

## FRIDAY FLASH~ NOVEMBER 19, 2021

### ~WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SONJA~

Greetings Friends in Christ,

It is upon us, the season of Advent! This weekend, **November 21**, we will celebrate what has now been eight months of partnership together, at a **Service of Installation**. I will officially be installed by the assistant to the bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, reminding us of the call you extended to me to be your pastor in March, my acceptance of that call, and the responsibilities you have entrusted to me as pastor.

Then, it is headlong into Advent. We will pause on Thanksgiving Eve for a **Holden Evening Worship service, November 24 at 7 p.m.**, before celebrating the **first Sunday of Advent November 28 in worship**. During Advent, we wait with joyful anticipation for the coming of Jesus ... Emmanuel, God-with-us, God with flesh, the Christ child ... even as we wait for his coming again at the end of the age.

As we journey through this season, **I invite you to journey together through a four-week Advent Study**, either **around the table in your homes** or **Wednesday evenings from 6-6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall** (with an option to join via Zoom).

**Advent Study books and an Advent Calendar are available to pick up on the table in the Narthex**. I invite you to take as many Advent Study books as members in your household and one Advent calendar per household. The Advent Calendars have a window to open with a special prayer to say each week. These resources are generously provided by the ELCA World Hunger.

In the dark nights of winter in the northern hemisphere, we watch. We wait. We joyfully anticipate the celebrating of Christ's birth each year, even as we wait for Jesus to come again, bringing in the dawn of the fullness of God's goodness and reconciliation of all things. **I look forward to journeying through this time together.**

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Sonja

*Pastor Sonja's Fall Office hours are: Tuesday and Thursday 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Office Hours are times you can generally come and Pastor is here and available for a drop-in visit. Pastor's day off is Friday. If you wish to schedule a time outside of office hours, you are invited to contact the church office to arrange an appointment.*

## ~ANNOUNCEMENTS~

### **Congratulations to Sarah and J. Ben Buck!**

They have been presented with the Story County Alliance for Philanthropy: Outstanding Philanthropist Award for 2021. Check out the whole story here: <https://youtu.be/E9fbOhWupf4>

### **A Message from the Covid Task Force**

Jesus tells us that we are to "love our neighbor as (we love) ourselves." As we continue to care for each other in community, and as case numbers continue to rise in Story County, your Covid Team met this week to review SALC worship and meeting protocols.

Recognizing that we are all experiencing some degree of mask fatigue, the rising numbers of infections in our county mean we must continue to wear them when we meet together in the church. It is simply the best way to protect ourselves and our neighbor. Immunity from vaccinations and having the virus decreases over time - we're still learning that neither protects us completely, even though being vaccinated greatly reduces the risk of serious illness or hospitalization.

The team encourages the faith community to:

1. Get vaccinated, and get your booster.
2. Stay at home if you're not well.
3. Continue to wear a mask in public, being sure to cover your nose and mouth.
4. Continue to social distance.

The policy for outside group use of the building was updated to allow for 100 in the sanctuary, in addition to the group participating up front.

### **Special Installation Worship Service and Luncheon, Nov. 21**

Please join us in the official 'welcoming' of Pastor Sonja on November 21. Pastor Dan Kuckuck, assistant to the bishop, will preach and preside over a Service of Installation for Pastor Sonja. Following service, you are invited to a meal hosted by your church council to celebrate and share the joy on this very special occasion!

### **Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie Social, Nov. 24, 7 p.m.**

St. Andrew's will continue the tradition of a Thanksgiving Eve worship service using the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy Wednesday, November 24, at 7 p.m. Following the service, all are invited to Fellowship Hall to enjoy a pie social – bring a pie to share as we enjoy tasting and fellowshiping together.

### **Decorate the Sanctuary for Advent/Christmas**

Come help decorate the sanctuary for the holidays on November 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am! Everyone is welcome and all hands are needed...especially for the very large tree! Come enjoy the fellowship and spirit of Christmas together with your church family!

### **If You Worship Via Livestream, a Way to be Involved**

Just as we have greeters to welcome those who attend worship in person, St. Andrew's is looking for people interested in being online greeters for our Livestream worship services. These individuals would be asked to participate in the Livestream during the 10:30 a.m. worship time and reach out to those watching via the Comments section, introducing themselves and inviting those participating to do so also. Greeters would also be asked to bring a greeting of "peace be with you" during the sharing of the peace and interact with Livestream participants at other times throughout the service. If you are interested in participating as a Livestream Greeter, please email [office@standrewsames.org](mailto:office@standrewsames.org).

### **Open Call for Nominations: Council Opening for 2022**

Council will have an opening for one new member for 2022 and is accepting nominations through December 15. Please consider if you or someone you know has the gifts, time, and vision to dedicate to the leadership of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Council members must be members of St. Andrew's. If you have questions about Council leadership, or to submit nominations, contact Council President Dave Putz ([david.putz@gmail.com](mailto:david.putz@gmail.com))

### **The Oyate Teca Project – Pine Ridge Reservation**

The Oyate Teca Project (Young Peoples Project), founded in 1991, is a vital and functioning program that serves more than 700 Oglala Lakota youth through a variety of practical and carefully designed activities. Their mission is to promote the well-being of children and their families through culture, education, recreation, and health programs. They are a 501c3 non-profit organization centrally located in Kyle, South Dakota on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation; and are a highly regarded program with a great track record that provides an opportunity to engage the youth in a number of meaningful and wholesome activities intended for all ages. Many youth would not otherwise be able to access some of the services offered at the center. Please visit their Facebook page to learn more about this important project that St Andrew's contributes to through donations.

### **St. Andrew's Giving Garden – Thanks to ALL Who Participated, Stay Tuned for 2022**

Thank you to participants in the Saint Andrew's Giving Garden project supporting Story County Plant-a-Row for the Hungry in 2021, which officially wrapped up its season last weekend. This summer volunteers from churches, community gardens, and home gardens grew and donated

12,836 pounds of fresh produce, which were distributed to Story County neighbors in need. Since its inception in 2004, this program has distributed over 125,000 pounds of fresh produce in Story County.

If you would like to participate in planning discussions for our 2022 SALC Giving Garden program, please indicate so on your time and talent sheet or contact Janeen Christy at [janeen.christy70@gmail.com](mailto:janeen.christy70@gmail.com).

### **~MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES~**

#### **Pine Ridge November New Donation Days**

Starting in November, there will be an additional donation time – Thursdays from 6-8 pm. If you have questions about this new time, please leave a message for Kris Parsons at 515-231-9318. There will still be a donation day on the second Saturday from 9-noon.

#### **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 a.m.-3:30 p.m. 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!

#### **Help Provide Hospitality and Welcome: Seeking Fellowship Committee Volunteers**

The St. Andrew's Fellowship Committee is looking for additional members to help plan fellowship events to provide hospitality and welcome to all. Fellowship coordinates coffee hour after worship, funeral luncheons, and special meals. If you feel a nudge to get involved, please contact the church office at [office@standrewsames.org](mailto:office@standrewsames.org), or committee chairs Gayle Osterberg [osterberggayle@gmail.com](mailto:osterberggayle@gmail.com) and JoAnn Kovar [joannkovar31@gmail.com](mailto:joannkovar31@gmail.com).

#### **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](http://www.standrewsames.org/worship), or call the church office at 515-292-2131.

**Love Singing? Choir Meets Wednesdays at 7 p.m.**

Come one and all! Director Steve Hoifeldt has a wonderful selection of music planned to enhance worship through choral music. Come to the sanctuary at 7 p.m. and join in the fun. Masks required. Questions? Contact [shoifeldt@standrewsames.org](mailto:shoifeldt@standrewsames.org).

**~NOTEABLES~**

**Happy Anniversary to**

Scott & Pastor Sonja Gerstenberger (November 3rd), Harlan & Kathryn Baker (November 9<sup>th</sup>), John & Carol Moran (November 19th), Richard & Sharon Olson (November 29th)

**Happy November Birthday to**

Gayle Osterberg (2nd), Sharon Anderson (3rd), McKenzie Geisinger (3rd), Ruth Shreve (4th), Kira Clouser (9<sup>th</sup>), Laurie Hoifeldt (15<sup>th</sup>), Rosemary Nelson (19<sup>th</sup>), Pauline Miller (22nd)

**Worship Assistants This Week (11/21/2021)**

Assisting Minister – **Mary Johnson**

Reader – **Jennie LeGates**

Greeters – **Paul & Cheryl White**

Ushers – **John Kovar**

Communion Setup – **Paul & Cheryl White**

Communion Servers- **Jon Christy, Laurie Evans**

Tech – **Brent Anderson**

Fellowship – **Social Concerns Committee**

**Worship Assistants Next Week (11/24/21) – Thanksgiving Eve**

Greeters –

Ushers –

Tech – **Kris Parsons**

Fellowship – **Pie Social**

**Worship Assistants Next Week (11/28/21)**

Assisting Minister –

Reader – **Margaret Sherve**

Greeters – **Laurie Evans**

Ushers –

Communion Setup –

Communion Servers-

Tech – **Kris Parsons**

Fellowship – **Pine Ridge & Tanzania Teams**

**~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 Martins** (going through chemo), **Lester & Alycia Carlsborg, Ben Buck**, the family of **Harlan Baker**.

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 [office@standrewsames.org](mailto:office@standrewsames.org) or call 515-292-2131.**

*\*Harlan Baker's Funeral will be Livestreaming on [www.standrewsames.org](http://www.standrewsames.org) on Monday 11/22 at 11am for those who are not able to attend in person. Look for the button towards the bottom of the page\**