

Network



Volume 5, Issue 2

February 2014

PASTORAL VISION—*Pastor Craig*

Karen and I travelled 300 miles on a cold January day five years ago to visit the area for the first time and interview for this call as pastor at Saint Andrew. I remember the increasing amounts of snow as we progressed north and the piles around the church were significantly larger than we have now. Snow was falling that weekend and I remember the last question I was asked in my interview, "if we would invite you back for a follow up interview, would you return?" Looking out the window and seeing the snow covered trees, I said, "if you can assure me it will be this beautiful next time, I will definitely come." I was asked, and on Valentine's Day weekend, we returned to another wintry weekend. I am thankful for the visit and continue to be thankful for the opportunity to minister among you.

While weather conditions do present challenges, it is truly what I love about life in the mid-west. Rain and blossoms in the spring, warmth and growth in the summer, cool evenings and colorful leaves in the fall and snow covered landscapes in the winter. I know I do not share this appreciation with everyone as both hot and cold conditions complicate life and create dangerous conditions, but with proper preparations and exercising a bit of caution and discretion, we can navigate the extremes and adjust to the conditions in ways that are less threatening. Last week was bitter cold and was dangerous for a large segment of the US population. But today is a welcomed dose of fresh snow coming just before Badger State Winter games and to refresh many outdoor winter activities.

Being prepared is often a matter of perception. We can allow life events to overshadow us or we can recognize that there is a larger picture and being rooted in a plan that is larger than our specific plans can be freeing and comforting. Now that we are into a new year and planning for another year of ministry, it is time to make plans and to find ways to incorporate into the life of the church. It is time to plan beyond the annual meeting and anxiety about budget restrictions. It is time to plan for Lent, Easter, summer camps, Vacation Bible School, summer bike trip, vacations, weddings, a garden.

Sometimes those plans have to be reshaped but I believe it is better to reshape a plan than to have no plan at all. What are your plans for the life and opportunities entrusted to your care? Do you see life as a gift to be shared or as a burden to be endured? Do you see the opportunities as yours to be advantaged or yours to be shared? Winter is a time of fallow, a time when the earth rests so that when the snow melts and the earth warms, new life breaks forth. Embrace the fallow winter and realize there is another season just ahead. As we wait and as we transition, we can count blessings and know that as John's gospel declares, "the light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

Did you know??? Each week there is an opportunity to worship on Thursday as an alternative to Sundays? When weekend schedules are full, many people find Thursdays to be a good substitute to the Sunday time to gather around word and sacrament. Planning on being out of town for the weekend? Consider the preceding Thursday worship opportunity and remain connected.

Saint Andrew Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 26 9:00 am in the Sanctuary. Please attend and share in the mission planning and work of Christ's Church.

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.

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!

Baptism Orientation

Sunday, February 2

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 Potluck

Tuesday, February 4

11:30 am

Bring your favorite potluck dish to the *"February is for Friends Day"* OWLS potluck gathering. Please RSVP to joy at 715-842-3333 or joy@salc-wausau.org.

Noisy Offering

On **February 13 & 16** 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 **Sunday, February 16.**

LENT 2014 BEGINS WITH ASH WEDNESDAY MARCH 5

This year's Lenten theme is *"Facing the Cross."*

Through these 40 days, we will learn how facing even our most challenging experiences are made easier when we see them through the cross.

"Facing Our Sins" • We come to terms with our sinfulness and rejoice in Christ's forgiveness.

"Facing Temptation" • We acknowledge that we give in to temptations at times, but rest on the power of Christ to resist the devil.

"Facing Our Fears" • Recognizing what strikes fear in our hearts helps us to grab on more tightly to Christ.

"Facing Our Worldliness" • Accepting we are often all too dependent on worldly goods opens the door to seeing the value of everlasting blessings.

"Facing One Another" • Confessing that we have not always treated each other in a Christlike manner helps to build better relationships.

"Facing Suffering" • Enduring suffering in this world connects us to Christ and points us to the joy to come.

Soup and Sandwich fellowship will follow 12:15 worship and will be served before and after the 6:15 worship on Wednesday evenings beginning **March 12.**

Through Lent we gather for soup, homemade bread and deserts. We are fed and nourished with a warm meal, through fellowship and worship. Additionally, enclosed is an activity families can do together through the Lenten season to count blessings and at the same time, increase awareness for those whose lives were challenged in uniquely different ways. The money collected throughout the Lenten season will be received the week following Easter and given to ELCA World Hunger. Did you know:

- ◇ 868 million people – that's 1 in 8 – are chronically hungry and cannot lead active daily lives.
- ◇ 1.4 billion people live in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.25 per day.
- ◇ In the United States, more than 50 million people do not know where their next meal will come from.
- ◇ 46.2 million Americans are living in poverty.

The small amount we each collect from this simple activity can be shared in abundance and make a real difference in the lives of many. Check out the two-sided Lenten calendar insert and consider posting it on your refrigerator this Lent as a reminder of the many blessings we enjoy.

SALC Annual Treasure Sale

Mark your calendar for **early May** to bring in your gently used donations for the Treasure Sale. Donated items should be in good working order and in very good condition. The following items will not be accepted: *computers, printers, televisions, phones, batteries, chargers, light bulbs, microwaves, carpets/rugs, paint/chemicals, large appliances or exercise equipment.*

Altar Flowers-2014

The flower chart is almost full! Honor a loved one or special event and help beautify the altar with flowers. Please call the church office to sign up: 715-842-3333. Dates still available are: *April 6, May 11, June 22, November 23 & 30.*

Memorial Gifts Received

Memorial gifts were received in memory of Jane Merwin.

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 *Tuesday, February 25, 6:30-7:30 pm*

Mark your calendar to attend the Saint Andrew's Variety Show and Decadent Dessert Buffet. Fellowship Ministry will host the event in the Fellowship Hall. Talents of all kinds will be showcased! RSVP encouraged at 715-842-3333.

Who's Got Talent!

Do you have a talent you can share with the congregation? The opportunity is here to showcase it at the Variety Show and Decadent Dessert Buffet. Talents of all kinds are welcome, such as, musical (instruments or voice), dance, skits, comedy, etc. **Can't Sing, But Can Bake?** Showcase your baking talents by donating your specialty for the decadent dessert buffet. Performers and bakers can sign up at church or by calling the office at 715-842-3333, then practice your art!

Soup & Sandwich-Willing Cooks Needed!

Lent Soup and Sandwich will be here before we know it! If you're interested in assisting with soup preparation, one soup or more one Wednesday or more - equipment, ingredients and guidance provided - please call the church office at 715-842-3333.

Summer Bike Trip

A group of interested youth and adults met to discuss a week-long summer bicycle tour of Wisconsin bike trails. The group chose the week of **August 3-9** as first option with July 27-August 2 as alternate. Again, the target group is high school youth but adults are also welcome to participate. A second meeting for planning the trip will take place Sunday, February 16 at 11:30 in the Activity Room. For any interested persons, please contact Pastor Craig so you can be added to the list of participants. The cost for the event is yet to be determined but it will certainly be much less expensive than other week-long events.



Mission Endowment Fund

If met with approval at the Annual Meeting on January 26, Pastor Larry Westfield with the ELCA Foundation will be a guest speaker with us on Sunday, February 9 to help us in plans to implement the Mission Endowment Fund. The next step would be to begin developing a plan to encourage gifts for the sake of expanded ministry opportunities. Statistics have shown that an endowment program does not distract from but actually encourages and increases regular giving. Materials will be soon available to help us learn more about this mission opportunity.

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Tuesday, March 4—5-6:30 PM

Come for a traditional Shrove Tuesday where you can eat all you want before the season of Lent begins! Various kinds of pancakes, maple syrup, sausage and beverages will be served. Proceeds will benefit Vacation Bible School. Volunteers will also be needed to help with this event. Look for a sign-up on the information desk or call the office if interested!



Cost: \$5 - adults \$3 - children ages 5-12

CALLING ALL ACOLYTES

The sign up for spring dates is on the bulletin board outside the office and many Sunday mornings are open. Thank you for helping all of us to connect to Christ's presence in worship through your serving. Please talk with your parents and sign up for a date or two (or three!). If you are in 5th-8th grade and don't know how to acolyte and would like to learn, we would be glad to teach you!

CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR LENT

The current confirmation schedule will end on February 26th and our Lenten schedule will begin with Ash Wednesday on March 5th with worship at 6:15. Families are encouraged to attend lent worship together at 6:15 and students will soon receive a schedule indicating when their small group will help with soup and sandwich set up and clean up.

Parents, this is an excellent time to check in with students and process with them how their faith journey is going. Our current topic of conversation is the Lord's Prayer. If you would like to check in as a family with one on one with Pastor Craig, Pastor Jenn or Matt, we are open to having conversation. The group of students and mentors this year has been excellent. We are encouraged by their questions, commitment, and their journey.

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

5th Grade (or older) students and parents

For three weeks in March, students and families will have interactive conversation about Holy Communion. A mailing will soon go out with more information for 5th grade students. Others are invited to contact the office for more information if interested.



*Classes—March 16, 23 & April 6, 4 pm
First Communion Worship—April 13, 2pm*

CONFIRMATION CAMP

Camp is an awesome opportunity in the faith formation of confirmation students here at Saint Andrew. We are going to Crossways Waypost Camp in Hatley **June 15-20** this summer. Registration forms will be mailed to the families of confirmation students. Please complete the forms and return them to Saint Andrew with the \$195 camp fee by **Sunday March 2**.

CHRISTIAN ED UPCOMING DATES

February

Fri-Sat	14-15	JYG
Wednesday	26	Reg. Conf. Lessons Conclude

March

Tuesday	4	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
Wednesday	5	No Confirmation
Sunday	16	First Communion Class-5th Grade
Sunday	23	First Communion Class-5th Grade
Sunday	30	No First Communion Class-5th Grade

PLAY GROUP AT SALC

Thursday, February 6, 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!

FEBRUARY

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

	February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Altar Guild	Team 2	Team 2	Team 4	Team 4
Usher Team	Weidman	Johnson	Shepherd	A
Layreaders	8:00 am 10:30 am Alice Van Skike Susan Paisar	Dan Malm Craig Holmes	Mary Jarvis Linda Vogen	Julie Fischer Carolyn Kiesau
Greeters	8:00 am 10:30 am Mike & Lyn Weis Deb Bradshaw & Rosetta Ahles	Tony & Wendi Howe Adam Wurz & Linda Vogen	Eric & Jamie Hane Dick & Lynn Lawson	Bill & Doreen Radloff Shirley Schulz & Teri Deininger
Fellowship	8:00 am 10:30 am Bill & Doreen Radloff Russ & Alice Van Skike	Mark & Cyndi Moser Greg & Jeanne Willems	Keith & Sandi Rusch Jerry & Marlene Kort	Sid & Leslie Sorenson Ann McDonald & Shirley Bickford

LECTIONARY READINGS

February 2	February 9	February 16	February 23
Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 84 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40	Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12] Psalm 112:1-9 [10] 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16] Matthew 5:13-20	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 119:1-8 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18 Psalm 119:33-40 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23 Matthew 5:38-48

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:

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:

Jeff & Jen - November 30
 Robert & Susan - December 7
 Cindy & Patrick - December 26

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	Gene	Tom	Chris & Cassandra
Babs	Irma	Tracy	Robert
Ben	James, Henry & Elsie	Ella	Clayton
Brianna	Luke	Bruce	Bryan
Bryon, Kelly & Jackson	Paul	Deb	Erin
Callie and Zak	Quinn	Maggie	Julie
Charles	Renee	Shelly	Amy
Chuck	Robin	Kathleen	
Delores	Roland	Jim	
Dennis	Sabrina	Katie	
Dorothy	Steve	Joe	
Gary	Susan	Diane	

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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Matt Seegert, *Coordinator of
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Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*
Sheldon Geiger, *Bookkeeper*
Shannon Vujnovich, *Custodian*
Dave Paisar, *Custodian*
Jared Gjertson, *Sexton*

Upcoming Events/Activities

February 2		Super Bowl Snack Sale
February 4	11:30 am	OWLS Group
February 6	10:00 am	Playgroup
February 11	6:30 pm	Ministry Night Meetings
February 15-16		JYG - Neenah
February 25	6:30 pm	Variety Show and Decadent Dessert Buffet
March 4		Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
March 5		Ash Wednesday
March 12, 19, 26, April 2 & 9		Lent Soup and Sandwich Fellowship
March 16		First Communion Classes Begin
April 13		Palm Sunday
April 17		Maundy Thursday
April 18		Good Friday
April 20		Easter Sunday