

Network



Volume 7, Issue 12

December 2015

Advent and Christmas Blessings from Pastor Jenn and Pastor Craig

"Let every heart prepare him room and heaven and nature sing!" -Joy to the World, Isaac Watts

December is a month of preparations. Preparing the house for gatherings of family and friends. Preparing special meals. Making cookies. Giving gifts. Making travel arrangements. Sending cards. Decorating homes and yards. In the month of December, we prepare to tell the story once again of God's coming to the world in Jesus—a light in the darkness! Bulletins are prepared. Worship is prepared. The choir is preparing. This work is done so that we might come together to hear again God's "good news of great joy for all people" (Luke 2:10).

In the month of December, in the season of Advent, we are allowed the breathing room to prepare for more than just concerts, gatherings, and the end of another year. In the beloved hymn, *Joy to the World*, every heart is invited to prepare for the coming of a savior, Jesus Christ, the messiah.

This December at Saint Andrew there are many opportunities to gather and "prepare room" for good news of great joy. The readings in weekly worship throughout advent all point us to signs of God's coming—of days and times advancing toward us, of hopes and expectations for a future held in the promises of God. An advent wreath reminds us to slow down and wait—even as the hurried pace of preparations happen around us.

On December 6th fellowship ministry is sponsoring cookie exchanges and gingerbread house decorating (to be shared with a local nursing home.) On December 13th at 1:30 pm the Sunday School children will share the story with us through their annual Christmas program, "Room at the Inn." A Christmas treasure sale will take place over the course of both Sundays to sponsor the continuing development of the youth room and the upcoming youth trip. On December 20th the youth of Saint Andrew will do some Christmas caroling and celebrate with a Christmas party.

On December 24th Christmas Eve worship begins at 4pm—with an interactive worship where, with the help of the congregation, the gospel will come to life in skit form—while those who choose to join in "the band" are welcome to bring their instruments and play along with beloved Christmas hymns. Worship at 6 & 8 pm will include choirs that will sing and ring in the Christmas story. The evening comes to a close with a contemplative worship service at 10 pm. Three services include *Silent Night* by candle light and all four worship services will include Holy Communion. On the morning of Christmas Day, December 25th, worship will also be offered at 10 am.

This December, amidst the many preparations, the staff and Pastors at Saint Andrew pray that you and yours might come to know the nearness of God this season—the one who is good news of great joy—Jesus Christ, God's son, our Savior. *Let heaven and nature sing!*

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.

Weekly Worship

Thursday: 12:15 and 6:15 pm
Sunday: 8:00, 9:30 & 10:45 am

Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00 pm ***A Christmas Story Worship***
6:00 & 8:00 pm ***Candlelight Worship with
Chancel and Handbell Choirs***
10:00 pm ***Candlelight Worship***

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 am ***Christmas Day Worship***



Christmas Food Baskets

If you or someone you know needs a Christmas Food Basket, please call the church office by **Tuesday, December 15** at 715-842-3333. Baskets will be assembled on **Saturday, December 19**.

OWLS Christmas Potluck

Tuesday, December 1, 11:30 am



Bring a dish to share and your festive holiday spirit as we enjoy good food, fellowship, sing beloved Christmas songs with the Saint Andrew staff and decorate the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree.

Noisy Offering will be received on *December 17 & 20* in support of the Wausau Community Warming Center.

Play Group at SALC

Friday, December 11 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 Friday of each month**.

Fair Trade Products

With new orders from both SERRV and Equal Exchange, SALC's Fair Trade cart is stocked for December! New small chocolate bars, including both dark and milk chocolate bars, some with caramel, dark chocolate, tea, coffee - both ground and bean are all available! As always, FT items will be available the **3rd Sunday of the month, December 20**. Your purchases help small landholder farmers.

GIFT BASKET SILENT AUCTION/CHRISTMAS DECORATION TREASURE SALE

The fun continues at Saint Andrew in December with a Gift Basket raffle and Christmas Decoration Treasure Sale to support the Youth Room renovation in progress and the youth traveling to Colorado next summer. There are three easy ways to join in the fun:

- *Create and donate a themed gift basket for the silent auction – possible ideas: Cat Lover's, Dog Lover's, Warm Winter Tidings, Handmade Cards, Scrapbooking, Men's Handy Tools, etc.
- *Bring new or gently used Christmas decorations to be sold at the Christmas Decoration Treasure Sale.
- *Come to the Fellowship Hall to shop & donate on the Sundays of **December 6 and 13** before and after any of the worship services or the Sunday School Christmas program.

Donated gift baskets with a written description of what the basket contains and Christmas decorations to be sold should be dropped off at the church by **Thursday, December 4**.

COOKIE EXCHANGE

Sunday, December 6, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall

It's that time of year when the best cookies are made...What fun to make more to share and to trade! Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for the annual Cookie Exchange and enjoy fellowship while your assortment of treats are put together for you. Here's how it works:



- 1) Bake six dozen homemade holiday cookies.
- 2) Package your cookies in fun bundles of six to exchange. Be creative!
- 3) Attach a copy of your cookie recipe to each package. (Optional)
- 4) Bring a container to take your cookies home.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

Sunday, December 6, 12 pm

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 sign up at the Information Desk or call the church office at 715-842-3333.



ALTAR FLOWERS

Honor a loved one or special event with altar flowers in 2016. Sign up on the Flower Chart posted on the kiosk in the Narthex.

Food Pantry Needs

The Saint Andrew food pantry currently needs:

**chicken noodle soup,
canned tomato products
1-lb. bags of rice
mustard
ketchup
mayonnaise**

Items can be dropped off in the baskets inside the building entrances. Thank you for supporting the food pantry!

Memorial Gifts Received

Memorial Gifts were recently received in memory of Delores Harder. 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.

Blood Pressure Checks

SALC volunteers are available in the Bethlehem Room on the *3rd Sunday* of each month, 9-9:30 am, to assist you in a free blood pressure check. These are not diagnostic but informative. No sign up necessary. 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.

2016 BUDGET INFORMATION MEETING

In response to a motion from last year's Annual Meeting, efforts are being made to inform members in preparation for the 2016 Annual Meeting - *Sunday, January 31 at 10:45 am in the Sanctuary.*

1. A special informational meeting will take place on **Sunday, December 13, 11:40 am in the Sanctuary** for anyone who wishes to learn about the budget process and gain insight into the coming year's budget.
2. Annual Reports and the Proposed Budget will be available at least one week prior to the Annual Meeting.

Hopefully these efforts will improve the way information is shared and available. The estimated budget for 2016 is **\$774,000** which is an increase over last year's budget of **\$759,150**. Support and creative conversation will be needed to help meet this expanded budget goal. Please make plans to attend and share your input. Thank you.

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITY

Whether you are newly engaged or married for many, many years, Family Life's **Weekend to Remember** has the power to breathe new life and commitment into your marriage. Family Life's Weekend to Remember is coming to Appleton February 12-14, 2016. Check out the weekend itinerary at: familylife.com/weekendtoremember. Save \$100 per couple by registering with our group name "StrongTogether" (all one word) at this web address: shop.familylife.com/p-4230-appleton.aspx.

For more information contact Lyn Weiss, lynweis26@gmail.com, 715-302-2520

Poinsettia Order Form

Help beautify the sanctuary 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 6*.
Cost: \$16 each



_____ *White Poinsettia* _____ *Red Poinsettia*

_____ Given in honor of _____

_____ Given in memory of _____

_____ Given in recognition of _____

_____ Given in thanksgiving of _____

Please make payment payable to:
Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

Mail to:
3200 N. Mountain Rd., Wausau 54401
or
place in the designated box
at the Information Desk
in the Narthex

From: _____ Phone: _____

2016 Sky Ranch High School Youth Summer Trip

It is time to plan for summer 2016! Part of that planning includes a high school youth trip to Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Colorado the week of July 10-15, 2016. Registrations are being received from interested youth who are currently in high school. Youth and their families should have received a mailing with a registration form. If not, forms are available in the Narthex on the Information Desk. Registrations are due by January 1, 2016 but sooner is better as plans for transportation and funding options need to be arranged. Please call the church office at 715-842-3333 with any questions.

YOUTH CAROLING AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

Sunday, December 20—3-7:30pm

Youth and their families are invited to come and bring some Christmas cheer to local patients and residents. Then we will gather for food and Christmas fun as we play games, watch a Christmas movie, and enjoy the remodeled youth room. Sign up on the bulletin board and watch for more information via e-mail and bulletin.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 13, 1:30 pm (Children arrive by 1 pm)

What was it like for the Innkeeper and his family the night Mary and Joseph came to their door? Come and hear the story sing-along as children lead us in beloved Christmas Carols. Following the program, enjoy Christmas cookies and Christmas cheer in the Fellowship Hall!

Please Note: No Sunday School - December 20 & 27

Youth Events

Save the date for the following youth events and watch for further details in the bulletin and at the Information Desk.

Sunday, December 20 - Christmas Party
December 31 - Sr. High Lock-In

Please Note: No confirmation:
December 23 & 30

3-5 GRADE RETREAT

Who: 3-5 Grade Students

What: Winter Retreat

Where: Crossways Waypost Camp in Hatley, WI

When: Friday, January 22—Sunday, January 24

Cost: \$45 (will need to provide your own transportation)

Register by January 11

Registration forms can be found at the Information Desk in the Narthex or on the SALC website: www.salc-wausau.org. Chaperones are also welcome to attend!

THE CROSS IS UP-THE FLOORING IS IN!

Check out the Youth Room to see the latest development, it is fantastic! While not complete, the Youth Room update is making progress thanks to some key contributors: Kevin and Sue Schlinkman for donating the cross (wood and basic construction); Mark Clark (the idea!!, design, lighting, assembly and mounting); Pastor Craig (assembly, mounting and overall enthusiastic support); Terry Grabau (wiring, assembly and mounting); Mike Zenner (layout, assembly, mounting, staining); Al Brace (wiring, assembly, staining); Jason Rickstad (assembly and mounting); Travis Puig (mounting); Pat Stone (flooring assistance); David Mascorro (flooring assistance); Keith Rusch (coordinating the project); Tim Wimmer (lighting system); Jason Plansky (dry walling); Randy Trollop (staining); Kerry Fehrman (curtains) and to the many who gave generously to support this project. As an attempt to thank the many people who gave their time and resources for this project, this list may not be inclusive and our apologies if anyone has been overlooked. This is just one more step in getting the Youth Room complete. More progress coming soon! Now to furnish it and put it to good use as a gathering space for the SALC youth!

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

One person/family at a time, lives have been impacted by Financial Peace University-a nine week money makeover course offered at Saint Andrew. Whether having good financial skills and wise investing practices or no plan for managing money, all who have attended the course have expressed appreciation for what was shared and learned together. Personal information is shared only as you desire for the sake of learning together, but not required. FPU is a bible based program that challenges and improves stewardship practices that impact personal finances and sets in place a plan for debt-free living and joyful generosity. The next class will be **Sundays, beginning January 10 at 6 pm**. Cost: \$93/individual or couple. Registration is now open on the Saint Andrew website: salc-wausau.org.

DECEMBER

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Date	Worship Time	Altar Guild	Usher Team	Layreaders	Greeters	Fellowship
December 6	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 3	A	Julie Spalding Kaja Yirkovsky	Eugene Moyer/Dave Mueller Jim & Nancy Jordan	Sheldon & Connie Geiger Ann McDonald/Mary Wittich
December 13	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 3	B	Faith Martinson Susan Paisar	Brandon & Melissa Murphy Brad & Jessica Tipple	Marv & Joleen Meier George & Bonnie Alafouzios
December 20	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 4	Brekke	Shirley Bickford Eric Verber	John & Jayme Rusinek Garrett & Tara Lancelle	Keith & Sandi Rusch Shirley Bickford/Pam Mielke
December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm 10:00 pm	Team 4	Weidman Johnson Shepherd A	Volunteer Needed Dave Mueller Volunteer Needed Volunteer Needed		
December 25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	10:00 am	Team 4	B	Volunteer Needed		
December 27	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 4	Brekke	Ray Skare Mike Johnson	Tony & Wendi Howe Duane & Jill Meyer	Jason & Linda Rickstad Adam & Kathy Wurz

LECTIONARY READINGS

December 6	December 13	December 20	December 27
Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> November 15 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 </div>		9:00 AM Reading Reflections 11:30 AM OWLS & the SALC Staff Polluck & Christmas Carol Sing- Along	6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:10 PM - 12:50 PM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th&8th Gr Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP		
8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:00 AM Cookie Exchange 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM WORSHIP 12:00 PM Gingerbread Village Decorating 6:30 PM Bible Study Gift Basket Silent Auction & Christmas Decoration Sale- Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Dartball - Peace @ SALC	9:00 AM Reading Reflections 10:00 AM Quilting Group 6:30 PM Ministry Night Meetings	6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:00 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th&8th Gr Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP	10:00 AM Play Group 5:00 PM Lay School Classes	8:00 AM Lay School Classes
8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM WORSHIP 11:40 AM Open 2016 Budget Review Meeting 1:30 PM Sunday School Christ- mas Program & Cookie Fellowship 6:30 PM Bible Study Gift Basket Silent Auction & Christmas Decoration Sale- Fellowship Hall	7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Dartball - Wesley Methodist @ SALC	9:00 AM Reading Reflections 10:00 AM Quilting for Lutheran World Relief	6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:10 PM - 12:50 PM Women's Bible Study 5:00 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th&8th Gr Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting		
8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:00 AM Blood Pressure Checks 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM WORSHIP 6:30 PM Bible Study	7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Dartball - Mt. Olive @ SALC		6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:00 PM Handbell Choir 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	4:00 PM A Christmas Story Worship 6:00 PM & 8:00 PM Candlelight Worship w/Choirs 10:00 PM Candlelight Worship	10:00 AM Christmas Day Worship Christmas Day - Church Office Closed	
8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM WORSHIP	7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings		6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study	12:15 PM WORSHIP		

January 16						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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						

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:

Rose Evelyn Geiger - October 4	Tanner Marcus Tyjeski - November 8	Alexis Jaymes Wimmer - December 27
Hayden Hunter Lee Maahs - October 4	Liam Daniel Pagels - November 8	Luxxe Gabrielle Peterson - December 27
Leyton Mae Wendorf - October 18	Tyler Michael Quirt - November 22	Wyatt Joseph Wagner - January 10
Izabella Rose-Marie Alvarez - October 18	Cooper Robert Quirt - November 22	

A WEDDING PRAYER

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

Sarah & Ross Lyon - October 10
 Barb & David Patefield - November 14
 Katrina Jacobson & Matthew Reidinger - February 20

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	Don	Kevin	Ella	Laurel
Alyssa	Gary	Lainey	Katie	Shelly
Babs	Irma	Lucy	Diane	Brian
Barb	Jackie	Lynne	Clayton	Bob
Brenda	James, Henry &	Monica	Amy	Mike
Brianna	Elsie	Patricia	Bill	Liz
Callie and Zak	Jennette	Robin	Charlotte	Frank
Carol	Jennifer	Roland	Meg	Dennis
Charles	Jerry	Sonny	Tom	Dan
Darwin	John	Susan	Yvonne	
Dave	Kaitlyn	Tom	Dixie	
Dennis	Karen	William	Laura	

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, *Visitation Pastor*
Shelby Gjertson, *Parish Administrator*
Joy Mitchell, *Secretary*
Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*
Sheldon Geiger, *Bookkeeper*
Shannon Vujnovich, *Custodian*
Dave Paisar, *Custodian*
Cullen Stangel, *Sexton*
Zach Weis, *Sexton*

Upcoming Events/Activities



*We're on
Facebook! Follow
the link on our
website and click
"like" to keep up
with the latest
news and events!*

December 1	11:30 am	OWLS Christmas Potluck
December 6	9:00 am	Cookie Exchange
December 6	12:00 pm	Gingerbread House Decorating
December 6 & 13		Gift Basket Silent Auction/Christmas Decoration Treasure Sale
December 11	10:00 am	Play Group
December 13	11:40 am	2016 Budget Information Meeting
December 13	1:30 pm	Sunday School Christmas Program
December 20	3:00 pm	Youth Caroling & Christmas Party
December 20 & 27		NO SUNDAY SCHOOL
December 23 & 30		NO CONFIRMATION
December 24	4:00 pm	WORSHIP - A Christmas Story Worship
	6 & 8 pm	WORSHIP - Candlelight Worship with Chancel & Handbell Choirs
	10:00 pm	WORSHIP - Candlelight Worship
December 25	10:00 am	WORSHIP - Christmas Day
January 10-March 6	6:00 pm	Financial Peace University
January 22-24		3-5 Grade Retreat at Waypost Camp
January 31		Congregation Annual Meeting

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.

