are monitoring it. The Fall Clean-Up went well and they appreciate all of the help. A deflector has been made to redirect lights in the parking lot, as they were lighting up a neighboring lawn. A new light will be added to the Shed in the near future. The team is working on electrical issues in the building with regard to outlets that are close to water sources. The church building kitchen threshold is being repaired this week, as it has become a tripping hazard. There is a new light on the cross out front.

New Council Members will be elected at the upcoming Congregational Meeting on December 5th. Council agreed to invite them to the December 13th Council meeting.

Little Free Library—There was discussion about the possibility of putting up a Little Free Library on our church property. Structures, location, and a point person will be looked into before moving forward.

At this time, there will be no supplemental Council meeting in December. This meeting had been scheduled for December 26th.



Make sure to check out the special holiday invitation on the inside of the newsletter mailer page or in your email.



2021 CHURCH COUNCIL

April Shaheen, President: 610-559-1038, adshaheen@rcn.com
Blair Miers, Vice President: 610-442-5686, blairmiers@gmail.com
Jonathan Bleice, Treasurer: 610-462-9488, jonathan.bleice@gmail.com
Sharon Wasmer, Secretary: 484-767-4595, swasmer7@gmail.com
Terry Diehl: 610-248-2421, sntdiehl@rcn.com
Marjorie Drake: 610-253-2468, drakem451@aol.com
Debbie Ealer: 610-330-0209, jd110803@rcn.com
Nancy Konn: 484-239-6842, nskonn4217@gmail.com
Diane Laustsen: 610-217-0448, dianemlaustsen@rcn.com
Pete Merluzzi: 908-763-1152, merluzzipete@yahoo.com
Kate Piorkowski: 484-553-7547, catherinepiorkowski@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

**General Fund Financial
Position Summary
for the Month Ending:
October 31, 2021**

Current Month	Year to Date
Offerings:	

\$15,745.00	\$184,284.44
-------------	--------------

Expenses:

\$16,662.56	\$212,797.27
-------------	--------------

Surplus (Shortage):

(\$917.56)	(\$28,512.83)
-------------	---------------



WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

"No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another."

-Charles Dickens

St. Andrew's Women (SAW)

The Strong. The Proud. The Backbone.

Wednesday, December 8
10:00am in the Church Social Room

Devotions: Kathy Brandt
 Mission Moment: Nancy Konn

Additional December Dates:

December 1 – Ingathering at New Jerusalem Church, Leithsville

December 13 (9am) — Decorate Christmas Tree, worship space, and light poles; assemble and deliver fruit baskets for shut-ins. ALL HANDS ON DECK!



SAW is open to all women— Members and friends of St. Andrew's are welcome to attend on a come as you can basis.

SAW provides support to the church, our community, and many other charitable organizations through a number of unique and widely anticipated annual fundraising events.

SAW meets in the church building on the second Wednesday of the month throughout the program year.

St. Andrew's Comforters (SAC)



Wednesday, December 15, 10am-3pm
Church Social Room

SAC is a faithful group of ladies who meet on the third Wednesday of the month to make quilts for our high school graduates and many others in the community. These quilts remind the recipients that St. Andrews, but especially Christ, will be here to comfort them through their journey.

For more information about St. Andrew's Comforters, contact Mary Ann Gaumer at 610-258-2219.

heartfelt
 thanks!

Heartfelt thanks to my SAW "sisters" for the thoughtful cards, words of encouragement, and prayers. Being a part of SAW has meant so much to me and I miss you all.

-Doris Neumeyer

**Join us for the December
St. Andrew's Youth Event @**



(in the Palmer Park Mall)

**Sunday, December 5th
3:30-5:30pm**

(come any time during that period)

Youth ages 8* and up
Bring a friend!

Virtual Reality, Video Games,
Cupcake and Cookie Decorating

**We're sorry. Children under the
age of 8 are not permitted in VR Café.*

Confirmation

Our confirmation class has been learning
about being faithful stewards to our planet.

In November, the Confirmands spent a
morning cleaning up litter on the Karl
Stirner Arts Trail and also participated
in our property clean up day.



Faith Builders and First Communion Classes
continue to meet each Sunday morning
during the 8:30am Worship Service.
Come out and enjoy the fun!

YOUTH PAGE



EASTON CLUSTER SHOPPING

St. Andrew's Youth, along with youth
from the five other churches in the
Easton Cluster, are invited to go
shopping on Sunday, December 12th.
(snow date of December 19th). We

plan to gather at St. Paul's Third
Lutheran Church, 2561 Newburg Road,
Easton, at 12:45pm and leave for
WalMart together. After the shopping
is complete, all will all return to St.
Paul's for gift wrapping, refreshments,
and fun! *Note- We recommend
calling ahead to confirm as dates and
times may change.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022.....



Bear Creek Camp
has announced their
Summer 2022 theme:
Wild Abundance!

Campers will explore
what it means to live
into the fullness of
God's love.

December Calendar

Wednesday, December 1

11:45 LEV Team Meeting
7:00pm Advent Service via Zoom

Thursday, December 2

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal
7:00pm Community Care Cmte, via Zoom

Sunday, December 5

Second Sunday of Advent "Joy" **Congregational Meeting**

9:00am Holy Communion Service
Faith Builders
Live Broadcast via Zoom
10:00am Congregational Meeting
3:30pm Youth Event @ VR Cafe

Monday, December 6

7:00pm Worship and Music Cmte. via Zoom

Tuesday, December 7

7:00pm Property Committee via Zoom

Wednesday, December 8

10:00am St. Andrew's Women
7:00pm Advent Service via Zoom

Thursday, December 9

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 12

Third Sunday of Advent "Love"

8:30 Holy Communion Service
Faith Builders
Live Broadcast via Zoom
10:30 Holy Communion Service
6:30pm Confirmation

Monday, December 13

7:00pm Council Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, December 15

10:00am St. Andrew's Comforters
7:00pm Advent Service via Zoom

Thursday, December 16

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, December 19

Fourth Sunday of Advent "Peace"

8:30 Holy Communion Service
Faith Builders
Live Broadcast via Zoom
10:30 Holy Communion Service
2:00-5:00 Pastor's Holiday Open House

Monday, December 20

Nursery School Closed through Dec. 31st

Wednesday, December 22

7:00pm Advent Service via Zoom

Thursday, December 23

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Church Office Closed

7:00pm Family Oriented Christmas Service
9:00pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 25

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 26

9:00am Holy Communion Service
Live Broadcast via Zoom

Thursday, December 30

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 31

New Year's Eve

Church Office Closed

*Our Angel Tree in
the Narthex
December, 2019*



December Birthdays



12/01 Rene Boylan, Haley McClary, Brianne Van Doren
12/02 Joanne McCready, Cathy Tichy
12/03 Marcy Foulk
12/04 Brady Masterson, Linda Rute, Amanda Weaver
12/06 Elizabeth Roth, Dakota Schlater, George Trauger
12/07 Susan Altemose, Ethan Fahie
12/08 David Schneck
12/09 Ryan Allen, Donna George, Susan Sensinger
12/10 Elizabeth Campbell, David Heine
12/11 Sara Carlberg, Makenzie Fisher, Melanie Lynn, Peter Merluzzi
12/12 Chrisann Lewert
12/13 Kimberly Coriell, Donald Himmelreich
12/14 Shirley Brugger, Evelyn Hardy
12/15 Aric Cappello, Doris Neumeyer, Joan Schaffer
12/16 Lindsey Celia, Steven Thorpe
12/17 Jim Fielding, Christina Stocker
12/18 Craig Dalrymple, Bennett Rymon, Crystal Skutches, Donald Colfax
12/19 Aidan Allen, Anne Stocker
12/21 Lydia Hand, Matthew Nelson
12/24 Mindy Amato, Catrina Hanlon, Jessica McMillin, Elliott Peters
12/25 Wilma Kleintop
12/26 Christopher Bechtold
12/28 Gerald Searfass
12/29 David Biggs, Jesse Hanlon, Katie Jo Pickel
12/30 Nicolette DeFrank, Alec Welsh
12/31 Alex Agren, Susan Chaffier, Debra Chase, Julia Snyder, Patricia Werkheiser

In Loving Memory

Memorials were received in memory of Karen Graham from Anne-Marie and James Fritz and in memory of Audrey Sullivan from Marsha and Oliver Zafiriou.



Christmas Eve Worship

More from the Pastor –

Whether I want to believe it or not, this will be the FIRST Christmas I will experience with you in the St. Andrew's Building. Seems strange, but then again, the pandemic has created a strange environment, hasn't it?

So, as we talk about our Holiday traditions, Lunch Bunch came to the forefront, especially when (because of the pandemic) we are not hosting meals in Social Room at this time.

As I investigated the purpose of Lunch Bunch worship two things became clear.

- 1.) At this time, especially without the lunch part of the experience, the Lunch Bunch Worship will be suspended this year.
- 2.) There may be a population in our Congregation that would like a Christmas Eve Worship held during daylight because they are uncomfortable driving at night. This concern requires more discussion. Nevertheless, to address that concern this year, I am asking you to contact the church office if:
 - a.) you can pick someone up who needs a ride and is unable to drive at night.
 - b.) we can have someone pick you up for Christmas Eve worship.

I am hoping this can address some of our concerns until we can discuss this in more detail.

Pastor Neel

Poinsettias

Each year, we offer poinsettia sales to the congregation as a way to help us "spruce up" the sanctuary for Christmas Eve services.

Those who purchase are free to take their plant/s home after the Christmas Eve service they attend.

The poinsettias will once again be ordered from Raub's Florist and Greenhouse, and the cost is just \$7.50 each.

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

In honor of: _____

_____ # of plants

_____ amount enclosed

The deadline for ordering poinsettias is Sunday, December 12th.

Please do not include payment with regular offering.

All checks should be made payable to:
St. Andrew's Lutheran
Church with "Poinsettias"
noted in the memo line.



Easton Neighborhood Center Interest Survey



Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

The following survey will help us to gather information to determine how to best partner with the Easton Neighborhood Center. Please take a moment to indicate your area(s) of interest. Expressing interest does not commit you to volunteering.

_____ **Assist with Unloading Supply Trucks**
1st and 2nd Wednesday of the month at 8:30am

_____ **Pre-Packaging Pantry Items**
(schedule TBD)

_____ **Pantry Item Distribution**
2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month from 4-6pm,
and Fridays from 9am—noon

_____ **Assistance with Garden Care**
(flexible days and times based upon interest)

Completed surveys can be dropped off in the mailbox at Hope House, emailed to standrews@rcn.com or sent to the church via US Mail.

Congratulations to Michael Hynes, son of Connie & Danny Hynes, for being one of four local recipients of the East Penn Football Officials Assoc. Sportsmanship Award.

In addition to playing varsity football, Michael is an honor student, a member of the National Honors Society, and is in the Project Lead the Way engineering program. Michael has also volunteered with the Special Olympics, Miracle League, Reading Under the Lights, and Safe Harbor Rescue Mission.



Congrats Michael—you make your St. Andrew's Family proud!

Called to *Serve*

Ushers, Lectors and Assisting Ministers Needed

Sign up today at:

signupgenius.com/go/10C094CABAE29A75-inhouse

Listening Devices Available

Please remember that we have Assistive Listening Devices available, to help those with hearing loss enjoy the full worship experience.

If you would like to use one of our devices during the service, please notify one of the ushers or the Sound Attendant.



A heartfelt thank you from the Property Team to everyone who came out to help on November 13th with the Property Clean Up. It was especially nice to see so many young people out joining in the work.

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT **BIBLE GATEWAY**



(See Luke 2:1-16)

12-24-2004

WHAT'S THE MOST AWESOME GIFT YOU HAVE?