

# ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

FEBRUARY 2022

VOLUME 67, ISSUE 2

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COVID WORSHIP GUIDELINES.....ON WEBSITE

BUILDING USE GUIDELINES .....ON WEBSITE



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

## ANNUAL CELEBRATION MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH**

**\*SNOW DATE = FEBRUARY 20TH**

**You are cordially invited to join us for the Annual Meeting** of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church on Sunday, February 13th, at the conclusion of our 9am service.

The meeting will also be livestreamed. Please see Zoom access codes on website or in weekly bulletin.

See how we do God's work and get excited for where we are going in the new year! We will celebrate our many meaningful ministries and the people, our church family, who keep these ministries active and vital to not only St. Andrew's, but our community and beyond.

In preparation for the meeting, copies of the annual report will be distributed through email to all members on our email list. If you would like to obtain a physical copy of the report, they will be available in the Narthex or at the church office, by request.

## TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27**

Then from the cloud came a voice that said,  
"This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

-Luke 9:35



## ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

IS PUBLISHED TWELVE TIMES A YEAR BY:

### ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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# FROM THE PASTOR

We live in interesting times, don't we? And to be sure, the pandemic is the main reason that things are "interesting" right now. There is a concern I have that I've been shying away from addressing something in a formal manner. Honestly, I have not wanted to hurt anyone's feelings, or to step on anyone's toes.

This has to do with the decisions around whether or not you get the vaccine. I know this is a sticky issue. To begin, I want to make it clear that if your doctor has said to you that you should not receive the vaccine then you should not receive the vaccine. I am not addressing a decision between you and your doctor.

I am more concerned when I hear "me" reasoning. This is my decision, no one should be making this decision for me. As Christians, our decisions cannot be about me, rather, they must be about how our decisions affect others.

Jesus set this tone for us by the way he lived his life. Never did we hear Jesus talk about what was good for him. For Jesus, the priority was always what was good for us. God put us first, and that empowers us to put other people first. We've been forgiven and given the gift of Eternal Life so that we can care for those around us with the same love that God first gave us.

When I hear "it's my body, my decision", what I don't hear is that God is a part of that decision. That scares me. The further we walk away from God, the more difficult our lives are because we are walking away from God's love.

Please, as you make your life decisions (including about COVID), do so from the perspective of how God first loved us. Remember that it's not about me, it's not about you, it is about how we show that next person we come in contact with how much God loves them.

- Pastor Neel

*“As Christians, our decisions cannot be about me, rather, they must be about how our decisions affect others.”*

## BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays Evenings thru February 23

For the season leading up to Lent, the Bible Study class requested to take a deeper journey through the bible passages that will be discussed during Lent. The texts that will be examined each week are:

January 26: Exodus 20:1-7  
February 2: John 1:1-14  
February 9: Isaiah 40:1-8 & Isaiah 55:1-11  
February 16: John 8:31-36 & 2 Timothy 3:14-17  
February 23: Romans 10:8-17  
March 2: Ash Wednesday (No Bible Study)

Resource books are available for pick up at Hope House to anyone interested in joining Bible Study.



# Music Notes

By Mark Jonkman, Director of Music

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

The hiatus continues due to the recent uptick of COVID cases. We are now waiting until February so that we can take a closer look at the situation, as it stands at that time. As stated in last month's CROSS, when we 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 7:00pm 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 really need you!

## Parish Nurses

### Know Your Risk for Heart Disease



Heart disease is still the number one cause of death in the US. Several conditions including lifestyle, age, and family history can increase your risk for heart disease. About half of all Americans have at least one of the three major risk factors for heart disease: high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and smoking.

*Age and family history cannot be controlled, but you can control that following risk factors.*

**High blood pressure** is a major risk factor for heart disease. Often called the “silent killer”, high blood pressure can have no symptoms.

**Unhealthy blood cholesterol levels** can build up in the walls of arteries, leading to a narrowing of the arteries, and can decrease the blood flow to the heart, brain, kidneys, and other parts of your body.

**Diabetes** raises your risk of death from heart disease.

**Obesity** is linked to higher “bad” cholesterol and triglyceride levels and to lower “good” cholesterol, as well as leading to high blood pressure and diabetes.

*How do we reduce these risks?*

**Eat a diet** which is lower in saturated fats, trans fats and cholesterol, and reduce salt intake.

**Get more physical activity.** The American Heart Association recommends 30 minutes of exercise a day, at least 5 days/week.

**Limit alcohol** consumption. Women should not have more than one drink per day and men should have no more than two drinks per day.

**Stop smoking!** Smoking damages the heart and blood vessels, and can raise blood pressure.

February is National Heart Month. Let's commit to reducing the risks of heart disease for a longer,

## HIGHLIGHTS *from the* January 10th Council Meeting:



- 181 total congregants in attendance either in person, on Zoom, or recorded on Christmas Eve.
- New, updated COVID Guidelines were approved.
- Team Liaisons were approved for the upcoming year.
- Youth Events are on hold at this time, but the Confirmation Class continues to meet in person.
- A financial audit for 2022 was discussed.
- Although January contributions are down, December, 2021 saw the highest offering since 2017.
- A motion to transfer \$2,000 from the general account to the building fund was approved for capital improvements.
- On a sad note, Doris Neumeyer has resigned as President of SAW. As Vice President, Donna George is serving as Acting President.
- There is ongoing need for laundry detergent at the Easton Neighborhood Center. Additional food and diapers will be delivered soon.
- Wednesday evening Lenten services will be an Evening Prayer, and Sunday sermons will focus on Parables.
- A request to the church from a non-member to help move medical supplies monthly was denied due to both COVID and liability issues.
- Council will continue meeting twice a month due to ongoing COVID concerns.

### General Fund Financial Position Summary For the Month Ending December 31, 2021

	December	2021 Final
<b>Offerings</b>	\$31,218.58	\$230,579.23
<b>Expenses</b>	\$18,036.46	\$249,559.30
<b>Surplus (Shortage)</b>	\$13,182.12	(\$18,980.07)

**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

**Teresa Diehl, Exec. Cmte:** 610-248-2421, sntdiehl@rcn.com, *\*Community Care*

**Deborah Ealer:** 610-330-0209, jd110803@rcn.com, *\*Finance*

**Sue Himmelreich:** 610-258-2313, suebsn86@aol.com *\*Congregational Care*

**Pete Merluzzi:** 908-763-1152, merluzzi@pete@yahoo.com, *\*Property*

**Kate Piorkowski:** 484-553-7547, catherinepiorkowski@gmail.com, *\*Youth and Family*

**Laurie Roth:** 610-252-7619, ronaldroth@aol.com *\*Spiritual Gifts*

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

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





## **Sue E. Himmelreich**

My family and I joined St. Andrew's in 1985. I was a Sunday School teacher for 15 years and helped with Vacation Bible School for many years.

I have two sons, Ryan and Todd, who with their wonderful wives, Jenn and Kristina, have blessed us with four beautiful grandchildren.

I am a nurse by profession and worked in many areas of nursing for over 40 years. I have helped to get the Parish Nurse program at St. Andrew's established and hope to get that program re-energized.

After I retired from nursing, I have kept busy with babysitting my grandchildren, making jewelry, reading, playing the piano and maintaining a part time consultant job in marketing for a retirement community.

I look forward to my position on church council. I hope to be able to use my many years as a member of St. Andrew's to make a worthwhile contribution to church council. It is one more step in my faith journey.



Please contact our Financial Secretary, Janet Rhymer, if you require a change to your Vanco contributions.

Although changes may have been written on your annual pledge card, it is still necessary to contact Janet personally to give authorization for any change to your account.

Janet can be reached at 610-258-0023 or by emailing [jeej30@aol.com](mailto:jeej30@aol.com).

Please note that the office staff does not have access to financials, and therefore we are unable to help with this process.

These procedures are in place to keep your information secure.

## **SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES NEEDED**

**June 10 & 11—Online Only**

*"Stronger Together"*

St. Andrew's is looking for two delegates to represent our congregation at this year's (virtual) online assembly.

Due to continued uncertainty with regard to the pandemic, and associated costs with cancelling a planned event, the decision has been made to hold Synod assembly virtually once again this year.

No computer at home? Fear not!  
Hope House will be made available for our delegates.

## St. Andrew's Women (SAW)

The Strong. The Proud. The Backbone.



**Wednesday, February 9**

**10:00am in the Church Social Room**

**Guest Speaker:** Dr. Regina Bogle

**Program:** Alternative Medicine: Healing. Is it all about pills, procedures and physical therapy?

**Devotions:** Sharon Wasmer

**Hostess:** Brown Bag

**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, 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 each month.

## St. Andrew's Comforters

**Wednesday, February 16**

**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 life journey.

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

## *Special Congratulations*

to former members and forever friends  
**Grace and Arnold Hansen**  
who celebrated their

*75th Wedding Anniversary*

on January 25th.

The Hansen's are now living in Florida.



**You are God's  
favorite Valentine!**

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

*Memory* IN LOVING

Memorials were received in memory of Clyde McIntyre, who passed into eternal life on January 16, from Mary and John Squarcia, and Linda Trigiani.

# FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2/02	Karen Celia, Hartley Derenick, Mark Phillips
2/03	Hunter Klabunde, Logan Klabunde
2/04	Jill Casterline, Jesse Nitchkey, Joelle Oraschin
2/05	Jessica Miller, Adam Pennoyer
2/06	Charles Lawhead Jr., Betsy Parvin, Jarrod Vivian
2/07	Steve Diehl
2/08	Kim DiFelice, Amanda Jackson
2/09	Emma Enea
2/10	Christyan Bonser, Brooke Finkbeiner, Jennifer Graney, David Skutches, Jessica Zinno
2/11	Eli Game, Seth Game, Mary Schuck
2/12	Luke Csellak-Swanson, Gary Strausser, Jesse Vivian
2/13	Lorraine Arnts
2/14	Carl Azzalina, Emilee Hajdu
2/16	Cindy Matase
2/17	Mekhi Grant, Cameron Rohatgi, Karen Sachs, Cooper Troxell, Zachary Ward
2/18	Atti Jackson, Kyle Walchak
2/19	Loraine Heimbach, Samantha Kessler, Noah Merida, Brad Schaeffer, Blair Welsh, Anthony Zinno
2/20	Timothy Fretz
2/21	Chase Azzalina, Kim Bachorik
2/22	Shelby Barilone, Paul Braden
2/23	Sarah Fakete, Kent Finkbeiner, Zoe Jackson, Aidan Perry
2/24	Marla Lombardo, Ron Orcutt, Sue Pettit, Tracie Raven, Peter Tichy
2/25	Franklin Sickly, Michael Simko
2/27	Ralph Bonnell, Chandra Chavous, Erin Rinda
2/28	William Klein



# February Calendar

**Wednesday, February 2**

7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom

**Thursday, February 3**

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, February 4**

7:30pm Crossroads AA

**Sunday, February 6**

8:30am Holy Communion Service

Faith Builders

Live Broadcast via Zoom

10:30am Holy Communion Service

6:30pm Confirmation

**Monday, February 7**

7:00pm Worship and Music Cmte. via Zoom

**Tuesday, February 8**

7:00pm Property Committee via Zoom

**Wednesday, February 9**

10:00am St. Andrew's Women

7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom

**Thursday, February 10**

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, February 11**

7:30pm Crossroads AA

**Sunday, February 13****Annual Meeting**

9:00am Holy Communion Service

Live Broadcast via Zoom

Annual Meeting follows worship

**Monday, February 14****Valentine's Day—You are Loved!**

7:00pm Council Meeting via Zoom

**Wednesday, February 16**

10:00am SA Comforters

7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom

**Thursday, February 17**

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**Friday, February 18**

7:30pm Crossroads AA

**Sunday, February 20**

8:30am Holy Communion Service

Faith Builders

Live Broadcast via Zoom

10:30am Holy Communion Service

**Monday, February 21****President's Day****Nursery School Closed****Wednesday, February 23**

7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom

**Thursday, February 24**

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm Community Care Cmte. via Zoom

**Friday, February 25**

7:30pm Crossroads AA

**Sunday, February 27****Transfiguration of Our Lord**

8:30am Holy Communion Service

Faith Builders

Live Broadcast via Zoom

10:30am Holy Communion Service

6:30pm Confirmation

7:45pm Supplemental Council Meeting





*Please accept our apologies.*

*This list was inadvertently left out of the Christmas Eve bulletin.*

**The poinsettias on display in the church on Christmas Eve  
were purchased in honor or in memory of loved ones.**

**Poinsettias were purchased in honor of:**

James Mowery  
Children and Grandchildren  
Our Children, Grandchildren, and Great Grandchildren  
Family and Friends  
Grandchildren Natalie, Lindsey, Mason, and Sawyer  
Caroline, Brian, Hayden and Curtis  
Joan Gordan  
Grandchildren Sage Donald and Eila Grace  
Grandchildren Nolan, Spencer, Corbin, and Mia  
Vincent, Kaylee, Gabi, Madelin, Brayden, Logan, Evan & Tyler

**By:**

Laura, Carl, Tyler, Heather & Chase Azzalina  
Betty Detweiler  
Gerry and Carl Fisher  
Sylvia Gallop  
Donna and John George  
Gwen Krapf  
Melanie and Chris Lynn  
Sue and Bob Pettit  
Kathy and Ed Schaeffer  
Carol Steely

**Poinsettias were purchased in memory of:**

Lucille and Chester Miers, and Ruth Mowery  
Michael Thomas  
Katherine and Herbert Bleice, Bertha and Edmund Becker  
Parents and Grandparents  
Stella and Bruce Dotts, and Mary Mack  
Helen and Walter Ealer, and Catherine Miller  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Loved Ones  
Eleanore and Charles  
Norman Krapf and sister Nedra  
Ronald Zansitis  
Loved Ones  
Christopher B. Lynn, Melvin Gordon, Melissa Gordon  
Nancy Sales  
Patricia and Mark Kist, Pauline Kist  
Cory Pettit, Don Shive, Adam Shive, Cpt. Christopher S. Seifert  
Geraldine Critelli  
Mr. & Mrs. J. Clifford Ellicott, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ellicott  
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Hager  
Nancy Sales  
Harry Steely, Jr.  
Arlene and Richard "Lindy" McIntyre

**By:**

Laura, Carl, Tyler, Heather & Chase Azzalina  
Tyler, Heather & Chase Azzalina  
Sharon and Charles Bleice  
Betty Detweiler  
Kevin Dotts  
Deborah Ealer  
Gerry and Carl Fisher  
Susan Heater  
The Himmelreich Family  
Shirley Kerbaugh  
Louise and David Kolb  
Gwen Krapf  
Rebecca Lepkowski and Kate Zumas  
Lucy and Cindy Lynch  
Melanie and Chris Lynn  
Linda and Bud Martin  
Linda and Jim Pennoyer  
Sue and Bob Pettit  
Jean Pleiss  
Janet Rhymer  
Janet Rhymer  
David Sales  
Carol Steely  
Linda Trigiani