



Network



Volume 8, Issue 1

January 2016

Year End Reflections by Pastor Craig

Days in the winter months are cold and gloomy. And, as of now, grey and lifeless the earth stands naked in this part of God's creation. Snow usually covers this landscape and hides this dismal image but for now, the earth lays bare as the days themselves have grown ever darker. In the midst of the darkness, however, there are glimmers of hope. Hope leads to expectation and fulfillment of what is promised as daylight hours lengthen again.

Christmas has come with sights, sounds and smells that resonate deep in the human spirit. There are acts of generosity, hospitality and kindness even in the midst of the darkness. Soon we will turn to the season of Epiphany which highlights the announcement of the good news message that Christ has entered the world on a cold dark night in Bethlehem and angels sang in chorus on the hills outside the city to lowly, sleepy-eyed shepherds who were moved with wonder, excitement and amazement. Good news for them and for all people for God's very presence was breaking into the human condition with renewed hope for the world. In a time when there seems to be so much focus on darkness (even the daylight hours are lessened), Epiphany makes it clear there is a light that pierces the darkness and brightens our days. This light gives us reason to boldly proclaim what the scriptures declare, "to us a child is born. To us a son is given." The threat of darkness diminishes for when light comes, we begin to see images, images of hope, images that are not quite so threatening and frightening. Darkness attempts to have power over us and darkness attempts to direct and define us but darkness is truly the absence of light and if we believe what the scriptures proclaim, "the darkness has not overcome [the light]." Light comes as God's promise comes again and again with renewed hope. Light comes and reflects images of hope upon the canvas of darkness and the light renews our joy and restores our hope. Together we have the great opportunity of bearing witness to hope, hope in a promise, a promise made flesh in Jesus.

As we prepare to turn the page on another year of life and ministry, we can pause and give thanks that God's promise continues to brighten our lives with abundant opportunities to share in each other's lives. This year, I am ever so grateful for your kindness and generous hearts that have supported the work of Christ's church through Saint Andrew. I am convinced that together, we have walked with one another and encouraged one another through glad as well as through challenging times. Through you, I have witnessed the hands and feet of Christ as you have fed the hungry, provided hospitality to the visitor, have given of your resources, mentored, taught, sang, rang, played, weeded, cared for the children, studied scripture, and generally encouraged one another all for the sake of reflecting God's love. In this way you have lightened the path and brightened the days. For all this and much more, I give thanks to God for you. Blessed New Year.

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.

Weekly Worship

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

Important Dates to Note

New Year's Eve Worship—Thursday, December 31, 12:15 pm

Congregational Annual Meeting—January 31, 10:45 pm;

(*Note: There will be no 10:45 pm worship on this day)

Youth Spaghetti Dinner—January 31 immediately following the Annual Meeting

Ash Wednesday—February 10, 12:15 and 6:15 pm

Super Bowl Snacks **Sunday, February 7**

Snack donations of any kind for the **Super Bowl Sunday Snack Sale** can be dropped off at church on *Friday, February 5* 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 Take a Break

The OWLS will take a little winter break during the months of January and February. Stay tuned to the Network to learn what will be coming up in March!



Noisy Offering will be received on *January 14 & 17* in support of the Warming Center of Wausau.

Play Group at SALC

Friday, January 8
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

We enter the new year with a plentiful supply of coffee, tea and chocolate. If there is a product you would like and don't see, it can be considered when sending in new orders. Last December a new variety of extra dark (80% cocoa) chocolate bars were ordered from Panama - they have a pleasant, sweet taste. Purchases of fair trade items help small landholder farmers build schools and clinics for their communities. Thank you!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Saint Andrew Annual Congregational Meeting will take place **Sunday, January 31 at 10:45 am in the sanctuary**. Because of this timing, there will be **NO 10:45 am WORSHIP on that Sunday**. Work is being done to have annual reports and the approved budget available as early as possible in January so members can pick them up in advance of the meeting. In the event a review of the report and budget prompts a question or concern, feel free to express that in person, by email or by phone to the church office so an informed answer can be provided or researched and given at the time of the meeting. Thank you in advance for your willingness to engage in conversation around the work of Christ's church through Saint Andrew. A spaghetti dinner is being planned as a fundraiser event to support the summer youth trip to Colorado. Please stay and enjoy a meal together.

YOUTH SPAGHETTI DINNER

Sunday, January 31, 11:45 am
Support the SALC youth who will be going to the Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Colorado in the summer of 2016! Immediately following the SALC Annual Congregational Meeting, all are welcome to the Fellowship Hall for a spaghetti dinner and time of fellowship.

READING REFLECTIONS

Beginning January 5, the Reading Reflections group will begin a study in the book, "Honoring They Neighbor's Faith". All are welcome to join in this thought provoking study.

SPRING 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

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.

Community Dinner

Sunday, January 17

Saint Andrew hosts Community Dinner at First Presbyterian Church in Wausau on the third Sunday of every other month.

Volunteers are needed from 3 to 6 pm. If you would like to help with this community ministry, please call the church office.

Memorial Gifts Received

Memorial Gifts were recently received in memory of Charles Kuntz. 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 make every effort to respond in a timely fashion. If you or a family member is in need of pastoral care, please contact the church office.

TIME TO SEW

Winter is the perfect time to sew and you don't have to be a seasoned quilter or seamstress to sew a quilt top in a kit or a school bag! Many kits are currently available in the kiosk in the Narthex ready to be sewn.

Completed items can be returned to the bottom drawer of the Information Desk.

FROM THE SALC LIBRARY

Thanks to the generous "Noisy Offering" and other donations, the SALC library has acquired some shiny new books! Fiction titles include "The 12 Brides of Christmas" (short stories) and "Keeping Christmas by Don Walsh. Contemporary fiction includes "Gone Without a Trace" by Patricia Bradley, "Unspoken" and "Taken" by Dee Henderson. Historical fiction includes "The Golden Braid" by Melanie Dickerson, "Echoes of Mercy" by Kim Vogel Sawyer and "To Everything a Season" by Lorraine Snelling. Watch for next month's article highlighting new Christian living titles and books on the bible.

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 Weis, lynweis26@gmail.com, 715-302-2520

ZEERUST MEMBERS PLAN A VISIT

A visit is expected from members of our partner congregation in Zeerust South Africa next summer. Once again, arrangements are being made at the Conference level to host congregational members from numerous South African congregations and to continue to bridge support and partnership across the globe. The primary word that describes this relationship is "Accompaniment." This means a mutual sharing of interest and support as we learn together how to be church and to bear witness to the gospel in differing contexts. The visit is planned for ***June 28-July 13***. As with the previous visit four years ago, help will be needed as we provide transportation, hospitality and housing during the visit. From what we know, the plan is that there will be 12 members visiting from Zeerust. If you wish to be part of the planning team for this visit, please consider attending a meeting at ***Saint Andrew on Saturday, January 16 beginning at 1pm*** following the January Lay School classes. Please also consider assisting in some way as you are able when details come together and more information is shared.

Thank you!

3-5 GRADE RETREAT

For the past two years, there has been a retreat for the younger members of Saint Andrew to get out to camp, have fun, do group building activities and spend two nights away at Waypost camp. Those who have previously attended have enjoyed the time. Therefore, another opportunity is being planned. Pastor Craig and Pastor Jenn will share in portions of the retreat and Pastor Craig will share a story from a book entitled "A Hat For Ivan." Each of us desires meaningful vocations but how do we know if we are doing what we are good at or what fits our personality? Through this story kids will come to realize we all have gifts to share and a lifetime to consider what God has in mind for sharing those gifts. It gets at the question, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" The retreat is for children in grades 3-5 and will take place **Friday, January 22—Sunday, January 24**. The cost for the retreat is **\$45**. Parents will need to arrange transportation. More details will be shared with those who register in order to be prepared for the time together. Registration forms are available on the Information Desk in the Narthex and on the Saint Andrew website: www.salc-wausau.org and need to be turned in by **January 11**.

Chaperones are needed. Please contact the church office if you are willing to help. THANK YOU!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January

Sunday, 3

Wednesday, 6

Friday-Sunday, 22-24

Friday-Saturday 29-30

Sunday School Resumes

Confirmation Resumes

3-5 Grade Winter Retreat

6-8th Grade Lock-in

February

Wednesday, 3

Tuesday, 9

Wednesday, 10

Last Confirmation Class

Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Supper

Ash Wednesday

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. 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.



Saint Andrew Endowment Fund

While a report will appear in the Saint Andrew Annual Report, this is just a simple expression of thank you to the many who have helped establish, expand and benefit from the Endowment Fund. The intent of the fund is truly to expand and enhance ministry opportunities beyond the regular budget of Saint Andrew. To date, the fund has just over \$40,000 in invested dollars and has distributed \$2,000 through various grants over the past year. It has been yet another way of allowing generous gifts to be received and then shared on behalf of campus ministry, lay school support, camping ministries, and compassionate outreach through a local support program. Gifts of an amount are appreciated and proportionately shared with those expressing a need. Both giving and requesting support are welcomed and can be done at anytime. In the event you are in the process of estate and future planned giving, please consider a portion of your giving to the Endowment Fund as a legacy gift that continues to bless others for years to come. A copy of a formal Letter of Intent is available on the Saint Andrew website or through the church office. Thank you for sharing!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Thank you to all who helped with the 2nd annual Saint Andrew Thanksgiving dinner. It was a wonderful meal with great fellowship. Saint Andrew looks forward to this event again next year!

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, **97 hats, 56 pairs of gloves/mittens and 60 pairs of socks** 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.

Thank you to all who donated and purchased Christmas decorations and silent auction gift baskets raising approximately \$1500 in support the youth room renovation and the youth going to Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp in Colorado in the summer of 2016. A matching donation has also been received in support of this fundraiser—thank you!!

And, thank you to the *Koenig family* for donating the Christmas trees in memory of parents, Ervin & Arvella; to *Tina Spiegel and family* for the pine bough cross in the sanctuary; to *Charmaine Burnett and family* for the Narthex Christmas tree decorating; to *Pat, Cindy and Carson Stone* for the ice luminaries lighting the pathways to the church on Christmas Eve; and to *Randy Springer* for the exterior Christmas bough decorations.

JANUARY

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

Date	Worship Time	Altar Guild	Usher Team	Layreaders	Greeters	Fellowship
January 3	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 5	Weidman	Michael Spalding Jaime Henrichs	Shirley Bickford & Cindy Skadah Billie Schmidt & Shirley Schulz	Mike & Jeannine Matushak Terry & June Grabau
January 10	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 5	Johnson	April Mascorro Cheryl Allen	Larry & Annette Bindl Bruce & Linda Beyer	Steve & Kay Sitko Adam & Kathy Wurz
January 17	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 6	Shepherd	Alex Cappel Judith Marshall	Eric & Jamie Hane Mike Koehmstedt & Mary Wittich	Joanne Howard & Jim Jacobson Greg & Jeanne Willems
January 24	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 6	A	Diane Goetsch Chris Kensmoe	Duane & Sharlene Kreft Jerry & Marlene Kort	Eric & Jamie Hane Roger & Ruth Poutanen
January 31	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 2	B	Duane Zietlow Dewey Allen	Marv & Joleen Meier Jeff & Pam Kyhos	Sid & Leslie Sorensen Russ & Alice Van Skike

LECTIONARY READINGS

January 3	January 10	January 17	January 24	January 31
Jeremiah 31:7-14 Psalm 147:12-20 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:[1-9] 10-18	Isaiah 43:1-7 Psalm 29 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22	Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalm 36:5-10 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Psalm 19 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Psalm 71:1-6 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30

January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM WORSHIP 6:30 PM Bible Study	4 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Dartball - SALC @ Immanuel Baptist	5 9:00 AM Reading Reflections NO OWLS EVENT	6 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:10 PM - 12:50 PM Women's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th & 8th Gr Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP	8 10:00 AM Play Group	9 8:00 AM Lay School Classes 12:30 PM South African 2016 June-July Visit Liaison Planning Meeting
10 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM WORSHIP 6:00 PM Financial Peace University Class 6:30 PM Bible Study	11 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Dartball - St Michaels @ SALC	12 9:00 AM Reading Reflections 10:00 AM Quilting Group 6:30 PM Ministry Night Meetings	13 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th & 8th Gr Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	14 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP	15 5:00 PM Lay School Classes	16 8:00 AM Lay School Classes 12:30 PM South African 2016 June-July Visit Liaison Planning Meeting
17 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM WORSHIP 6:00 PM Financial Peace University Class 6:30 PM Bible Study	18 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 7:30 PM Dartball - SALC @ St Stephens	19 9:00 AM Reading Reflections 10:00 AM Quilting for Lutheran World Relief	20 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:10 PM - 12:50 PM Women's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th & 8th Gr Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	21 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP 7:00 PM Church Council Meeting	22	23
24 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM Sunday School Classes 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM WORSHIP 6:00 PM Financial Peace University Class 6:30 PM Bible Study	25 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Dartball - St Paul @ SALC	26 9:00 AM Reading Reflections	27 6:45 AM Men's Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th & 8th Gr Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	28 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP	29	30 1:30 PM Synod Event - Equipping for Ministry in a Diverse World

3rd - 5th Gr Retreat - Crossways Waypost Camp - Hall...

December 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	31		

February 16						
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				

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:

Tanner Marcus Tyjeski - November 8
Liam Daniel Pagels - November 8
Tyler Michael Quirt - November 22
Cooper Robert Quirt - November 22

Alexis Jaymes Wimmer - December 27
Luxxe Gabrielle Peterson - December 27
Wyatt Joseph Wagner - January 10

A WEDDING PRAYER

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

Barb & David Patefield - November 14
Katrina Jacobson & Matthew Reidinger - February 20

WE PRAY...

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

Jacalyn Schoeder
John Howard

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	Lynn	Diane	Brian
Alyssa	Gary	Lynne	Clayton	Bob
Babs	Gene	Monica	Amy	Mike
Barb	Irma	Patricia	Bill	Liz
Brenda	Elsie	Reggie	Charlotte	Frank
Brianna	Jennette	Robin	Meg	Dennis
Callie and Zak	Jennifer	Roland	Tom	Greta
Carol	Jerry	Sonny	Yvonne	Laci
Charles & Gerry	Karen	Susan	Dixie	
Darwin	Kevin	Tom	Laura	
Dave	Lainey	William	Laurel	
Dennis	Lucy	Ella	Shelly	

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

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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, *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!*

January 3		Sunday School Classes Resume
January 6		Confirmation Classes Resume
January 8	10:00 am	Play Group
January 10-March 6	6:00 pm	Financial Peace University
January 16	1:00 pm	South African Visit Planning Meeting
January 17		Community Dinner at First Presbyterian Church
January 22-24		3-5 Grade Retreat at Waypost Camp
January 29 & 30		6-8 Grade Lock-In
January 31	10:45 am	Congregation Annual Meeting
January 31	11:45 am	Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser
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February 3		Last Confirmation Class
February 7		Super Bowl Snack Sale
February 9		Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
February 10	12:15 & 6:15 pm	Ash Wednesday WORSHIP

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.

