

~~~Welcome to the Friday Flash for April 23, 2021~~~

~MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SONJA~

Dear St. Andrew's family,

We have had such a long time apart, but with recommendations from both the Return to In-Person Worship team and Council we are happy to announce the plan to open for worship on May 23! Covid numbers have continued to meet the metrics set by our task force, showing a consistent downward trend, and vaccinations are widely available with many of you already vaccinated. Livestream worship will continue as usual.

Guidelines are in place to keep us all safe. Here are a few, but not all.

1. There will be **seating available for 65** in addition to the worship team, to allow adequate distance between us. Seats will be marked for you, and ushers will guide you. Your 'bubble' may be seated together. You may register ahead of time either online or by calling the church office, to provide an idea of seats available. More information on this will follow. Ushers will check you in when you arrive in case contact tracing becomes necessary.
2. **Masks are required for the duration of the service.** Masks will be available at the door for you if needed, along with hand sanitizer.
3. Worship will look a little different - there'll be music! But we will ask you to **refrain from the usual full-voiced hymn singing** St. Andrew's is known for, and **read the words quietly while the few worship leaders sing.** Large group singing is still not considered safe.
4. **Communion elements will be available to pick up** spaced on tables outside the sanctuary. We ask that you pick up your communion elements and take them to your seat. When it is time to commune, you will be invited to open them and receive them. There will be receptacles at the exit for you to place your trash.
4. At this time **there will not be a fellowship time inside the building.** Outside on the lawn can be a great place to say hi to friends after worship!

The Full In-Person Guidelines can be found here.

The Return to In-Person Worship Team is monitoring numbers for Story and Boone County. As we've learned this past year, things can change very quickly and there is always the chance that this date will have to change. We will continue to provide information, and encourage any and all questions you might have. I cannot wait to be able to be back together in the sanctuary! We thank the Covid team and the Return to In Person Worship team for their care and dedication stewarding the health and safety of St. Andrew's faith community.

See you soon!

SALC Council & Pastor Sonja

*Feel free to stop during my Office Hours, Monday 10 a.m.-noon, Wednesday noon-2 p.m. and Thursday 10 a.m.-noon. Office Hours are hours you can generally come and I am here and available. My 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~

- **Pastor Sonja is Vaccinated. How about YOU?**  
Pastor Sonja got her second shot Tuesday, April 13 and encourages everyone who is eligible to get out and get vaccinated. As stated above, we hope to return to in-person worship May 23. The safest and most loving thing we can do is get our vaccines. Will you consider joining Pastor Sonja? Together, we are loving our neighbors one jab at a time. If you are still in need of a Covid vaccine, Boone County public health would be happy to schedule you an appointment. Please contact Kris Parsons at 515-433-8346.
- **Mary Lokken Memorial Service, April 24, 12 p.m. Livestreamed:** Please join in remembering Mary before God, giving thanks for her life, commending her to our merciful redeemer, and comforting one another in our grief. A small gathering of family and friends will be in-person and all are invited to join in the Livestreamed service by clicking here <https://youtu.be/QhRPsGwq4B0>.
- **Nancy Dobson Remembrance:** The family of Nancy Dobson invites you to join in a Garden Party in mom's yard Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, *Family 10:30 a.m.-5:00, Friends and neighbors 1:00-5:00*. Come and enjoy the space and share memories in the place she loved the most. 1102 Scott Ave., Ames, IA 50014. No RSVP is required.
- **The Blessings Box** A number of expired food items were removed from the Blessing Box over the weekend and thrown in the garbage. There are still a variety of items in it, but there is always room for more. Thanks to everyone who is keeping the Blessing Box going. If you contribute to the box please check expiration dates and please do not put perishable food items in the box. Just remember that it sits out there during the freezing cold and the blazing sun. Also note, that the Blessing Box is not just there for food. Anything that people think would help those in need is welcomed. Contribute accordingly.
- **Edwards School** needs snacks for their students. You can drop them off at the church during office hours (9am-3:30pm, Monday-Friday), or contact Mary Johnson (515-231-0716) to arrange for her to pick them up from you.
- **Christ in Our Home** booklets are here for APRIL-MAY-JUNE. Contact the office at [office@standrewsames.org](mailto:office@standrewsames.org) or call 515-292-2131 if you would like a copy.
- **Saving Suds donations.** Donations can be made by check or on-line. Please send your check to the church written to "St. Andrew's Lutheran Church" and put "Saving Suds " in the memo line. On-line donations can be made through the "Give" tab on the church website and selecting the "Saving Suds " option. Questions to Linda Seaverson, [seaverson.linda@gmail.com](mailto:seaverson.linda@gmail.com).
- **Happy Anniversary** to Brett & Shari Redies on April 19 and Forrest & Joan Dubberke on April 27.
- **Happy Birthday** to Kris Peterson (5<sup>th</sup>), Analise Gerstenberger (6<sup>th</sup>), Andrew Kovar (7<sup>th</sup>), Betty Beard (17<sup>th</sup>), Roy Teas (17<sup>th</sup>), Nikki Gerstenberger (17<sup>th</sup>), Pat Thompson (17<sup>th</sup>), Laurie Evans (21<sup>st</sup>), Mary Johnson (21<sup>st</sup>), Carol Moran (21<sup>st</sup>), Janet Dixon (22<sup>nd</sup>), Laura Frescoln (22<sup>nd</sup>),

Serena Paulson (26<sup>th</sup>), Richard Olson (27<sup>th</sup>), Jim Copley (29<sup>th</sup>), Karen Jensen (29<sup>th</sup>), Miriam Takle (30<sup>th</sup>)

## ~CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION~

### Adult Form, Sundays at 9 a.m. via Zoom

Join us again starting Sunday April 11 AM we discuss "How to be an Antiracist" by Ibram X Kendi (even if you haven't read/don't have time to read the book). Come enjoy our wonderful discussions as we learn together about racism in the world, our country, and in our own lives. Please join us! Please click this URL to start or join. <https://iastate.zoom.us/j/93021623304>

### One Star Youth Update

We hope that you have all had a nice week. Below is some more information about confirmation camp (yay!) and a few reminders about our ongoing events.

#### Confirmation Class

Confirmation meets in the youth room on **Wednesday nights from 5:30 - 6:30**. Be sure to wear a mask and bring your blue Lutheran study bible if you took it home with you. Pastor Sonja will be joining in with the class!

#### High School Youth Group

High School Youth Group is meeting on Tuesdays from 7:00 - 8:00 pm in the youth room. Be sure to wear a mask. This semester we are walking through how to build and grow service organizations. It's a super applicable semester as many of you are interested in doing this. We're looking forward to working with you each week to bring your visions into reality!

#### Middle School and High School Sunday School

Sunday School will continue to be online for right now. We meet Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 10:00 for bible study on the gospel lesson of the week. We resend the link to join each Sunday morning.

#### Confirmation Camp: July 25th - 30th

We WILL be going to confirmation camp this year! Woohoo! Lutheran Lakeside has announced that they will be open for campers. Blythe and Pastor Sonja will be accompanying the confirmands to camp. We have chosen to attend camp **July 25-30**. Mark your calendars! Our church will attend the same week as Bethesda's confirmation group. Transportation will be provided by the church so families will not be responsible for driving their kids to and from camp. The church will also cover your entire registration fee. [Please register here](#). At the end of registration you can pick an option that lets you pay nothing and camp will send the bill to the church. Please select this option, If you have any questions about the registration process or would like some assistance, you can contact Pam in the camp office at 712-336-2109 and she'll be happy to help. **Please register your youth by May 12th.**

## ~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** (Gene Pollmann's sister), **Jen Tongay** (Sarah Runyan's sister-in-law), **June Lokken** (MaryJune Cain's aunt), **Alice Becher** (Stephen Loucks' mother), **Marjorie Allison**, **Sara Ojard** (Tom & Sharon Prochnow's daughter) **Kim** (Glynn & Dagmar Frank's daughter-in-law), **Gene Takle**, **Tammy Clarke** (Linda Hansen's cousin), **Lou Jordan** (Dagmar Frank's cousin), **Nancy Owen** (Carol Putz's cousin, battling cancer), **Susan** (Glynn & Dagmar Frank's daughter), **Nietewe [Nee eh tee way]** (Hedaru, TZ, passed away in car accident).

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, of Pine Ridge Reservation, and of 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.**

## ~CHURCHWIDE NEWS~

### **ELCA Young Adults: Abide, Registration Now Open**

Abide small group registration for individual and group participation leadership applications are now open for the Spring 2021 meeting series in small groups. Registration closes April 16.

<https://sites.google.com/view/2020fallabide/participant-registration?authuser=0>

### **Story County Broadband Survey**

Story County, along with ten (10) other counties in Central Iowa, is participating in a study to determine the availability of adequate and affordable broadband service throughout our county.

An important part of this study is a survey of Story County residents. The Survey is open now through Tuesday, April 27 and can be accessed on the website for the [Greater Des Moines Partnership](https://www.dsmpartnership.com/growing-business-here-central-iowa-broadband-internet) (<https://www.dsmpartnership.com/growing-business-here-central-iowa-broadband-internet>), which is coordinating the study.

### **Synod Derecho Fund Closing**

Thank you to all of the individuals, congregations, and synods who have contributed to the Derecho fund through the Office of the Bishop. When the storm hit Iowa in August some of our most vulnerable Iowa neighbors suddenly found themselves without shelter, food, and power. More than \$93,000 has been distributed through the office of the bishop to organizations that serve those most vulnerable to this kind of disaster. This primarily includes local and regional food and feeding organizations; and assistance with displacement and housing as a result of the storm.

The Office of the Bishop is now closing this fund. If you would like to continue to give to derecho relief

efforts or disaster response below is a list of organizations:

- [Lutheran Disaster Response](#)
- [Lutheran Services in Iowa](#)
- [Food Bank of Iowa](#)
- [Hawkeye Area Community Action Project \(HACAP\)](#)
- [Northeast Iowa Food Bank](#)
- [River Bend Food Bank](#)

If you have any questions please contact Kathy Smith, [smith@seiasynod.org](mailto:smith@seiasynod.org)