

Network



Volume 7, Issue 8

August 2015

Fall Planning Reflections by Pastor Craig

Saint Paul writes, "if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new." That is the blessing we enjoy as members of Christ's church. Every day is an opportunity to put aside the old self so that "a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever." – Luther's Small Catechism.

Over the summer, and in truth for the past few years, there has been some conversation at Saint Andrew about some *new* possibilities regarding education and worship, two of four central pillars in our common mission (*Worship, Learning, Witness, Service*). Recognizing the increased challenges for families with small children, the idea was recently brought forward to adjust the format that encourages both learning and worship. After discussion with Worship and Christian Education ministry members, Council leaders, staff members, a sample of family members and with support from the pastors, it has been determined to offer a revised format for Sunday mornings. The intent is not to discourage family worship nor limit Sunday opportunities but to allow some flexibility for how individuals and families participate in Sunday mornings.

8 am – Worship (Traditional/Formal)

9:30 am – Worship (Traditional/Formal)

9:45 am-10:30 am – Sunday School for all ages (*children dismissed to classes after the children's message during the 9:30 am worship service*)

10:45 am-11:30 am – Worship (*a little less structured and more casual style of worship*)

This revised format will begin Sunday, September 13 along with the start of Sunday school.

As you can see, this format adds a third option for worship and slightly alters the time and structure for education. This change allows families the chance to worship together on either side of the education hour and also allows for those families who prefer an alternate worship option during the education hour. Please know, such adjustments are not done without careful thought and conversations including prayer and reflection. After such reflection, it seems this "new" way of being church may address concerns many people have been expressing about how the church can support their hopes and ideas of alternate opportunities for members of all ages. There are details yet to be worked out but I am confident we can find a workable solution to turn challenges into opportunities. There are also plans to provide regular supervision in the nursery during the Sunday worship time frames for families with small children. This will no doubt require parental support and participation so if you are called or wish to help out, please give this your consideration.

So with summer wrapping up, life at the church is deep into planning mode for some ongoing and new opportunities beginning this fall. Please watch the mail, the SALC website, the SALC facebook page and in the bulletins for more details as they develop.

Thank you in advance for your patience with this new format. I ask for your prayers as well as your continued support and participation as we seek faithful responses to our common mission through Christ's church.

Please read this issue of the Network carefully as it describes other approaching events: Church Picnic, Blessing of School Backpacks, VBS, Sunday School, Confirmation and even a Men's Bible Study opportunity. Volunteers are needed!

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.

**Summer
Weekly Worship**

**Thursday: 12:15 and 6:15 pm
Sunday: 8:00 and 9:30 am**

Baptism Orientation

Sunday, August 2, 10:30 am
Orientation will be held in the sanctuary for families anticipating a baptism. Please call the church office if you would like to attend.

OWLS

Tuesday, August 4, 11:30 am
Meet at Saint Andrew at 11:30 am for a potluck lunch then head to Monk Gardens to enjoy a guided tour at 1:00 pm. There is no charge for the tour but donations are accepted and appreciated.



Noisy Offering

A Noisy Offering *will not be received in August*. Please save your offering and bring it to the Noisy Offering to be received on September 20 in support of the SALC library.

Play Group at SALC

Thursday, August 13, 10-11 am
Bring your children who are not yet in pre-school for conversation, fellowship and a time for playing. Join the group on the **second Thursday of each month**.

Fair Trade Products

Fair Trade products are sold on the third Sunday of the month. Stop by the display in the Fellowship Hall on **August 16** to see the new cart, new signs, and Fair Trade products. Your purchases help small landholder farmers in many developing countries compete in a tough market. Thank you for your support through your purchases of these high quality, delicious products.

BLESSING OF PETS AND ANIMALS

Sunday, August 16, 9:30 am

Bring the **whole** family — all socially adapted creatures, great and small, are welcome.

The service will be led from the Celebration Patio on the north side of the Fellowship Hall. Seating is on the lawn. **Bring a lawn chair or blanket and sunglasses** and enjoy this outdoor worship experience. Please help with your pet's clean-up if needed.



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 30

School supplies are back in stores — plans are already being made for the fall. There will be a blessing for parents, students, and teachers as they return to the school year. **On August 30**, students are invited to bring their backpacks to worship. We will bless them and the students who wear them at both services as well as ask for God's blessing on parents and educators who are vitally important in the lives of young people.

SALC ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC



Family - Food - Fun

Sunday, August 30

10:45 am (after worship)

Fellowship Hall & Celebration Patio

Join us for food, fellowship and fun! The cooks will be grilling burgers, brats and hotdogs. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share according to the first letter of your last name:

A – M dessert

N – Z salad or side dish

VOUNTEERS NEEDED: Contact the office if you can help with picnic set-up or clean-up.

MUSICIANS NEEDED: Fellowship Ministry is seeking talent from within the church to perform at the **annual church picnic**. If you are interested in sharing your talents, please contact the church office at 715-842-3333.

YOUTH ROOM GETS A NEW LOOK

Work continues to take place in the room at the end of the hall in the education wing. The plan is to have it ready to go in September. Thank you to many who have volunteered time and financial support for this renovation project which will hopefully serve to enhance relationships and encourage connections and conversations. Take a walk down the hall and check out the progress.

To date, no budget funds have been used for the project. Just word of mouth and generous donations. Furnishings, possible floor covering and other room details are yet needed so if you like what you see and would like to make an additional contribution of support, please designate "Youth Room" on checks of support to Saint Andrew. Thank you.

A Great Day at the SALC Golf Outing

Thank you to everyone one who attended the Annual Saint Andrew Golf Outing and to those who donated prizes. The winners were:

1st place—Jim Woller, Jason Rickstad, Tom Hersperger, Wally Lagenza; **2nd place**—Dave Larson, Pat McFaul, Dan Holt, Mark Fehrman; and **3rd place**—Tom and Karen Weidman, Dave Mueller, Casey Christian.

Blood Drive

Thursday, October 1, 1-6 pm

Saint Andrew will be the sight of a blood drive in support of the American Red Cross. 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.



Blood Pressure Checks

SALC volunteers are available on the *3rd Sunday* of each month to assist you in regularly monitoring blood pressure. These are not diagnostic but informative and available to anyone who is curious about regular checking. No sign up necessary. This is a free pressure check and takes place in the Activity Room. Basic blood pressure information is also available.

Pastoral Care

As a practice, three area hospitals are contacted during the work week to inquire about member hospitalization. We are grateful when we learn about pastoral care opportunities and do our best to respond in a timely fashion. If you or a family member is in need of pastoral care, please contact the church office to help insure pastoral support is received.

Ministry Highlight: Fellowship Ministry

Fellowship Ministry helps provide opportunities for members to participate in the community life of the church. The Ministry plans and coordinates weekly fellowship services, annual events and new activities. We rely on volunteers to make coffee, bake cookies and help at the events. Volunteering is another great way to experience fellowship with other members.

Weekly: Fellowship offers coffee, juice, milk and cookies following each Sunday morning worship service in the Fellowship Hall. *Donations received help fund supplies.*

Annual Events:

Pretzel Sunday (1st Sunday in Lent)

Hot Cross Buns (Palm Sunday)

Sundae Sunday (June)

SALC Golf Outing (July)

Church Picnic (August or September)

Gingerbread Village/Cookie Exchange (December) - The village is placed at Mount View Nursing Home for the residents and visitors to enjoy during the holidays.

Previous Special Events and Activities: Variety Show and Decadent Desserts, Cupcake Sunday, Pastor John's Retirement Reception, bingo, seasonal crafts, potlucks, cooking for a week class, pasty making class, hay ride and more.

Other groups under Fellowship: Older Wiser Lutherans (OWLS), a social group that meets monthly to enjoy fellowship get-togethers that include potlucks, speakers and field trips. The SALC Dartball and Softball Teams are financially supported.

Members: Phil Bickley (Council Liaison), Amy Frolik (Chair), Bonita Alafouzou (Secretary), Ann McDonald, Dave Mueller and Vicki Mrotek. Associate members: Karen Swenson (Cookie Coordinator) and Mary Wittich.

We have many volunteer opportunities including joining the ministry. Come join the fun!

YOUTH POOL PARTY

Wednesday, August 5, 3-6 pm

The temperatures are showing that summer is here! Enjoy an afternoon at the Rothschild Aquatic Center cooling off in the pool with friends and then pizza afterward. Please sign up at the Information Desk.

VBS AT SAINT ANDREW! - *God Is Good-All the Time!*

August 10-14, 9 am—12 pm

Registration forms are available on the Information Desk in the Narthex or online at www.salc-wausau.org. Sign up your child now for a week of learning about when and where God is in their life!

VBS T-Shirts—Please bring a t-shirt for your child on the first day of VBS. The colors for each of the grades are as follows:

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Pre-K: Purple | Kindergarten: Red | 1st Grade: Yellow |
| 2nd Grade: Blue | 3rd Grade: Green | 4th Grade: Orange |
| 5th Grade: Gray | Volunteers: White | |

2015-2016 CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT SAINT ANDREW

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKS OFF September 13

Registration forms will be available during vacation bible school, at church on the information desk, or may be found on line at www.salc-wausau.org. Registrations are welcome at any time, but in order to best prepare, we ask that forms be ***returned to the office by Tuesday, September 8.***

6th GRADE STUDENT FAMILIES

Over the past few years, the confirmation program transitioned to a focused time of learning for those in 7th and 8th grades. Because of this change, there is strong emphasis placed on attendance for 6th grade students to attend Sunday school on Sunday mornings. Students will focus on Bible basics in anticipation of and preparation for confirmation using an interactive curriculum called *Echo*.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION

Confirmation will kick off on Wednesday, September 9 at 6:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall with orientation and registration.

Students in 7th and 8th grades along with their parents are to attend together. Regular classes will begin the following week and will be held every Wednesday, 6:15-7:30 pm. Registration forms and detailed information will be sent out to families with students in these grades in early August and will also be available at church. Incoming 9th graders will receive more information shortly regarding the writing of faith statements and ***confirmation worship, which will take place on Reformation Sunday, October 25 at 2:00 pm.***

TEACHERS AND MENTORS NEEDED

Please prayerfully consider sharing your gift of teaching with SALC's youth. Teachers are needed for several grades. Enjoy working with older children? Then, maybe stepping into a mentor role is just for you! Job sharing for all is a great option! Please call the SALC office at 715-842-3333.

ATTENTION MEN—MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

The recent worship survey revealed an interest in more small group ministries including bible studies. Pastor Craig is scheduling times to meet with men on **Wednesday mornings beginning September 23** for conversation around God's word. Nothing heavy or complicated. Just gathering to assess the needs and interests for the men at Saint Andrew using "The Master Builders Bible" as the resource for conversation. The first 10 bibles are available for \$15 each with additional ones \$25. It includes over 20,000 study questions and a Men's Ministry Leaders guide written by Doug Haugen, Executive Director of Lutheran Men in Mission. There will be two offerings for meeting at the church. One at **6:45 am** including a lite breakfast and a second at **10 am** for the "retired" fellows who no longer need to rise early and get to work. Please contact Pastor Craig to let him know your interest.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

With two classes now completed, there is conversation about the next offering of FPU at Saint Andrew. One class will be Sundays during the winter beginning January 3. There is an earlier option being considered for Tuesdays beginning September 15. Classes are for nine weeks with a cost of \$93 per individual or couple. All who have attended the class have commented, "I wish I would have known about this information years ago."

Interested persons considering the fall option, please contact the church office at 715-842-3333, so arrangements can begin now.

ELCA NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Worshipping with 30,000 other people, studying the Bible with approximately 500 from our synod, concerts, speakers, the heart to serve – these are just a few of the experiences our youth shared in Detroit. Alaina reflects, "Getting to see the people of Detroit and the hope they felt was a real inspiration." Tyler says of his experience, "God is everywhere even if not immediately apparent. Detroit was having a hard time – but God still shows up even if you don't see it." Tracy, one of the chaperones reflects, "This trip really made me learn about helping others, and most of all, what God has planned for us. Thanks to the many who prayed and financially supported this incredible opportunity."

AUGUST

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

| Date | Worship Time | Altar Guild | Usher Team | Layreaders | Greeters | Fellowship |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|------------|-----------------|---|--|
| August 2 | 8:00 am | Team 4 | Shepherd | Mary Jarvis | Shirley Bickford & Joanne Howard Mike Koehmstedt & Rosetta Ahles | Keith & Sandi Rusch |
| | 9:30 am | | | Cheryl Allen | | Russ & Alice Van Skike |
| August 9 | 8:00 am | Team 4 | A | Julie Spalding | Joel & Sara Widmann Mary Wittich | Jason & Linda Rickstad Greg & Jeanne Willems |
| | 9:30 am | | | Jayne Germinaro | | |
| August 16 | 8:00 am | Team 5 | B | Ed Wodalski | Eugene Moyer & Jim Jacobson Tom & Mary Weiland | Mike & Jeannie Matushak Tim & Denise Gaffaney |
| | 9:30 am | | | James Jordan | | |
| August 23 | 8:00 am | Team 5 | Brekke | Diane Goetsch | Jim & Nancy Jordan Bill & Lucy Harvey | Mark & Karen Gleisner Jerry & Marlene Kort |
| | 9:30 am | | | Kaya Yirkovsky | | |
| August 30 | 8:00 am | Team 6 | Weidman | Gary Hibbard | Brandon & Melissa Murphy Dave & Sue Paisar | Steve & Kay Sitko Shirley Bickford & Pam Mielke |
| | 9:30 am | | | Craig Holmes | | |

LECTIONARY READINGS

| August 2 | August 9 | August 16 | August 23 | August 30 |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| Exodus 16:2–4, 9–15 Psalm 78:23–29 Ephesians 4:1–16 John 6:24–35 | 1 Kings 19:4–8 Psalm 34:1–8 Ephesians 4:25–5:2 | Proverbs 9:1–6 Psalm 34:9–14 Ephesians 5:15–20 | Joshua 24:1–2a, 14–18 Psalm 34:15–22 Ephesians 6:10–20 | Deuteronomy 4:1–2, 6–9 Psalm 15 James 1:17–27 |

August 2015

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:40 AM Baptism Orientation | 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings | 10:00 AM Quilting Group 11:30 AM OWLS - Potluck @ SALC and Outing to Monk Gardens | 3:00 PM Youth Swim Party @ Rothschild Pool w/pizza after | 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP | | 2:30 PM Shepherd-Koeller Wedding |
| 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM WORSHIP | 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Dartball Practice | 6:30 PM Ministry Night Meetings | | 10:00 AM Play Group 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP | | |
| 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM Pet Sunday Worship 10:30 AM - 2:00 PM Plant Sale - Youth Room Fundraiser | 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings | 9:00 AM Reading Reflections 10:00 AM Quilting for Lutheran World Relief | | 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP | 5:00 PM Rehearsal | 2:00 PM Weinkauff-Melville Wedding |
| 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM WORSHIP | 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Dartball Practice | 9:00 AM Reading Reflections | | 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting | | |
| 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM WORSHIP w/ Back to School Blessing of Backpacks 10:45 AM Annual Church Picnic | 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings | | | | | |

| July | | | | | | |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

| September | | | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | |

A BAPTISM PRAYER

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:

Jaxon James Burnett - June 7
 Rayana Kayla Sabatke - July 26
 Hannah Jean Winchell - August 2
 Isabelle Mae Lancell - August 23
 Benjamin Croix Smith - September 27
 Rose Evelyn Geiger - October 4

A WEDDING PRAYER

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

Alex & Derrick Lang - June 6
 Lisa & Chris Sattler - June 13
 Kaitlin & Justin Ottman - June 27
 Mari & Nate Card - July 11
 Terri & Michael Johnson - July 18
 Amanda Shepherd & Alan Koeller - August 1
 Amanda Weinkauff & Frank Melville - August 22
 Candy Jeru & Mitch McCabe - September 12
 Sarah Gwidt & Ross Lyon - October 10

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 | Irma B. | Susan | Dixie |
| Alyssa | Jackie | Tom | Laura |
| Babs | James, Henry & Elsie | Tyler | Laurel |
| Barb | Jennette | William & Connor | Darlene |
| Brenda | Jerry & Anita | Ella | Shelly |
| Brianna | Joan | Katie | Jean |
| Callie and Zak | Julie | Diane | Verna |
| Charles | Kevin | Clayton | Brian |
| Dave | Lucy | Amy | Mary |
| Deb | Lynne | Bill | Tara |
| Dennis | Monica | Charlotte | Terry |
| Don | Patricia | Gary | |
| Faith | Robin | Meg | |
| Gary | Roland | Tom | |
| Holly | Sue | Yvonne | |

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)

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Parish Staff

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

Upcoming Events/Activities

| | | |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| August 3 | 10:30 am | Baptism Orientation |
| August 4 | 11:30 am | OWLS Potluck and to Monk Gardens |
| August 5 | 3-6 pm | Youth Activity at Rothschild Pool |
| August 10-14 | 9 am-12 pm | VBS |
| August 13 | 10 am | Play Group |
| August 16 | 9 am | Blood Pressure Checks |
| August 16 | 9:30 am | Pet Sunday Worship |
| August 16 | | Fair Trade Items for Sale |
| August 16 | 10:30 am-2 pm | Perennial Plant Fundraiser |
| August 30 | | Blessing of the Backpacks |
| August 30 | 10:45 am | Annual Church Picnic |
| <hr/> | | |
| September 9 | 6:15 pm | Confirmation Orientation |
| September 13 | 9:45 am | Sunday School Begins |
| <hr/> | | |
| October 1 | 1-6 pm | Blood Drive |
| October 4 | | Crop Walk for World Hunger |

CROP WALK 2015

Mark your calendars for the annual CROP Walk to fight World Hunger to be held **Sunday, October 4**. If you can help out with the walk please call the church office at 715-842-3333.



Did you know we're on Facebook? Follow the link on our website and click "like" to keep up with the latest news and events!