

December 2, 2022 Friday Flash

Dear Peacemakers in Christ,

Did you know that our music staff, **Sarah Buck, Connie Sweeny, and Steve Hoifeldt, devote a cumulative 67 years of experience** to the music ministry at St. Andrew's?

That is a tremendous gift of experience and expertise. Utilizing their gifts, they craft **Meaningful Worship, one of St. Andrew's values.** With care, they select preludes, liturgy, hymns, and music for ensemble and choir that work together with the word proclaimed and the sacraments administered to bring us into an encounter with God in Christ Jesus through the Holy Spirit each week. They spend hours reviewing music and selecting pieces that fit with the liturgical season and weekly readings. Steve and Connie facilitate practice with the ensemble and choir to ensure music is polished. And Connie and Sarah play in a way that leads congregational singing, no easy task!

Steve's leadership of the choir, Connie's leadership of the ensemble, and Sarah's careful eye for detail create opportunities for all to engage in worship and experience the gospel through music. I am tremendously grateful for the gift of these musicians and the opportunity to work with and learn from them. Please reach out and thank Sarah, Connie, and Steve (and any and all ensemble or choir participants) for their gift of time and talent on behalf of St. Andrew's!

And thank YOU for the ways you engage in Meaningful Worship as we Live in and Share God's Love with ALL! This second Sunday of Advent may we anticipate Christ's coming to bring PEACE to a world longing, waiting, and hoping for transformation. And, as we are transformed, may we participate in transforming the world around us – transforming the broken systems keep all from experiencing peace.

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
- Sunday, *Budget Hearing Meeting*, 11:30 am, Fellowship Hall
- Monday, *Tanzania Interest Meeting*, 7 pm, Room 4, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
- Tuesday, *Budget Hearing Meeting*, 6:30 pm, Zoom (See announcement)
- Wednesday, *Faith Book Study Meeting*, 7 am, Hy-Vee West Market Grille
- Wednesday, *Gather Bible Study*, 5:30 pm, Zoom (See announcement)
- Wednesday, *Choir*, 7 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/

Welcome to the World, Evany!

Congrats to Amanda and Nate Kress on the birth of their daughter, Evany Rose Kress, on Wednesday, November 23.

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 December 4 and 6

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>

Tanzania Trip Interest Meeting December 5, 7 pm

This meeting is for anyone who would be interested in finding out more about our next trip to TZ. If you might like to go to TZ, or if you just want to understand what is going on, you can come to the meeting. Please send RSVPs to Carol Putz if you have not already. We will talk about what you might like to do on the trip, and when you might be available to go, and what you would need to do to get ready to go. We can answer a lot of questions and do not need any commitment yet.

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

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 via zoom. You can pick up a copy on the Narthex Table on Sunday. Login Details for the Zoom: **Meeting ID:** 838 6834 7151 **Passcode:** 318283 **Dial In:** 312 626 6799 <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83868347151?pwd=S0ZDUVgreW8wYVVaTWxLcWV4VmFzQT09>

Poinsettias Available to Order by December 14

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. If you have any questions, contact Mary Johnson at (515)-231-0716.

St. Andrew's Annual Christmas Event December 18, 1-3 pm

All are invited to our annual Christmas Event featuring Blessings from the Heart. This event will take place in the Fellowship Hall from 1-3 pm on December 18. Snacks, crafts, and photos with Santa will be available! The recipients of Blessings from the Heart will also receive their gifts and holiday meal bags at this event! This is a family-friendly event, so come celebrate with us!

Tanzania Companions Zoom Meeting December 17, 9 am

Join in on a Zoom meeting with our companions in Hedaru. It is scheduled for Saturday morning, December 17 at 9 am. (Because of the time differential, it has to be on a Saturday morning). If you are interested, please reach out to Carol Putz (carol.putz@gmail.com) and she will send you a Zoom link.

Welcome Session January 8, 11:45 am

Pastor Sonja will hold a Welcome Session January 8 at 11:45 am in the Fellowship Hall. Individuals who want to learn more about being a part (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. Pastor Sonja will have a packet of information for each participant, so *please RSVP by signing up on the sheet on the Narthex table or contact Pastor Sonja.*

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 in Advent!

St. Andrew's Policy on End-of-the-Year Contributions

St. Andrew's will adhere to the IRS rules in Publication 526, "Charitable Contributions." Contributions are deductible in the year made. Thus, donations must be postmarked on or before Dec. 31, OR brought to the church office by noon on Dec. 30 (last day the office is open in December). Simply Giving or online donations made and processed by Dec. 31 also apply to the current year.

If you would like to prepay all or part of your 2023 pledge in 2022, please indicate this on the memo line of your check. If you pay online, let Linda Seaverson know so it gets assigned correctly. The donation will appear on your 2022 Contribution Statement. Questions to: Linda Seaverson, seaverson.linda@gmail.com, 515-451-2883.

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. Scan the QR code on the right for more information.



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!

- December 4: Holiday-inspired French Toast Casseroles
- December 11: Cheesy Grits, Bacon, and Scrambled Eggs

Service N Learning November 28-December 4: From Shepherd to King

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 5-11: The Trials of a King
- December 12-18: The King Who Had It All

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.

~NOTABLES~

Worship Assistants This Week (12/04/2022)

Assisting Minister – **Jennie LeGates**

Reader – **Jon Christy**

Greeter – **Jeanine Strodtman**

Ushers – **Kris Miles and Al Jergens**

Communion Setup – **Paul and Cheryl White**

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

Tech – **Don Behning**

Fellowship – **Fellowship**

Worship Assistants Next Week (12/11/2022)

Assisting Minister – **Laurie Evans**

Reader – **Kris Miles**

Greeter – **Nora Nelson**

Ushers – **Kris Miles and Al Jergens**

Communion Setup – **Kris Miles**

Communion Servers – **Al Jergens and John Kovar**

Tech – **Kris Parsons**

Fellowship – **Social Concerns**

Happy December Anniversary

Dan and Kristine Anderson (27)

Happy December Birthday

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.