

# ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

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

SEPTEMBER, 2024  
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## 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 and young families who have major schedule changes. Many of our committees will get back to their important work, our choir comes back together to once again make beautiful music, and our nursery school is reopening in this year of rebirth. 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.

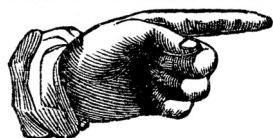
Yes, it is a wonderful time of year, and we are happy that you are here to share it with us, as part of the St. Andrew's Family.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

PASTOR NEEL.....	2
COUNCIL.....	3
TREASURER'S REPORT.....	3
ST. ANDREW'S WOMEN.....	4
MINISTRY GROUPS.....	4
PARISH NURSES.....	5
MUSIC.....	6
BIBLE STUDY.....	7
BIRTHDAYS.....	7
CHURCH TIME NURSERY.....	7
CHURCH CALENDAR.....	8

### Please Notice This



### Do you know what occurred Sunday, October 17, 1954?

That was the date of our very first worship service! As we approach October 17, our

*Platinum Jubilee*, watch church communications for more information about how we will mark the event.

In the meantime, if you have old pictures of the church or congregation, please pull them out and consider lending them to the church.

***“Dear God,***

***Thank you for the gift of children, youth and families. Please watch over our children as they go back to school this year. Keep them safe every day. Help them to remember that you are right there with them in the halls and classrooms.”***

## ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

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**ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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## Pastor's Pen

### **You Can Make a Difference!**

We live in a crazy, mixed up world and so often we can watch the news and wonder what we can do to help. The problems seem so big and, in some cases, so far away. But the thing is that we can do some things to make a difference. We really can!

**FOOD BANK** is perhaps the easiest way we can help. Buy one can of a yummy soup each time you shop. Put it on your grocery list every week. If we all bring a can a week that makes a big difference to someone who is hungry. Remember that someone who is hungry may not have a can opener or a way to heat the food, so, whatever you buy should be pre-cooked and easy to open.

**SAFE HARBOR** is also a way that you can make a difference. Again, this is a feeding ministry that helps those who are homeless. Organize a few families and provide a meal. Truly, it's not that difficult at all. And, there is no clean-up (the residents take care of that) and they love the leftovers. See me, and I will help you with the details. It is a great way that you can make a difference!

**PROJECT OF EASTON** is a wonderful ministry that assists families, helps to prevent homelessness, and provides food to those who are food insecure in the Easton area. You can also make a difference by:

- assisting in the office with administrative support.
- assisting with ProJeCt's Food Bank.
- helping at the Literacy Center to help folks become more independent and able to maintain a job that supports their family.

Again, YES, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! Talk to me if you have ANY questions.

- *Pastor Neel*

# CONGREGATION COUNCIL



## 2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Laurie Roth, President: 610-252-7619  
 Ed Schaeffer, Vice Pres.: 610-258-4280, *\*Mutual Ministry*  
 Diane Dutko, Exec. Secy: 610-428-5339, *\*Nursery School*  
 Teresa Diehl: 610-248-2421, *\*Community Care*  
 Deborah Ealer: 610-330-0209, *\*Finance*  
 Sue Himmelreich: 484-226-0165, *\*Congregation Care*  
 Diana Laustsen: 610-217-0448, *\*Community Care*

### Non-Council Appointed Officers:

Jonathan Bleice, Treasurer: 610-462-9488  
 Elizabeth Campbell, Secretary: 610-252-2258

*\*Denotes Liaison to Committee*

Minutes from all Council Meetings are available by request in the church office. Council meets the second Monday of each month on Zoom. Members of the congregation are invited to attend, but only Council members are given a vote. Links to the meeting can be found in the calendar on the church website.

## EMAIL ADDRESSES

[pastor@standrewspalmer.org](mailto:pastor@standrewspalmer.org)  
[office@standrewspalmer.org](mailto:office@standrewspalmer.org)  
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[treasurer@standrewspalmer.org](mailto:treasurer@standrewspalmer.org)  
[nurseryschool@standrewspalmer.org](mailto:nurseryschool@standrewspalmer.org)

## General Fund Financial Position Summary for the month ending June 30, 2024

	<u>June</u>	<u>2024</u>
Offerings	\$12,351.25	\$110,733.36
Expenses	\$16,004.89	\$118,663.67
Surplus (Shortage)	(\$3,653.64)	(\$7,930.31)

## Redner's Save-a-Tape

Are you familiar with Save-a-Tape? This vital program is responsible for funding the Pastor's Discretionary Fund which is used to help those in need.

When shopping at Redner's, make sure to use your Redner's Reward's Card and then bring the receipt to church. You will find a collection box in the Narthex, or you can leave receipts in the mailbox by the entrance to Hope House. Once received, the receipts are totaled and sent to Redner's for reimbursement. We receive 1% of all receipts, which really adds up throughout the year.

**Challenge** - If you know that a good friend or neighbor shops at Redner's, tell them about the program. If they aren't part of a church or other organization that is active in the program, they just might start saving those receipts for St. Andrew's. It's a winning program that costs us nothing, but means the world to the families who are helped.

# A SNAPSHOT OF OUR MINISTRY GROUPS

## **St. Andrew's Women (SAW)**

### **Wednesday, September 11 @ 10am, Social Room**

St. Andrew's Women's group, SAW, meets the second Wednesday of each month. SAW provides support not only to the church, but also to our community and other charitable organizations, through a number of unique and widely anticipated annual fundraising events. SAW is open to all women on a "come as you can" basis.

## **St. Andrew's Comforters**

### **Wednesday, September 18, 10am - 3pm, Social Room**

Our Comforters group comes together monthly, September through May, to work on quilts, and to crochet and stitch smaller items for donation to local organizations. If you enjoy any of the fiber arts, they would love for you to join them. Contact Mary Ann Gaumer or the church office for more information.

## **Property Team**

The St. Andrew's Property Team keeps busy behind the scenes making sure that our buildings and grounds are in good shape at all times. From everyday maintenance and improvements to more complicated matters, our team gets it done! Each member has a different skill set and they are always looking for additional members. Whether you are an experienced carpenter or electrician or someone who is most comfortable with gardening work or a paintbrush, there is a place in the group for anyone willing to pitch in. For more information, contact the Church Office.

## **Community Care Team**

### **Thursday, September 26 @ 7:00pm via Zoom**

This group meets monthly, to arrange ways that we can extend our helping hand out into the community. Recent projects have included organizing a cookout dinner for the residents of Safe Harbor, collecting diapers and wipes for the Easton Area Neighborhood Center, and collecting non-perishable food and laundry detergent for area food banks. If you would like to be a part of this vital group, contact Terry Diehl, Diane Laustsen, or the Church Office.

## **Altar Guild**

Have you ever wondered how the wine was restocked for worship each week or how the linens were changed during the week? How about why the linens are different colors for different seasons and events throughout the year? This is the work of the Altar Guild. This small but mighty group works to make sure that the elements needed for worship are set up and ready to go. If you are interested in helping this team, or learning more about it, speak with Pastor Neel.

## **Offering Counters**

### **Tuesday Mornings at Hope House**

The Offering Counters are a fundamental part of our church family. The Counters work in pairs each Tuesday morning, with each pair generally covering a month at a time and then not working again for several months. The Counters tally up all monies that are donated to the church and deposit it each week. If this sounds like something you would enjoy, whether on the normal rotation or as a substitute, contact Janet Rhymer for more information.

## **Safety Committee**

The Safety Committee has worked tirelessly in the last couple of years to upgrade the church fire, smoke, carbon monoxide, and emergency notification technology, such as the newly installed panic buttons. The group meets most months, on a Thursday morning at 9:30, in Hope House. Contact Sue Himmelreich for more information about joining the group.

# ***From Your Parish Nurses....***

## **Keep a Healthy Mouth**



1. Brush 2x/day with a SOFT bristle toothbrush
2. Use fluoride toothpaste
3. Clean between teeth with dental floss or tiny brushes
4. Do not smoke cigarettes or use other forms of tobacco
5. Visit your dentist every six months. Getting regular professional cleanings is the only way to remove hardened plaque, above or below the gumline.

### **Preventative Measures for Healthy and Long Lasting Teeth**

**Dental Sealants:** Preferably placed after secondary pre-molars/molars have erupted in children. Sealants provide a layer of protection against cavities. They are made of plastic and are placed over pits and fissures in the teeth, preventing bacteria from travelling into teeth.

**Diagnostic X-rays:** Dental x-rays are internal images of the teeth and jaw. Dentists use x-rays to examine structures that are not seen during a routine check-up. For example, the x-rays will capture jaw-bone, nerves, sinuses and teeth roots. Diagnostic x-rays are usually taken at routine visits on a yearly basis for patients that are prone to tooth decay and gum disease. For patients who are not cavity-prone and practice good oral hygiene, they would be taken every 18-24 months.

**The most common question that patients have is “why do my gums bleed?” Bleeding gums are NOT normal.**

Gingivitis: a condition where the gums are irritated and inflamed causing bleeding when teeth are brushed. This is a reversible condition. When bleeding occurs in the mouth it is always a good idea to make an appointment with the dentist to rule out something more serious. However, if the plaque is not removed by brushing and flossing, it can build up and infect the gums, teeth and bone that supports them, leading to a more serious form of gum disease called periodontitis. This condition cannot be reversed and can lead to loss; destruction of the supporting structure of the teeth. The signs of gum disease are not always easy to see and can be painless. The earlier gum disease is caught, the easier it is to maintain. That is why regular 3-6 month visits to the dentist are vitally important.

## **It's That Time Again!**

### **St. Andrew's Nursery School Reopens September 3rd**

This has been a busy summer as we prepare for the rebirth of St. Andrew's Nursery School. Our new staff has come together, and we have met many children excited to begin their educational journey in the church.

Please remember that little ones can easily get away from parents in the parking lot, and be sure to drive very slowly during drop off and pick up times.

With this in mind, we also remind all groups to please begin your meetings by 8:45 or to meet after 9:30am. Thank you for your assistance making our property safer for everyone.



## Handbell Choir to Ring Again!

St Andrew's Handbell Choir has been absent from worship due to the pandemic in 2020-2021 and the subsequent loss of previous players. With the interest of former players and hopefully the interest from additional congregation members, we look forward to beginning anew this October.

Tentative plans are to play during worship in early November and once during Advent. We also plan to play for worship during Lent, perhaps Easter Sunday, and one additional morning.

The choir will rehearse on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:20 PM, beginning Thursday, October 3rd! We will discuss plans and schedules, practice ringing for new members, and begin to read through the music to be presented during future worship services. **No previous experience is required** to join the group - just a love of music.

If you are being called to participate in this music ministry, or are interested in learning more before committing to the choir, please contact Guy Ehler before October at 610-322-2539 or by email at [relhew@verizon.net](mailto:relhew@verizon.net).

You can also contact Mark Jonkman, Director of Music, to express your interest in playing the English handbells this coming church year.



# THANK YOU

*I want to thank everyone who reached out by calling, sending cards and prayers, after the death of my brother, James Ealer.*

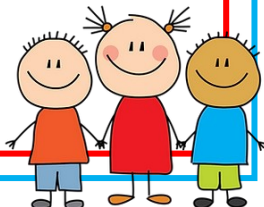
*Your thoughtfulness was truly appreciated.*

*- Deborah Ealer*

## Thank You

The staff of St. Andrew's Nursery School would like to thank everyone for your donations these last few weeks.

We truly appreciate your support of the nursery school ministry!



## Chancel Choir

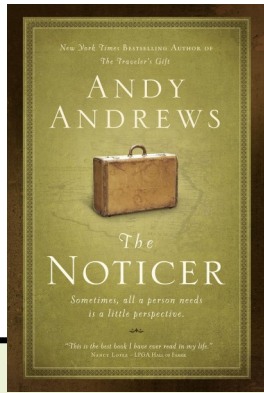
Do you enjoy singing? Ever find yourself humming a tune while working around the house? If so, the Chancel Choir is calling (or maybe chanting) your name!

Singing has many benefits including lowering stress levels, improving mood, and helping to decrease pain. In addition, those who sing in groups report less fatigue, greater social connectedness, and enhanced feelings of trust.

No previous experience is required to join the Chancel Choir. All adults are welcome, so feel free to try it out even just for one night.

The Chancel Choir rehearses Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm in the worship space, and will resume rehearsals on September 5. Please make note of this new rehearsal time. For more information, reach out to Mark Jonkman, Director of Music, at [mlksp2000@gmail.com](mailto:mlksp2000@gmail.com).





**Bible Study classes will resume October 2nd**, and they will be reading and discussing the New York Times bestselling book “*The Noticer*” by Andy Andrews. It is the story of a mysterious old man who has a knack for showing up in people's lives at just the right time, providing priceless lessons about love, life, and the importance of perspective. Bible study meets weekly on Wednesdays at 7pm on Zoom. Books are available through the church office for anyone interested in joining in. Contact Pastor Neel for more information.

## Church Time Nursery

Nursery care is available for our youngest children during worship in the large nursery school room. Children can be dropped off prior to worship, or picked up by a nursery volunteer after the children's message. Either way, please sign your child in before the start of worship.

### September Nursery Volunteers:

- 9/1 Linda Trigiani and Deb Henry
- 9/8 David Abel and Linda Baskwell
- 9/15 Abby Stutz and Sue Pettit
- 9/22 Kathy Brandt and Tracy Payonk
- 9/29 Ron Roth and Sharon Bleice



## September Birthdays

- 9/02 Joan Holland
- 9/04 Julie Vernarr
- 9/06 John Allshouse, Laura Azzalina
- 9/07 Logan Pickel
- 9/08 Elizabeth Gimbar, Ron Roth
- 9/10 Benjamin Matase
- 9/11 Amanda Kutner, Russell Pysher, Joanne Thomas
- 9/12 Quinn Barilone, Erik Oakley, Jean Sales, Alana Schneck, Julie Sickels
- 9/13 Taitum Frantz, Robert Pettit
- 9/15 Bob Saville
- 9/17 Nora Connlain, Carol Corona, Lauren Huff
- 9/18 Andrew Mashintonio
- 9/19 Diane Laustsen, Karen Sickels
- 9/20 Kaylee Forsythe
- 9/21 David Laustsen
- 9/26 Dona Forik, Pastor Tom Neel, Brenna Perry
- 9/27 Allison Polles
- 9/28 Cindy Lynch
- 9/30 Kim Merluzzi



# SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

## Sunday, September 1

9:30am "Now the Feast" Worship

## Monday, September 2

Labor Day

Church Office Closed

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

## Tuesday, September 3

Nursery School—First Day of School

7:00pm Easton Musical Arts Rehearsal

## Thursday, September 5

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Friday, September 6

7:30pm Crossroads AA

## Sunday, September 8

9:30am Worship

## Monday, September 9

7:00pm Congregation Council via Zoom

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

## Tuesday, September 10

7:00pm Property Team

7:00pm Easton Musical Arts Rehearsal

## Wednesday, September 11

10:00am St. Andrew's Women

7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom

## Thursday, September 12

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Friday, September 13

7:30pm Crossroads AA

## Sunday, September 15

9:30am Worship

10:30am Fire Alarm Testing (after worship)

## Monday, September 16

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

## Tuesday, September 17

9:00am Nursery School—Picture Day

7:00pm Easton Musical Arts Rehearsal

## Wednesday, September 18

10:00am St. Andrew's Comforters

7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom

## Thursday, September 19

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Friday, September 20

7:30pm Crossroads AA

## Sunday, September 22

9:30am Worship

## Monday, September 23

7:00pm Nursery School Cmte @ Hope House

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

## Tuesday, September 24

7:00pm Easton Musical Arts Rehearsal

## Wednesday, September 25

10:00am SAW Bus Trip

7:00pm Nursery School - Parent Night

7:00pm Bible Study via Zoom

## Thursday, September 26

7:00pm Community Care Team via Zoom

7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## Friday, September 27

7:30pm Crossroads AA

## Sunday, September 29

9:30am Worship

## Monday, September 30

7:00pm

