



ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

DECEMBER, 2023

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Annual Budget Meeting

The Annual Budget Meeting will take place on Sunday, December 3th after the (one and only) 9:00am service.

The 2024 Budget will be discussed, voted on, and the 2024 Congregational Council will be elected.

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

IS PUBLISHED TWELVE TIMES A YEAR BY:

ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Join us for Worship and

Share the Light!

Sunday, December 3/First Sunday of Advent

9:00am *Alternative Worship Service
followed by *Annual Budget Meeting

Wednesday, December 6

7:00pm Advent Service—United Fellowship

Sunday, December 10/Second Sunday of Advent

9:00am *Alternative Worship Service
10:30am *Traditional Worship Service
3:00pm Easton Musical Arts Christmas Concert

Wednesday, December 13

7:00pm Advent Service—St. Paul's Third

Sunday, December 17/Third Sunday of Advent

9:00am *Alternative Worship Service
10:30am *Traditional Worship Service

Wednesday, December 20

7:00pm *Advent Service—St. Andrew's

Sunday, December 24/Christmas Eve

400pm *Family Christmas Service
700pm *Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Monday December 25/Christmas Day

No Worship Service



NEED A LIFT?



Contact Pastor Neel or the church office if you would like a ride to the 7:00pm Christmas Eve service. Conversely, please let us know if you are able to volunteer to drive another member.

FROM THE PASTOR



A Season of Promise

Thank-you, Thank-you, Thank-you,

To be sure there are many people who work very hard, put in many hours to keep St. Andrew's perking along.

A perfect example were the countless people who came out on clean-up day to care for the property and help make St. Andrew's look good! People like Tracy Payonk and Kathy Brandt who have adopted the flower bed at the church sign, or Ruth Cochios who has worked at the bank entrance in the main parking lot. We are indebted to these wonderful folks.

I'd also like to add a big shout out to John George and Rich Heater, who have worked on the church landscaping, fixed and secured ALL the flashing on the church building. That is only to name a few of the projects they have undertaken. Every time I turn around they are here working on something!

St. Andrew's is blessed!

- Pastor Neel



Holden Evening Prayer Services Wednesdays in Advent

St. John's, St. Paul's III, Arndt's, United Fellowship and St. Andrew's will join together for worship and a meal each week with the soup being offered at 6p and worship beginning at 7pm. The location will change each week.

December 6: United Fellowship Church, 2115 Washington Boulevard

December 13: St. Paul's III .2561 Newburg Road

December 20: St. Andrew's (we will also be livestreaming on this night.)





Music Notes

If you've ever felt the urge to sing in the Chancel Choir, this is your chance.

Anyone that is interested in singing with the choir on Christmas Eve is invited to Chancel Choir rehearsals starting on December 7th, December 14th and December 21st.

All rehearsals are scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Chancel of our worship space. Please join us!

Mark Jonkman, Director of Music



Christmas Eve

AT ST. ANDREW'S IN 2023

First things first, there will be two Christmas Eve worship experiences, one at 4:00PM and one at 7:00PM. Communion will be offered at both services, as well as a time of candlelight when we sing *Silent Night*.

The 4:00PM worship service will be designed for families and children. Pastor will offer a story time with the children, and the hymnody will reflect our young ones.

The 7:00PM service will be more reflective and not geared for children.



Holiday Office Hours

The Church Office will be open limited hours the week after Christmas to give our staff time with loved ones.



Come one and all for a **CHRISTMAS CONCERT** performed by **EASTON MUSICAL ARTS** right here at St. Andrew's on Sunday, December 10th at 3:00pm. It will be a wonderful afternoon of Christmas music.

Please don't miss it!

It's That Time of Year Again!

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



Due to the abbreviated newsletter, minutes from our most recent Congregation Council meetings are not included. Minutes are always available upon request through the church office.



General Fund Financial Position Summary for the Month Ending October 31, 2022

	<u>October</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Offerings	\$17,906.60	\$175,984.97
Expenses	\$23,668.00	\$192,046.99
Surplus (Shortage)	\$ (5,761.40)	(16,062.02)

2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

**denotes Team Liaison*

- 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. Financil Sec.:** 610-559-1038, **Res. Mgmt.*
- Deborah Ealer:** 610-330-0209 **Finance*
- Sue Himmelreich:** 610-258-2313 **Congregational Care*
- Diana Lausten:** 610-217-0448 **Community Care*
- Non-Council Officer: **Jonathan Bleice, Treasurer:** 610-462-9488

Take Note!

Personal email addresses have been removed from The Cross for the safety of our Council Members.

Christmas
Open House



December 16th from 2:00 to 5:00 in the afternoon you are invited to Pastor and David’s Home for desserts and conversation.

Pastor and David hope that you have the opportunity to stop by so that we can share some time together. We live at 6 Nottingham Lane in Palmer Township in Glenmoor just off of Corriere Drive. We ask that you bring an appetite for dessert. So, please mark the 16th in your calendar, and we hope to greet you for our holiday open house.



Ministry Teams



St. Andrew's Women (SAW)

**The Strong.
The Proud.
The Backbone.**

**Wednesday, December 13th, 10am
Social Room**

Devotions: Kim Merluzzi

Christmas Luncheon at Marblehead

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.

St. Andrew's Comforters

Each month a faithful group of ladies, St. Andrew's Comforters, meets for sewing and knitting, producing items that will help to give comfort to those in need and those starting a new chapter in their lives.

For more information about the group, contact Mary Ann Gaumer, the church office, or show up for their next meeting. All are welcome!

***The Comforters do not meet in December.**



We Rise by Lifting Others

Community Care Team

The Community Care Team coordinates much needed assistance to the community through food and diaper drives. Non-perishable food (non-sugar cereals are especially needed right now) can be left in the boxes in the Narthex, or dropped off at Hope House during office hours. The Team also coordinates the purchase and delivery of diapers and wipes that are funded through Altar Basket donations.

The Team meets the fourth Sunday of each month via Zoom. Contact Terry Diehl or Diane Laustsen, or the church office at 610-252-2258, for details.

Steel Magnolias

Tuesday, December 19th @ 12:30pm

Outback Steakhouse

The term Steel Magnolias has been defined as "women who have faced diversity full on with grace, poise and dignity"

Our Steel Magnolias Widows Group meets monthly for lunch and conversation. Contact the church office for reservations.





Confirmation

(Most) Sundays at 6:30pm

Confirmation Classes began for the year on October 1st at 6:30pm, and meet either at Hope House or United Fellowship Church on Washington Boulevard. Open to all seventh and eighth grade students. The youth learn about the Lutheran Church, the holy sacrament of communion, service to others, and much more. Contact Pastor Neel of the church office for more information.

First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion Classes are being organized now for any youth currently in the Fifth Grade. Contact Pastor Neel or the church office for more information.



REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



"It had a star on top, so I figured it should have a manger at the bottom".

YOU Can Make a Difference!



The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is up in the Narthex with tags for 70 individuals, of all ages, needing gifts through the Easton Neighborhood Center. Here is the process:

1. Select a tag from the tree.
2. Sign the clipboard with your name and the tag # that you selected.
3. Purchase and wrap gift, firmly attaching the tag to the outside.
4. Return wrapped gift to the church by December 10th.
5. Know that your gift to a stranger will make a difference on Christmas.

Ingathering

We have been asked to donate 25 sets of diapers size 4 and 5 this year for the Ingathering. Donations can be left in the bin in the Narthex or dropped off at Hope House by December 3rd.

2023 Midweek Advent Donations/Offering

During the Midweek Advent Services this year, we are asking for donations of hygiene items that will be used to create hygiene kits. These kits are going to be donated to **Project HOPE** of the *St. Luke's AIDS/HIV Clinics of Easton and Bethlehem*. We will also be taking a monetary offering which will be provided to the clinic for the purchase of other materials they need.

Hygiene Items Needed

(NOTE: you do not need to donate every item; the kits will be packed by a team after Christmas)

Toothbrush	Toothpaste	Deodorant	Shampoo	Conditioner	Comb
Wash Cloths	Wet Ones	Sanitary Napkins	Roll of Toilet Paper		





Offering for 2023

Please, please, you must have your offering to the church by December 31st or postmarked by December 29th to be posted in the year 2023

Thank You 

With Our Thanks and Gratitude

A heartfelt thank you for your thoughts, prayers and comforting words during the devastating loss of Rich's brother Alan. There are not enough words to express our appreciation for your support and friendship. We feel blessed to have you in our lives.

In Christ's Love,
Rich & Sue Heater

Jim and I want to thank all who sent Jim a birthday card and prayers for his 82nd birthday.

Poinsettias

St. Andrew's will once again be offering poinsettias to the congregation as a way to help "spruce up" the sanctuary for Christmas Eve.

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

The cost of the poinsettias are \$7.75 each, and they will once again come from Raub's Greenhouse.

Completed forms, along with payment, must be returned to the church office or left in the collection plate no later than Sunday, Dec. 10.

Given by: _____

In memory of: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

In honor of: _____

_____ # of plants

_____ amount enclosed

All checks should be made payable to:
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church





- 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, Pete Merluzzi
- 12/12 Chrisann Lewert
- 12/13 Kimberly Coriell, Donald Himmelreich
- 12/15 Aric Cappello, Doris Neumeyer, Joan Schaffer
- 12/16 Lindsey Celia, Steven Thorpe
- 12/17 Christina Stocker
- 12/18 Donald Colfax, Craig Dalrymple, Bennett Rymon, Crystal Skutches,
- 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 Alec Welsh
- 12/31 Debbie Ashton-Chase, Susan Chaffier, Julia Snyder, Pat Werkheiser



Flu season is here!

Hopefully, by the time you read this, you have had your flu shot. Flu season usually starts in October and ends in May, with the peak flu activity happening between December and March.

Here is a chart to help you distinguish flu symptoms vs. symptoms of the common cold:

Symptom	Cold	Flu
Symptom onset	Gradual	Abrupt
Fever	Rare	Common; lasts 3-4 days
Aches	Slight	Common; often severe
Chills	Uncommon	Fairly common
Fatigue,	Sometimes	Usual
Sneezing	Common	Sometimes
Chest discomfort; cough	Mild to moderate; hacking cough	Common; can be severe
Stuffy nose	Common	Sometimes
Sore throat	Common	Sometimes
Headache	Rare	Common

How to treat early flu symptoms:

- Get your rest
- Wash hands
- Stay hydrated
- Try over-the-counter medicines, such as Theraflu (check with doctor first)

People who are experiencing trouble breathing, chest pain or fever above 104 degrees should obtain medical attention immediately!

Dehydration in children can be very serious. You may see this when there is no urine in 8 hours, dry mouth or no tears when crying. Again, seek medical attention!



Friday December 1

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, December 3

First Sunday of Advent

Congregational Meeting

9:00am *Alternative Worship Service

Congregational Meeting follows worship

6:30pm Confirmation @ St. Andrew's

Monday, December 4

7:00pm Worship and Music

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

Tuesday, December 5

7:00pm Easton Musical Arts

7:00pm Property Team via Zoom

Wednesday, December 6

7:00pm Advent Worship Service -United Fellowship Church

Thursday, December 7

7:00pm Chancel Choir

Friday, December 8

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, December 10

Second Sunday of Advent

9:00am *Alternative Worship Service

10:30am *Traditional Service

3:00pm Easton Musical Arts Concert

Monday, December 11

7:00pm Church Council via Zoom

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

Wednesday, December 13

10:00am SAW Meeting

7:00pm Advent Worship Service—St. Paul's III

Thursday, December 14

7:00pm Chancel Choir

Friday, December 15

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Saturday, December 16

2:00pm Pastor's Open house

Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

9:00am *Alternative Worship Service

10:30am *Traditional Service

Monday, December 18

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

Nursery school closed

Tuesday, December 19

12:30pm Steel Magnolias

7pm Spiritual Gifts

Nursery school closed

Wednesday, December 20

7:00pm *Advent Service—St. Andrew's

Thursday, December 21

7:00pm Chancel Choir

Nursery school closed

Friday, December 22

Church Office Closed

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

4:00pm *Family Style Worship Service

7:00pm *Candlelight Worship Service

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

NO WORSHIP SERVICE

NO Parent Partnership Support Group

Thursday, December 28

7:00pm Chancel Choir

7:00pm Community Care

Friday, December 29

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Saturday, December 31

New Year's Eve

**Livestreamed via Zoom*