



Faith Lutheran Church

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FAITHLUTHERANCHURCH.ORG



ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Empowered by God, we are instruments of the Holy Spirit's passion to grow in our faith, support each other with a sense of belonging, and by sharing Jesus' love by being good neighbors in the community.

Guided by the Spirit, we share the love of Jesus and walk with our community.

Sunday, December 13, 2020 3rd Sunday of Advent

Today marks the Third Sunday of Advent as we continue our journey toward the manger and the Babe born in Bethlehem. Our walk began with Hope on the First Sunday in Advent, Peace for the Second Sunday and joy for this day, December 13th, 2020,

In many Advent wreaths you may sometimes see the third candle a different color than the others in order to highlight the theme of joy. However, I am aware that today joy may not describe your current feelings as we look around us in the pandemic plagued political world we live in today. There is no "joy" in not being together in worship, in many stores and restaurants closed or semi-closed and everything has changed.

Nonetheless we are called as Christians to move on into each day looking for the joy around us. Sometimes it's hard to see, but we must look as Paul advises in today's Second Reading "Rejoice always" he writes and pray constantly while giving thanks in all circumstances.

In difficult times, if we really look, we can find joy. It's neighbor helping neighbor, serving food to those in need, giving at this time of year to help others less fortunate. Loving one another as a community of faith, trying different ways like Zoom to stay connected. Always knowing that while life may be difficult, joy lies underneath in the birth, death, and life of Christ. Amen.



Introduction and Welcome

"Rejoice always," begins the reading from 1 Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. "All God's children got a robe," go the words of a spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes we are happy to wear. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God's party.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Lighting the Third Advent Candle

Advent is a time of waiting; for the miracle of Christmas born anew into our hearts and lives in new and refreshing ways.

Advent reminds us that we are also waiting for God to come to us, God in the form of the baby Jesus, who lived and died and rose for us. We wait for God, who will come again in a new and surprising way. We light the third candle to remind us to wait.

(The first, second and third candle is lit)

Candle Lighting Hymn

“Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah”

#240 vs. 1, 2 & 3

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
- 4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954

Music: TIF IN VELDELE, Yiddish folk tune

Text © 1984 Fortress Press, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Let us pray,

God, in whom we hope, we wait for you to come to us once again. Strengthen us as we wait, so that we will not lack any spiritual gift. Help us to stay awake to the signs of your coming with the themes of Advent: love, joy, peace and hope

Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be God, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, whose forgiveness is sure and whose steadfast love endures forever.

Amen.

Together let us honestly and humbly confess that we have not lived as God desires.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Loving and forgiving God, we confess that we are held captive by sin. In spite of our best efforts, we have gone astray. We have not welcomed the stranger; we have not loved our neighbor; we have not been Christ to one another. Restore us, O God. Wake us up and turn us from our sin. Renew us each day in the light of Christ.

Amen.

People of God, hear this glad news: by God's endless grace your sins are forgiven, and you are free—free from all that holds you back and free to live in the peaceable realm of God. May you be strengthened in God's love, ✙ comforted by Christ's peace, and accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all, now and forevermore.

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, Bernadette Farrell

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Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Though the people had returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon, they continued to face hardship and oppression. In the language of the jubilee year described in Leviticus 25, the prophet, moved by the spirit of God, announces deliverance for those who are oppressed and comfort for those who mourn.

- 1 The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
- 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
- 3 to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.
- 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
- 8 For I the Lord love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
- 9 Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.
- 10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

11 For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

The word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 126

The Lord has done great things for us. (Ps. 126:3)

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."
- 3 The Lord has done great things for us,
and we are glad indeed.
- 4 Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the Negeb.
- 5 Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
- 6 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Paul concludes his letter to the Thessalonians by encouraging them to live lives of continual joy, prayer, and thanksgiving. The closing blessing is grounded in the hope of Christ's coming.

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise the words of prophets, 21 but test everything; hold fast to what is good; 22 abstain from every form of evil.

23 May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

The word of the Lord, **thanks be to God.**

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

John's gospel describes Jesus as the "light of the world." John the Baptist is presented as a witness to Jesus, one who directs attention away from himself to Christ, the true light.

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.

24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." 28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

The Gospel of our Lord, **praise to you, O Christ.**



Children's Message

Sermon

Every Advent I read a book by Jan Karon called *Shepherds Abiding*. This is from her Mitford Series of books about the life of a small town priest named Fr. Tim. I highly recommend this book series to you, by the way.

In this book, *Shepherds Abiding*, one of the characters is trying to buy the small town bookstore and she's worried about all the details coming together. In one scene she is talking with Fr. Tim about all of this and he quotes her today's second lesson from Thessalonians: "Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will for us in Christ!" He invites her to think only about a "glad outcome!"

I have been reading this series and this particular book for years and have checkmarked and underlined in several places. This is one of those! Believing in a glad outcome is our way of finding joy in the world, in this Advent season and in daily living. Believe, friends, in a glad outcome!

I believe when we believe in glad outcomes we put the positive forces of the Spirit into ourselves and our world around us. This Sunday the theme is about joy, after having Hope and Peace in our first two weeks of Advent.

As we worship today, it may not seem like there is much joy in our worlds today. Life has changed and is changing right now, right under our feet. We can feel any number of things about all of this year, but joy may not be one of those.

I want to offer a “reframe” if you’ll allow me. I believe that the joy of Jesus Christ is the foundation of our lives. The “stuff” that happens every day lays on top...we have to deal with a great deal every day. And under our stuff, the problems, the pain and grief of lost loved ones, lays joy!

Whenever I used to ask my grandfather how he was doing he would say “Well, I checked the obituary and didn’t see my name!! I don’t know if he influenced me or not but I sometimes enjoy going over the obituaries and reading about the lives of those gone before us.

Recently, an obituary described this deceased woman as operating her life around “Joy” only for her it was about Jesus, Others, and You! She loved Jesus first and foremost and from that love she served others and took care of herself.

I learned of an example of this from our very own congregations. I have permission to share this outreach of love, connection and joy from Jan Smith to Sara Curry. These two had not met formally, but each participated in the Faith Forum together on Sunday nights. One such night a week or so back, Jan noticed that Sara was sad. Sara lost her husband back in the spring and Jan had lost her husband as well. Jan, knowing what Sara was going through, sent a card. When Sara received it her heart was deeply touched and she noticed that Jan lived close by. So Sara, while walking her dog, went to Jan’s and gave her flowers and they chatted for a bit. A great friendship will develop now between these two faith filled ladies.

Today Paul urges us in our Second Reading to “rejoice always, pray in all circumstances for this is the will of God for us in Christ Jesus!” To me, rejoice means to be refilled in the joy of Jesus who lived for us, died for us, and rose again for us, for YOU and for ME. That is where our joy lies, my family of faith! No matter what life brings. We have Jesus, and Others on this walk with us. And this Jesus is how we come about believing in a glad outcome always. Amen.

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676–1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

Apostles' Creed

**We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

God of power and might, shine your radiance and come quickly to this weary world. Hear our prayers for everyone in need.

A brief silence.

God of preachers and messengers, you have entrusted your church with the work of proclaiming good news. Strengthen the witness of bishops, pastors, deacons, church musicians, lay leaders, and all people who contribute their prayers and talents to public worship (*the congregation's worship leaders may be named*). Embed your word in their hearts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every living creature, you announce the year of your favor for all of creation. Extend your kindness and relief to endangered animals and plants. Strengthen the human beings who rely on the rhythms of nature to make their living. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of all peoples and nations, you plant us as your oaks of righteousness and ask us to care for one another. Be present with the leaders of every nation as they govern. Give them a spirit of righteousness, that your goodness and mercy is revealed through their actions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of exiles and wanderers, you repair what was once destroyed. We pray for people who have been displaced from their homes by fire, flood, earthquake, or storm (*survivors of recent natural disasters may be named*). Support the work of Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Disaster Response, and all disaster relief organizations in their recovery efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of the powerful and helpless, you clothe us with strength when our spirits are weak and weary. Bestow your spirit upon this congregation and empower us to comfort the people who turn to us in times of need. Make your church a place of refuge and healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God of sinners and saints, you offer joy even in the midst of our grief. We are grateful for the beloved, imperfect people whose lives testified to your radiant love (*especially Lucy, martyr of the church*). Anoint all who mourn with the oil of gladness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering

Faith Lutheran	St. Andrew's
Faithful members and friends of Faith and St. Andrews, we thank you for your continued financial support during our time of physical separation.	
Your contributions can be mailed to the church, automatically drafted, and by our new Give+ electronic option. Please use this link to go to the Give+ website or look here for directions on how to download the Give+ app on your smart phone .	Please click HERE to be taken to Tithe.ly to give online. Mail offering to: 6118 Crawfordsville Rd Speedway, IN 46224

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

Generous God, you have created all that is, and you provide for us in every season. Bless all that we offer, that through these gifts the world will receive your blessing. In the name of Jesus, Emmanuel, we pray.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name

Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Even as we watch and wait, Christ is here. Come, eat and drink.

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

Gracious and abundant God, you have done great things for us, and we rejoice. In this bread and cup you give us life forever. In your boundless mercy, strengthen us and open our hearts to the world's needs, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Post Communion Blessing

And now may the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Announcements

SENDING

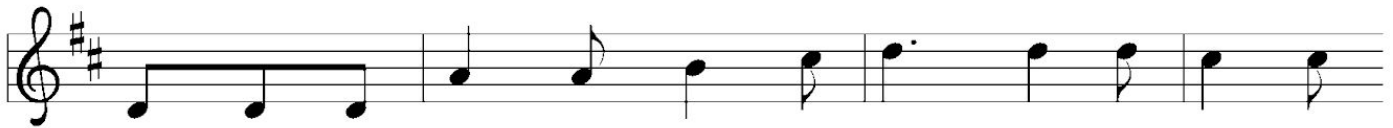
Blessing

The Creator of the stars bless your Advent waiting, the long-expected Savior fill you with love, the unexpected Spirit guide your journey, ✚ now and forever.

Amen.



People, Look East



1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881–1965

Music: BESANÇON, French carol

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Faith's Calendar - needs updated

- **Sunday, December 13** 3rd Sunday of Advent Virtual Worship 11am
- **Sunday, December 13** Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm
- **Saturday, December 19** Food Pantry 9-11am
- **Sunday, December 20** 4th Sunday of Advent Virtual Worship 11am
- **Sunday, December 20** Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm

Faith Lutheran's Announcements - are there any updates?

In Person Worship Suspended

Your church council has reviewed the current COVID increase in the community and though it is never an easy decision; the council has decided again to suspend in-person worship services and return to online recordings effective immediately. We will close the facility at least until January 18th with in-person worship hopefully resuming on Sunday, January 24th. We will continue to review available information and establish a timeline moving forward.

We need to remember the most important thing for all of us is to stay safe and keep our families and friends safe. With God's help we will get through this and grow in the process. The three recommendations that have been stressed so many times are still the most important to keep us safe. **Wear a Mask, Wash Your Hands, and Maintain a Safe Distance.** If you have concerns or issues, PLEASE, contact either Pastor Doug, or one of the council members, we are here for you. Remember keeping everyone safe is our number one priority.

Food Pantry

Our Saturday Food Pantry is coming up on Saturday, December 19th from 9:00am - 11:00am. Our community members are still in need. Please pray for your pantry and if you feel led, please come and volunteer. God uses ALL hands to carry out HIS work!

Adult Faith Formation

Join us **Sunday evenings, 7 p.m.**, for a study from the "Book of Faith" series through Augsburg Fortress (ELCA publishing house). The booklet is entitled "Advent Reflections, While we wait!" From the book itself "Advent Reflections guides you in your advent waiting through daily Biblical reflections, journaling, activities and prayer."

As always, these gatherings on Sunday nights are informal, fun, and enjoyable for an hour of reflection on God's movement in our everyday lives. If you would like a copy of the book (no charge) or more information, please contact Jim Patton from St. Andrews or Pr. Doug. Otherwise, tune in and feel free to join.

Read and study God's Word for the coming Sunday!

For next week December 20:

4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

St. Andrew's Prayer Lists

Families on the Prayer List

Mrs. Jeanne Wall
Mr. Timothy Wells
Mrs. Mary Whalin
Mr. & Mrs. Brian White (Gayla)

Additional Prayers for Recent, Current, or Upcoming Medical Care:

Isaac Garcia, friend of Mary Lee Long
Mark Lichlyter, father of Kelli Steurer
Gil Mascher, brother of Jeanette Burbrink
Christine Robertson, great niece of MJ Lynch
David Tryon, son of Mary

Those with Ongoing Special Need of Prayer:

Jerid Edwards, great nephew of MJ Lynch Ruth Tingle

Remember to Pray for Nursing Home Residents and Shut-Ins:

Lynn Bigelow Alton Dahl Thelma Jones Penny Kalk Martha Larson
Norma Petraits David Royer David Schmalz
The Harrison

Remember to Pray for those Serving in our Armed Forces:

Michael Joseph Jerry Shake

St. Andrew's Calendar

- **Sunday, December 13** 3rd Sunday of Advent Virtual Worship 9am
- **Sunday, December 13** Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm
- **Monday, December 14** Zoom Staff Meeting 10am
- **Tuesday, December 15** Newsletter Items Due to Kelli Steurer
- **Wednesday, December 16** Laundry & Friends 4:30-6:30pm
- **Thursday, December 17** Zoom Council Meeting 6pm
- **Sunday, December 20** 4th Sunday of Advent Virtual Worship 9am
- **Sunday, December 20** Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm
- **Monday, December 21** Zoom Staff Meeting 10am
- **Thursday, December 24** Christmas Eve Virtual Worship 7pm
- **Thursday, December 24** Christmas Eve Zoom Holy Communion & Candle Lighting 8pm

Remember:

- Reach out if you are interested in the digital service on DVD.
- Prayer Chain requests go to Joyce Yockey.
- The Storehouse continues to accept donations.
- FBS Tuesdays at 7:00pm via Zoom.
- In person worship suspended through January 17, 2021

St. Andrew's Announcements

In Person Worship Suspended

Your church leadership has made the difficult decision to once again suspend indoor worship services *effective immediately*. We believe this is the right thing to do, not only for each other, our congregation, but also as we support our community at large.

Indoor worship services will be suspended effective immediately through January 17th. We will evaluate the situation again on January 7th with hopes to re-gather for indoor worship on January 24th.

Communication will continue via our website, email, Facebook, phone calls, and mail. We are called to take care of each other; let us continue to maintain communication with one another through our thoughts, prayers, phone calls, and any other means available!

Communion Kits

Home communion kits are available! If you were not able to pick these up, please call the church office and we will make sure you get them to use during our worship services.

Pledge Campaign

Please remember to turn in your commitment card for 2021! This helps our Finance Team put together a budget for the coming year. An email has been sent with the link to do this online. (You can also go to our website and click "Give" in the top right corner.) If you received a paper copy, please be sure to use the self-addressed envelope and return ASAP. Thank you!

Providing Christmas Gifts for Wheeler

We are collecting monetary donations to help provide Christmas gifts for a family at Wheeler Elementary School.

How can you give:

- Check made out to St. Andrew's with Christmas Family in the memo line
- Cash in an envelope marked Christmas Family
- Through Tithe.ly by choosing the Christmas Family option when designating your gift.

Please be sure we have received your donation no later than **December 14**.

Christmas Stories, Recipes, Memories

Kelli is looking for anything about Christmas that you would like to share with our social media family. Your name does not need to be shared. These are the types of posts that draw in others. It is our stories that tell about our faith journey. This is how we make connections outside of the church doors. Please have yours to Kelli by **December 14** to be included! Thank you so much!

Read and study God's Word for the coming Sunday!

For next week December 20:

4th Sunday of Advent

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Psalm: Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38