

## December 9, 2022 Friday Flash

Dear People of Joy in Jesus,

This Third week in Advent we light the pink candle, reminding us of the JOY we feel at the birth of Christ, God's love breaking into the world, our lives, and our hearts. We look forward to another beautiful advent worship service this weekend as we **anticipate celebrating Christ's birth at our Christmas Eve worship service at 7 pm and our Christmas Day worship service at 10:30 am**. Please share an invitation with anyone you know who might appreciate gathering in loving community with awe and wonder, experiencing Christ's coming through beautiful music, joyous song, the word proclaimed, and at the table.

As we do so, we are thankful for the sparkling clean facilities, courtesy of Mike's Cleaning Service. **Did you know Mike's Cleaning Service has been handling the custodial needs of St. Andrew's since late September?** Council approved seeking a contracted service to ensure sustained upkeep of the facilities and to address frequent turnover in custodial staff, need for significant supervision, and need for additional attention in a few areas of the facility. Mike's was a suggestion of the property committee, who had worked with them for our carpet cleaning this summer (in conjunction with ChildServe, who suggested Mike's Cleaning).

**Two to three of Mike's staff visit the church on Mondays and Fridays to do a thorough cleaning of the Sanctuary, Narthex, Office, Classrooms, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and bathrooms.** This amounts to about 6 cumulative staff hours on each of these days. Staff also makes a more abbreviated visit on Wednesdays to freshen up bathrooms, vacuum, and take out trash. St. Andrew's is benefiting from additional hours to attend to cleaning needs and additional eyes to spot them.

If you ever spot something that needs extra attention, contact our office administrator, Miriam, ([office@standrewsames.org](mailto:office@standrewsames.org)) and she will make sure to pass it along. And if you happen to be in the building when Mike's is here, please thank them for caring for our facilities!

Looking forward with JOY to seeing you Sunday!

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, *St. Andrew's 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 at Saving Suds*, 4-7 pm, Squeaky Clean Laundromat
- Thursday, *Pine Ridge Donation Time*, 6-8 pm, Room 2 at St. Andrew's
- Thursday, *Church Council Meeting*, 7 pm, Zoom
- Saturday, *Tanzania Companions Meeting*, 9 am, Zoom
- *For a full listing of events, check out the St. Andrew's calendar at [standrewsames.org/calendar/](http://standrewsames.org/calendar/)*

### Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Worship Times

All are invited to St. Andrew's annual Christmas Eve Service on December 24 at 7 pm! Celebrate the birth of Jesus with us through fellowship, carols, amazing music, and candlelight. Then, come back for our Christmas Day service at 10:30 am! Join in our mission to Live in and Share God's Love with All this Christmas season.

### 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.

### Help us Finish Strong with Blessings from the Heart

Blessings from the Heart will be a big part of our annual Christmas Event on December 18. We are needing just 6 more individuals to step up to adopt a family this Christmas season. In addition, volunteers are needed to help serve food or supervise activity tables (crafts, cookie decorating, etc.). We are also needing volunteers to bring snacks (think Fellowship-type items) as well as plain cookies or cupcakes for the treat decorating station! Please sign-up to volunteer on the sheet in the Narthex, or email the church office [office@standrewsames.org](mailto:office@standrewsames.org). Any questions can be directed to Lisa Downs ([consultingwithlisa@gmail.com](mailto:consultingwithlisa@gmail.com)).

### 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! Blessings from the Heart recipients will also be given their gifts and holiday meal bags this day! This is a family-friendly gathering; come celebrate with us!

### Tanzania Companions Zoom Meeting December 17, 9 am

The second meeting is 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](mailto:carol.putz@gmail.com)) and she will send you a Zoom link.

## **Blessings Box Update**

Volunteers are needed to help maintain the Blessings Box; thank you so much to everyone who has already signed up! The box is located on the front lawn of the church. A sign-up sheet to volunteer to check the box and add items is located on the table in the narthex. In addition, donations for the Blessing Box and MICA can be placed in the donation bins labeled for each organization, located in the narthex. This will give the volunteers a source of items to use.

## **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.*

## **LifeLines Fall 2022 Issue**

ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response have always been intricately connected, but in recent months global events have reminded us again just how vital the work of God through these shared ministries is for communities around the world. The newest issue of "LifeLines" lifts up stories of hope, of new opportunity and of God at work even amid tragedy and instability. Please use [this link to view this issue of Lifelines](#)

## **Nominations Committee Members Needed; Nomination forms for Council, Elected Committees Available**

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](mailto:randysacco77@gmail.com)) or a council member ASAP.*

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.

## **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](mailto: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. [Click this link 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](mailto: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 18: Assorted Scones

### **Service N Learning December 5-11: The Trials of a 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 12-18: The King Who Had It All

### **~NOTABLES~**

#### **Worship Assistants This Week (12/11/2022)**

Assisting Minister – **Laurie Evans**

Reader – **Kris Miles**

Greeter – **Nora Nelson**

Ushers – **Al Jergens and Kris Miles**

Communion Setup – **Kris Miles**

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

Tech – **Kris Parsons**

Fellowship – **Social Concerns**

#### **Worship Assistants Next Week (12/18/2022)**

Assisting Minister – **Mary Johnson**

Reader – **Jennie LeGates**

Greeter – **Rollie Link**

Ushers – **John Kovar**

Communion Setup – **Deb Schlieman**

Communion Servers – **Glynn Frank, Margaret Sherve**

Tech – **Bruce Boeke**

Fellowship – **Worship and Arts**

#### **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~

**Richard Doyle** (Father of Monica Behning), **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), family of **Anne Buck** (Sister-in-Law of Sarah and Ben Buck).

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.