

October 14, 2022 Friday Flash

Dear Ones of St. Andrew's Lutheran,

Did you know that there are 20-30 volunteer hours a week of behind-the-scenes work to handle the financial business of St. Andrew's? These responsibilities are currently handled by the Stewardship and Finance committee chair and congregation treasurer. In addition, the Stewardship and Finance committee coordinates yearly budget requests to assemble a proposed budget for Council and congregational review.

The small-but-mighty team consists of Linda Seaverson (chair), David Putz (council liaison), Janet Dixon (treasurer), Don Behning, and this year's Stewardship Campaign Coordinator David Krumm.

You should have received a letter by mail last week outlining this year's Consecration Sunday stewardship program. This Sunday, October 16, we will be invited to consider our current giving and what percentage increase God is calling each of us to make for 2023. On October 30 during worship, we will be invited to make a commitment to giving for 2023, and we will announce the overall results and celebrate during our Consecration Luncheon right after worship.

The Consecration Sunday emphasis is on giving as an act of faith. Individuals are invited to consider increases in giving as an outgrowth of discipleship. This is in contrast to our everyday lives where we allocate funds where they are needed, based on solid, irrefutable evidence (bills). This can seem questionable to generous and faithful people who have given faithfully their entire lives. It is tempting to funnel our giving to specific projects, and this kind of giving is needed also. Yet the act of faith of committing to giving for the overall mission of the church cannot be understated.

I was 22 years old, teaching in Riverside, California, and making just enough money to meet my expenses, but not enough to save for retirement, vacations, or larger purchases, when a similar program was utilized in my congregation. At that point in time, I hadn't considered my giving as something that should grow over time. And when I considered what others in the congregation were able to give, I wasn't sure my giving mattered at all.

However, **I was inspired by the invitation to increase by a percentage of my choosing each year.** That seemed like something I could do, and I did, with a goal of eventually reaching 10% of my income. At the time it was a stretch goal, one I wasn't sure I could meet. Strangely, despite my carefully calculated spreadsheets that indicated it wasn't wise, I always ended up with enough or more at the end of each month. I still increase my giving each year in recognition of God's ability to do tremendous things when our meager offerings are combined. I believe that was the beginning of my call story to ministry as I trusted that God could do great things and that small acts of faith add up.

I encourage all who love the St. Andrew's faith community and believe that we are called to Share God's Love to consider an increase in giving so that we, too, might be surprised at what God can do when we take a leap of faith!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Sonja

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S~

- Sunday, *Service and Learning + Breakfast*, 9 am, Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, *Worship*, 10:30 am, Sanctuary and [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, *Marjorie Allison Funeral*, 11 am, Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall at St. Andrew's
- Wednesday, *Choir*, 7 pm, Sanctuary
- ~~Thursday, *The Story Zoom*, 11 am, Zoom~~, Rescheduled Monday, October 24 11 am
- Thursday, *Saving Suds*, 4-6 pm, Squeaky Clean Laundromat
- 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/*

Volunteer Needed to Serve During Funeral Luncheon, October 19

The funeral for Marjorie Allison will take place on October 19 at 11 am with a luncheon to follow. We are still in need of a few volunteers to help set up, serve, and clean up the luncheon. Please contact the office, Lori Paulson, or JoAnn Kovar if you are interested in helping! Thank you!

Help Supply Edwards Elementary with Classroom Snacks!

With the programming year and the school year both in full swing, we are again requesting YOUR help in supplying classroom snacks to Edwards Elementary. We are so excited to begin this program again, and request that snacks follow these guidelines: No Nuts, No Perishable Items, Little to No Mess! Some of our favorites include granola bars, cheese-based or other crackers, fruit snacks, and even applesauce (GoGo Squeez is a popular brand at the moment!) Please contact the office or Mary Johnson at jsmjohnson36@msn.com with any questions! Drop off donations on the Fellowship Hall donations table.

Affirmation of Baptism Sunday, October 30 in Worship – Also Reformation Sunday, Wear RED!

Join us Sunday, October 30 as our three 9th grade students will affirm the promises of their baptism, surrounded by their community of faith. Please plan to attend to support these students in this next chapter of their faith life. We invite ALL to wear red as we celebrate Confirmation on Reformation Sunday!

All Saints Day is Fast Approaching!

Each year, for the celebration of All Saints Day, we list the names of those who have passed on, and those who have been born into our lives in the last year. We welcome you to share these names with the congregation, and on November 7 during worship, we will light a candle for each person on the list, which will be printed in the bulletin that day. Please write these names, whether it was a birth or a death, and your relationship, if you so choose, and place into the basket in the narthex marked All Saints Day or email to the office. Names do not have to be congregation members, they can be anyone. Papers will be available in the bulletins this Sunday, or names can be sent to the office at office@standrewsames.org.

Now Hiring: Business Manager

St. Andrew's has relied on the generosity of volunteers to handle the financial management of its business affairs (responsibilities in addition to the work of our accounting firm, Schnurr). To relieve the 20-30 hours per week volunteers are currently giving, Council has approved the Personnel Committee's recommendation to hire a Business Manager to handle these duties. See the full job description at standrewsames.org with instructions to apply, and encourage any qualified applicants to apply! And, please thank Linda Seaverson for her gift of time and dedication in this volunteer role over these many, many years.

Join in to Help and Connect: Fun and Fold Fridays

We are looking for a group of volunteers to meet on Fridays to help fold bulletins, stuff envelopes when needed, and have fellowship with coffee and friendly conversation! Individuals interested in an opportunity to serve and connect with other members should contact the office to participate in Fun and Fold Fridays!

Seeking Detail-Oriented Volunteer to Review Membership Records

We are looking for an individual or two to review our current Member Information Spreadsheet and compare these entries to our current directory. We are wanting these two resources to be compared line-for-line in order to be able to continue to provide the most up-to-date information to our current and new members. Please contact the office if you are interested in this analytical task!

Service N Learning October 9, *The Story* - Chapter 5 "Deliverance"

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 Thursday/Sunday of each listed week.

- Week 6 (October 17-23): Chapter 6 "New Commands and a New Covenant"
- Week 7 (October 24-30): Chapter 7 "Wandering"

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 allergies/food sensitivities if you plan to eat breakfast! We can accommodate most allergies or sensitivities if given a heads-up by Friday evening!

- October 23: Breakfast Pizza
- October 30: Spooky Halloween Breakfast

Book Club: New Books Available for Pickup in the Office!

The next meeting will meet Tuesday, November 8th at 6:30 and the discussion will focus on the following book: *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones.

"Newlyweds Celestial and Roy are the embodiment of the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive, and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. But as they settle into the routine of their life together, they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. Roy is arrested and sentenced to 12 years for a crime Celestial knows he didn't commit. As Roy's time in prison passes, Celestial is unable to hold on to the love that has been her center. After five years, Roy's conviction is suddenly overturned, and he returns to Atlanta ready to resume their life together. This is a profoundly insightful look into the hearts and minds of people who are at once bound and separated by forces beyond their control; a look into people who must reckon with the past while moving forward into the future."

Bethesda Lutheran Church Scandinavian Coffee October 22

This fun and caffeine-fueled event will take place from 9:30 am to 1:30 am on Saturday, October 22.

Participants can take part in a bake shoppe and gift shoppe, coffee and Scandinavian treats, Grandma's Attic items to browse and purchase, and a Swedish meatball lunch!

~NOTABLES~

Worship Assistants This Week (10/16/2022)

Assisting Minister –

Reader – **Mary Johnson**

Greeter – **Nora Nelson**

Ushers – **John and Carol Moran**

Communion Setup – **John and Carol Moran**

Communion Servers – **Margaret Sherve, Carol Putz**

Tech – **Kris Parsons**

Fellowship – **Outreach**

Worship Assistants Next Week (10/23/2022)

Assisting Minister –

Reader –

Greeter – **Pat Thompson**

Ushers – **John Kovar**

Communion Setup –

Communion Servers – **Margaret Sherve, Lynn Miller**

Tech – **Bruce Boeke**

Fellowship – **Worship and Arts**

Happy October Anniversary

Sam and Linda Houk (3), Jennie LeGates and Fritz Wehrenberg (10), Don and Monica Behning (15), Kris and Dan Parsons (25), Jon and Janeen Christy (26), Shirley and Philip Parsons (27)

Happy September Birthday

Molly Putz (7), Dan Anderson (8), Philip Dixon (8), Helen Gjerde (8), Harold Dorr (9), Lori Paulson (9), Sheryl Drury (9), Dean Janssen (10), Solveig Rice (13), Spencer Geisinger (14), Lowell Elwick (18), Sharon Prochnow (28), Richard Engen (30)

~PRAYERS~

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), **Jane Ellis, Wayne Thompson** (brain tumor), **Marilyn Saunders** (Gene Pollmann's sister), **Alice Becher** (Stephen Loucks' mother), **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), **Joan Dubberke, Diane** (Carol Putz's sister w/long COVID), **Lester & 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 **Jim Bacino** (grandfather of Kyra Meyer), the family of **Marjorie Allison**, family of **Don Ekstrom** (brother of Mary Johnson), family of **Janet Bentley** (mother 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.