

# ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

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

DECEMBER, 2024  
VOLUME 69, ISSUE II



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## ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

IS PUBLISHED TWELVE TIMES A YEAR BY:

### ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## December Worship Calendar

### Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday of Advent

9:30am Worship followed by Annual Budget Meeting

### Wednesday, December 4

7:00pm Advent Service @ Arndt's Church

### Sunday, December 8 - Second Sunday of Advent

9:30am Worship Service

### Wednesday, December 11

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

### Sunday, December 15 - Third Sunday of Advent

9:30am Worship Service

### Wednesday, December 18

7:00pm Advent Service @ St. Andrew's

### Sunday, December 22 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:30am Worship Service

### Tuesday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

4:00pm Family Christmas Service (designed for children)

7:00pm Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Day

No Worship Service

### Sunday, December 29

9:30am Service of Lessons and Carols with Communion

## - Annual Budget Meeting -

An important meeting of the congregation will take place Sunday, December 1st, immediately following worship. Budget cuts to the 2025 Budget will be discussed and voted upon. In addition, the 2025 Congregational Council will be elected. Snow Date = December 8th.

The proposed budget is available now in the Narthex, or by request from the church office. The second half of our Annual Meeting, the meeting that celebrates our ministries, will be held Sunday, February 23rd (snow date: March 2nd).

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

## Holden Evening Prayer Services - Wednesdays During Advent

The churches in our Easton Cluster will once again join together for worship and a meal each week during Advent, with soup being offered at 6pm and worship beginning at 7pm. The location will change each week. Offerings will be forwarded to Safe Harbor Homeless Shelter. In addition, we will be collecting prepared and easy to open canned goods for the Safe Harbor Food Bank, which helps to supplement the homeless who utilize their warming center over the winter months.

**December 4: Arndt's Church, 1851 Arndt Road, Easton**

**December 11: St. Paul's III, 2561 Newburg Road, Easton**

**December 18: St. Andrew's**

Please contact the church office or see any member of SAW to volunteer to make soup, help set up, or to clean up after the meal on December 18. All help is appreciated.

## Christmas Eve at St. Andrew's - 4pm Family Service; 7pm Traditional



We will once again offer two very different worship experiences on Christmas Eve.

The first service, at 4:00PM, is intended for families with young children. Rather than a traditional sermon, Pastor Neel will offer a storybook for the children and the hymns will be selected to reflect our young ones.

The 7:00pm service will be more reflective and traditional. Communion and the candlelight singing of *Silent Night* will be offered at both services.

## Lutheran Disaster Relief

We received a letter of thanks from the ELCA, Lutheran Disaster Relief, to thank the congregation of St. Andrew's for our recent donation of \$1,000 toward the hurricane relief in the southern United States.

To quote the letter, "(Jesus said,) 'Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' (The lawyer) said, the one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'"

For more on our continued efforts to help with hurricane relief, see page six.

# CONGREGATION COUNCIL



## 2024 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Laurie Roth, President  
Ed Schaeffer, Vice President, *\*Mutual Ministry*  
Diane Dutko, Exec. Secretary, *\*Nursery School*  
Teresa Diehl, *\*Community Care*  
Deborah Ealer, *\*Finance*  
Sue Himmelreich, *\*Congregation Care*  
Diana Laustsen, *\*Community Care*

## NON-COUNCIL APPOINTED OFFICERS

Jonathan Bleice, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Campbell, Secretary  
*\*Denotes Liaison to Committee*

Questions or comments intended for Council can be emailed to the Council President at [president@standrewspalmer.org](mailto:president@standrewspalmer.org).

## Council Minutes

Congregation Council meets the 2nd Monday of each month on Zoom.

Minutes from all Council Meetings are available by request in the church office.

Members of the congregation are invited to attend, but only Council members are given a vote.

## General Fund Financial Position Summary for the month ending October 31, 2024

	<u>October</u>	<u>2024</u>
Offerings	\$13,928.00	\$159,867.84
Expenses	\$16,119.80	\$171,783.09
Surplus (Shortage)	(\$2,191.80)	(\$11,915.25)



## *The Bishop is Coming!!!*

On Sunday, January 26, Bishop Christopher deForest will share the chancel with Pastor Neel and deliver the morning sermon. Bishop deForest is coming because he is "grateful for our partnership in the Gospel". We hope you will join us for this very special morning at St. Andrew's.

# 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. The plants will again be supplied by 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. 8.

All checks should be made payable to St. Andrew's Church with "Poinsettias" noted in the memo line.

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of Plants: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



## 2024 Offerings

2024 Offerings must be received in the church office by December 31st, or postmarked by December 29th, to be posted in 2024. Thank you.

## Easton Musical Arts Holiday Concert

Easton Musical Arts Chorus will once again present a holiday concert at St. Andrew's on Sunday, December 8th at 3pm. The donation is \$8, and tickets will be available at the door.

## Changes in Communion

Effective immediately, both wine and juice will be available up front during worship. There is no need to pick up the prefilled cups in the Narthex. In addition, Pastor Neel will bring communion to the seats for anyone with ambulatory issues.

## Memorial

A memorial gift was received from Laurie and Ron Roth in memory of John George who passed into eternal life on August 26th.

## Office Hours

The Church Office will be open limited hours the week of Christmas. Thank you for your understanding.



# MINISTRY GROUPS

## **St. Andrew's Women (SAW) - Second Wednesdays** **Next Meeting: December 11 at 10am in the Social Room**

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, church members or not, on a "come as you can" basis.

## **Handbell Choir - Thursdays from 6:30pm- 7:20pm**

The Handbell Choir has recently started rehearsing again on Thursday evenings in the worship space and we couldn't be happier! No previous experience is required to join. All it requires is a love of music and an interest in creating music with others. For more information, contact either handbell leader Guy Ehler or music director Mark Jonkman at [music@standrewspalmer.org](mailto:music@standrewspalmer.org).

## **Chancel Choir - Thursdays at 7:30pm**

The Chancel Choir is rehearsing music for Advent and Christmas Eve, but still welcomes new friends. No previous experience is required to join the group. All adults are welcome. For more information, contact our music director, Mark Jonkman, at [music@standrewspalmer.org](mailto:music@standrewspalmer.org), or catch him after worship on Sunday morning.

## **Bible Study - Wednesday Evenings at 7pm on Zoom**

The Adult Bible Study group typically meets Wednesday evenings on Zoom, but due to Advent, is taking a break until after the New Year. For more information, contact Pastor Neel or the church office.

## **St. Andrew's Nursery School**

On Tuesday, November 26th, the school hosted what we hope will become an annual event - our first ever *Thanksgiving Fruit Salad Gathering*. Parents and grandparents, as well as members of both Council and the Nursery School Committee, were on hand to join in this special morning. Everyone was asked to bring an ingredient for a giant fruit salad and, once mixed, all enjoyed a bowl of sweet goodness. This piggybacked on our recent curriculum themes of *Thanksgiving, Harvest, and Farming*.

We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the school in recent weeks. Thanks to your support, we have purchased and been given gallons paint as well as other arts and craft items and teacher supplies. In addition, we were able to purchase new playground balls. The help and support of the congregation means the world to us!



# Helping to Create a Brighter Tomorrow



## **2024 Christmas Ingathering**

The Bethlehem/Easton Mission District 2024 Christmas Ingathering will be held in early December at New Jerusalem Lutheran Church. In anticipation, St. Andrew's has been asked to provide 175 tubes of toothpaste and 50 toothbrushes. At this time, we have more toothbrushes than are needed, but are **far short of our goal for toothpaste.**

Donations can be left in the box marked "Christmas Ingathering" which can be found in the Narthex, or brought to the church office. All donations must be in no later than **Monday, December 2nd.** Thank you for your support of this effort which will benefit New Bethany Ministries, Safe Harbor, Hellertown Area Food Bank, Turning Point, Community Services, Bright Hope, Victory House, and ProJeCt.

## **The Giving Tree**

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

- \* Select a tag from the tree.
- \* Sign the clipboard with your name and the tag # that you selected.
- \* Purchase and wrap gift, firmly attaching the tag to the outside of the package.
- \* Return wrapped gift to the church by December 8th.
- \* Know that your gift to a stranger will make a difference on Christmas.

## **2024 Midweek Advent Donations/Offering**

During the Midweek Advent Services this year, we will be collecting both monetary donations as well as canned foods for Safe Harbor. We ask that all canned food is fully prepared (no heating necessary) and is easy to open without a can opener. These collections will be taken at each worship location.

## **Lutheran Disaster Assistance**

Finally, we continue to collect financial donations for Lutheran Disaster Assistance, specifically to aid in hurricane relief in the southern United States. Checks should be made out to St. Andrew's Church with "Hurricane Relief" written in the memo line.

# DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12/01 Rene Boylan  
12/02 Cathy Tichy  
12/04 Brady Masterson, Linda Rute  
12/06 Dakota Schlater  
12/07 Susan Altemose  
12/09 Donna George, Susan Sensinger  
12/10 Elizabeth Campbell, David Heine  
12/11 Melanie Lynn, Pete Merluzzi  
12/13 Donald Himmelreich  
12/15 Doris Neumeyer  
12/16 Steven Thorpe  
12/18 Craig Dalrymple, John Spadoni  
12/19 Stella Spadoni, Everly Stutz  
12/24 Jessica McMillin, Elliott Peters  
12/25 Wilma Kleintop  
12/29 Katie Jo Pickel  
12/30 Alec Welsh  
12/31 Debbie Ashton-Chase



## Church Time Nursery

Nursery care is available during worship on Sunday mornings in the large preschool classroom.

Families do not need to be members of St. Andrew's for nursery care.

### December Nursery Volunteers

Dec. 1: Jill Machado & Linda Trigiani

Dec. 8: Ron Roth & Linda Baskwell

Dec. 15: Deb Henry & David Abel

Dec. 22: Kathy Brandt & Tracy Payonk

Dec. 29: Rachel Hill & Claire Sadler



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



# DECEMBER CALENDAR

## **Sunday, December 1**

### **First Sunday of Advent**

9:30am Worship  
followed by **Annual Budget Meeting**

## **Monday, December 2**

7:00pm Worship & Music @ Hope House  
7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

## **Tuesday, December 3**

7:00pm Property Team via Zoom  
7:00pm Easton Musical Arts

## **Wednesday, December 4**

6:00pm Soup Dinner followed by....  
7:00pm Advent Worship @ Arndt's

## **Thursday, December 5**

6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00pm Community Care Team  
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday, December 6**

7:30pm Crossroads AA

## **Sunday, December 8**

### **Second Sunday of Advent**

9:30am Worship  
3:00pm Easton Musical Arts Concert

## **Monday, December 9**

7:00pm Congregation Council via Zoom  
7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

## **Wednesday, December 11**

10:00am St. Andrew's Women  
6:00pm Soup Dinner followed by....  
7:00pm Advent Worship @ St. Paul's Third

## **Thursday, December 12**

9:30am Safety Committee @ Hope House  
6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:00pm Community Care Team  
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday, December 13**

7:30pm Crossroads AA

## **Sunday, December 15**

### **Third Sunday of Advent**

9:30am Worship

## **Monday, December 16**

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

## **Wednesday, December 18**

6:00pm Soup Dinner followed by  
7:00pm Advent Worship @ St. Andrew's

## **Thursday, December 19**

6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal  
7:30pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

## **Friday, December 20**

7:30pm Crossroads AA

## **Sunday, December 22**

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

9:30am Worship

## **Monday, December 23**

7:00pm Nursery School Committee @ Hope Hs  
7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

## **Tuesday, December 24**

### **Christmas Eve**

#### **Church Office Closed**

4:00pm Children's Worship Service  
7:00pm Traditional Candlelight Service

## **Wednesday, December 25**

### **Christmas Day**

#### **Church Office Closed**

## **Friday, December 27**

7:30pm Crossroads AA

## **Sunday, December 29**

9:30am Service of Lessons & Carols with  
Communion

## **Monday, December 30**

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

## **Tuesday, December 31**

### **New Year's Eve**

#### **Church Office Closed**