

Network



Volume 4, Issue 12

December 2013

THE EXTRAORDINARY MOMENT by *Pastor Jenn*

A couple of nights ago, just before falling asleep, I happened to look out the window of my bedroom and saw that the constellation, Orion, had returned to the sky.

Because we are in the Northern Hemisphere, we see Orion best in the winter months.

Orion has always been a sign of comfort for me. When I was little, my closest childhood friend grew up just across the street - and we would spend time together almost every evening. When our time together was over, we would "watch" one another home from our front porches as the other would walk back across the street. Orion hung in the sky in those dark winter months, prominently sitting in the sky over our homes. Since those childhood days, whenever I see Orion I think back on my childhood and our friendship.

There are signs and there are seasons that give us pause to remember people, places and stories that have given shape to our lives. As December arrives, we once again enter into a season set apart for waiting and watching.

Theologian Frederick Buechner reflects on Advent, *"The houselights go off and the footlights come on. Even the chattiest stop chattering as they wait in darkness for the curtain to rise. In the orchestra pit, the violin bows are poised. The conductor has raised the baton.... The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment."*

In this season of cold, dark nights—we look forward with joy for the extraordinary moment. From the gospel of John, *"A light shines in the darkness!"* From the gospel of Luke, *"Fear not! I bring you good news of great joy!"* From the gospel of Matthew, *"And they shall name him Emmanuel, which means, God with us."*

In the moments before the moment, may the candles, trees and lights—signs of advent—be reminders of the one for whom we watch and wait, Jesus Christ. And in the extraordinary story of Christ's birth, may you call to mind the promises of God for you—Light in darkness! Good news! God with us!

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



3200 N. Mountain Road
Wausau, WI 54401-7275
715.842.3333 (FEED)
www.salc-wausau.org



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

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christmas Eve, December 24

4 pm ***"Come to the Manger"***
6 & 8 pm ***Candlelight Worship with
Chancel and Handbell Choirs***
10 pm ***Candlelight Worship***

Christmas Day, December 25

10 am ***Christmas Day Worship***



Baptism Orientation

*Sunday, December 1
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.

OWLS Christmas Potluck

*Tuesday, December 3
11:30 am*

Bring your festive holiday spirit as we enjoy good food, fellowship and sing beloved Christmas songs with the Saint Andrew staff. Please RSVP to joy at 715-842-3333 or joy@salc-wausau.org.



Ministry Night and Tree Decorating

Tuesday, December 10

All are welcome to participate in the ministry of their choice. Come and see how your time and talent can help serve in the mission and ministry of Saint Andrew. Following ministry meetings, all are also welcome to help decorate the sanctuary Christmas tree and enjoy fellowship.

"Gift Upon Gift"

"Gift Upon Gift" is a new Christmas program written by Pastor Jeff. It is a memory of a family Christmas gathering. Please feel free to check it out and use it at your gatherings. You can find it at: jeffmartinson.wordpress.com.

SALC Christmas "Giving Tree"

As we celebrate our blessings at Thanksgiving, there now is an immediate shift in our hearts and minds to prepare for Advent and the Christmas holiday season. Previously offered in years past at Saint Andrew, a "Giving Tree" will be located in the Fellowship Hall and adorned with hat & mitten paper ornaments. Saint Andrew is blessed to have several members who are educators in our local schools and have provided the awareness that there is a significant need for hats and mittens to be available for children who arrive at school without these necessities to help stay warm and healthy during the cold Wisconsin winter season. You are encouraged to please take a paper ornament as a reminder when shopping to purchase Christmas gifts for friends & family to also add an extra gift of a child/youth size hat or pair of insulated gloves and mittens to then be shared in our local schools. Thank you for sharing in ministry and outreach in the community through Saint Andrew.

Christmas Food Baskets

Baskets will be assembled on *Saturday, December 21*. If you know someone who needs a basket please call the church office by *December 18* at 715-842-3333.

Noisy Offering/Fair Trade

During worship on *December 12 & 15* a Noisy Offering will be received in support of the Wausau Community Warming Center.

Also, Fair Trade items such as chocolates, teas and coffees, all of which make great stocking stuffers or gift basket items, will be available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall.

Holiday Cookie Exchange/Gingerbread House Decorating

Sunday, December 8, 11:45 am, Fellowship Hall

It is that time of year when the best cookies are made...What fun to make more to share and to trade! Please join us for the annual Cookie Exchange. Here is how it works:

- 1) Bake six dozen homemade holiday cookies.
- 2) Package your cookies in fun bundles of six to exchange. Be creative!
- 3) Email cookie recipe to Vickie at evomrotek@dwave.net for Cookie Exchange Recipe Booklet or attach recipe to each packet.
- 4) Bring a container to take your cookies home.

Get into the holiday spirit by helping to decorate a gingerbread village that will be donated to a local nursing home. The gingerbread houses, frosting and candy will be provided as well as lunch. Please call the church office at 715-842-3333 by December 5 to sign up!



Altar Flowers

Honor a loved one or special event and help beautify the altar with flowers. Sign up on the 2014 Flower Chart posted on the kiosk in the Narthex.

"Christ In Our Home" Devotionals

The 2014 first quarter of "Christ In Our Home" devotionals are now available in the Narthex. All are welcome to pick up a copy.

Blood Drive

Thursday, January 23

1-6 pm

Saint Andrew will be the sight of a blood drive in support of the Blood Center of North Central Wisconsin. Donors can give blood every 56 days. Volunteers will be needed to help with registration, refreshments or other support. Mark your calendar now and call the church office to express your willingness to help.

Memorial Gifts Received

Memorial gifts were received in memory of Larry Halvorsen and Greg Zurn.

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.

Snow Policy

If school is cancelled, Saint Andrew classes & meetings will be

also. Listen to local radio stations, check the SALC website or Facebook page, or News Channels 7 & 9 websites for the list of school closings.



Celebrating 25 Years as a Church

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. A poster in the Narthex highlights the theme "Always Being made New". The ELCA began as a merger of three independent Lutheran Church bodies which now is the largest Lutheran denomination with partner relations that reach around the world. How is it that we are reflective of the larger church? How does it matter that we are united in faith and life through the work of the larger church? We learn answers to these kinds of questions when we are actively engaged in the life of the church through worship, learning, witness and service.

FUN FACT: The ELCA has many members, spread across the country.

Baptized Members (2012): 3,950,924

Congregations: 9,533

Synods: 65 in nine geographic regions

Saint Andrew is a member of the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin.

Poinsettia Order Form

Help beautify the altar at Christmas with a poinsettia to remember or honor a loved one.

Detach this order form and return it to the church office with payment by *Sunday, December 8.*

Cost: \$16 each

_____ White Poinsettia

_____ Red Poinsettia

_____ Given in honor of _____

_____ Given in memory of _____

_____ Given in recognition of _____

_____ Given in thanksgiving of _____

From: _____

Phone: _____



Please make payment payable to:

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

Mail to:

3200 N. Mountain Rd., Wausau

or

place in the designated box

at the Information Desk

in the Narthex

FAITHFUL STEWARDS 2014

Have you returned your commitment cards indicating how you wish to share your time and talent through Saint Andrew? Have you responded with your intended financial pledge of support for the work of the church? All gifts are appreciated and every member is important. For the few and many, small and great ways you participate and support the work we do together as an expression of Christ's church—THANK YOU!

PLAY GROUP AT SALC

First Thursday, 10-11 am

Four families shared conversation and fun playtime for their children last month and plan to continue this casual fellowship opportunity for parents with children who are not yet in pre-school. Please feel welcome to join the group on the **first Thursday** of each month. This is a nice chance to meet other parents in the Saint Andrew parish as well as have your children make new friends. All are welcome, so invite a friend!

SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Twelve Days of Christmas? What does that song have to do with our faith? Come find out at this year's Christmas Program. Sunday School youth will sing traditional Christmas songs and teach you about the gifts God has given us this Christmas. ***The program is Sunday, December 15th at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary (children should arrive at 9:15 am).***

3RD-5TH GRADE RETREAT AT WAYPOST CAMP

Who: 3-5 Grade Students

What: Winter Retreat

Where: Crossways Waypost Camp in Hatley, WI

When: Friday, January 10 at 6:30 pm until Saturday, January 11 at 3:30 pm

Cost: \$25 (will need to provide your own transportation)

Register by December 29. For more information, call the church at 715-842-3333 or fill out the registration form at www.salc-wausau.org and return to the church office. Parent Chaperones are also welcome to attend!

JYG - JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH GATHERING

The Junior High Youth Gathering of the East Central Synod is taking place **February 15 and 16** in Neenah, WI. Youth Gatherings are a great opportunity for youth at Saint Andrew to meet, have fun, worship and learn about God with youth from all around East Central Wisconsin. Please visit with Matt to learn more about this fun event. The registration and medical forms can be accessed on the Saint Andrew website. Please return them to the office *by January 5*.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER

Sunday, 1	No Church School
Sunday, 15	Sunday Church School Christmas Program
Thursday, 19/26	No Kids Camp
Sunday, 22/29	No Church School
Wednesday, 25	No Confirmation

JANUARY

Wednesday, 1	No Confirmation
Sunday, 2	Kids Camp Resumes
Sunday, 5	Church School Resumes
Wednesday, 8	Confirmation Resumes
Friday-Saturday, 10 & 11	3 rd - 5 th Grade Winter Retreat
Saturday, 25	6 th Grade Baptism Retreat

DECEMBER

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Altar Guild	Team 5	Team 5	Team 3	Team 3	Team 6
Usher Team	A	B	Weidman	Johnson	Johnson
Layreaders	8:00 am 10:30 am Dewey Allen Linda Vogen	Jonnie Malm Shirley Bickford	Ray Skare Craig Holmes	Kaja Yirkovsky Jim Jordan	Ed Wodalski Susan Paisar
Greeters	8:00 am 10:30 am Mark & Cindy Moser George & Bonnie Alafouzoz	Pastor Jeff & Faith Martinson John & Jayme Rusinek	Roger Otto/Jim Jacobson Duane & Jill Meyer	John & Pat Barnett Pam Mielke & Deb Bradshaw	Marv & Joleen Meier Pat & Fred Fuchs
Fellowship	8:00 am 10:30 am Larry & Annette Bindl Terry & June Grabau	David & Nancy Larson Adam & Kathy Wurz	Stankowski Family Craig & Marnie Holmes	Jim Jacobson/Joanne Howard Russ & Alice Van Skike	Marv & Joleen Meier Greg & Jeanne Willems

December 24 December 25

Altar Guild		Team 6	Team 6
Usher Team	4:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm 10:00 pm	Shepherd A B Brekke	Weidman

LECTIONARY READINGS

December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Isaiah 2:1–5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11–14 Matthew 24:36–44	Isaiah 11:1–10 Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19 Romans 15:4–13 Matthew 3:1–12	Isaiah 35:1–10 Psalm 146:5–10 James 5:7–10 Matthew 11:2–11	Isaiah 7:10–16 Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 Romans 1:1–7 Matthew 1:18–25	Isaiah 63:7–9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10–18 Matthew 2:13–23

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:

Camden John - September 1
 Samuel Kenneth - September 8
 Wren Allison - October 6
 Olivia Marie - October 13
 Brody Paul - November 10
 Tate William - November 24
 Anthony Claude - November 27
 Baby Lemirand - December 22
 Brynlea Mary - December 29
 Brieleigh Sommers - December 29

A WEDDING PRAYER

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

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

WE PRAY...

for the families of those who have recently joined the church triumphant:

Joni Flanery
 Greg Schade
 Jane Merwin
 Bill Downing

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...

Ali	Jane	Ella	Robert
Ben	John	Bruce	Clayton
Brad	Kaylin	Maggie	Jeff
Brianna	Quinn	Shelly	Deb
Bryon, Kelly & Jackson	Renee	Kathleen	Todd
Callie and Zak	Robin	Jim	Joyce
Delores	Roland	Donna	Ashley
Dennis	Sabrina	Katie	
Dorothy	Steve	Joe	
Gary	Susan	Diane	
Irma	Tom	Deb	
James, Henry & Elsie	Tracy	Chris & Cassandra	

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



SAINT ANDREW

LUTHERAN CHURCH

3200 N. Mountain Road
Wausau, WI 54401-7275

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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

December 1	9:30 am	Baptism Orientation
December 3	11:30 am	OWLS - Christmas Carols and Potluck
December 8	11:45 am	Gingerbread House/Cookie Exchange
December 10	6:30 pm	Ministry Night
	7:00 pm	Sanctuary Christmas Tree Decorating
December 15	9:15 am	Church School Christmas Program
December 24	4:00 pm	WORSHIP - "Come to the Manger"
	6 & 8 pm	WORSHIP - Candlelight Worship with Chancel and Handbell Choirs
	10:00 pm	WORSHIP - Candlelight Worship
December 25	10:00 am	WORSHIP - Christmas Day
		<i>Church Office Closed</i>
December 26	12:15 pm	WORSHIP
	6:15 pm	WORSHIP
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January 1		<i>Church Office Closed</i>
January 10 & 11		3-5 Grades Winter Retreat
January 23	1-6 pm	Blood Drive at SALC
January 25		6th Grade Baptism Retreat
January 27	9:00 am	Congregation Annual Meeting