

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

Where All are Welcome. No Matter Where They Are on Life's Journey.

AUGUST, 2023
VOLUME 68, ISSUE 8

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SEPTEMBER CROSS DEADLINE:
Call or email Angie by August 15

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

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Understanding the Reconciling in Christ Process By Pastor Neel

Last month I mentioned that the Congregation Council voted to move forward with conversation to become a Reconciling in Christ congregation. It may be important to repeat some things. A decision about being a Reconciling in Christ congregation has NOT been made, only the congregation in meeting can make that decision. The Council's vote only means that we (as a congregation) can move forward in discussion about what it means to be Reconciling in Christ.

The process allows everyone to understand and ask questions about what this means, and how this might affect the congregation. The process includes the following:

continued on next page

Driveway Update

For the safety of those walking in and around our parking lot, we are closing the Freemansburg Avenue entrance to our lot. We appreciate your understanding.

Outdoor Worship Sunday, August 27

Please bring a folding chair, bottled water, and dress accordingly, as we plan to worship outside on August 27 (weather permitting). Hats and/or umbrellas are recommended to help stay protected from the sun.

For those who are unable to bring a chair, a limited number will be available from the church.



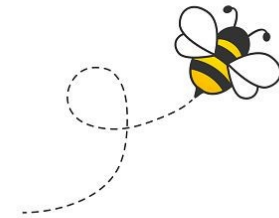
Understanding the Reconciling in Christ Process, continued

- The pastor fills out a form to determine where we are in our support of the LGBTQIA+ population.
- A committee is recruited, and they fill out the same form.
- The results of those forms guide the approach to the congregation.
- Congregational gatherings are scheduled so that we can start the discussion process. This does not mean a whole series of congregational meetings; we may start our discussions in a small group format.
- The discussion will include opportunity to look at what the bible says about this topic, and it will include things the congregation can do to support the LGBTQIA+ population. It will include anything that you want to talk about.
- The meetings with the congregation will eventually lead us to a meeting where we all come together to vote.

At present, we are looking for people to serve on a committee to work with me to lead this process. If you have any interest or have any questions, please reach out.

- *Pastor Neel*

A Note from Elizabeth



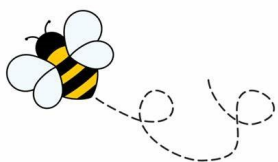
Hello, Friends.

I am typing this note on July 12th, and preparing to print this issue of the Cross a couple of weeks earlier than normal. Please excuse any updates that may have happened after the newsletter went to print.

As you may have heard, I am taking some time off for surgery on July 20th to remove a mass from my lung. This surgery, and subsequent biopsy, will determine how we (my family, doctors, and St. Andrew's) proceed.

In the meantime, Angelica Guydish has graciously agreed to help us out in the office. Angie will be taking on many of my normal tasks, and covering my hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We know that you will all be understanding and flexible as we go forward and "figure it out".

Finally, I'd like to say that since first being diagnosed with cancer in 2020, this congregation has shown me so much love and support. I truly appreciate and lean on your prayers, and hope to be back in the office, and a part of the glorious St. Andrew's buzz, again very soon.



Elizabeth

CHURCH COUNCIL

Highlights from the July 10th Council Meeting:

Contributions have seen a steep decline and are far below promised levels. The Spiritual Gifts team will offer a report to the congregation in the coming weeks, before the kick-off of the annual Spiritual Gifts Campaign begins in September. There will be a gathering in the Social Hall, after the single 9am service, on Sept. 10th.

Worship Times: We will resume our 9am Alternative and 10:30 Traditional schedule on Sunday, September 17.

Offered for Sale: Council voted to authorize the sale of 40 folding chairs at a price of \$5 each, \$200 total, storage racks included. Preference will go to those who can purchase in quantity. No delivery available. Contact the church office for more information.

Hope House Repairs: Council approved the replacement of one exterior door at Hope House at the cost of \$1380, and approved paying for the new air conditioning system at a total cost of \$7,700, from the Building Fund. The purchase of a second exterior door, also in need of replacement, will be put off until a later date.

Elizabeth spoke with Council regarding her upcoming surgery and medical leave. Pastor Neel and Laurie Roth spoke about plans for covering the office during Elizabeth's absence.

A proposed luncheon, sponsored by Thrivent, was turned down as Council felt that it didn't fit into our calendar.

Pastor Neel has been in touch with the Synod and answered a preliminary questionnaire regarding our congregation's willingness to begin the Reconciling in Christ process. A committee to spearhead the process will need to be formed as a first step.

The Church needs to put together a Wish List of items and needs. We will start at the committee level, with each group being asked to dream about what they would like to see for our building, grounds, and church community.

The previously approved website developer software will be purchased in late summer, or early fall, when our developer is ready to begin the new website.

General Fund Financial Position Summary For the Month Ending June 30, 2023

	June	2023 YTD
Offerings	\$14,089.84	\$103,258.04
Expenses	\$17,940.60	\$115,865.66
Surplus (Shortage)	(\$3,850.76)	(\$12,607.62)

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

Laurie Roth, President: 610-252-7619

Ed Schaeffer, Vice President: 610-258-4280, *Mutual Ministry

Teresa Diehl, Exec. Cmte. Secretary: 610-248-2421, *Community Care

April Shaheen, Exec. Cmte Financial Secretary: 610-559-1038, *Res. Mgmt.

Deborah Ealer: 610-330-0209, *Finance

Sue Himmelreich: 484-226-0165, *Congregational Care

Diana Laustsen: 610-217-0448 *Community Care

Non-Council Appointed Officers:

Jonathan Bleice, Treasurer: 610-462-9488

Elizabeth Campbell, Secretary: 610-252-2258





Calling All Singers

The first rehearsal of fall for the Chancel Choir is scheduled for Thursday, August 31st at 7pm. Mark your calendars to join us!

For more information about the Chancel Choir, or our music program in general, contact Mark Jonkman, Director of Music, at mlksp2000@gmail.com.

Eighth Annual Hymn Sing

**Arndt's Lutheran Church Pavilion, 1851 Arndt Rd.
Wednesday, August 16 from 6-8pm**

The Easton/Bethlehem Mission District is hosting the Eighth Annual Covered Dish & Hymn Sing on Wednesday, August 16th at Arndt's Lutheran Church. There will be a picnic style meal, beginning at 6pm. Please bring a covered dish, dessert, or beverage to share.

Weather permitting, the event will be held outdoors under the pavilion. Come out and enjoy a wonderful evening of fellowship.

Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom

Adult Bible Study is taking a break in early August, but will resume on August 23rd. The group is currently studying the Book of Acts.

On September 20, Bible Study will begin an eight-week exploration of The Book of Luke. Study guides are available through the church office, and we always welcome new members. Contact Pastor Neel or the Office for more information.

Altar Flowers

St. Andrew's offers altar flowers for purchase and dedication most Sundays throughout the year. To dedicate flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one, sign up on the clipboard in the Narthex. The cost of Altar Flowers is \$35 per week.

St. Andrew's Women (SAW)

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.



The Strong. The Proud. The Backbone.

A planning meeting will be held Tuesday, August 1st at 10am in Hope House for anyone interested in discussing programs for the upcoming year. Monthly meetings will resume Wednesday, Sept. 14 (always the second Wednesday of the month) at 10am.



Members of SAW enjoying a sing-along at their June Meeting.

Community Care Team

Thursday, August 24 @ 7pm via Zoom

The Community Care Team works quietly in the background, coordinating much needed assistance to the community. If you are interested in joining the Team, or learning more about the ministry, contact Terry Diehl, Diane Laustsen, or the church office at 610-252-2258. You are also invited to join the Zoom call on the fourth Thursday of the month. As a reminder, the group continues to collect non-perishable food items, diapers, and baby wipes. These items can be dropped off at Hope House or in the Narthex.

Redner's Save-a-Tape

This program from Redner's gives St. Andrew's 1% cash back on all purchases made with a store rewards card. Simply use your card at checkout, bring the receipt to church, and drop it in the basket in the Narthex or in the mailbox at Hope House. We will do the rest.



St. Andrew's Youth

REALLY BAD NOAH JOKES

- 1.) Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?
- 2.) Why didn't Noah go fishing?
- 3.) Which animals did Noah feel he couldn't trust?

*answers at the bottom of the page.

Congratulations to Our 2023 Confirmands



Confirmands from L-R: **Madelin M., Andrew B., Drew C., Riley R.**

We are very proud of the work these four young people did during the confirmation experience, and are happy to welcome them into full membership.

Attention Parents of Rising 7th and 8th Graders

A parent meeting will be held on Sunday, September 17th @ 6:30pm at Hope House to discuss our upcoming Confirmation classes.

All families of rising 7th and 8th graders are invited to attend.

St. Andrew's Nursery School

Meet the Teacher: Thurs., Aug. 31, 10-noon

First Day of School: Tuesday, Sept. 5

Our littles will be returning very soon!

Please be cautious in the parking lot, especially during drop-off and pick-up times, and know that many parents have their hands full with siblings in tow. *All church volunteers and office visitors are encouraged to arrive after 9:30am on school days.*



1.) Because Noah was standing on the deck. 2.) Because Noah only had two worms. 3.) The Cheetahs.

BAD JOKE ANSWERS:



August Birthdays

- 8/01** Terri Schlater
8/02 Mary Ellen Ehrie
8/03 Sandy Allshouse, Seth Phillips
8/04 Andrew Bleice, Tom Carr, Abby Rinda
8/05 Brian Hajdu
8/06 Jonathan Bleice, Lincoln Panto
8/07 Wendy Corcoran, Rose Rizzolino
8/08 Danny Brinker, Byron Fimiano, Kristina Frantz, Daniel Sabatino, Amy Sales
8/09 Zion Stoudt
8/11 Sean Costanzo, Lorraine Merli
8/12 Charles Coleman, David Hulsizer, Graham Peters, Alice Shields, Abigail Simko, Steven Steckel
8/13 Emily Brown, Kaylee McGowan
8/14 Ryan Boylan, Becky Snyder, Sean Ward
8/15 Nino Rizzolino
8/16 Mark Brehm, James Pennoyer
8/17 Gary Hutchison
8/20 Christopher Green
8/21 Samantha Hajdu, Krysta Panto, Alexander van Brett
8/22 Tyler Gimbar, Linda Massey, Rhonda Young
8/23 Susan Zanoline
8/25 Lexi Apple, Shawn Carr, Heather Chatenka, Alexis Davis
8/27 Sheri Fucili, Robert Schneck
8/28 Sean Fakeete, Mackenzie Hoerl, Zachary Lesak
8/29 Elliot Baskwell, Autumn Hill, Morgan Kessler
8/30 Ryan Forsythe, David Merida, Timothy Warrelmann
8/31 Fran Rankin

Why Do We Eat Birthday Cake? The ancient Egyptians are credited with “inventing” the celebration of birthdays. They believed when pharaohs were crowned, they became gods, so their coronation day was a pretty big deal. That was their “birth” as a god.

Ancient Greeks borrowed the tradition, but (thankfully!) realized that a dessert would make the celebration all the more meaningful. So, they baked moon-shaped cakes to offer up to Artemis, goddess of the moon, as a tribute. They decorated them with lit candles to make the cakes shine like the moon. And that, my friends, is the reason we light our birthday cakes on fire.

- AUGUST CALENDAR -

Tuesday, August 1

9:30am SAW Planning Meeting @ Hope House

Friday, August 4

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, August 6

9:00am Worship Service

Monday, August 7

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

Friday, August 11

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, August 13

9:00am Worship Service

Monday, August 14

7:00pm Congregational Council via Zoom

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

Tuesday, August 15

12:30pm Steel Magnolias

7:00pm Spiritual Gifts Committee

Friday, August 18

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, August 20

9:00am Worship Service

Monday, August 21

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

Wednesday, August 23

7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, August 24

7:00pm Community Care Team via Zoom

Friday, August 25

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, August 27

9:00am *Outdoor Worship Service

Monday, August 28

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

Wednesday, August 30


7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, August 31

10:00am Nursery School "Meet the Teacher"

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

** Please note that we are unable to stream outdoor worship services.*



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17