

FRIDAY FLASH~ NOVEMBER 5, 2021

~WEEKLY MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SONJA~

Dear Saints of St. Andrew's,

Can it be the end of the first week in November already? As with many things, it turns out our ability to comprehend reality does not determine reality. The days and the year 2021 continue to speed on, still affected by the presence of a pandemic, yet much freer than our days at the beginning of November 2020. What feels like one step forward, two steps back, is still moving, slowly, forward.

As plants begin to die and we anticipate the “great sleep” of winter, **we celebrate the festival of All Saints this Sunday**. The readings and liturgy focus us on rejoicing, along with all the saints – those alive (Yes, you and me!), those who have died and are with Christ, and those yet to come. We will remember by lighting candles and lifting in prayer those who have died and those born in 2021

The readings this Sunday and in the coming weeks bring us into Biblical books and stories we don't often explore, hearing about the end of time, loss and death, parables of judgment. As we confess our faith in Jesus, the risen Lord, in the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting we hold these things, life, and death, in tension. Death brings pain, sadness, and grief, and we cling to the promise of new life in Jesus and that God is with us in all things. Death. Life. Grief. Loss. Illness. Looking forward to the birth of the Christ child. The Christ-child who claims us in Baptism ... feeds us in Communion ... redeems us from all things that are death-dealing at the cross, bringing new life, the New Jerusalem.

I look forward to celebrating this special festival with you this weekend as we remember all the saints, today, yesterday, and tomorrow.

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~

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. Our 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. If you would like to learn more and/or donate please go to www.oyatetecaproject.org

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.

Service and Learning Transition: An Announcement from Kaitlyn and Blythe

After much consideration, Blythe and I (Kaitlyn) will be resigning from Ministers of Service and Learning at the end of this semester. First and foremost, we would like to express our immense gratitude to all of you for the years of support, generosity, kindness, and friendship during our time on staff. The last four years have been wonderful and we are truly grateful that you have given us the chance to serve this community.

We care deeply for each member of the St. Andrew's community. We have found friends who have become family within the members of St. Andrew's. It is our home away from home. This resignation is not a reflection of any ill will or frustrations. Quite the opposite. We have chosen to leave the position of Ministers of Service and Learning knowing that we are no longer capable of giving the position the dedication that it deserves.

Between Kaitlyn living in Texas and Blythe working on the final research push and dissertation for his Ph.D., we are not able to commit what is needed to the position. It is not a decision we came to easily and will greatly miss being involved with the community of St. Andrew's as staff. We are looking forward to making the most of our final weeks as your Ministers of Service and Learning and look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

The Personnel Team is already at work to determine the next steps forward so we can continue to offer All Ages Service and Learning on Sunday mornings, Confirmation, Youth, and Quarterly Events to grow in faith and relationships with one another.

Save the Date, November 24, 7 p.m.: Thanksgiving Eve Worship and Pie Social

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.

Open Call for Nominations: Council Opening for 2022

Council needs 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. Once nominations have been received, Council will make personal contact with those nominated by the congregation and invite the individuals to discern whether God is calling them to council leadership. If so, they will be asked to submit biographical information to be shared with the congregation (at worship and in the Friday Flash). Elections will take place at the January 30 Congregational Annual Meeting after worship. If you have questions about Council leadership, or to submit nominations, contact Council President Dave Putz (david.putz@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, or committee chairs Gayle Osterberg osterberggayle@gmail.com and JoAnn Kovar 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, 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.

~YOUTH~

Confirmation Monthly Event - November 7, 11:30 a.m.

Our first monthly confirmation meeting! Meet in the youth room after church (around 11:30). We will head out to lunch together. No need to send money with your youth, these meetings are covered. Parents, if you could stick around for just a minute so we can be sure we are good on rides, that would be awesome. We're looking forward to this! Let Kaitlyn and Blythe know if you have any questions (serviceandlearning@standrewsames.org).

Confirmation Retreat January 14-16 - Registration Deadline November 7

We will be attending a confirmation retreat with the rest of our synod at Ewalu Lutheran camp in January. This retreat will likely sell out so we need to go ahead and get our registration taken care of. Please return your registration form to Blythe by November 7. Registration forms were attached to the weekly youth email. If you need a copy, contact Kaitlyn and Blythe at serviceandlearning@standrewsames.org. There is no registration fee for this event.

Service and Learning Hour, Sundays at 9 a.m.

You have probably seen by now that Sunday School has merged with adult forum for an intergenerational program called Service and Learning. We gather each week at 9 a.m. to share breakfast, learn about a fundamental of faith life, hear about a local, national, or international service effort, and apply our learning in service in the world! This program is led by both Blythe and Pastor Sonja and we are excited about everything we have coming up for this semester! We think you'll really like it!

~NOTEABLES~

Happy Anniversary to

Scott & Pastor Sonja Gerstenberger (November 3rd), Harlan & Kathryn Baker (November 9th – 73 yrs!), 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 (9th), Laurie Hoifeldt (15th), Rosemary Nelson (19th), Pauline Miller (22nd)

Worship Assistants This Week (11/7/21)

Assisting Minister – **Jennie LeGates**

Reader – **Lynn Miller**

Greeters – **Pat Thompson**

Ushers – **John Kovar**

Communion Setup –

Communion Servers- **Jon Christy**

Tech – **Bruce Boeke**

Fellowship – **Fellowship Committee**

Worship Assistants Next Week (11/14/2021)

Assisting Minister – **Laurie Evans**

Reader – **Jon Christy**

Greeters – **Gayle Osterberg**

Ushers –

Communion Setup –

Communion Servers-

Tech – **Don Behning**

Fellowship – **Property Committee**

~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), **Susan** (Glynn & Dagmar Frank's daughter), **Roxanne Labandz** (niece of Alice Thompson), **Pat Fawcett**, **Kolleen Tweed Sogard** (daughter of Violet & Maynard Tweed), **Robert Pollmann** (Gene Pollmann's brother), **Harlan Baker**, **Stuart** (cousin of Dagmar Frank), **Forrest & Joan Dubberke**, **Diane** (Carol Putz's sister w/long COVID), **Mary Martins** (going through chemo).

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 or call 515-292-2131.