

# Network



Volume 5, Issue 10

October 2013

## REFLECTIONS ON STEWARDSHIP BY *Pastor Craig*

Over the years, I have grown to appreciate the following Offertory Prayer: "Merciful Father, we offer with thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord." It has always been a good reminder to me that all we have, self, time and possessions, are gifts from a loving and gracious God. The words to this simple prayer define a relationship and encourages me to be intentional with my response to the ways God has chosen to reveal blessings in our lives. The blessings may not always be that obvious and our response may not always be intentional but prayer tempers our hearts and lives in such a way that allows us to see life as an abundance of God's goodness, even when challenges weigh heavy upon us. From the very breath we take to the beauty that surrounds us, all we have is a gift provided by a loving and generous God.

As the fall programs restart, many congregations make an effort to highlight a stewardship theme in order to anticipate the budgetary process for the coming year. Will there be enough financial commitments to support ministry needs, personnel costs and operational building expenses? Such are the questions that seem to be in the front of our minds when faced with the task of putting together a budget to anticipate the financial needs of the church for the coming year. But what would it look like as we enter the conversations about stewardship if we took a step back and pondered the Offertory Prayer to recognize that all we have—self, time and possessions—are gifts from God? Words of David are recorded in Psalm 24, "The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it. The world and those who live in it." When we see everything as gift, we begin to see ourselves not as consumers but as stewards with responsibilities for all entrusted to our care. We begin to see that budgeting is a small part of what it means to be a steward and that life as a steward is more about finding ways to be faithfully responsible to nurture and care for all of life. We see self, not as defined by worldly standards, but through Godly standards. We see self as child of God, fellow workers in God's kingdom and we see possessions as "tools" for the work we do together in God's kingdom and enhancements of God's generosity.

Next week, you will receive a mailing from Saint Andrew as the first part of the fall stewardship program. It is what has become known as the "Time and Talent" booklet. This mailing will encourage you to give thought to the time and abilities entrusted to your care. Please take a moment to consider efforts to share in the ministry needs of the church. Two weeks later, you will receive a mailing that encourages your financial commitment to the ministry efforts of 2014. Please see this not as a church in need of what you have but as a church that is committed to faithful ways of both receiving and sharing the gifts provided to fulfill the mission and ministry opportunities entrusted to us. May all gifts, small and great be shared as signs of God's gracious love.

Thank you for sharing as workers in God's kingdom!

The life and ministry of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church shall be open to all who wish to express their faith in God through Jesus Christ by *worship, learning, witness and service.*

– From Mission Statement



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Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

**OWLS Group**

Tuesday, October 1,  
11:30 am

Can you name the parks in Merrill, City of Parks? Well, after the OWLS October 1 tour around Merrill, you will. The carpool will leave from church at 11:30 am with sack lunches in hand. After the tour, it's time to enjoy the lunch in the woods overlooking the river. Please call the office if you plan to attend.



**Baptism Orientation**

Sunday, October 6, 9:30 am

Expecting a baptism in your family or do you want to learn more about baptism? One of the pastors will lead an orientation session in the sanctuary for those families anticipating a baptism or who want to learn more about the possibilities for baptism. Please contact the church office to register for this informative opportunity or to learn more.

**"Christ In Our Home" Devotionals**

The 2013 fourth quarter of "Christ In Our Home" devotionals are now available in the Narthex. All are welcome to pick up a copy.

**Food Pantry Current Needs**

The SALC Food Pantry currently needs all items, especially: *catsup, mayonnaise, spaghetti sauce, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables, pancake mix, pancake syrup and toilet paper*. Donated items can be dropped off in the designated baskets located at the entrances of the church. Thank you!

**Potluck...Bingo...Prizes...Fun!**

Sunday, October 20, Noon - 1:30 pm  
Bring a dish to pass for a potluck meal then stay for bingo. All are welcome! Food, fun, prizes and fellowship.

**Advent Calendars and More!**

It's time to start thinking about Christmas gifts and Fair Trade items. Saint Andrew's Social Ministry will have tea, coffee and chocolates available as well as, for a limited time, advent calendars. Behind each day of the calendar you will find a yummy chocolate! Calendars are \$8.50. Please order items by November 10.

**The Network via Email**

Would you like to receive the Network via email? Just scan the QR code to join our mailing list so you can keep up-to-date on the activities of Saint Andrew. If you would like to opt out of receiving a paper copy of the Network, please call the office at 715-842-3333 or send an email to [joy@salc-wausau.org](mailto:joy@salc-wausau.org).



Use your mobile device to scan the QR code.

**SALC CHURCH PICNIC—SO MUCH FUN!**

The Fellowship Ministry hopes everyone who attended the annual church picnic had a good time and enjoyed the beautiful weather, music, games, food and fellowship. We ran out of time for the Bingo game, so plans have been made to offer that on Sunday, October 20. Mark your calendar for another fun event!

Congratulations to Deb Bradshaw who was the winning bidder of the beautiful homemade quilt donated by the SALC Quilters for the silent auction.

A special thank you to the many volunteers who worked to make this year's picnic a success. Your time and generosity is greatly appreciated!

Thank you also to those who donated cakes for the cake walk and fleece material for the tie blanket service project. The two completed blankets will be donated to a local cause.

Upcoming Events

**Potluck & Bingo** - October 20 following the 10:30 am worship service

**Gingerbread House Decorating** - December 8 following the 10:30 am worship service

**Reading Reflections***Tuesdays at SALC, 9 am*

An ongoing reading group open to all at any time—gathering in the Parish Room. All are welcome!

**Dartball**

All are welcome to participate on the SALC Dartball team. Games are played Monday nights at either 7 or 7:30 pm. Some travel is necessary - to a church across town! Enjoy fun and fellowship while trying to hit a home-run. The first game is on Monday, September 30 at 7:00 pm at Saint Marks, Wausau. See you there!

**Gifts Received**

Memorial gifts were received in memory of Larry Halvorsen and George Schoeder.

Thank you for all gifts received in honor or in memory of someone special. If you would like to give a memorial gift to Saint Andrew, please contact the church office.

**LWR Quilts, School Bags & Supplies**

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and talent so that 72 quilts and 31 school bags filled with school supplies could be sent for Lutheran World Relief. The school bags and supplies helps families with children who need supplies but may not have adequate resources to purchase them.

**FALL CLEAN-UP***Saturday, October 12, 8:30 am–12 pm**Rain date: Saturday, October 19*

The Property Ministry is planning to prune the building landscape, pick up apples and do the fall clean-up. The rain date will be *Saturday, October 19*. Please join us in service and fellowship as we care for Christ's church at Saint Andrew. Many hands make light work!

**COME AND LEARN!****Adult Bible Study - Sundays, 9:15 am Parish Room**

The group utilizes the resource, *International Sunday School Lessons* and will start off with the Book of Genesis.

**Adult Forum - Sundays, 9:15 am-Activity Room**

For adults interested in baptism or affirming their baptism (confirmation)—and for those who are interested to learn more about what it means to be Lutheran using the book, *Baptized We Live* by Dan Erlander.

**Adult Bible Study - Sundays, 6:30 pm-Parish Room**

A bible study focusing on the coming week's worship readings.

**Reading Reflections - Tuesdays, 9:00 am-Parish Room**

An ongoing book study. All are welcome!

**Stay Connected Ministry Launched**

In previous issues of the Network a new initiative was introduced to begin this fall called "Stay Connected". As our children grow up and move forward in their lives as young adults, many times they go away for post high school education, to seek employment opportunities in a different area or for service in the military. During these transition times the church recognizes that their opportunity to worship and stay connected to Saint Andrew is minimized. There also may not be opportunities for them to seek another church home until they do become established in an occupation or area that they will call home for the years to follow. With this in mind, Saint Andrew would like to continue to provide care and support for the 18-25 year old young adults as they move through this new chapter in their lives.

A mailing to parents of these young adults based on church database information has been sent. If you did not receive a letter and card to provide updated information to the church, please call the church office at 715-842-3333 to make sure all who are in this age group can be included.

**SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING (SYG) - NOVEMBER 15-17, 2013**

All students in grades 9-12 are welcome to attend! The theme this year is "Go for the Gold" (1 Cor. 9:24-26a) with speaker/musical entertainer, Peder Eide. The Saturday dinner theme is "Olympic Athletes" and the Sunday offering will go to the MACC (Midwest Athletes Against Childhood Cancer) Fund. For registration materials, visit the East Central Synod of Wisconsin website at <http://ecsw.org/events.html> or see Matt Seegert, Education Coordinator, at church. Registration forms must be turned into Matt by October 20.

# OCTOBER

## ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

	October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 3	Team 3	Team 6	Team 6
<b>Usher Team</b>	Weidman	Johnson	Shepherd	A
<b>Layreaders</b>	8:00 am 10:30 am Joleen Meier Carolyn Kiesau	Ed Wodalski Marilyn Olson	Dave Mueller Lynn Chaignot	Chris Kensmoe Lynn Lawson
<b>Greeters</b>	8:00 am 10:30 am Dave Mueller & Roger Otto Jerry & Marlene Kort	John Brauer & Lenette Hoover Dave & Sue Paisar	John & Pat Barnett Michael Koehmsteadt & Linda Vogen	Tony & Wendi Howe Terri Deininger & Rosetta Ahles
<b>Fellowship</b>	8:00 am 10:30 am Mark & Cindy Moser Russ & Alice Van Skike	Jason & Linda Rickstad Annette Green & Lenette Hoover	Dick & Mary Jarvis Mary Wittich & Ann McDonald	Sheldon & Connie Geiger Roger & Ruth Poutanen

## LECTIONARY READINGS

October 6	October 13	October 20	October 27
Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9 2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19	Genesis 32:22-31 Psalm 121 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5 Luke 18:1-8	Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36

## A BAPTISM PRAYER

*May the unity that is shared be a witness of the unity we share together by our common identity in Christ. Giving thanks for the gift of baptism, we lift up those children, parents and sponsors who have recently been received into the family of faith. We pray especially for:*

Beckett William - July 7  
 Chase Matthew - July 28  
 Kensi Mae - August 11  
 Ryker William - August 18  
 William Wayne - August 25  
 Xavier Terry - August 29  
 Camden John - September 1  
 Samuel Kenneth - September 8

## A WEDDING PRAYER

*In celebration for lives joined together in the covenant of marriage, we pray especially for:*

Kory & Haylee - July 13  
 Dennis & Renee - July 16  
 James & Katie - August 17  
 Joseph & Katherine - September 14  
 Nathan & Sarah - September 21  
 Jesse & Amanda - September 28  
 Doug & Alicia - October 5  
 Jon & Sumitra - October 12  
 Jeff & Jen - November 30  
 Robert & Susan - December 7

## PRAYER CENTER

In response to personal requests, the Prayer Center list will not only be recognized in worship but also on this side of the calendar each month. As you review the day to day list of events that take place at Saint Andrew, please also give consideration to those who have requested prayers. Do you know of someone who is in need of prayer? *(Please ask first)*. Call the church office at 842-3333 to have names added to the list at the Prayer Center. Names will be updated on a regular basis.



## FOR THESE WE PRAY...

Ben	John	Tom	Joe
Brianna	June	Ella	Diane
Callie and Zak	Kaylin	Bruce	Bruce
Connie	Luke	Pat	Deb
Dave	Nora	Maggie	Ron
Dennis	Quinn	Shelly	Chris & Cassandra
Gary	Renee	Kathleen	Robert
Irma	Robin	Jim	
Jackie	Sabrina	Donna	
James, Henry & Elsie	Steve	Bruce	
Jane	Susan	Carol	
Jean	Tracy	Katie	

*Thank you, Lord, for always answering prayer, but not indulging my every petty, private request. Thank you for winnowing and refining, vetoing and delaying, refusing and revising. Thank you for being God and never less, for freeing me for wide horizons, for protecting me from my limited vision and wayward will. Thank you for foiling my every effort to unseat you and make myself king. Thank you for keeping it safe for me to pray.*

—Gerhard E. Frost

*From Seasons of a Lifetime: A Treasury of Meditations (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1989, p. 118)*

Open to All

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**Parish Staff**

Rev. Craig Swenson, *Pastor*  
Rev. Jenn Collins, *Pastor*  
Rev. Jeff Martinson, *Pastor*  
Shelby Gjertson, *Parish  
Administrator*  
Joy Mitchell, *Secretary*  
Matt Seegert, *Coordinator of  
Christian Education*  
Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*  
Sheldon Geiger, *Bookkeeper*  
Shannon Vujnovich, *Custodian*  
Dave Paisar, *Custodian*  
Jared Gjertson, *Sexton*

## Upcoming Events/Activities

Saturday, October 5		<i>Confirmation Retreat—<u>CANCELLED</u></i>
Sunday, October 6	10:30 am	<i>Baptism Orientation</i>
Saturday, October 12	12:00 pm	<i>Fall Clean-Up at SALC</i>
Sunday, October 13	9:15 am	<i>New Member Orientation</i>
Saturday, October 19	12:00 pm	<i>Fall Clean-up at SALC-<u>RAINDATE</u></i>
Sunday, October 20	9:15 am	<i>New Member Orientation</i>
Sunday, October 20	10:30 am	<i>New Members received during worship</i>
Sunday, October 20	12:00 pm	<i>Potluck...Bingo...Prizes...Fun!</i>