

November 25, 2022 Friday Flash

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Did you know our current office administrator, Miriam Moreno, has job duties that were originally outlined as three different part-time positions – Office Administrator, Events and Promotions Manager, & Communications Manager? Miriam originally interviewed for the part-time Events and Promotions and Communications Manager positions and stepped in to fill the Administrative Assistant role when St. Andrew's found itself with one week's notice to fill the position. Miriam started in her position(s) July 20, and will mark five months in the role on December 20. As I conclude my series reviewing the basic committees and ministry teams that keep St. Andrew's humming, this week I'd like to highlight the role of the administrative office.

Under her skillful care, communication to the congregation through posters, Narthex TV Images, Banners, Friday Flash, etc. has increased exponentially, and Miriam has been instrumental in developing and **increasing communication to the local community** through lawn banners, mailers, and posters distributed to local venues and ISU student bulletin boards, and she is always thinking of new ways to get the word out about St. Andrew's Mission and Ministries!

In addition, **Miriam plans and provides delicious breakfast meals for our Service and Learning session each Sunday morning.** If you haven't attended, I encourage you to stop by and sample the goodness! And finally, Miriam keeps the office humming, a welcoming presence to all who call or stop by, tracking congregational statistics, records, and reports; managing facility usage; maintaining and ordering supplies; serving as the primary contact for special services including weddings and funerals; and supporting worship through bulletin and volunteers signup creation, printing, and distribution.

As we think about the things we are grateful for this holiday, I include Miriam's presence and sharing her gifts with St. Andrew's among the things I am MOST grateful for. If you have a chance, please thank Miriam for the ways she helps the people of St. Andrew's Live in and Share God's Love with ALL!

You are in my prayers this holiday weekend for safe travels, joyful gatherings, and rest and renewal.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Sonja

ANNOUNCEMENTS

~THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S~

Sunday, *No Service and Learning*

Sunday, *Worship*, 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, *Choir*, 7 pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, *The Story Zoom*, 11 am, Zoom

Thursday, *St. Andrew's Night at Food at First*, 5:20-7:30 pm, First Christian Church in Ames

Thursday, *Pine Ridge Donation Time*, 6-8 pm, Room 2 at St. Andrew's

Friday, *Wine Down*, 6:30 pm, Miriam and Eugene Takle's Home (See announcement)

If you are having trouble viewing this email, [click here for a PDF.](#)

For a full listing of events, check out the St. Andrew's calendar at standrewsames.org/calendar

99th Birthday Card Shower for Alice Thompson

All are invited to participate in a card shower for member Alice Thompson, who turns 99 on December 12. Please send cards to Alice Thompson, 2200 Hamilton Dr. #304 Ames, 50014, the sooner the better!

2023 Budget Hearing Meetings in December

The Stewardship and Finance Committee will present the proposed 2023 budget at two Budget Hearings: **In Person:** December 4, 11:30 am, in person following worship and **Zoom:** December 6, 6:30 pm. Login details to join the Zoom meeting are: Meeting ID: 870 0279 0333, Passcode: 324623, Dial in number: 312-626-6799 US. <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87002790333?pwd=dHU5M3I3T3I3MXVadXF6UUlkS1kvdz09>

Poinsettias Now Available to Order

Order envelopes are available on the Welcome Center in the Narthex! The **deadline to order is December 14**, and envelopes should be turned into the church office. Questions? Contact Mary Johnson at (515)-231-0716.

Advent Devotional Available to Pick Up

Join in meditating on seasonal scripture and story utilizing the ELCA's Advent Calendar and Devotional in your household. Copies are available on the Narthex table. Pick one up and journey through the season of waiting and anticipation that is Advent!

Gather Bible Study, Wednesday, December 7, 5:30 pm

Pastor Sonja will offer a Bible Study based on the November/December Gather Magazine Study "Jesus and nature: Teachers of Faith," December 7 at 5:30 pm. Gather is the magazine of the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) and the study will be similar in format to the circle that used to meet for Bible study. Copies of the study will be provided for those who sign up. Sign up on the Narthex Table or email Pastor Sonja (pastorsonja@standrewsames.org) if you would like to attend and indicate if you would prefer the study be offered by Zoom or in-person at St. Andrew's.

Wine Down-Date Change

Due to the fact that Thanksgiving is next week, Wine Down will be on Friday, December 2 at the home of Gene and Miriam Takle (2720 Meadow Glen Rd.) Come around 6:30, and bring your favorite wine or other beverage and a snack to share. All are welcome. For questions, please contact Mary Johnson at 515-231-0716.

Plan to Attend St. Andrew's Christmas Event, Featuring Blessings from the Heart

All are invited to attend the Second Annual Christmas Event December 18 from 1-3 pm and enjoy hot cocoa, pictures with Santa, fun crafts, and snacks. Members of St. Andrew's are invited to participate alongside recipients of Blessings from the Heart as we share in fun and fellowship!

Nominations Committee Members Needed

A nominating committee is formed each year to recruit and forward nominations for the St. Andrew's council and elected committees (Audit, EMF, Personnel, Nominating) for election at the Annual Meeting. At the 2022 Annual Meeting, the congregation voted that the congregational council would form the nominating committee for 2022. *If you are available to serve in this important role, contact council president Randy Sacco (randysacco77@gmail.com) or a council member ASAP.*

Consider Council or Committee Leadership for 2023

At the 2023 Annual Meeting, St. Andrew's will elect three new members to council, identify and elect the council officers from the council membership, and elect the following: Extended Ministry Fund - 3 additional members; Audit Committee - 3 members for 2023; Nominating Committee - 6 Members for 2023. If you would like to submit a name for nomination, complete a nomination form available on the Narthex table and submit in the box labeled Council and Committee Nominations or contact council president Randy Sacco (randysacco77@gmail.com) or a council member.

Sign up to Attend Welcome Session, Connect with Members and Learn about St. Andrew's

Pastor Sonja will be holding a Welcome Session in the coming weeks with individuals who want to learn more about being a part (or reconnect with) St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. 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. *The session will be offered based on interest and participant availability, so please sign up on the sheet on the Narthex table or contact Pastor Sonja at pastorsonja@standrewsames.org.*

Now Hiring: Organist

Spread the word! St. Andrew's is on the search for an organist. St. Andrew's is searching for an organist able to lead music in worship every other week (on rotation with Connie Sweeney and the instrumental ensemble) and work with Connie, Steve Hoifeldt, and Pastor Sonja to plan and lead liturgical worship services throughout the year. See the job posting at standrewsames.org for more info.

Blessings from the Heart – Collecting Gift Items for Families

This year, we are excited to announce “Blessings from the Heart,” a program created by Lisa Downs, who is working in conjunction with the Education Committee. This program provides members the opportunity to buy Christmas gifts for families and individuals in Ames. The gifts will be given to families during our annual Christmas Event on December 18 from 1-3 pm.

We will have a table set up in the Narthex on November 27 with the names and wish lists of families and individuals. Visit us to select the people for whom you would like to purchase gifts! In addition, Fareway is sponsoring food bags available for purchase in-store (\$40 each) that will also be given to the recipients on December 18 along with the gifts. Please contact Lisa Downs or the church office if you would like to sign up to bless a family or an individual!

Blessing Box Caretakers Needed

The Blessing Box located on the front lawn of the church needs your help. This box helps serve St. Andrew's more local community with immediate needs. Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, or call the office!

What is needed:

- checking the Blessing box once or twice during your time to see if items are needed (2-week time slot)
- providing items to the box, lists available for suggestions on Narthex table
- notifying Social Concerns Chair/Monica Behning (mbehning31@gmail.com) with any maintenance

ELCA'S Young Adults in Global Mission Program Available Now!

The ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program is ready for new volunteers! This year, for the first time since early 2020, YAGM participants are walking alongside our international neighbors. Now, it's time for the YAGM team to find the next volunteers ready to step out into the world. Do you know one of them? Applications are now open, and you can invite young adults on this journey abroad for the 2023-2024 program year.

If you know young adults aged 21 to 29, this is the time to reach out. Encourage them to apply for YAGM by the deadline of Feb 1, 2023. (Priority deadline is Jan. 15, 2023.) Follow [this link](#) to learn more!

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!

- November 27: No Breakfast
- December 4: French Toast Casserole
- December 11: Cheesy Grits, Bacon, and Scrambled Eggs

Service N Learning November 27: No Service and Learning

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.

- December 4: From Shepherd to King
- December 11: The Trials of a King

~NOTABLES~

Worship Assistants This Week (11/27/2022)

Assisting Minister – **Laurie Evans**

Reader – **Margaret Sherve**

Greeter – **Pat Thompson**

Ushers – **John and Carol Moran**

Communion Setup – **John and Carol Moran**

Communion Servers – **Rita and Kris Peterson**

Tech – **Bruce Boeke**

Fellowship – **Property**

Worship Assistants Next Week (12/04/2022)

Assisting Minister – **Jennie LeGates**

Reader – **Jon Christy**

Greeter – **TBD**

Ushers – **John and Carol Moran**

Communion Setup – **John and Carol Moran**

Communion Servers – **Margaret Sherve, Janeen Christy**

Tech – **Don Behning**

Fellowship – **Fellowship**

Happy December Anniversary

Sharon and Richard Olson (11/29), Matthew and Mary Martens (8), Dan and Kristine Anderson (27)

Happy December Birthday

Anna Wolc (11/30), Norma Elwick (4), Miriam Moreno (8), Janeen Christy (9), Makenzie Putz (12), Alice Thompson (12), Susan Teas (20), Gene Pollmann (23), Lynn Engen (27), Pastor Sonja (29)

~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), **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), **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 **Don Ekstrom** (brother of Mary Johnson), the family of **Janet Bentley** (mother of Janet Dixon), the family of **Nathan Saetveit** (previous member), family of **Alice Becher** (Stephen Loucks' mother).

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.