

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

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

SEPTEMBER, 2023
VOLUME 68, ISSUE 9

Welcome Back! We hope you've had a wonderful summer! As we turn the page from August to September, it's not just our youth who have major schedule changes. Our worship times change, our committees get back to their important work, and our choir comes back together to once again make beautiful music. All of this while we step into our blue jeans and plaid, cheer on our favorite local teams, and move from strawberries to butternut squash. It is a wonderful time of year, and we are happy that you are here to share it with us, the St. Andrew's Family.



September Worship Times

September 3

9:00am

September 10

9:00am Worship

Spiritual Gifts Presentation during worship

September 17

9:00am Alternative Worship

Special Congregational Meeting, led

by the Safety Committee, after worship

September 24

9:00am Alternative Worship

Stewardship Drive Kick-Off & Celebration

Sunday, September 10

Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend worship on Sunday, September 10th as the Spiritual Gifts Team presents the results of the April Dreaming Event, which will be our focus with the 2023/2024 Stewardship Campaign. This is an event in the life of the church that you do not want to miss! We will have one worship at 9:00am this day.

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 17 One worship at 9am.

Immediately following the worship service, the Safety Committee will present all of the changes and strategies they have implemented for protecting our congregation, staff, and nursery school in the advent of a crisis/critical emergency, such as a fire, gas leak, active shooter situation, or other emergency. Please see page 4 for more details.



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OCTOBER CROSS DEADLINE:

Friday, September 15

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



Pastor's Pen

Bishop Shares Discouraging Forecast at 2023 Synod Assembly **By Pastor Neel**

One of the things that was made very clear at this year's Synod Assembly is that the church as we know it is headed for some changes. The statistics that were shared at the Assembly were upsetting. The one I've shared often is that out of approximately 250 congregations in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod, 70 of those churches are without a pastor. The fact is, the Bishop does not have 70 pastors to place in the vacant parishes. Not even close. There are only ten people in seminaries from our Synod at present, and that is an improvement.

It is because of these facts that the Bishop said that the concept of one pastor to one congregation is something that is fading away, as we are going to move to a situation where churches yoke together to share the services of a pastor.

This is not happening tomorrow, but the Bishop sees this as the most viable way for churches and congregations to find their way forward in the future.

Let me also say that all mainline denominations are experiencing the same trends. How each denomination handles their future will probably be different.

So, what can we do at St. Andrew's? Well, the short and easy answer is to grow. Like I said, no big changes are on our horizon for the near future. It is also logical to say that the bigger and more stable we are, the more attractive we will be for a future pastor. (No, this is not a hint that I am leaving soon). It is my guess that the bigger and more stable parishes will still be able to call a single pastor, while the smaller struggling parishes will be forced to do some type of merging or cooperative ministry.

Share the good news of God. Share how that good news is proclaimed at St. Andrew's. While I understand that the news I have shared can be discouraging, the message of Jesus is never discouraging.

We focus on Jesus, and that will see us through.

CHURCH COUNCIL

Highlights from the August 14 Council Meeting will be available in October's Newsletter.

General Fund Financial Position Summary For the Month Ending July 31, 2023

	July	2023 YTD
Offerings	\$13,984.00	\$117,242.04
Expenses	\$17,851.30	\$133,716.96
Surplus (Shortage)	(\$3,867.30)	(\$16,474.92)

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

Laurie Roth, President: 610-252-7619

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

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

April Shaheen, Exec. Cmte Financial Sec.: 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



Pastor Laura Update

Pastor Laura is currently the Chaplin at the Lutheran-Jamestown Community and her husband Mark is the Pastor of First Lutheran Church, Jamestown, NY.

Pastor Laura is very excited about her new adventure working with Kindling Faith Continuing Education. This program is developing relationships with students outside the United States, an area that has grown with the Seminary virtual campus. We all wish Pastor Laura and Pastor Mark success in their new roles.



Bible Study

Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom

The Adult Bible Study group will begin an eight week exploration of the Book of Luke on September 20th. Study Guides are available through the church office, and new members are always welcome. Contact Pastor Neel or the Office for more information.

Community Care Team

Thursday, September 28 @ 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.

Special Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 17, 2023

Your Congregation Council has approved the scheduling of a **special congregational meeting on Sunday, September 17, 2023, following the 9:00 AM service.** To accommodate the congregation for this meeting, **we will continue through September 17 with our single 9:00 AM service.**

At this meeting, the Safety Committee will present all of the changes and strategies they have implemented for protecting our congregation, staff, and nursery school in the advent of a crisis/critical emergency, such as a fire, gas leak, active shooter situation, or other emergency.

Amazon Smile

The Amazon Smile program is coming to an end, and we have now received our last donation. Thank you to everyone who designated St. Andrew's as the recipient for a percentage of your Amazon purchases. If you are looking for another way to contribute "free cash" to the church, we remind you to use your rewards card at Redner's and then bring us the receipt.

St. Andrew's Women (SAW)

Wednesday, September 13th, 10am

Church Social Room

Speaker: Pastor Neel

Topic: Trip to Holy Lands

Hostesses: Bring a Bag Lunch - Dessert Provided

Business: Discuss upcoming year events and appoint committee leaders.

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.



SAW Fall Fair/Flea Market/Bake Sale

Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7



Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this fun annual event from St. Andrew's Women. Vendors from far and wide will be here offering their wares - just in time for some early holiday shopping. Take home fresh baked goods, soups, jewelry, and more. Raffle tickets are available now for a watercolor painting, Easton State Theatre gift card, and many other items. See any member of SAW, or stop in the church office, to purchase.

St. Andrew's Comforters

Wednesday, September 20th, 10am-3pm - Church Social Room

Each month a faithful group of ladies, St. Andrew's Comforters (aka Comfort Quilters), meets to make quilts. These quilts are not always fancy, but are designed for comfort. The quilts are distributed locally to those in need, and are also given annually to our high school graduates. The group meets monthly in the church Social Room. For more information about the group, contact Mary Ann Gaumer, the church office, or show up for their next meeting. All are welcome!



Memorials

Memorial donations were received in memory of Dorothy Fournier, who died on June 2nd, from Cynthia and Joseph White.

Memorial donations were received in memory of Pauline Thomas, who died on July 4, from Anita and Michael Smith.

Memorial donations were received in memory of Pauline Thomas who died on July 4, from Richard and Gwen Zetterlund.

An inscribed brick for the Memorial Garden was purchased by Fay and James Slater.

Memorial donations were received in memory of Pauline Thomas who died on July 4, from Peak Construction Company.

ST. ANDREW'S YOUTH



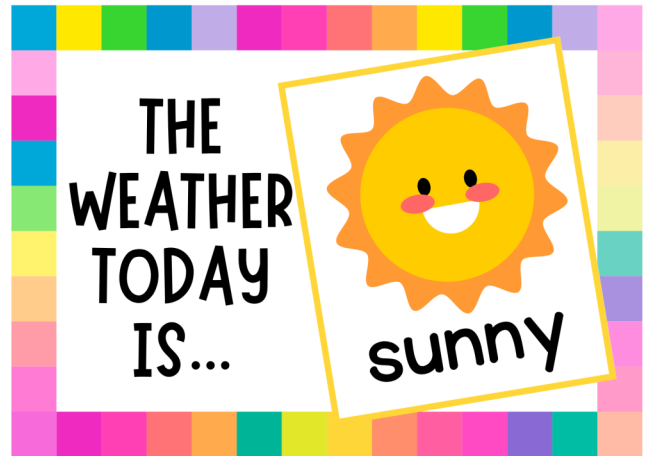
**Calling All
Parents**

Confirmation Meeting For 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
Resumes Tuesday, Sept. 5**



OUTSIDE ST. ANDREW'S

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church Rummage, Soup & Cookie Sale!

St. Peter's famous Rummage Sale is just around the corner! It's time to clear out those closets, bake some cookies, and make some soup to help with St. Peter's major fundraiser.

When: **Thursday, October 5th** **9am-5pm**
 Friday, October 6th **9am-5pm**
 Saturday, October 7th **9am-12pm (Bag Day)**

Where: 305 Delaware Road, Riegelsville, PA

If you have rummage items, soup or, baked goods to donate, the drop off days are:

Saturday, September 30th 12-4pm
Sunday, October 1 12-4pm
Monday, October 2 1-4pm

Please no TV's/Computers or accessories, furniture or rugs!

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9/01 Thomas Nelson

9/02 Joan Holland

9/04 Julie Vernarr

9/06 John Allshouse, Laura Azzalina, Jeffrey Weaver

9/07 Logan Pickel

9/08 Elizabeth Gimbar, Ron Roth, Jacob Sweitzer

9/09 Brandee Simko, Dawn Stydinger

9/10 Scott Aber, Benjamin Matase, Andrew Miller, Scott Thomas

9/11 Amanda Kutner, Russell Pysker, Joanne Thomas

9/12 Quinn Barilone, Ella Foulk, Erik Oakley, Jean Sales, Alana Schneck, Julie Sickels, Katrina Webb

9/13 Vivian Colfax, Taitum Frantz, Robert Pettit, Hannah Quimby

9/14 Nathan Carlberg

9/15 Bob Saville

9/16 Date Available. Those interested should inquire in Office.

9/17 Gregory Brown, Nora Connlain, Carol Corona, Rick Heimbach, Lauren Huff, Nicolas Rosado, Jr.

9/18 Ryan Ehrie, Andrew Mashintonio, Kylie Oltrogge, Heidi Shilanskas

9/19 Diane Laustsen, Andrew Scheirer, Karen Sickels

9/20 Kaylee Forsythe, Eric Stocker

9/21 Michael Hochwarter, David Laustsen

9/22 Nicholas Casterline, Ebon Derr, Sherry Hanlon, Aidan Hutchison, Cindy McClary

9/23 Greta Oltrogge, Riley Sweitzer

9/24 Sharyn Pysker

9/26 Dona Forik, James Harvey, Pastor Tom Neel, Brenna Perry

9/27 Allison Polles

9/28 Cindy Lynch, Jessica Matase, Stacy Schneck

9/30 Robert Hand, Jr., Kim Merluzzi, Bonnie Strausser



September Calendar

Friday, September 1

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, September 3

9:00am Worship Service

Monday, September 4

Labor Day

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, September 5

Nursery School Resumes

7:00pm Property Team via Zoom

Thursday, September 7

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 8

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, September 10

9:00am Worship Service

Spiritual Gifts Presentation during worship

Monday, September 11

7:00pm Church Council via Zoom

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

Tuesday, September 12

7:00pm Worship & Music at Hope House

7:00pm Easton Musical Arts

Wednesday, September 13

10:00am St. Andrew's Women Meeting

Thursday, September 14

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 15

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, September 17

9:00am Alternative Worship

Special Congregational Meeting, led by the Safety Committee, after worship

Monday, September 18

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

Tuesday, September 19

12:30pm Steel Magnolias

7:00pm Spiritual Gifts Committee

7:00pm Easton Musical Arts

Wednesday, September 20

10:00am St. Andrew's Comforters

7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, September 21

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Friday, September 22

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, September 24

9:00am Alternative Worship

10:30am Traditional Worship

Monday, September 25

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

Tuesday, September 26

7:00pm Easton Musical Arts

Wednesday, September 27

7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, September 28

7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

7:00pm Community Care Team via Zoom

Friday, September 29

7:30pm Crossroads AA

