

January 6, 2023 Friday Flash

New Year's Greetings!

It is good to be writing the first Pastor's Message of the new year and anticipating another wonderful year together. Prior to the holidays, I devoted this message to the committees, ministry teams, and staff that work to enact St. Andrew's vision to *Live in and Share God's Love with ALL!*

This week, I'd like to share a little about the Pastoral Office. One of the gifts of our Lutheran polity is the designation of certain responsibilities (for which all Christians are capable) to the office of pastor on behalf of individual congregations. Pastors are specifically called to congregations and entrusted with responsibility for Word and Sacrament. Once called to a congregation, pastors are ordained. I was ordained on March 6, 2021 to the Office of Word and Sacrament. As called and ordained ministers, pastors take on a different role than staff members, often heads of staff and co-leaders with the council, a separate and distinct role.

When I was called to St. Andrew's on February 21, 2021, I was called to:

- Preach and teach the word of God in accordance with Holy Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions
- Administer Holy Baptism and Holy Communion
- Lead the congregation in worship
- Proclaim the forgiveness of sins
- Speak for justice on behalf of the poor and the oppressed
- Encourage persons to prepare for the ministry of the gospel
- Impart knowledge of the ELCA and its wider ministry
- Endeavor to increase support given to the congregation for the work of the whole church
- Equip the congregation for witness and service
- Guide the congregation in proclaiming God's love in word and deed

Each call also includes the special emphasis of the pastor for the congregation. My call paperwork outlined giving special attention to:

- Staffing patterns and needs as they support the goals of the congregation
- Working with leadership to determine next steps in ministry focus and develop a {strategic} plan
- Develop partnership with local Christian congregations, nonprofits, and interfaith communities to enhance local outreach

So, what does this look like? Most weeks involve about five hours of pastoral care visits in addition to worship planning, bulletin review, communications review, working with staff, and attending and supporting work of council and committees. In addition, I dedicate 12 to 15 hours researching and crafting sermons, and about 5 hours a crafting educational offerings. And, of course, Sunday mornings facilitating educational offerings, presiding at worship and connecting with individuals before and after.

A good portion of my time is spent outside the office meeting with people – weekly clergy studies, Ames Area Religious Leaders Association meetings, and visiting individuals for pastoral care. Many weeks also include 2-3 nights of evening meetings. Because of these commitments and because Sunday is a full day of work, I take Fridays as my day completely out of the office, my day off (except for emergencies).

I am excited for all the ways I have had the opportunity to live into the responsibilities of this call during our nearly two years together. I look forward to the future together, which we will prepare for at our Annual Meeting January 29 at 12 pm when we will consider a revised/updated Constitution and Bylaws, vote on a growth budget for 2023, and review and affirm the Vision, Values, and Goals that Council has worked in 2022 to articulate.

I am grateful for each one of you! Thank you for your partnership in and support of the ministry of St. Andrew's!

Grace and Peace,
Pastor* Sonja

** Thank you for the ways you affirm this call when you use the title of pastor to speak to or about me. This reminds me and reminds the person I'm interacting with of our roles and the boundaries those roles involve.*

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
- Sunday, *Welcome Session*, 11:40 am, Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, *Constitution and By-Laws Hearing*, 12 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, *St. Andrew's Book Club*, 6:15 pm, 2525 Bobcat Dr.
- Tuesday, *Constitution and By-Laws Hearing*, 7 pm, Zoom (see announcement)
- 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
- *For a full listing of events, check out the St. Andrew's calendar at standrewsames.org/calendar/*

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. 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, that 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.*

A copy of the new Constitution and By-Laws was emailed to the congregation last week, and we are making hard copies available in the church this Sunday.

In addition, we will have **two informational meetings on the *Model Constitution and By-Laws*** with the congregation this Sunday, January 8, 2023 (in-person) at 12 pm in Fellowship Hall and on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:30pm via Zoom:

Topic: Informative Meeting: Model Constitution and By-Laws

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82756160059?pwd=VzEzTVUrc0VQcnZlRmtiYkdBejRmdz09>

Meeting ID: 827 5616 0059 **Passcode:** 422563 **Dial In:** 646 931 3860

Welcome Session This Sunday, 11:40 am

Join Pastor Sonja this Sunday at 11:40 am in the Fellowship Hall. Individuals who want to learn more about being a part of (or reconnect with) St. Andrew's Lutheran Church are encouraged to attend. We will talk about: opportunities to get involved and get to know others at St. Andrew's; current ministries; hopes and dreams for the future; basics of faith, worship, the Bible; and grace from a Lutheran perspective.

New St. Andrew's Pictorial Directory - Coordinator Needed

Work is underway to create a new directory for publication in 2023, and we are utilizing the web application used previously. Our office administrator, will coordinate the assembly and layout; we just need a dedicated volunteer to follow up with those from whom we need updated information. If contacting folks and encouraging them to submit a photo and contact information in a timely manner is your gift, please contact Miriam at office@standrewsames.org.

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 8: Savory Breakfast Casserole
- January 15: Baked Pancakes

Service N Learning January 2-8: A Kingdom Torn in Two

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 9-15: God's Messengers
- January 16-22: The Beginning of the End

Now Hiring: Organist

Spread the word! St. Andrew's is on the search for an organist able to lead music in worship every other week and work with Connie, Steve Hoifeldt, and Pastor Sonja to plan and lead liturgical worship services throughout the year. Please visit standrewsames.org for more information.

~NOTABLES~

Worship Assistants This Week (1/8/2023)

Assisting Minister –

Reader – **Philip Dixon**

Greeter – **Rollie Link**

Ushers – **John Kovar**

Communion Setup – **Paul and Cheryl White**

Communion Servers – **John Kovar, Lynn Miller**

Tech – **Don Behning**

Fellowship – **Outreach**

Worship Assistants Next Week (1/15/2023)

Assisting Minister –

Reader – **Jon Christy**

Greeter – **Paul and Cheryl White**

Ushers –

Communion Setup – **Paul and Cheryl White**

Communion Servers – **Glynn Frank, Carol Putz**

Tech – **Brent Anderson**

Fellowship – **Property**

Happy January Anniversary

Max and Miriam Moreno (3), Linda Seaverson and John McClelland (10)

Happy January Birthday

Judy Denato (2), Sharon Olson (4), Nora Nelson (19), Laura Van Vertloo (21), Jan Warwick (22), Linda Seaverson (23), 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**, and the family of **Janet and Eugene Bentley Jr., MD** (Parents of Janet Dixon).

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.