

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

JANUARY 2022

VOLUME 67, ISSUE 1

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COVID WORSHIP GUIDELINES.....ON WEBSITE
BUILDING USE GUIDELINESON WEBSITE



All weather related service cancellations will be posted on Channel 69 News, wfmz.com, and our church office voicemail.



UPCOMING CELEBRATIONS

SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Sunday, January 2nd 9:00am

Also called Three King's Day, Twelfth Day, and Little Christmas, Epiphany celebrates the visit of the Magi (Wise Men).

You've been waiting all year to sing the song;
join us on January 2nd for your chance.

"On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh."

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

Sunday, January 9th 8:30am & 10:30am

The Baptism of Our Lord marks the beginning of Jesus' ministry and confirms his identity as the Son of God. Join us as we celebrate the gift of God bringing us into his family.

"Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

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Committee Reports Due January 14

If you are a committee or team leader, please submit your report to the church office at your earliest convenience. If you are stuck as to what to write, give us a call and we can discuss.

The Annual Report is a large undertaking, and we appreciate receiving your reports early.

Six points to Mary Ann Gaumer for once again being the first to submit a report!



FROM THE PASTOR

When I ran track, I was taught certain things that helped me run well and improve my race times. Things like how to get off the starting blocks, how to keep a stride, how to build endurance. All these things helped me when I ran. As soon as I forgot or didn't work at those basics, I did not run as quickly. There was never a time I could take those basics for granted.

As Christians, there are basics to our faith journey as well, worship, bible, prayer, giving back to name a few. Our faith journeys suffer when we don't practice those basics. None of this is to say that God loves us any less or more, rather it's about how well we are running our faith race.

To be sure, we have come up against some challenges that COVID keeps putting in our way. However, we can't let the challenges from life or from COVID prevent us from doing the basics of our faith; we need those basics to run a strong faith race. We need our faith to face all the challenges of life.

So, please remember to worship with us each Sunday, whether it be at home with coffee and slippers or later after the service has been posted to the website. Of course, we also have two styles of in person worship. And please, remember to support the ministries of St. Andrew's. St. Andrew's cannot be an afterthought or only if I have enough left over. Supporting the ministry is one of our ministry basics, without which, we will not run a good race.

Please focus on your faith basics, and together we will run the good race.

- Pastor Neel

Music Notes

By Mark Jonkman, Director of Music

Attention all present (and future) Chancel Choir Members...

Well, if you haven't already heard, the choir is on hiatus due to the recent uptick of COVID cases, including a few a little too close to home.

We are waiting until January so we can take a close look at the situation as it stands at that time. When we do continue choir activities, we will be re-igniting the 'short term membership program' for the Chancel Choir.

Approximately four weeks before Easter (Thursday, March 24th), you are all invited to be a part of the Chancel Choir on a short term basis. Rehearsals will take place on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM, in the chancel area of the sanctuary. In addition to the rehearsals, we only ask that you promise us to sing at one or both of the Easter Sunday services on Sunday, April 17th, 2022.

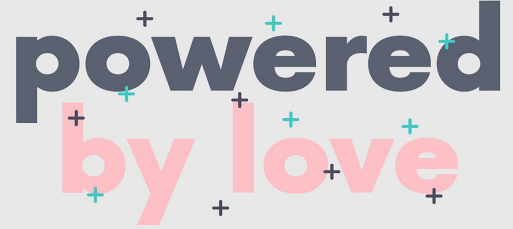
So keep in good voice. We'll need you!
All the best in Christ,

Mark, The Phantom Organist



Highlights from the Dec. 13th Council meeting:

Attendance: Church attendance had been on an upswing, but it has begun to dip again. There is some concern as the lower attendance isn't translating into boosted on-line viewership. **Everyone should be reminded of virtual options and call the office if they have any questions.**



Giving: It was noted that contributions have continued to decline.

COVID Guidelines: There was an extended conversation about the changing Covid situation, and if any changes should be made to worship. It was decided that, although our Bishop has recommended tighter entrance policies for all churches, we will continue to follow the guidance of the CDC as we don't want to alienate our members or visitors.

Music: The Chancel Choir is taking a break due to COVID concerns. We hope to have them back shortly after the new year.

Youth & Family: The December 5th event was well attended, and families seemed to enjoy re-connecting; plans are underway for additional events. Members of the Confirmation Class will be helping at the Easton Neighborhood Center on December 30th and 31st.

Property: Additional outdoor lighting has been added for safety. Ground fault outlets have been installed in the church kitchen and nursery school rooms. The outdoor Nativity and Narthex Christmas Tree were assembled.

Community Care: 195 bars of soap were collected for Ingathering (they had asked for at least 35). The food bins were removed from outside of Hope House due to potential for freezing.

Thank you: Diane Laustsen, Jon Bleice, Marge Drake, and Sharon Wasmer were thanked for their time on Council, particularly during such trying times when extra meetings were required. Sue Himmelreich, Laurie Roth, and Ed Schaeffer were thanked for joining Council in 2022.

General Fund Financial Position Summary For the Month Ending November 30, 2021

| | November | 2021 to Date |
|--------------------|-------------|---------------|
| Offerings | \$15,745.00 | \$184,284.44 |
| Expenses | \$16,662.56 | \$212,797.27 |
| Surplus (Shortage) | \$(917.56) | \$(28,512.83) |

Any member of the congregation can attend Council meetings 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.

2022 CHURCH COUNCIL

**denotes Team Liaison*

April Shaheen, President: 610-559-1038, adshaheen@rcn.com, **Resource Management*

Blair Miers, Vice President: 610-442-5686, blairmiers@gmail.com, **Mutual Ministry*

Nancy Konn, Secretary: 484-239-6842, nskonn4217@gmail.com

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Laurie Roth: 610-252-7619, ronaldroth@aol.com

Ed Schaeffer: 610-258-4280, 610vette63@gmail.com

Non-Council Officer: **Jonathan Bleice, Treasurer:** 610-462-9488, jonathan.bleice@gmail.com

St. Andrew's Women (SAW)

The Strong. The Proud. The Backbone.

Wednesday, January 12

10:00am in the Church Social Room

Guest Speaker: Heidi Butler

Devotions: Gerry Fisher

Hostess: Brown Bag

SAW December Activities:

- ♦ Twenty-five Christmas gifts were purchased, wrapped, and delivered to residents of Gracedale.
- ♦ Presents were purchased and delivered to residents of the Northampton County Juvenile Home.
- ♦ Gift bags were assembled and delivered to nine shut-ins. Note: Due to limited access to nursing homes, this is a smaller number than in previous years.
- ♦ The church building and property were decorated for Christmas.

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, charitable organizations in the Lehigh Valley and far beyond, 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

**Wednesday, January 19,
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. A's Comforters, contact Mary Ann Gaumer at 610-258-2219.



Ushers, Lectors and Assisting Ministers Needed

Sign up today at:

[signupgenius.com/go/10C094CABAE29A75
-inhouse](https://signupgenius.com/go/10C094CABAE29A75-inhouse)

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

The Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEV's) have met quarterly via Zoom throughout the pandemic to discuss how to best serve our homebound church family.

Team Members have continued to stay in touch with the homebound, and those in care facilities, by phone and with cards and notes in the mail.

The LEV's look forward to the time when visits can once again resume based upon vaccination status and individual facility regulations.



Altar Guild is looking for new members.

What is Altar Guild? It is a ministry of quiet, behind the

scenes work that is a critical act of service to the church. Altar guild members set up for our services after receiving instruction in names and purposes of linens and vessels, proper storage, removal and cleansing, liturgical colors and seasons, worship candles, and more. If you are interested in joining this team, please contact the church office.

CALLED TO SERVE

January Birthdays



- 1/02 Dean McMillin, Matthew Murray, Irene Neel
- 1/03 Matthew Daiello, Judith Orcutt
- 1/04 John Guillen, Christopher Hess, Brian Rooks,
Jackie Seiple, Allen Sensinger,
Abby van Horne-Brett
- 1/05 Reeves Brehm, Gabrielle Mariconda
- 1/06 Marion Misero
- 1/07 Maureen Brehm
- 1/08 Naomi Schaffer
- 1/10 Ella Combi, Cynthia Frantz, Melanie Maietti,
Clyde McIntyre
- 1/11 Brandon Bonnell, Ryan Celia, Patrick Fahie,
Rhiannon Perry, Adam Price, Rob Reese,
Carleton Ward, James Wolff
- 1/12 Geoffrey Bechtold, Angela Ryan,
Nancy Semanick
- 1/14 Connor Fahie
- 1/15 Brielle Carr, Michael Enea, Jean Fielding,
Kolbrun Riggs
- 1/16 Nicolle Zaneline
- 1/17 Rebecca Coriell, Michael Ravese
- 1/18 Justin Agren, Nanci Oakley, Brady Westbrook
- 1/19 John Donnelly
- 1/20 Dot Nixon, Thomas Rooks
- 1/21 Connie Hynes
- 1/22 Chad DiFelice
- 1/23 Jesse Brinker, Kevin Forik, Karl Houtz,
Michael Simko
- 1/24 Allie Casterline, Aubree Oraschin,
Kelley Sweitzer
- 1/25 Cody VanManen
- 1/27 Victoria Hulsizer, Kathleen Mashintonio
- 1/28 Reese Hajdu
- 1/29 Ethel Diefenderfer, Rebekka Fehnel,
Matt Jackson, Jesse Mowrey
- 1/30 Melissa Groninger
- 1/31 Peyton Bush, Zoe Mashintonio,
Amy Beth Nelson

Milestones



Sophie Mae Thompson, the 17 month old daughter of Christine Ann and Oliver Thompson, was baptized by Pastor Neel the morning of November 21st during our 10:30am service. Sophie is the granddaughter of Linda and Keith Baskwell and the great-granddaughter of Gerry and Carl Fisher.



Memorials were received in memory of Eileen Heard from Gerry and Carl Fisher, and in memory of Simon Strouse from Barbara Reiss.




On the night of Dec. 10 and early morning of Dec. 11, an outbreak of at least 50 tornadoes swept through six states, killing at least 100 people, and decimating homes, businesses, and local economies.

Lutheran Disaster Response is working to assess the damage and develop an immediate and a long-term response plan. Your gifts to support these efforts will empower LDR partners to meet survivors' immediate and long-term needs. If you would like to donate to the disaster relief, we will have a special offering basket placed in the Narthex for this purpose. You can also send a check payable to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church with 'U.S. Tornadoes' in the memo area. You can also donate directly to the ELCA's Disaster Relief Fund on their web page at www.elca.org.

January Calendar

Saturday, January 1
New Year's Day

Sunday, January 2 
Epiphany Sunday
9:00am Holy Communion Service
Live Broadcast via Zoom

Monday, January 3
7:00pm Worship and Music Cmte. via Zoom

Tuesday, January 4
7:00pm Property Committee via Zoom

Thursday, January 6
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal?

Friday, January 7
7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, January 9 
Baptism of Our Lord
8:30am Holy Communion Service
Faith Builders
Live Broadcast via Zoom
10:30am Holy Communion Service
6:30pm Confirmation

Wednesday, January 12
10:00am St. Andrew's Women

Thursday, January 13
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal?

Friday, January 14
7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, January 16
8:30am Holy Communion Service
Faith Builders
Live Broadcast via Zoom
10:30am Holy Communion Service
6:30pm Confirmation

Monday, January 17
Martin Luther King , Jr. Day
Nursery School Closed

Wednesday, January 19
10:00am St. Andrew's Comforters

Thursday, January 20
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal?

Friday, January 21
7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, January 23
8:30am Holy Communion Service
Faith Builders
Live Broadcast via Zoom
10:30am Holy Communion Service

Wednesday, January 26
7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, January 27
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal?
7:00pm Community Care via Zoom

Friday, January 28
6:30pm Confirmation Field Trip
7:30pm Crossroads AA

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

