

January 20, 2023 Friday Flash

Greetings!

We are delighted to announce that St. Andrew's has hired Isaiah Walsh, pianist, who will join the worship music team beginning February 1. Isaiah is currently a student at ISU and has 15 years of piano experience and six years of experience as a worship service pianist at his home ELCA congregation. He brings a strong understanding of liturgical worship and Lutheran traditions and is a talented musician. Isaiah has been hired into the role of pianist, and will work in cooperation with Connie Sweeny, Steve Hoifeldt, and Pastor to craft meaningful worship experiences that communicate the gospel through word, music, and sacrament. Please join us in welcoming Isaiah to St. Andrew's!

As we welcome Isaiah, we wish Sarah Buck blessings on her retirement and thank her for her decades of dedicated music leadership. Sarah has offered to continue to oversee care and maintenance of the organ and play for funerals, festival worship services, and fill in as available, for which we are deeply grateful. A reception to celebrate Sarah's years of service and retirement will be planned for a future date.

The original desire of the music team and personnel was to find an organist, however, the music team strongly recommended moving forward with hiring since we had a candidate that was talented, experienced in leading worship music, and was highly recommended.

We look forward to making beautiful music together!

Grace & Peace,

Randy Sacco, Congregation President and Personnel Chair

Pastor Sonja Gerstenberger

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S~

- Sunday, *Service N Learning + Breakfast*, 9 am, Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, *Worship Service*, 10:30 am, Sanctuary & [Livestream](#)
 - If you have trouble with this link, go to [St. Andrew's YouTube Page](#)
 - [Last Week's Livestream Recording](#)
- Sunday, *Fellowship*, 11:30 am, Fellowship Hall
- Wednesday, *Faith Book Study Meeting*, 7 am, Hy-Vee West Market Grille
- Wednesday, *St. Andrew's Choir Rehearsal*, 7-9 pm, Sanctuary
- Thursday, *The Story Zoom*, 11 am, Zoom
- Thursday, *Pine Ridge Donation Time*, 6-8 pm, Room 2 at St. Andrew's
- Thursday, *Council Meeting*, 6:30-8:30 pm, Zoom
- *For a full listing of events, check out the St. Andrew's calendar at standrewsames.org/calendar/*

Please Note: 2022 Annual Reports are now available for pickup in the Narthex; you can also email the office to request a copy.

Annual Meeting January 29, 12 pm

The Annual Meeting of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church will be held Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 12 pm in the Fellowship Hall and will also be available via Zoom. The St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Council has approved this meeting date. Fellowship will host a brunch after the church service prior to the annual meeting.

Note, pursuant to our current Constitution section C16.04*, we are informing the congregation that, during the Annual Meeting, there will be a ballot vote on the adoption of a new Constitution and By-Laws which follows the *Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)* as was adopted by all churchwide assemblies, including the sixteenth Churchwide Assembly in 2022. The St. Andrew's Lutheran Council has reviewed and approved the document.

**C16.04. This constitution may be amended to bring any section into conformity with a section or sections, either required or not required, of the Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as most recently amended by the Churchwide Assembly. Such amendments may be approved by a majority vote of those voting members present and voting at any legally called meeting of the congregation without presentation at a prior meeting of the congregation, provided that the Congregation Council has submitted by mail or electronic means, as permitted by state law, notice to the congregation of such an amendment or amendments, together with the council's recommendations, at least 30 days prior to the meeting. Upon the request of at least two (2) voting members of the congregation, the Congregation Council shall submit such notice. Following the adoption of an amendment, the secretary of the congregation shall submit a copy thereof to the synod. Such provisions shall become effective immediately following a vote of approval.*

Book Club Updates

The St. Andrew's Book Club has chosen their new book; *Wish You Were Here*, written by Jodi Picoult and set in the pandemic. "Jodi Picoult once again proves that she is the master of wading through the darkness to find the light. This is a powerfully evocative story of resilience and triumph of the human spirit." In addition, the club has changed their meeting day: the club will now meet on the **3rd Tuesday of each month**. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, February 21 at 6:30 pm in the Village Cooperative Community Room**. Books will be available for pickup soon.

Thank you from Lisa Downs, Blessings from The Heart

I first want to give my praise to God for blessing me with a way to create the Blessings from The Heart program and also my heartfelt thanks to God and each and every one of you for your generosity and help in making the December 18 BFTH Holiday Event a blessing to many. Thank you for your partnership and blessings of wish lists, many ways of volunteering, purchasing holiday meal bags, hosting, and the support; as we all understand, it takes many to do God's work.

St. Andrew's, along with many businesses and individual sponsors, gave the Blessings From The Heart program an opportunity to bless and fill 108 wish lists in addition to blessing 34 families and individuals with a holiday meal bag in December 2022.

I have received some beautiful messages, videos, and pictures from recipients of the program that felt extremely blessed by the gifts and food. Please know that these families and individuals would not have had a gift to open or a meal on Christmas day without the blessing of many working together.

I plan to continue my work with the Blessings from the Heart program year-round if I am able, and I hope that St. Andrew's will continue a partnership. In this way, we can together continue to show love and support in Ames and surrounding communities as needs are expressed. I hear many stories of needs every day as I work in non-profit, and many times, I feel God sends someone to me and is asking me to help. The needs are very real.

Romans 12:13 Share with God's people who are in need. Practice Hospitality.

Proverbs 14:21 Blessed is he who is kind to the needy.

Blessings,

Lisa Downs

Blessings Box Reminder

Thank you to all who have donated and volunteered to stock the Blessings Box, location on the east side of the church. Just a reminder that, due to cold temperatures, canned items and any food items with liquid will freeze and potentially explode if placed in the Blessings Box. At this time, we ask that you please only donate dry goods (granola bars, etc.) that will not freeze or personal care items for menstrual needs.

Service N Learning Sunday Breakfast 9 am (All breakfasts provide juice, milk, and coffee!)

Please contact Miriam Moreno at miriam@standrewsames.org with any questions regarding the breakfast or with any food sensitivities if you plan to eat breakfast! We can accommodate most requests if given a heads-up by Friday evening!

- January 22: Breakfast Pizza
- January 29: Assorted Muffins

Service N Learning January 16-22: The Beginning of the End

We continue our chronological overview of God's great Biblical story this week. All are welcome to attend weekly sessions Thursdays on Zoom at 11 am or Sundays at 9:30 am; no need to register in advance. The following readings will be discussed on the listed week.

- January 23-29: The Kingdoms' Fall

~NOTABLES~

Worship Assistants This Week (1/22/2023)

Assisting Minister – **Janeen Christy**
Reader – **Margaret Sherve**
Greeter – **Jeanine Strodman**
Ushers – **John Kovar, Al Jergens**
Communion Setup – **Kris Miles**
Communion Servers – **John Kovar, Lynn Miller**
Tech – **Dave Sprau**
Fellowship – **Pine Ridge and Tanzania**

Worship Assistants Next Week (1/29/2023)

Assisting Minister –
Reader – **Kris Miles**
Greeter – **Pat Thompson**
Ushers – **Al Jergens**
Communion Setup – **Deb Schlieman**
Communion Servers – **Pauline Miller, Al Jergens**
Tech – **Don Behning**
Fellowship – **Fellowship - Annual Meeting Brunch**

Happy January Anniversary

Max and Miriam Moreno (3)

Happy January Birthday

Judy Denato (2), Sharon Olson (4), Nora Nelson (19), Laura Van Vertloo (21), Jan Warwick (22), Oren Geisinger IV (25), Eugene Takle (25), Kris Parsons (26), Sharon Mott (29)

~PRAYERS~

Tiah Bowie and Family (Sister/family of Finis Jones), **Marvin Hitchings** (Nora Nelson's Husband), **Phil Parsons, Alice Thompson, Lowell Elwick, John Sherve** (brother of Margaret Sherve, battling cancer), **Annette (Thompson) Bodnar** (niece of Alice Thompson), **Anita Whitaker** (Mother of Sheri Krumm), **Troy Eagen** (Sharon Anderson's son-in-law), **John Litzel, Libby Litzel Gull, Mark Ekeren** (brother of Sarah Buck), **Wayne Thompson** (brain tumor), **Marilyn Saunders** (Gene Pollmann's sister), **Gene Takle, Lou Jordan** (Dagmar Frank's cousin), **Nancy Owen** (Carol Putz's cousin, battling cancer), **Roxanne Labandz** (niece of Alice Thompson), **Pat Fawcett, Kolleen Tweed Sogard** (daughter of Violet Tweed), **Robert Pollmann** (Gene Pollmann's brother), **Mike & Kayla Endorf** (cousins of Dagmar Frank), **Diane** (Carol Putz's sister w/long COVID), **Alycia Carlsborg, Ben Buck, Stu Endorf** (Dagmar Frank's cousin), **James Loritz** (nephew of Alice Thompson), **Karen Hardy** (Rita Peterson's sister), **Susan Teas, Douglas John Putz** (brother of Dave Putz), the family of **Anne Buck** (Sister-in-Law of Sarah and Ben Buck), the family of **Richard Doyle** (father of Monica Behning), the family of **Jane Ellis** (Pat Fawcett's Sister), the family of **Lester Carlsborg**, the family of **Janet and Eugene Bentley Jr., MD** (Parents of Janet Dixon), the family of **Sara Weyer** (former member), and the family of **Carolyn Potter** (former member).

For all those suffering from loneliness and grief, addiction and illness-both mental and physical, poverty and need, war and strife; we pray to the Lord to bless them and give them peace. We continue to pray for the health and needs of the people in the Ames Community, the Pine Ridge Reservation, the Hedaru and Agape Parishes in Tanzania, and all communities throughout the world.