

FRIDAY FLASH~ January 14, 2022

~THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S~

Sunday, *Service & Learning*, 9 am, *The Jesus Way & Welcoming Immigrants and Refugees: Presentation from LSI's Refugee Services*, Fellowship Hall with livestream. (NO Breakfast)

Sunday, *Worship*, 10:30 am, Sanctuary and Livestream

Sunday, ~~Fellowship Time~~, *cancelled due to new Covid-19 guidelines for January, see below.*

Wednesday, *Choir Rehearsal*, 7-9 pm, Sanctuary

Thursday, January 20, *Saving Suds*, 4-7pm, Squeaky Clean Laundromat, 105 Lincoln Way

~WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SONJA~

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus!

I don't know about you, but January is starting to take its toll. The holidays are over. The next celebration to look forward to is months away. And Covid-19 infection numbers climb, causing us to think again about what public gatherings we attend and our own susceptibility to the virus. Pick your Ferris wheel/carousel/rollercoaster metaphor ... I want off this ride!

Yet we continue. As the Israelites continued wandering in the desert, with the hope of the Promised Land as their guide and the quail and manna from heaven to sustain them, we, too cling to the hope and promise that God is continuing to transform this "ride" into the New Jerusalem, heaven come to earth.

And, like the Israelites, we grow weary. Even the bread and manna God provides that are enough for today seem inadequate to our human need for certainty and answers. We do not need to hide our laments and grief at the brokenness of the world. God has and will continue to hear our cries and sustain us through God's love and grace.

We do not have the cloud by day and fire by night the Israelites had to remind them of God's presence and guidance. Our North Star is the Word of God made flesh in Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension, through whom God began transforming this world. May we continue to wrestle with our grief and sorrow and the hope we have in Christ until, like Jacob, we are blessed.

The Hope of Christ be Yours,
Pastor Sonja

Pastor Sonja's Winter Schedule: To provide more flexibility for visitation, connecting with the community, clergy text study, and other out of office work, please contact Pastor Sonja directly at pastorsonja@standrewsames.org or 515-292-2131 to schedule an appointment so she can set aside time to meet with you. When not attending to needs outside the office, Pastor Sonja is generally in the office Mondays-Thursday, available via email, Saturdays by mobile phone, and any time via mobile phone for urgent needs at 515-554-4348.

~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

Please send any announcements for Friday Flash to the office by Wednesday at Noon.

Covid-19 Guidelines Update as of January 14

The Covid19 Guidelines team met again this week to discuss the rising case numbers in Ames and determine if additional precautionary measures should be taken. *The team is not making any changes to the guidelines at this time* but does encourage everyone to resume being mindful of limiting gathering with large groups in crowded spaces, including during worship, due to the highly transmissible Omicron variant that is causing increased incidents of cases even in individuals with two vaccines and a booster.

Please feel free to reach out to individual members of the Covid-19 Guidelines team if you have questions: Laurie Hoifeldt (lhoifeldt@gmail.com, 515-509-7094), Mary Johnson (jmjohnson36@msn.com, 515-231-0716), Steve Hoifeldt (shoifeldt@standrewsames.org, 515-509-7093) Pauline Miller (paulinemiller0@gmail.com, 515-450-2009), John Kovar (jlkovar@msn.com, 515-292-0371)

Current Covid-19 Guidelines:

1. All are encouraged to worship online (in general, whether they feel sick or not), to limit the potential spread of Covid 19 during this surge. Those who are in higher risk categories due to age or underlying health conditions are especially encouraged to take advantage of online worship.
2. Please stay home if you have any signs of illness (cough, runny nose, sore throat, fever).
3. St. Andrew's will not offer food or beverages in the building.
4. Communion will be distributed to the pews to limit movement in the sanctuary.
5. Masks are required to be worn over the mouth and nose at all times in the building.

2022 Annual Meeting

The 2022 Annual Meeting will take place **online only** on January 30 at 1 pm. The Annual Report is available in the narthex or online on the website under [Newsletters & Reports](#). More information about the Zoom link will be sent out closer to the date. **If you need assistance in participating online**, please contact the office at 515-292-2131 or office@standrewsames.org

2022 Offering Envelope Boxes Available

A few boxes for 2022 are available on the narthex table. It is not necessary to put your check in an envelope but the Stewardship & Finance committee realizes that some members prefer to do so. The envelopes are generic (not ID'd to a member) so take any box. Donors giving cash and wanting their donation to be recorded so an end of year contribution report for tax purposes will be received should use an envelope of some kind with your name and address (if the church doesn't already have it) on it. Questions to Linda Seaverson, 515-451-2883, seaverson.linda@gmail.com.

~MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES~

Saving Suds at Squeaky Clean on Thursday, January 20

St. Andrew's will be at Saving Suds this coming Thursday, January 20 from 4-6 p.m. Saving Suds is a local ministry in partnership with Bethesda Lutheran to provide quarters and laundry soap at Squeaky Clean from 4-6 p.m. on the first and third Thursday of the month.

Additional volunteers are always needed to greet participants and hand out quarters. [Sign up here](#) or go to standrewsames.org and click on the Saving Suds image in the slideshow. Saving Suds is also in need of financial donations to support its ministry. Online donations can be made here: standrewsames.org/give-online/.

Edwards School Needs Snacks

St. Andrew's partners with Edward's Elementary to provide treats for classroom birthdays. You can bring snacks for Edwards School to St. Andrew's between 9 am-3:30 pm weekdays to drop off or on Sundays before/after worship on the table just inside the entrance of Fellowship Hall. The kids at Edwards Elementary thank you!

Be a Worship Volunteer! It's Fun and Easy!

You are invited to consider how you may feel led to use your gifts in worship. The following volunteers are currently needed each week: Assisting Minister, Reader, Greeters, Ushers,

Communion Setup, Communion Servers. You can see the volunteer needs and signup at www.standrewsames.org/worship, or call the church office at 515-292-2131.

~NOTEABLES~

Happy Anniversary to

Linda Seaverson & John McClelland (January 10th)

Happy January Birthday to

Judy Denato (2nd), Carolyn Potter (3rd), Sharon Olson (4th), DJ Parsons (8th), Brett Redies (12th), Nora Nelson (19th), Linda Seaverson (23rd), Marjorie Allison (24th), Oren Geisinger IV (25th), Eugene Takle (25th), Kris Parsons (26th), Lester Carlsborg (27th), Lilith Dorr (27th), Chelsea Jensen (28th), Thomas McClelland (29th), Sharon Mott (29th), Derek Stickfort (29th)

Worship Assistants This Week (1/9/2021)

Assisting Minister – **Janeen Christy**

Reader – **Jon Christy**

Greeter –

Ushers – **Don Boyle, Al Jergens, Randy Sacco, John Kovar**

Communion Setup – **Paul & Cheryl White**

Communion Servers- **Al Jergens, Pauline Miller**

Tech – **Kris Parsons**

Worship Assistants Next Week (1/16/2022)

Assisting Minister –

Reader – **Pauline Miller**

Greeter –

Ushers – **Don Boyle, John Kovar**

Communion Setup –

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

Tech – **Don Behning**

~PRAYERS~

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), **Marjorie Allison**, **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 & Maynard Tweed), **Robert Pollmann** (Gene Pollmann's brother), **Mike & Kayla Endorf** (cousins of Dagmar Frank), **Forrest & Joan Dubberke**, **Diane** (Carol Putz's sister w/long COVID), **Mary Martens** (going through chemo), **Lester & Alycia Carlsborg**, **Ben Buck**, the family of **Sheryl Drury**.

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, and the Hedaru Parish in Tanzania, and all communities throughout the world.

Please send any announcements, prayers, or updates to the office at 515-292-2131 or office@standrewsames.org .

~LOCAL~

This Sunday: "Unity in the Community" MLK Community Worship Service

The Ames Area Religious Leaders Association will sponsor an ecumenical worship service Sunday, January 16, at 3:00 pm. All are invited to participate!