

# ST. ANDREW'S CROSS

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

MAY 2026  
VOLUME 71, ISSUE 4



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## **ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**



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[standrews@rcn.com](mailto:standrews@rcn.com)

the Rev. Thomas A. Neel, Interim Pastor  
Elizabeth Campbell, Admin. Coordinator  
Mark Jonkman, Director of Music  
Susan Heater, Bookkeeper

## **MAY EVENTS @ ST. ANDREW'S**

- Sat., May 2 Nursery Art Show, 1-2:30pm
- Sun., May 3 Fifth Sunday of Easter  
9:30am Worship
- Sat., May 9 Property Clean-Up, 9am  
SAW Ladies' Tea, 2pm
- Sun., May 10 Fifth Sunday of Easter  
Mother's Day  
9:30am Worship
- Sat., May 16 Blessing of the Animals 10-Noon
- Sun., May 17 Fifth Sunday of Easter  
9:30am Worship
- Tue., May 19 Primary Election Day
- Sun., May 24 The Festival of Pentecost  
9:30am Worship

*St. Andrew's*

A family of faith  
celebrating our community  
and working to support  
others in need.



## The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer, or perhaps I should say the version of the Lord's Prayer is still one of those things that can be a very emotional topic. Because I have talked with people who worship I know that some prefer the "old" version and some prefer the "new" version. Recently there have been questions about St. Andrew's practice of using both versions of the prayer. Your Congregation Council and the Worship and Music Committee discussed this topic, and decided to stay with our current practice of using both version of the Lord's Prayer. With that said, the Congregation Council asked me to share the information that was shared in the discussion.

**A LITTLE WORSHIP BOOK HISTORY** The "new" version of the prayer was introduced to Lutheran (ELCA) worship with the LBW (Lutheran Book of Worship, known as the "green book"). This worship book was first published in 1978. Both versions have been offered in all worship resources since 1978.

**A LITTLE SCRIPTURE HISTORY** The RSV (Revised Standard Version) was the text used by the Lutheran church for worship since 1946. Soon after the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered (in 1947) and the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) came into being in 1989 as a result of the discovery of The Dead Sea Scrolls. One of the fallouts was a deeper understanding of the ancient Greek as it related to the Lord's Prayer. Therefore, when the church moved to the LBW, a "new" version of the Lord's Prayer was offered.

**WHERE CAN I FIND THE LORD'S PRAYER IN THE BIBLE?** The Lord's Prayer is found in only two of our gospel texts. Matthew 6:9-15 and Luke 11:2-4. Matthew is closest to the version of the Lord's Prayer that we are used to.

**WHAT DOES THE ANCIENT GREEK SAY?** Without going through the entire Lord's Prayer, let me pick out one word - TRESPASS.

You will not find the word trespass in either Matthew or Luke. The word used in Matthew is debt. The ancient Greek translation for debt is: what is owed, conjugal rights, what is owed as a debt. The word used in Luke is sin. The ancient Greek translation for sin is: sin, commit a sin, do wrong.

Trespass is simply not used in Matthew or Luke.

To be sure, the version of The Lord's Prayer we use is (at it's core) emotional. I, like many of you, learned the "old" version of the prayer and can say it without thinking. The "new" version, not so much. But in the end, of the "new" version is truer to the ancient Greek, so I have to adjust, and so we use both versions to respect the emotions, and to stay true to the biblical texts.

- *Pastor Neel*



## 2026 COUNCIL MEMBERS

**Julie Kraft**, President, *\*Property*  
**Deborah Ealer**, Vice President, *\*Staff, \*Finance*  
**Teresa Diehl**, Secretary, *\*Community Care*  
**Chandra Bleice**, *\*Nursery School*  
**Heidi Butler**  
**Diana Laustsen**  
**Laurie Roth**, *\*Spiritual Gifts*

*\*Denotes Liaison to Committee*

**Jonathan Bleice**, Church Treasurer

## General Fund Financial Position Summary for the month ending **March 31, 2026**

	<u>March</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
<b>Offerings</b>	\$18,285.00	\$45,389.33
<b>Expenses</b>	\$13,780.48	\$45,215.18
<b>Surplus (Shortage)</b>	\$4,504.52	\$174.15

Reminder: St. Andrew's expenses continue throughout the summer. Please remember to send your offerings while enjoying your summer vacation.

## Highlights of the April 13 Council Meeting:

- ◆ There was discussion about the recent \$2244 repair bill for the Hope House furnace.
- ◆ St. Andrew's collected a large amount of clothing for the recent CIT Foundation used clothing drive.
- ◆ Our Nursery School was named the Best Preschool in Palmer Twp based on 2025 Google reviews.
- ◆ The Property Team plans to move the parking lot rocks during the Spring Clean-Up Day.
- ◆ Annual audits are being scheduled.
- ◆ Discussion about the different versions of the Lord's Prayer (see page two).
- ◆ We will once again use the *Now the Feast* liturgy for Summer worship (June 7 - September 6)
- ◆ A Blessing of the Animals will take place on Saturday, May 16.
- ◆ NEPA Synod Assembly will be held June 4-6. Topics will include 6261 and the election of Bishop.
- ◆ A detailed cash flow and enrollment report from St. Andrew's Nursery School was presented.

***Council meets the second Monday of each month on Zoom. All 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. Council Minutes are available from the Church office by request.***

# - ST. ANDREW'S NURSERY SCHOOL -

Thank you to everyone who joined us or picked up dinner at Red Robin on April 23rd. Thanks to you, we raised \$269.



## **BEST PRESCHOOL in Palmer Township 2026**

By BusinessRate, Based on 2025 Google Ratings

**Climb on Board! - Registering Now for Fall**

## **ST. ANDREW'S NURSERY SCHOOL**

invites you to our

# **Student Art Show**

**SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2026**

**1:00PM - 2:30PM**

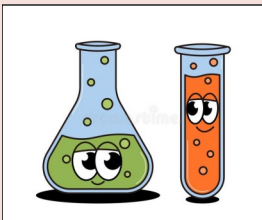
We will feature artwork collected throughout the year from all of the children currently enrolled in the school in a variety of styles. Come meet our young artists and enjoy a refreshment.

## **Exploration Squad - Summer Science Camp**

**July 20-23, 9am - Noon**

**Ages 4-8 years**

**\$125**



Participants will explore the scientific method, be actively involved in all experiments, and record predictions and results. For more information, contact Elizabeth or Ms. Staci.

**Limited Openings - Enroll Now**



*The Strong. The Proud. The Backbone.*

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

**Wednesday, May 13 @ 10:00am in the Church Social Room**

**Program:** Parish Nurses - Blood Pressure Checks and  
What You Should Know About Dementia  
**Business:** Review/Critique Ladies' Tea  
**Dessert:** Sylvia Gallop and Betty Detweiler

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

## **The Annual Spring Ladies' Tea**

**Saturday, May 9th at 2:00pm.**

**SOLD OUT**



Presented by St. Andrew's Women, the Tea is known for delicious desserts, finger sandwiches, and of course, tea.

And, did we say door prizes?

Proceeds of this year's Tea will go to the food banks at United Fellowship and ProJeCt of Easton.



## With Appreciation



Shirley Kerbaugh (seated) and Lucy Lynch (right) with Northampton County Executive Tara Zrinski at a recent luncheon honoring those who have given to or volunteered at Gracedale. Shirley, Lucy, and Deb Henry (photographer) were there representing St. Andrew's Women. SAW has supported Gracedale for many years by purchasing sweatpants, socks, and more for Gracedale residents.

## ProJeCt Food Pantry

The Community Care Team continues to encourage you to help the ProJeCt Food Pantry with much needed non-perishable food donations.

In particular, they need boxed cereal, shelf-stable milk, canned beans, canned protein such as chicken or tuna, and fruit cocktail. This being said, if you see a wonderful price on a staple food item, all donations are appreciated as the need is great.

Donations can be brought to the church office or left in the bins in the Narthex. The food is delivered to ProJeCt weekly.

For more information about ProJeCt and the important work they do, go to [www.projecteaston.org](http://www.projecteaston.org).

## Pastor's Phone Number



**IMPORTANT UPDATE**

Like many of you, David and I will soon be eliminating our landline phone. It seems all that we receive on our landline are spam calls, anyway. So PLEASE take my landline phone off of your list and use the cell phone number. You can still try the office number, but the best way to get to me is through the cell, and that number has not changed.

*\*NOTE due to online predators, we no longer put phone numbers in the Cross. These numbers are too frequently used to scam parishioners. The Pastor's cell number is the one that ends in 6791. For the complete number, please call the office.*

# MA BIRTHDAYS



- 5/02 Grayson Rodriguez
- 5/04 Brynlee Forik, Letitia Hill
- 5/07 Carl Fisher
- 5/09 David Kolb, Paige Rodriguez
- 5/10 Joanne Pickel
- 5/11 Caelib Troxell
- 5/12 Tom Warrelmann
- 5/14 Ed Schaeffer
- 5/15 Louise Kolb, Lucy Mainzer, Janet Ward
- 5/16 Shirley Kerbaugh
- 5/17 Guy Ehler, Tom Sadler
- 5/18 Josephine Hill
- 5/19 Casey Diehl, Tyler Diehl, Kathy Schaeffer
- 5/20 Jill Machado, Scott McGowan, Lillian Sensinger
- 5/21 Chelsea Masterson, Katherine Masterson
- 5/22 Lori Bonser, Susan Vernaar
- 5/25 Matthew Leidy
- 5/29 Cullen Combi
- 5/30 Carol Dalrymple, Joan Evans, Elias Rodriguez, Wolfgang Tichy

## Blessing of the Animals

9am—Noon  
Saturday, May 16



Pastor Neel will bless animals, photos, and even stuffed animals, in the front lawn. All well-behaved pets are welcome (please remember that other animals will be around). Dogs must be on leashes, cats must be in carriers, etc. In the case of rain, we will move to the Social Room, with parking in the front lot.



# MAY calendar

**Friday, May 1**

7:30pm Crossroads AA

**Saturday, May 2**

1-2:30pm Nursery School Art Show

**Sunday, May 3**

9:30am Worship

**Monday, May 4**

1:00pm Worship & Music @ Hope House  
7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

**Tuesday, May 5**

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

**Friday, May 8**

7:30am Crossroads AA

**Saturday, May 9**

9:00am Property Clean-Up  
2:00pm SAW Ladies' Tea

**Sunday, May 10**

**Mother's Day**  
9:30am Worship

**Monday, May 11**

7:00pm Council Meeting via Zoom  
7:00pm Parent Partnership Group

**Tuesday, May 12**

7:00pm Easton Musical Arts

**Wednesday, May 13**

10:00am SAW Meeting in Social Room

**Friday, May 15**

7:30am Crossroads AA

**Saturday, May 16**

10am-Noon Blessing of the Animals

**Sunday, May 17**

9:30am Worship

**Monday, May 18**

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

**Tuesday, May 19****Primary Election Day**

9:30am SANS Picnic @ Old Orchard Park  
7:00pm Easton Musical Arts

**Thursday, May 21****Nursery School - Last Day**

10:30am Nursery Moving-Up Ceremony  
6:00pm Nursery Pre-K Graduation

**Friday, May 22**

7:30am Crossroads AA

**Sunday, May 24****The Festival of Pentecost**

9:30am Worship

**Monday, May 25****Memorial Day****Office Closed**

7:00pm Parent Partnership Support Group

**Tuesday, May 26**

7:00pm Easton Musical Arts

**Friday, May 29**

7:30am Crossroads AA

