

FRIDAY FLASH~ January 7, 2022

~THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S~

Sunday, *Service & Learning*, 9 am, *The Jesus Way & Welcoming Immigrants and Refugees*, Fellowship Hall with breakfast and 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

~WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SONJA~

Greetings!

It is SO good to be returning to our routines this weekend! I was struck by the following quote in a daily meditation by Richard Rohr this week: *“Until and unless Christ is someone happening between people, the gospel remains largely an abstraction. Until Jesus Christ is passed on personally through faithfulness and forgiveness, through bonds of union, I doubt whether he is passed on at all.”* Adapted from Richard Rohr, *Near Occasions of Grace* (Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1993), 50–51.

We “pass Jesus on” when we gather in worship and also when we gather to grow and learn together. *This Sunday, January 9 at 9 a.m., we will be kicking off our January Session of Service and Learning – The Jesus Way.* Come, GROW in community and relationship with God and with one another. Let us “pass Jesus on” to our fellow member, to the children among us, and to the world around us as we serve and learn together.

Please note we will NOT be serving food or coffee for Service and Learning or Fellowship during the month of January. Masks and social distancing are required during Service and Learning at all times until further notice. Please see the announcement below from the Covid-19 Guidelines Team. We invite you to come to build community through worship and our learning and discussion together until Covid transmission rates decrease.

Grace & Peace,
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.

UPDATE from Covid Guidelines Team – New Guidelines for January

The Covid Guidelines Team met Thursday, January 6, to reevaluate St. Andrew's guidelines in light of the increasing transmission of Covid-19 and requests from medical professionals, hospitals, and county health organizations to take measures to reduce transmission. Transmission rates of Covid (likely due to the highly transmissible Omicron variant) have doubled in Story County since Monday from around 7% to 14.97% today (per the CDC's Covid daily tracker by county). Rates in Polk County increased from 14% to 21.32% Thursday.

Things you should know:

- 1) Medical practitioners are advising they are seeing cases in fully vaccinated and boosted individuals. SOME of these cases are milder and asymptomatic. However, some are not.
- 2) Those infected (even those fully vaccinated and boosted) CAN pass the virus on to others.
- 3) Some fully vaccinated and boosted people still get very ill and need medical attention up to and including hospital care.
- 4) The best way to reduce transmission is through wearing a quality mask (KN95 if available, or double masking with surgical masks and cloth masks), social distancing, staying home if you have ANY sign of illness (even the "sniffles"), and testing to see if you are covid positive before returning to communal environments.

5) Medical staff are stretched thin due to the continuing care needs of people impacted by the epidemic. In addition, as medical staff test positive for Covid, there are fewer staff available to provide medical care for ALL individuals who need care for any reason.

6) We can help reduce exposure by implementing changes at St. Andrew's for a limited time while this surge takes place. As a result, the Covid Guidelines Team has updated St. Andrew's Covid Guidelines to include the following for the month of January, 2022 (the team will continue to monitor transmission rates and medical advice to determine practices for February).

Covid 19 Guidelines for January:

There will be no food or beverage served at Service and Learning or Fellowship Hour. Serving food and beverage requires individuals to remove their masks to eat and drink.

Communion will be distributed by passing the plates of prepackaged communion in pews, eliminating the need to come forward and into close proximity with serves, and providing elements that are closed and packaged.

We know these temporary changes bring with them sadness and disappointment. There is great value in breaking bread together for social and emotional health of our community, and we will miss doing so. AND there are times when abstaining from doing so is an extension of care for the greater health of our community, specifically the health care professionals who have given so much over the last two years. There are many ways we LOVE our Neighbor, and this is one, small way to do so. Thank you for doing your part to Care for our Community!

Year-End Reports Due to Office January 7th

All Committee Leaders for 2021 need to file a report for the Annual Report with the office by January 7. Please submit it via email, from Microsoft Word, or something compatible. Your report needs to cover what your committee did this year in summary. A paragraph or two or a page or so if needed. Thank you!

Visitation and Funeral Service for Sheryl Drury

There will be a visitation at Jensen Funeral Home, 1600 S. Kiel Street, Holstein, Iowa, from 5-8 pm on Tuesday, January 11. The funeral service will be held Wednesday, January 12 at 10:30 am with a lunch to follow at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 310 E. Second Street, Holstein, Iowa. The

service will be Live-streamed with a link on the Jensen Funeral Home website
<https://www.nicklasdjensenfh.com/obituary/Sheryl-Drury>.

~MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES~

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), **Stuart** (cousin 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~

Save the Date: "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!