

Faith 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, January 3, 2021 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Happy New Year! We gather, virtually, around Word and Sacrament to continue our celebration of "God with us", Emmanuel! We are in day "9" of the 12 days of Christmas, officially called the Second Sunday of Christmas. Yes, we actually have the 12 days of Christmas and if you follow the song of the same name, the "true love" ends up with 50 people, 23 birds, and 5 golden rings!

The Day of Epiphany is always January 6th and next week we celebrate the first Sunday of Epiphany honoring the Baptism of our Lord. Epiphany is not a word we use much in our culture but has to do with the activities of the ministry of Jesus. Formally defined as the "manifestation of our Lord" we will walk for several weeks through his ministry of healing and loving God's people.

This Sunday the lessons have to do with us being among the chosen ones from God. In Jeremiah we read "The Lord will heal the people and bring them to the land of the north causing us to give praise and dance!" From our Second Reading in Ephesians: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ....who chose us before the foundation of the world." In the Gospel reading from John we see how God chose Jesus for our salvation in verse 1: 14: "And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth." And all God's people say "Amen!"

A blessed start to Epiphany and the New Year this week to you all, Pastor Doug



INTRODUCTION

Within the gospel reading's profound words lies the simple message that God is revealed in a human person. Though we may try to understand how the Word existed with God from the beginning of time, the wonder we celebrate at Christmas is that the Word continues to dwell among us. Christ comes among us in the gathered assembly, the scriptures, the waters of new birth, and the bread and the wine. Through these ordinary gifts we receive the fullness of God's grace and truth.

Angels We Have Heard on High



- 1 An gels we have heard on high, sweet ly sing ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju bi-lee? Why your joy ous strains pro-long?
- 3 Come to Beth le hem and see him whose birth the an gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re-ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains. What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song? come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.







Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who was in the beginning, who makes a dwelling among us, who covers us with justice and mercy.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of goodness and lovingkindness, we confess that we have sinned against you and our neighbors. We have turned away from your invitation to new life. We have turned away from the lowly and downtrodden. In your abundant mercy, forgive us our sins, those we know and those known only to you, for the sake of the one who came to live among us, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Hear the good news of peace and salvation! God forgives us all our sins, not through our own work, but through ± Jesus Christ, made known to all people. With all who come to the manger, rejoice in this amazing gift of grace.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gifts of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

7 Thus says the Lord:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."
8 See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

9 With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.

10 Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away: say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." 11 For the Lord has ransomed Jacob. and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. 12 They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion. and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil. and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. 13 Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

The word of the Lord. thanks be to God.

14 I will give the priests their fill of fatness.

Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20

savs the Lord.

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

- 12 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,
- 13 who has strengthened the bars of your gates and has blessed your children within you.
- 14 God has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- 15 God sends out a command to the earth, a word that runs very swiftly.
- 16 God gives snow like wool, scattering frost like ashes.
- 17 God scatters hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand against God's cold?
- 18 The Lord sends forth the word and melts them; the wind blows, and the waters flow.
- 19 God declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgments to Israel.
- 20 The Lord has not done so to any other nation; they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight 9 he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. 11 In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, 12 so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; 14 this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

The word of the Lord, thanks be to God.

Gospel: John 1:[1-9] 10-18

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word through whom all things were created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.]

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") 16 From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

The elementary school children were performing their Christmas play, and they picked up letters and stood at the edge of the stage. Their letters spelled out "Christmas Love" and it was beautiful to see. All the parents and family were moved by this lovely sign, with each letter held up by one of the children.

Christmas Love exists everyday in our hearts: mind, body and soul! Christmas Love came down from the Heavens and became one of us, Emmanuel meaning "God with us!" (Matt. 1:23). We are literally in the 12 days of Christmas and today is day 9! The Day of Epiphany is January 6th and we are moving into the Epiphany Season. Epiphany is the "manifestation" or actions of Jesus and His ministry. The season always starts with the Baptism of our Lord, next week, reminding us of our own baptisms marking the beginning of our life with Christ. In today's Second Reading, Paul explains in Ephesians "God destined us for adoption as His children through Jesus Christ according to His will!"

Today we are in the Second Sunday of Christmas, and the Gospel from John reminds us "all who received the Lord, God gave power to become children of God!" John also tells us "from His fullness, we have received grace upon grace!" This is most certainly true, having God's grace and love is essential to daily living. We are like children, we need certain things to grow as a Christian. We need love, we need peace, and we need grace to try again. God provides this in the Babe, who lived and died for us, only to defeat death and rise again.

As children of God we need to be fed! I am reminded that the meaning for the word "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread!" The baby Jesus was laid in the manger, a feeding trough for the animals. And, later in His ministry, Jesus said "I am the Bread of Life, whomever comes to me will never be hungry and they will never thirst!" (John 6:25). Once we are "fed" by the Lord our calling is to then feed others.

I love the story about the man who dies and gets to have a choice between Heaven or Hell to live. As he was getting a tour of Hell, he was led to a big auditorium where people were in a circle crying. In the middle of the circle was a large pot of soup, and every person had a long spoon. They cried out as the man entered "Help us, we are starving! Our spoons are too long to feed ourselves and we are dying." Then the man was taken to Heaven for a tour. He also walks into a large auditorium. This time he sees the exact same scenario. People are seated around in a circle but these people are singing hymns, laughing and joyful with each other. They are using their long spoons to help feed each other! That's our call as children of God to feed one another with grace, life and truth.

The audience at the Christmas play looked at the children, each with a letter, spelling out Christmas Love! They were quiet for a moment, then burst out with applause. It turns out that little Cindy had her "M" upside down spelling something quite magnificent: Christ Was Love!! I would add not only "was" Christ love, but Christ is Love and will always be Love! Thanks be to God

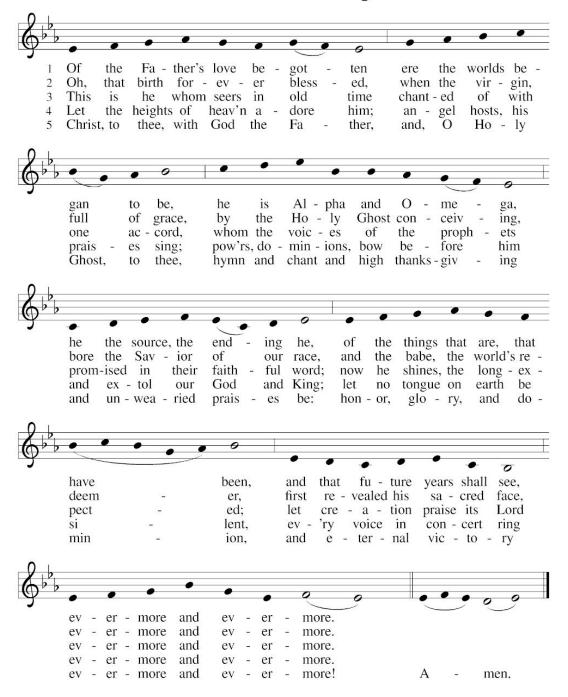
God's Peace, Pr. Doug Givan



SERMON HYMN # 295

Verses 1 & 5

Of the Father's Love Begotten



Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

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 INTERCESSION

Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith (especially). With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

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 <u>HERE</u> to be taken to Tithe.ly to give online. Mail offering to: 6118 Crawfordsville Rd Speedway, IN 46224

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you came to us as one unknown, bringing joy and salvation to the earth. Nourish us at your banquet table, that with all who welcome your birth we may proclaim your peace, revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Word is revealed in a manger, in simple bread and wine. Come meet Christ in this meal.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Announcements

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

Almighty God, who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary, proclaimed joy through the angels, sent the shepherds with good news, and led the magi by a star, bless you this day #through the Word made flesh.

Amen.

SENDING

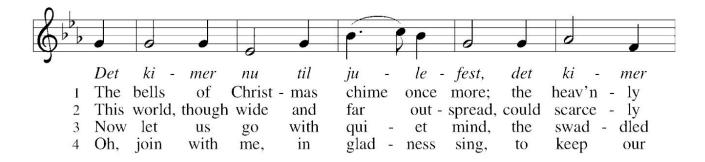
DISMISSAL

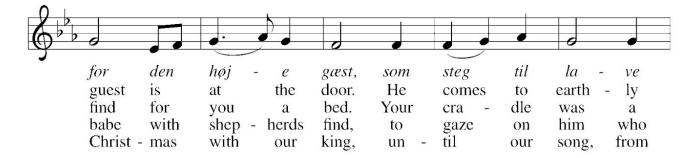
Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

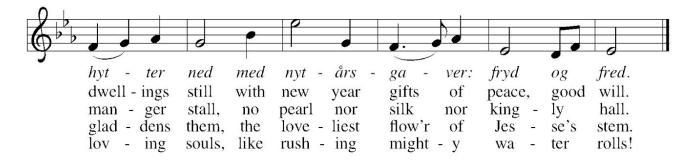
Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN # 298 Verses 1 & 6

The Bells of Christmas







- O patriarchs' Joy, O prophets' Song,
 O Dayspring bright, awaited long,
 O Son of Man, incarnate Word,
 great David's Son, great David's Lord:
- 6 Come, Jesus, glorious heav'nly guest, and keep your Christmas in our breast; then David's harpstrings, hushed so long, shall swell our jubilee of song.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Charles Porterfield Krauth, 1823–1883, alt. Music: Det Kimer nu til julefest, Carl C. N. Balle, 1806–1855

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Faith's Calendar

- Friday, January 1 Food Pantry 5-7pm
- Sunday, January 3 2nd Sunday of Christmas Virtual Worship 9am
- **Sunday, January 3** Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm
- **Sunday, January 10** Baptism of Our Lord Virtual Worship 9am
- Sunday, January 10 Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm
- Saturday, January 16 Food Pantry 9-11am

Faith Lutheran's Announcements

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.

Adult Faith Formation

Join us each Sunday evening at 7 p.m. as we head into the new year! Well worth an hour of your time and anyone from either church is welcomed! Join St. Andrew's member, Jim Patton, as he leads us in discussion on a wide range of Biblical/Christian issues including "rabbit holes!" Starting December 27th and going through February 14th, 2021 we will be studying 2 chapters a week from the Book of Romans.

This excellent book of the Bible provides some of the core beliefs in Lutheranism and is deep and wide in how to live the Christian life and walk with Jesus. Each of these Sunday nights "stands alone" meaning you don't have to have attended the one before. All we ask is that you read the two chapters the week prior. Make a note of what speaks to you, or what verses/themes have meaning to you! This is not a "class" and we won't be theologically analyzing every verse. Simply what has energy, what speaks to you in an overview format.

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.

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

For next week January 10: Baptism of Our Lord

1st Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm: Psalm 29

2nd Reading: Acts 19:1-7 Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

St. Andrew's Prayer Lists

Families on the Prayer List

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Wood (Karen) Mrs. Joyce Yockey Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zielinski (Kristin) and Edmund Ms. Jennifer Bailev

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

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

Alton Dahl Lynn Bigelow

Thelma Jones

Penny Kalk

Martha Larson

Norma Petraits

David Rover

David Schmalz

The Harrison

Remember to Pray for those Serving in our Armed Forces:

Michael Joseph

Jerry Shake

St. Andrew's Calendar

- Sunday, January 3 2nd Sunday of Christmas Virtual Worship llam
- Sunday, January 3 Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm
- Tuesday, January 5 Zoom Staff Meeting 10am
- Tuesday, January 5 Zoom FBS 7-8:30pm
- Wednesday, January 6 Laundry & Friends 4:30-6:30pm
- Sunday, January 10 Baptism of Our Lord Virtual Worship llam
- Sunday, January 10 Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm
- Tuesday, January 12 Zoom Staff Meeting 10am

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.
- Save the Date for our Annual Meeting, January 24 at 1:00pm

St. Andrew's Announcements

In Person Worship Suspended

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

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.

A Friendly Reminder From Your Finance Committee

We sincerely thank you for your continued support throughout this year, even in very difficult times. If you have been able to continue to give, you have, and we are very grateful for that. And we know there are Christmas bills and unforeseen expenses for many, so we ask, if you are able to bring your pledges up to date by the end of the year please do so. We are hoping to finish the year with a positive bottom line and we need your help to do that. And we thank you for your strong commitment to St. Andrew's. While our doors are closed, the utilities still are being paid along with salaries, missions and building upkeep.

Currently, we are preparing the budget for 2021. **If you intend to pledge, and we hope that you do, could you please do so soon**, so that we can create an accurate budget. Times are uncertain, but one thing is for sure, bills keep coming! An email has been sent with the link to pledge 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! Your help is greatly appreciated!

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

For next week January 10: Baptism of Our Lord 1st Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Psalm: Psalm 29

2nd Reading: Acts 19:1-7 Gospel: Mark 1:4-11