

Network



Volume 5, Issue 1

January 2014

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS—A GLANCE BACK AND PLANS FOR WHAT IS AHEAD

As another year has come and gone, I find myself in a state of reflection and anticipation. Our younger son, Andy recently turned 30. Earlier this year his wife, Nicole, gave birth to our second grandson. Our older son, Cory was married to a young lady named Kristin this fall further expanding our family. These life events happened with little or even no planning on my part. I am not sure how I feel about the time that has passed and our sons are now grown and in their early stages of building lives with hope and a future. Part of me is very proud and I am enjoying their independence. Part of me is a little sad that a chapter in life has closed and our little boys are now grown men who do not need my permission for their life choices. I am beginning to see my role as a parent differently. Sometimes I feel very confident in that new role and it is very freeing and other times it feels very unfamiliar and I wonder if I am "doing it right."

There are similarities with my parenting role and how I feel about serving in my role as a pastor. Confirmations students have moved through the program and I wonder what that means for them to stay connected. Couples recently married are having children and need support for parenting and nurturing the faith of the newly baptized. I am interested to plan support for those who grieve, those who enter retirement, whose health is becoming a challenge, the under and un-employed. What is needed to help people plan for various life events and to provide tools that assist in discerning and fulfilling those plans?

As we move into a budget planning and adopting mode, I get a sense that there are many unanswered questions about plans for the future of ministry opportunities through Saint Andrew. Who are being folded in and who are being left out? Words of Jeremiah come to mind. "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."

Epiphany is the next season of the church year. It literally means revelation and begins with the news of the birth of the Messiah expanding beyond the surrounding hills of Bethlehem and into the far corners of the world. What are the plans God has for us in the year to come? Where is the message expanding and what are the ways God is inviting and equipping us for the next portion of our journey together?

If we remain rooted in God's plans, we can proceed into the new year with enthusiasm and great expectation knowing that we are building upon the plans of God's ever expanding revelation to the world. Thank you for your faithful sharing, planning, participation and support for the generous mission we share through Saint Andrew.

Pastor Craig

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.

SALC Congregation Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 26

Mark your calendar to attend the Congregation Annual Meeting on **Sunday, January 26 at 9:00 am** between the worship services. Because a quorum is necessary, everyone is requested to attend with participating members having voting privileges.

Weekly Worship at SALC

Thursday 12 & 6:15 pm
Kids Camp 5:30 pm

Sunday 8 & 10:30 am
Sunday School 9:15 am

Super Bowl Snacks

Sunday, February 2

Donations of any kind of snack for the **Super Bowl Sunday Snack Sale** can be dropped off at church on *Friday, January 31* before 4 pm or on Super Bowl Sunday before the services.

Please pre-package items for individual sale, price, and label if there are nuts, peanut butter or if lactose or gluten-free for allergy concerns. Your support of the Food Pantry through snack donations and purchases is appreciated!

OWLS 2014 Planning Potluck

Tuesday, January 7, 11:30 am

All are welcome to an always delicious and fellowship-filled OWLS potluck lunch. It's time to plan the 2014 OWLS calendar so bring your ideas! Please RSVP to Joy at joy@salc-wausau.org or 715-842-3333



Ministry Night

Tuesday, January 14, 6:30 pm

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.

Noisy Offering

On *January 16 & 19* a Noisy Offering will be received during worship in support of Crossways Camping Ministries.

Fair Trade

Fair Trade items will be available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall on *January 16 & 19*.

SALC Christmas "Giving Tree"

Thank you to everyone who has shopped, knitted, crocheted and is continuing to provide hats and mittens in response to the **Saint Andrew Christmas Giving Tree**. To date, **77 hats, 5 scarves and 60 pairs of gloves/mittens** have been received. These warm clothing items are on their way to several local schools and will continue to be distributed as more are received. **Thank you for your generosity and faithful response to this special outreach opportunity.**

2013 Holiday Food Baskets

Forty-two Thanksgiving baskets and thirty-one Christmas Holiday Food Basket requests were again at a record level this year. Social Ministry was able to fill all the requests with the help of many volunteers and generous donations from the congregation. Thank you everyone for your support!!

Season of Giving...Spirit of Gratitude

In this season of giving and in the spirit of gratitude, your church is also giving financial gifts allocated in the 2013 Saint Andrew budget to the following recipients:

Saint Andrew Scout Troop
The Lutheran Church in Zeerust
Crossways Camping Ministries-
Waypost Camp
The Neighbor's Place
Randlin Homes

From the gathering of God's people shall come Christian love as its members minister to each other, the community, the nation and the world" - from SALC mission statement

Nativity Silent Auction

A big thank you to Karen Halvorsen for sharing her love and passion for nativity sets by donating her collection for a silent auction at SALC. The auction raised over \$1,000 and will be used to assist outreach programs through Saint Andrew.

Fleece Fabric Donations a Success!

Thank you to all who donated fleece fabric for Fellowship Ministry's tied blanket project. Thank you also to those who tied or worked on the blankets. Some have been delivered to the Rib Mountain Fire Station, the rest will soon be delivered for the Rib Mountain Fire and EMT workers to distribute as needed when they go out on calls. This project helped celebrate the ELCA's "anniversary" and involved many people doing "God's work, our hands."

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. Dates still available are: *February 2, April 6, May 11, June 22, November 16, 23 & 30.*

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 Bill Downing.

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.



Variety Show and Decadent Dessert Buffet

Do you have a talent you can share with the congregation? The opportunity is here to showcase it. On **Tuesday, February 25**, Saint Andrew will host a Variety Show and Decadent Dessert Buffet. Talents of all kinds are welcome, such as, musical (instruments or voice), skits, comedy. Mark the date and practice your act! The Fellowship Ministry will have more information available in January.

ELCA Celebrates 25 years

Saint Andrew is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. We celebrate with the larger church 25 vibrant years of history. Take a look at some quick facts below (www.elca.org/en/News-and-Events/ELCA-Facts), and as you take them in, **find a moment to thank God for the vibrant ministry of the ELCA.** This is our Church! As of 2012 the ELCA has...

Always
being made
New.
25 YEARS TOGETHER IN CHRIST

3,950,924 baptized members
9,533 congregations
65 regional synods

8 ELCA seminaries
26 colleges and universities
145 camps and retreat centers

18,010 leaders including:
998 associates in ministry
175 diaconal ministers
16,773 ordained ministers

Mission Endowment Fund for Saint Andrew is Coming!

Over the past year, several members of Saint Andrew worked as a task force to consider and develop a Mission Endowment Fund for our congregation. The proposed Mission Statement of the newly developed program is described this way. *"The mission and purpose of the Fund is to provide a process that allows people to give a gift or legacy as a means of extending the mission of Christ's church. The application of the funds received and disbursed will be consistent with the mission and purpose of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church as defined in its Mission Statement."*

It is expected that the fund will enhance the congregational mission apart from the general budget. It is intended to generate an ongoing source of income to expand and continue the vision of stewardship and support. It allows the congregation to respond to important needs and new ventures.

The church council has approved the program and will ask for congregational support to adopt this program at the annual meeting on January 26, 2014. Watch for more information and updates on events that will highlight the fund, it's purpose and how to participate!

WHAT IS 180 GO!?

A new high school youth group called **180 GO!** focuses on service projects, fun and faith. Come to the youth room **on Sunday, January 5, 6:30 pm** to find out what it's all about. Check out more information at www.180go.weebly.com.

6TH GRADE BAPTISM RETREAT

Saturday, January 25, 9-11:30 am

Learn about your baptism in preparation for starting confirmation class next year! All 6th graders are invited to this retreat to be held at Saint Andrew. Please sign up at the information desk in the Narthex or call the church office at 715-842-3333.

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

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

Friday-Saturday, 15-16	JYG-Neenah, WI
Wednesday, 26	Confirmation Classes
	Conclude

SUMMER BIKE TRIP

Pastor Craig is planning to lead a week-long bicycle tour of Wisconsin trails this summer. The target group is high school youth, but adults will also be needed. Interested adults and youth are invited to an initial planning meeting following worship on **Sunday, January 12, 11:30 am**. Please bring ideas and meet in the Parish Room just off the Fellowship Hall.



PLAY GROUP AT SALC

Thursday, January 2, 10-11 am

Bring your children who are not yet in pre-school to the SALC nursery for conversation, fellowship and a time for playing. You are welcome to join the group on the **first Thursday** of each month. This is a chance to meet other parents at the Saint Andrew as well as have your children make new friends. Invite a friend!

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:[1-9] 10-18	Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 29 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17	Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 40:1-11 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42	Isaiah 9:1-4 Psalm 27:1, 4-9 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23

January 26

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:

Wren Allison - October 6
 Olivia Marie - October 13
 Brody Paul - November 10
 Tate William - November 24
 Anthony Claude - November 27
 Oliver Matthew - December 22
 Connor Craig - December 25
 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:

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...

Ali	John	Ella	Robert
Ben	Kaylin	Bruce	Clayton
Brad	Nathan	Maggie	Deb
Brianna	Quinn	Shelly	Joyce
Bryon, Kelly & Jackson	Renee	Kathleen	Scott, Adrienne &
Callie and Zak	Robin	Jim	Family
Delores	Roland	Donna	Mike & Family
Dennis	Sabrina	Katie	Bryan
Dorothy	Steve	Joe	Chuck
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)



SAINT ANDREW

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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

January 1		<i>Church Office Closed</i>
January 7		OWLS 2014 Planning Potluck Lunch
January 10 & 11		3-5 Grades Winter Retreat - Waypost Camp
January 12	11:30 am	Bike Trip Planning meeting
January 14	6:30 pm	Ministry Night Meetings
January 16	7:00 pm	Church Council Meeting
January 23	1-6 pm	Blood Drive at SALC
January 25		6th Grade Baptism Retreat - SALC
JANUARY 26	9:00 AM	CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING
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February 2		Super Bowl Snacks
February 15-16		JYG - Neenah
February 25		Variety Show and Decadent Dessert Buffet