

November 4, 2022 Friday Flash

Dear Saints of St. Andrew's,

This weekend we celebrate All Saints Day. Our rituals of candle lighting and reading names remind us that because of Christ ALL are saints and we remember these saints we have loved. In doing so we honor our grief, celebrate their memory, and give thanks for God's mercy. We also celebrate the birth of new saints! If your grief is so fresh it is too hard to attend on Sunday, know that like all of the rituals of our worship, we do so on behalf of the community, all of us, those present and those missing. Peace be yours this day.

We also continue to lift up the sacred work of our committees and ministries at St. Andrew's. **Did you know that in 2022 St. Andrew's will provide \$10,000 in benevolence?** This includes \$3,200 of ELCA Mission Support through the Southeastern Iowa Synod; \$4,600 in funds budgeted in support of the Pine Ridge, Tanzania, Edwards School, and Saving Suds ministries; and \$2,600 in funds distributed to Local Ministries. With increased giving in 2023, we hope to increase this benevolence in our budget planning.

The Social Concerns Committee determines where the budgeted funds for Local Ministries are distributed each quarter. In the first and second quarter of 2022 these funds have supported Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance, Ames Emergency Residence, ACCESS, and Ames Ecumenical Housing.

We don't just make a difference with funds, but also with the work of our hands and hearts. **The Blessing Box on Colorado Avenue is one way members can participate in Sharing God's Love by stocking needed items.** Stay tuned for weekly opportunities to sign up to check and stock the Blessing Box as we work to monitor it more regularly and tend to its upkeep. This great outreach started as a youth group project and has grown into an all-congregation effort!

Social Concerns also partnered with the Education and Outreach Committees to plan and coordinate this year's God's Work. Our Hands. Kickoff Sunday. We [packed kits for the unhoused to send to Pine Ridge](#), [created cards of greeting for our partner congregation in Tanzania](#), and [completed a painting project for a local resident](#). Check out these links for pictures of the work and fun we had!

We also kicked off a new opportunity to partner with an existing ministry and are now bringing a team to **serve the meal at Food at First the first Thursday of each month!** If you are interested in participating, contact Matthew Martens (matthew.martens@mchsi.com).

The Social Concerns Committee is one of many committees that could benefit from individuals interested in thinking of new ways to have an impact as we Share God's Love! **Many thanks to current members Monica Behning (Chair), Lynn Miller, Amanda Kress, Al Jergens, and Joan Dubberke for their dedication and work.**

Many thanks for all the ways you continue to Live in and Share God's Love with All!

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 & [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
- Tuesday, *General Election*, 7 am – 8 pm, Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, *Book Club*, 6:15 pm, 2525 Bobcat Drive
- 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 Food at First Night*, 5:20 – 7:30 pm, First Christian Church in Ames
- 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/

Fall Back -- Change Clocks this Weekend

Daylight Saving Time comes to an end this weekend. Remember to set your clocks before bed on Saturday night!

Advent is Coming!

Part of our Advent rituals includes the lighting of the Advent wreath each week. We need households that are interested in participating. You will light the candle for the week and read a short reflection. We need volunteers for November 27, December 4, December 11, and December 18. Please let Pastor Sonja know (pastorsonja@standrewsames.org) if you would like to volunteer!

Consecration Sunday Update

Just a quick note for those not able to join us on Consecration Sunday! Between confirmation and Consecration Sunday, the sanctuary was full of smiling faces – many we hadn't seen in a while, which was wonderful. I believe 70 to 75 folks joined us for the luncheon, and there was plenty of food.

From the over 45 households who shared pledges of giving, nearly 4 out of 5 (over 78%) of them reflected an increase from last year. I've also learned that 9 provided pledges for the first time. The increase in giving among attendees as a group was north of 10%. There are still a dozen or so households to connect with, so final numbers aren't yet available. All this news is truly a blessing.

Update on Change in Council President

As many of you know from reading the prayer requests over the past several months, my brother Douglas suffered a stroke in June. The additional time needed to provide and oversee his care and attend to his personal and financial matters is taking considerably more time than I expected.

So, as of Monday this week, I've stepped away from Council to better attend to family matters. Randy Sacco is now serving as Council President. Please provide Randy the same level of enthusiasm and support you've so graciously shown me. Don't worry, I'm not going anywhere. You'll still see me in choir and perhaps in the role of a turkey-leg eating king or jovial Santa.

St. Andrew's is a special place, with special people. As one of God's churches, we have always found ways to help those who are in need. With the success of this recent Consecration Sunday effort, I can't wait to see what we come up with next. God Bless! – David Putz

Welcome Session Coming Soon

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 participants availability, so please contact Pastor Sonja pastorsonja@standrewsames.org or call the office at 515-292-2131 to let us know you would like to participate!*

Pine Ridge Clean-Up Day

Pine Ridge Ministry Team is having a clean up day (well weekend) and we could use some extra hands. We are cleaning and organizing our storage units. We have some broken items that need to be pitched, some items that need to be fixed and some organizing. We have some great opportunities coming our way. "We have to prepare our fields to receive them". We are getting a dumpster for the weekend of November 12th. Come and break stuff (and more) with us on November 12, starting at 9am .

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 ismjohnson36@msn.com with any questions! Drop off donations on the Fellowship Hall donations table.

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). See the full job description at standrewsames.org with instructions to apply, and encourage any qualified applicants to apply!

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!

- November 6: Muffins and Bacon
- November 13: Breakfast Tacos
- November 20: Coffee Cake and Sausage Links

Service N Learning November 6, *Remembrance of the Saints*

We continue our chronological overview of God's great Biblical story this week. If you would like a copy of *The Story*, books are now available in the office during office hours. 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 each listed week.

- November 7-November 13: Chapter 8 "A Few Good Men... and Women"
- November 14-20: Chapter 9 "The Faith of a Foreign Woman"

~NOTABLES~

Worship Assistants This Week (11/06/2022)

Assisting Minister – **Janeen Christy**

Reader – **Jennie LeGates**

Greeter – **Betty Beard**

Ushers – **John and Carol Moran**

Communion Setup – **John and Carol Moran**

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

Tech – **Don Behning**

Fellowship – **Fellowship**

Worship Assistants Next Week (11/13/2022)

Assisting Minister – **Amanda Kress**

Reader – **Philip Dixon**

Greeter – **Paul and Cheryl White**

Ushers – **Al Jergens, John Kovar**

Communion Setup – **Paul and Cheryl White**

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

Tech – **Kris Parsons**

Fellowship – **Pine Ridge and Tanzania**

Happy November Anniversary

Pastor Sonja and Scott Gerstenberger (1), John and Carol Moran (19), Sharon and Richard Olson (29)

Happy November Birthday

Gayle Osterberg (2), Sharon Anderson (3), McKenzie Geisinger (3), Ruth Shreve (4), Laurie Hoifeldt (15), Rosemary Nelson (19), Pauline Miller (22), Sam Houk (23), Anna Wolc (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**, 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).

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.