

~~~Welcome to the Friday Flash for April 9, 2021~~~

~MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SONJA~

Dear Friends in Christ,

*He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed, Alleluia!* A happy Easter to you as we celebrate the risen Jesus who raises us to new life. Alleluia!

I am very excited for the chance to worship with the congregations of the Southeastern Iowa Synod this Sunday. Bishop Current and the synod staff have provided a worship service for April 11. St. Andrew's unique identity as a Lutheran faith community in Ames joins with the multitude of communities that make up the Southeastern Iowa Synod as we worship together this weekend. While the pandemic has brought many hardships, it has also connected us in new ways, including this online worship service. I look forward to hearing our recently elected and installed bishop preach a word of hope and promise to each of us. I hope you will join me.

Grace & Peace,  
Pastor Sonja Gerstenberger

*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.*

~WORSHIP~

**In-Person Worship Study Group Update**

The In-Person Worship Study Group has faithfully met in March and April to: 1) to review progress toward the metrics approved by council to return to in-person worship and 2) to develop specific protocols that will be followed when in-person worship resumes. The metrics provided by the Covid Task Force and approved by council in January 2021 are:

- Four weeks of continuous downward trajectory of confirmed positive cases in Story and Boone counties - specifically, a positivity rate of 5% or less (The spike in March brought positivity rates above 5%. Since then, it has trended downward. **PROGRESSING**)
- Hospitalization of positive COVID-19 patients in Ames consistently at or below 10 patients (**MET**)
- Local medical center/hospital supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) adequate to meet local demands (**MET**)
- Adequate local availability of testing (**MET**)

Vaccines are being opened up to persons ages 16-65 this week, depending on availability. The team will meet again in two weeks to monitor the metrics. We are hopeful the increased vaccination will continue

to lower the percentage of infections and will provide an update to council and recommendation for May at that time. Thank you for the dedication of the In-Person Worship Study Group to faithfully steward the health and safety of this faith community as members and contributors to Ames and the surrounding communities.

### **Second Sunday of Easter Worship with the SE Iowa Synod April 11, 10:30 a.m.**

Join in celebrating the Second Sunday of Easter! St. Andrew's will join with the congregations of the Southeastern Iowa Synod to worship this Sunday. The service includes music and worship elements provided by various congregations, with Bishop Amy Current preaching. This service is hosted on St. Andrew's YouTube page where we encourage you to use the St. Andrew's comment section to greet one another and share in fellowship as a community of faith. Christ is Risen! Alleluia! *We also express our thanks to the tireless work of our office manager, the AV techs, musicians, and our music director Steven Hoifeldt for their faithful service in adapting to livestream worship services this year and continuing to enhance worship with their gifts.*

To watch the Livestream click here: <https://youtu.be/3ZDHaLUktYY>

For the Bulletin for Sunday, April 11, click here: [https://seiasynod.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm\\_uploads/2021/04/EasterII\\_Bulletin2021.pdf](https://seiasynod.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2021/04/EasterII_Bulletin2021.pdf)

### **~ANNOUNCEMENTS~**

- **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** is focusing on personal care needs. Items such as, shampoo, deodorant, personal/menstrual hygiene, toothpaste, etc. are much appreciated and needed. Thanks!
- **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).

## ~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**

Happy Easter season! What a joyous time in the church year. I always think that it is appropriate that it falls during spring which is such a life-giving time in our calendar year. Even more appropriate this year as we are anticipating meeting more normally in person again very soon. We hope that you are all finding joy and hope in this season.

*A few reminders for our ongoing events and new confirmation time:*

#### **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**

We WILL be going to confirmation camp this year! Woohoo! Camp has announced that they will be open for campers. Blythe and Pastor Sonja will be accompanying the confirmands to camp. Stay tuned for dates and registration information soon!

## ~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).

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.**

## **LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **~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.