

ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

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

NOVEMBER, 2025
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Annual Budget Meeting

The Annual Budget Meeting will take place on Sunday, December 7th, immediately following worship. The snow date is December 14th. The 2026 Budget will be discussed, voted on, and the 2026 Congregational Council will be elected.

Be on the lookout for the recommended budget as well as additional meeting details in the Narthex and via email. *(Let this serve as a gentle reminder to be sure the office has your current email address.)*

The second half of our Annual Meeting, the meeting that celebrates our ministries, will be held early in the year. Watch future issues of the Cross and email for the date.

Please note that all committee reports will be due to the office no later than January 11th.

Special Days in November

SUN, NOV. 2: **ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY**

TUE, NOV. 4: **ELECTION DAY**

MON, NOV. 10: **VETERANS DAY**

SUN, NOV. 16: **STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY**

SUN, NOV. 23: **CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY**

THURS, NOV. 27: **THANKSGIVING DAY**

SUN, NOV. 30: **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Remember to set your clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, Nov. 1st



From the Pastor's Desk

As I sit in my office after four days in New York City enjoying Broadway, my mind still wonders to an off Broadway play called Saturday Church. The play was a coming out story... but it was also about how the main line church that he loved didn't want him to come out, they wanted him to deny who he was and "act" like a man.

Problem was, that meant he had to condemn the "gay part" of himself. Enter Saturday Church. Saturday Church was a group of people who simply accepted people for who they were, while they met in a church basement they didn't worship, but they welcomed and accepted everyone who walked through the doors.

*"...God's love was for all people
not just a select group".*

The people in Saturday Church were the people who were society's throw aways. The people nobody wanted. But God wanted them, and really God wanted people from both Saturday and Sunday church.

The main line church had to change the way it thought about God and relationships with each other. They had to understand that God's love was for all people not just a select group. As the Sunday Church changed, they found joy.

God's love challenges us to find a way to include Saturday and Sunday Church goers, as we are reminded again that God loves all of his people.

- *Pastor Neel*

ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

the Rev. Thomas A. Neel, pastor
Elizabeth Campbell, Administrative Coordinator
Mark Jonkman, Director of Music
Susan Heater, Bookkeeper
Elizabeth Campbell, Nursery School Director

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CONGREGATION COUNCIL

2025 COUNCIL MEMBERS

Diane Dutko, Council President:
Laurie Roth, Vice Pres **Spiritual Gifts* **Mutual Ministry*
Teresa Diehl, Exec Secretary **Community Care*
Chandra Bleice **Congregational Care*
Heidi Butler **Nursery School*
Deborah Ealer **Finance*
Julie Kraft **Property*
Diane Laustsen **Community Care*

Non-Council Appointed Officers:

Jonathan Bleice, Treasurer
Elizabeth Campbell, Secretary

* *Denotes Committee Liaison*



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.



General Fund Financial Position Summary for the month ending September, 2025

	<u>September</u>	<u>2025</u>
Offerings	\$15,274.33	\$137,570.79
Expenses	\$16,615.01	\$139,224.58
Surplus (Shortage)	(\$1,340.68)	(\$1,653.79)

Highlights of the October 13, 2025 Congregation Council Meeting:

- ◆ Donations continue to trend below 2024. A Budget Meeting was scheduled for Oct. 29 at 7pm.
- ◆ The Craft Fair raised over \$6000. The Nursery School will have a fundraiser at Red Robin on 11/3.
- ◆ The Property Team is doing repairs on the playground "Ark".
- ◆ There will be no Ingathering this year due to leaders stepping down. A motion was passed to allocate the Second Sunday Offering to the Mission District to assist with bulk purchases for local agencies.
- ◆ Wednesday Advent Services will be using Holden Evening Prayer.
- ◆ Christmas Eve services will again be at 4pm (for children and families) and 7pm Traditional.



St. Andrew's Women

Wednesday, November 12 @ 10:00am

Church Social Room

Guest Speaker: Erin Roman, Director of Programs, ProJeCt of Easton

St. Andrew's Women's group (SAW) meets the second Wednesday of each month and provides support not only to the church, but also to other charitable organizations in our community and beyond, through widely anticipated fundraising events.

SAW is open to all women, church members or not, on a "come as you can" basis.

Craft and Vendor Fair Raffle

**The following is a list of all prizewinners from the raffle drawing held October 4th.
Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and donated to the raffle.**

ITEM:

DONOR:

WINNER:

Watercolor Painting	Sylvia Gallop	Carol Ehler
Quilt	Sue Pettit	Linda Trigiani
Wine Basket	Kathy Brandt & Tracy Payonk	Laurie Roth
Bowl & Platter	Ed & Kathy Schaeffer	Julie Derr
QVC Candle Holder	Ed & Kathy Schaeffer	Doreen Gehret
Birdhouse	Ed & Kathy Schaeffer	Melissa Steckel
Coach Purse	Katy Piorkowski	Melissa Steckel
Christmas Basket	Glenda Prideaux	Pam Noone
Halloween Wreath	Kim Kreitz	Jill Machado
\$35 Visa Gift Card	Breska Boulos	Janet Domerski
Pick Your Stick	Candice Eick	Kathy Schaeffer
Towel, Hat, Headband	Church Ladies	Lucy Mainzer
Picture Shadow Box	Diane Dieter	Katy Piorkowski
Pink Crochet Afghan	Debbie Ealer	April Shaheen
Bottle Light & Charm	Roberta Leiby	Lucy Lynch
3D Printing Figures	Andrew Holmes	Debbie Ashton
Scentsy Basket	Lauren Huff	Jill Machado
Slate Santa Picture	Anne Herron	Glenda Prideaux
Apron, Tablecloth, Napkins	Deb Henry	Breska Boulos
4 Gift Cards Ice Skating	Andrew Holmes	Susan Thorpe
Christmas Ornament & Card	Lily Eyuazzadeh	Julie Derr
Crochet Animals	Paige Strasko	Nancy Konn
White Crochet Afghan	Betty Detweiler	Doreen Gehret
Ornament & Pumpkin	Nicole Perkins	Nina Kramer



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 7. The location will change each week.

December 3: St. Paul's III, 2561 Newburg Road, Easton

December 10: St. John's, 330 Ferry St., Easton

December 17: 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 17. Many hands make light work.

Additional Ways to Help in Our Community....

Ingathering

The volunteer group that has organized the Ingathering for the last several years will not be hosting the event again this year. The hope is for new leadership to take it on next year. In the meantime, the Mission District is asking each congregation to contribute \$150 or more to be distributed to the eight non-profit organizations that have benefited from the annual Ingathering. All Second Offerings (always on the second Sunday of the month) that we collect in November will be sent to the Mission District for this important cause.

ProJeCt of Easton Food Pantry

St. Andrew's is always collecting for the ProJeCt Food Pantry, thanks to the hard work of The Community Care Team. In recent weeks, we have been asked to donate **peanut butter, and dried pasta, as these items are in particular need and short supply.** Please remember to purchase regular size peanut butter, not the big jars, as they are prohibited from giving the large jars to families with less than five people, due to regulations associated with federal funding.

At the time of this printing, the need is also increased due to the government shutdown which has halted SNAP payments and paychecks for federal workers. Your contributions are truly needed and appreciated. Food can always be dropped off at Hope House or left in the bins in the Narthex.



NURSERY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

Monday, November 3rd from 4-8pm

3716 Easton-Nazareth Hwy, Easton

20% of all food orders, dine in and take out, will go back to the school. Participants must mention the school fundraiser or present the flyer (available through the church or email) for orders to apply.



Youth Chime Choir

We are thrilled that the Youth Chime Choir has been assembled once again under the direction of Donna George.

Rehearsals will take place after worship November 9 and November 23, and the choir's first performance will be December 21st during worship.

We can't wait to hear the joyous music they put together!

Church Time Nursery

St. Andrew's is lucky to have a dedicated group of volunteers who spend Sunday mornings in the preschool classroom with our youngest worshippers. The volunteers have all gone through background testing and fingerprinting, giving peace of mind to our families.

Children can be dropped off prior to worship, or picked up by a nursery volunteer after the children's message in the service. Either way, please sign your child in before the start of worship.

November Nursery Volunteers:

11/2 *Jill Machado and Sue Pettit*
11/9 *Linda Trigiani and Claire Sadler*
11/16 *Linda Baskwell and Ron Roth*
11/23 *David Abel and Deb Henry*
11/30 *Kathy Brandt and Tracy Payonk*



COMMIT

TO DO GOD'S WORK

Commitment Sunday Sunday, November 16

On Commitment Sunday, please bring your financial commitment cards for 2026.
Cards can also be mailed to the church or emailed to Pastor Neel.

The Spiritual Gifts Committee will be providing refreshments before and after the worship service on this day, so please plan to be in church to worship and enjoy fellowship and food.

- 11/01 Lisa Detweiler
- 11/02 Sue Himmelreich, Allison Schaeffer
- 11/05 Ruth Cochios, Stella Troxell
- 11/07 Alexis Rute
- 11/08 Amy Wood
- 11/09 Marti Sales
- 11/10 Alexander Baskwell, Deborah Ealer
- 11/11 Corry Fucili
- 11/12 Caralyn Reese, Joseph White
- 11/13 Ryan Bonser, Cindi Callantine, Evan Guydish,
Susan Kerbaugh
- 11/14 Geoff Reese
- 11/15 Margaret Bennett, Carter Sadler
- 11/16 Lucy Lynch
- 11/17 Sharon Bleice, Michael Clark, Marjorie Drake, Rebecca Zansitis
- 11/19 Dillon Hill
- 11/20 Heidi Butler
- 11/21 Chandra Bleice, Matthew Droesch, Alexis Schoenenberger, Lyla Troxell
- 11/26 Zachary Baskwell, Sue Heater
- 11/28 Pamela Clark
- 11/30 Rebecca Mariconda, Audrey Rinda, Roy Thorpe



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER CALENDAR



Sunday, November 2

9:30am Worship

Monday, November 3

1:00pm Worship & Music - Hope Hs.
4pm-8pm Nursery Fundraiser @Red Robin
7:00pm Parent Partnership Group

Tuesday, November 4

Election Day

Nursery School Closed

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

Thursday, November 6

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

Friday, November 7

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, November 9

9:30am Worship
10:30am Youth Chime Choir Rehearsal

Monday, November 10

7:00pm Church Council - Zoom
7:00pm Parent Partnership Group

Tuesday, November 11

7:00pm Easton Musical Arts

Wednesday, November 12

10:00am SAW Meeting– Social Room

Thursday, November 13

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

Friday, November 14

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, November 16

Stewardship Sunday

9:30am Worship
Refreshments before and after worship

Monday, November 17

7:00pm Parent Partnership Group

Tuesday, November 18

7:00pm Easton Musical Arts

Wednesday, November 19

10:00am Crafters - Social Room

Thursday, November 20

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

Friday, November 21

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, November 23

9:30am Worship
10:30am Youth Chime Choir Rehearsal

Monday, November 24

7:00pm Parent Partnership Group

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving Day

Church Office & School Closed

Friday, November 28

Church Office & School Closed

7:30pm Crossroads AA

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent

9:30am Worship