

Network



Volume 11, Issue 12

December 2019

Network Note from Pastor Jenn

I think of a pregnant woman having made an uncomfortable journey, mentally and physically exhausted, preparing to give birth to her first child – who she had been told by an angel was also God's child and the savior of the world. *I don't know how she found the strength to wrap her brain or her heart around that?* I think of how far away she was from the women that could have helped her and the comforts of home. Away from a real blanket and a bed – away from a sanitary environment – away from her own mother. In the cold, foreign stable, in an overcrowded Bethlehem, there she endures childbirth with no more than Joseph's voice and hands helping her through; cloths of some kind to swaddle this miracle child; the cold scratch of hay and the smell of animals; the young visiting shepherds that find Joseph and Mary and the child and share with them the surreal experience they had in the field – before they left their sheep.

If God were to bring the messiah into the world – *why would it happen like this?* Why not in some kind of pristine palace or towering temple? One might think – that God being God – would have chosen a more stable situation than a stable and a manger away from Nazareth. But then again – the very idea of the incarnation is a mystery in and of itself... That God would long for a lived understanding of human life, death, suffering, joy, fear and peace is truly a miracle.

God's word becomes flesh – God finds humanity and fuses our salvation to the human experience. That's what it means to have a messiah – that we are no longer left alone to misunderstanding and solitude in the darkness of death – but instead; when we face less than ideal circumstances; when we find ourselves in the disorienting and helpless place of sin – God meets us with faithfulness and understanding and says things like "peace" and "be not afraid..."

God is not a God for only ideal circumstances and the right time or the right person or the right situation. Instead, God breaks in to the unexpected; the uncomfortable. It is also true – that once in a while, we find ourselves under the best circumstances – discovering the grace and love God has for us. But more often, I have come to witness; it is when things are less than ideal. When we are not ready or looking – God shows up in big ways.

You may be thinking – how? How can we believe that to be true when so much is yet unresolved in this world of dark and sin? We believe this to be true because the light that shined in the darkness came and the darkness did not overcome it. Even through the death of this child that would one day grow – even and especially in the cross of Jesus Christ, we find God's pattern for our redemption. So it is quite possible that God's grace and light might be shining where you least expect and that the love we have for each other through Christ reveals God's glory enough that we are able to hope and even, find some joy. Met in God, at Christmas, our hopes and fears are held tight; held in God's good strong hands and never failing love.

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas, dear 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-



150202 County Road NN
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 am

Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

4:00 pm

6:00 & 8:00 pm

10:00 pm

Family Christmas Worship

Candlelight Worship with

Chancel and Handbell Choirs

Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

9:30 am

Christmas Day Worship



Older Wiser Lutherans!

Tuesday, Dec. 3, 11:30 am

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



Fair Trade Products

Look for new and exciting items coming to the SALC Fair Trade table. Need ideas for Christmas gifts? Come and check out the new products! There will be more shopping opportunities throughout the month of December.

Noisy Offering

Change to spare for a worthy cause? A Noisy Offering will be received on **Thursday and Sunday, December 12 & 15** in support of ELCA World Hunger.

Bake Sale

The 7th grade confirmation students will hold a bake sale on **Sunday, December 8** in support of the middle school student food pantry.

Christmas Food Baskets

If you or someone you know would appreciate receiving a Christmas Food Basket, please call the church office by **Tuesday, December 17** at 715-842-3333. Baskets will be ready to be picked up on **Saturday, December 21 at 9:30 am.**

SAINT ANDREW CALLS ASSOCIATE PASTOR

At a special congregational meeting held November 17, 2019, the congregation voted with over 99% approval to call the Rev. Justin Smoot as our next Associate Pastor. Pastor Justin and his family will come to be among us after the new year with a target date of starting the final week of January. When Pastor Justin's current congregation has been appropriately notified, more biographical information and a link to the video greeting he shared will be available. Please pray for Pastor Justin, his wife, Pastor Phyllis—and their children, Genevieve and Lilian.



Pr. Justin Smoot

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Help beautify the altar at Christmas with a poinsettia to remember or honor a loved one. Order forms are available online (salc-wausau.org) and at the Information Desk. Order deadline: **Sunday, December 1.**



TRIMMING THE TREES TOGETHER

Sunday, December 8, 4:00 pm

Everyone is invited to help "deck the halls" of Saint Andrew as we prepare to celebrate Advent and Christmas. There will be several trees to trim including the two Sanctuary trees, and we will set up the nativity, prep candles for Christmas Eve, and hang other decorations. When all the work is done, enjoy a chili supper hosted by the Saint Andrew staff. Sign up on the Information Desk or call the office if interested so we can plan for the meal.



SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 15, 9:30 am

The SALC Sunday school students will present "Too Many Shepherds", a unique telling of the Christmas story, during the 9:30 worship service. Members are invited to bring their favorite Christmas cookies to share for fellowship following the service. Drop them off on Friday, December 13 or bring them on Sunday morning. Plan to attend to receive the Christmas message from our youngest members!

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING



Sunday, December 15, 10:45 am in the Activity Room

Fun for the whole family! Get into the holiday spirit by helping to decorate a gingerbread village that will be on display at church and a local nursing home. The gingerbread houses, frosting and candy will be provided as well as lunch. Bring your creativity and join us in the Activity Room. A sign-up sheet is available on the Information Desk.



In the SALC Library

Celebrate the Christmas season with a good book. Come check out the Christmas display in the library.

Join the SALC 40th Anniversary Team

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 5:00 pm

The meeting will take place in the Parish room. All are welcome!

An Evening with the Holy Spirit(s)

Tuesday, December 3, 7:00 pm

Enjoy a night of spirited faith-based discussion and craft spirits at Timekeeper Distillery, downtown Wausau.

Art Devos

Please note that Art Devos classes will not meet on **November 27, December 25 or January 1.**

SALC Memorial Gifts

Gifts were received in memory of Lee Burmeister and Sharon Bloch. 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.

SALC "GIVING TREE"

Once again there will be an opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs of the ELCA through *ELCA Good Gifts*. Stop by the tree in the Fellowship Hall and take an ornament with a suggested donation. Checks can be made payable to "ELCA Good Gifts" with your gift(s) written in the memo line and sent to: **ELCA, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**. You can also donate online at goodgifts.elca.org. Keep the ornament as a keepsake. Also available on the tree are paper ornaments to take as a reminder when out shopping to purchase an extra gift of a child/youth size hat or pair of insulated gloves/mittens to then be shared in the local schools.

Do You Have SALC PHOTOS?

If you have photos from 2019, we would like to include them in the annual meeting as a part of the year in review.

If you have photos of your time at SALC over the years we would love for you to share them with us for the 40th anniversary celebration next year.

All photos can be submitted through the SALC website 40th anniversary page. If you have printed copies you would like to share, please e-mail jenna@salc-wausau.org to coordinate a time to drop them off.

SPENDING PLAN REVIEW

Sunday, December 15, 10:45 am

A special informational meeting will take place in the Activity Room for anyone who wishes to learn about the budget process. Using giving records for 2019, pledged support for 2020, and ministry needs, a proposed estimated budget will be presented to inform interested members of the anticipated budget for the coming year of ministry. Anyone is welcome to attend this informative meeting and to ask questions about the year ahead before the **Annual Meeting is held on January 26, 2020.**

BUILDING ACCESS TRANSITION & SAFETY PROCEDURE TRAINING

The church council appointed a safety task force in 2017. They have recently created a plan for more mindful access of the building with the safety of members, children, and staff in mind. Beginning **December 2, during weekly office hours** please access the building through the Southeast door by the office. On Fridays, please utilize the doorbell on the left side of the doors. **Thursday evening worship-goers** please use the North door by the Chapel or the Southeast door by the office. **On Sundays** all doors will be open—with the Courtyard and West doors locking after Sunday school begins at 9:45 am. See the Information Desk for more in-depth detail and the history of the transition.

Training

**Sundays, December 1 or 8, 10:45 am
In the Sanctuary**

All ushers, Sunday school teachers, and interested members are asked to attend either one of these scheduled meetings to learn about updates from the safety task force regarding door scheduling and safety procedure updates.

FIRST COMMUNION

The Faith Formation Ministry has been working to fold special rites of passage into our life together. Instead of its own stand alone worship service, join in celebrating some of our fifth grade students as they come to the Lord's table for the first time on Sunday Morning, **December 8**. You will know to congratulate them because they will be wearing special cross necklaces that day.



7TH GRADE BAKE SALE

Sunday, December 8

A group of SALC 7th Grade confirmation students will hold a bake sale in support of the area middle school student food pantry. Stop by their table to purchase your favorite goodies!

ADULT CONFIRMATION

Adult confirmation will be offered in January through Lay School. Watch the Network and bulletins for more information.

2020 YOUTH SUMMER TRIP

A summer backpacking trip through Christikon Lutheran Church Camp in Montana for youth that have finished 9th grade is being planned. An initial sign-up to gauge interest will be available at the Information Desk with an informational meeting to be held in January. For more details, visit christikon.org or speak with Jenna.

MIDWINTER RETREAT

Who: 3-6 Grade Students (& Parent chaperones)

What: Time at camp in God's beautiful creation to play and explore in the snow, study bible stories, sing and play games around a theme focused on faith and life.

When: **Friday, January 24** (drop off: 6:30-7:00 pm)
—**Sunday, January 26** (pick up: 11:00 am)

Where: Crossways Waypost Camp in Hatley, WI

Cost: \$50 (will need to provide your own transportation.)

Register by **January 12**—online (www.salc-wausau.org) or at the Information Desk in the Narthex. Please see Jenna, Faith Formation Coordinator, with questions.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION DATES

December 8: First Communion –9:30 Worship

December 15: Sunday School Christmas Program

December 22 & 29: No Sunday School

December 25: No Confirmation

January 1: No Confirmation

January 5: Sunday School Resumes

January 8: Confirmation Resumes

WAYPOST CAMPS OPPORTUNITIES

Waypost Camp in Hatley is currently looking for a Housekeeper to clean the lodge between groups. This is a very flexible position in that there are no set hours, just as needed and before the next group arrives. If you or someone you know may be interested in this part-time position please contact Waypost Camp.

Interested in volunteering? The Site Team is currently looking for new and able volunteers with some building/construction experience or volunteer experience. The Site Team meets a handful of times throughout the year to discuss projects around camp, have a couple people from the team represent Waypost during Property Committee meetings, and organize other volunteers for camp projects. (*Join Pr. Jenn who is serving on this team!*)

Next summer's team is already being sought. If you or someone you know would be an awesome summer staff member, Waypost Camp would love to hear from you!

For any of these opportunities, please contact Mike at: mike@crosswayscamps.org.

CALL PROCESS UPDATES

After an affirmative congregational vote to call an associate pastor, Pastor Justin now has a window of 30 days to discern and formally accept or reject the call, and to share the news in his current context. After formal acceptance, his introductory video and the announcement will be shared more broadly.



SAINT ANDREW SPENDING PLAN

Looking back at October:

Average attendance	532
Your gifts returned to God	\$ 53,940
Ministry costs for Saint Andrew	<u>61,228</u>
Gifts greater (less) than costs	\$ (7,288)



For more information, please see the Finance and Stewardship bulletin board just outside the office.

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP IN NOVEMBER

Date	Worship Time	Altar Guild	Usher Team	Lay Readers	Greeters	Fellowship	Cookie Bakers
December 1 <i>Advent 1</i>	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 3	Weidman	Ron Dotseth Jayne Germinaro	Jacobson Nelson Schmidt Wittich	Sorensen McDonald Wittich	Miller Halvorsen
December 8 <i>Advent 2</i>	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 3	Johnson	Diane Goetsch Herb Heyne	Jarvis Spalding Murphy	Stangel Frolik Mielke	Frolik
December 15 <i>Advent 3</i>	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 4	Shepherd	Dave Mueller Lynn Lawson	Dotseth Soukup	Wiederhoeft Alafouzios	Rusch Smith
December 22 <i>Advent 4</i>	9:30 am	Team 4	A	Mary Jarvis Dan Malm	Weidman Alafouzios	Breese Spiegel Gnatz	Spiegel
December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm 10:00 pm	Team 5	B Tipple Weidman Johnson	<i>Volunteer</i>	_____	_____	_____
December 25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	9:30 am	Team 5	Shepherd	<i>Volunteer</i>	_____	_____	_____
December 29	9:30 am	Team 6	A	Dick Jarvis Judith Marshall	Weis Schilling	Dotseth Grabau	Wittich McDonald

LECTIONARY READINGS

December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	December 29
Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19 Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12	Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11	Isaiah 7:10-16 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25	Isaiah 9:2-7 Psalm 96 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]	Isaiah 62:6-12 Psalm 97 Titus 3:4-7 Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20	Isaiah 63:7-9 Psalm 148 Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:13-23

December 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:00 AM Worship 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School Classes 10:45 AM Safety Procedure Training	2 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen 7:00 PM Darball vs. St. Paul's	3 9:00 AM Reading Reflections 11:30 AM OWLS Potluck and Sing Along 7:00 PM Holy Spirit(s) at Time-keeper Disillery	4 6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study 9:30 AM Wonder? Women's Lectionary Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Art Devo 5:15 PM Handbell Reh. 6:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Conf. 6:30 PM Chancel Choir	5 12:15 PM Worship 6:15 PM Worship	6 	7
8 8:00 AM Worship 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship with First Communion 9:45 AM Sunday School Classes 10:45 AM Safety Procedure Training 4:00 PM Trim the Trees & Deck the Halls	9 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen 7:00 PM Darball at Peace	10 9:00 AM Reading Reflections 10:00 AM Quilting Group 5:00 PM 40th Anniversary Planning Team Meeting 6:30 PM Ministry Night Meetings	11 6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study 9:30 AM Wonder? Women's Lectionary Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Art Devo 5:15 PM Handbell Reh. 6:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Conf. 6:30 PM Chancel Choir	12 12:15 PM Worship 6:15 PM Worship 7:00 PM Council Meeting	13 5:00 PM Lay School Classes	14 8:00 AM Lay School Classes
15 8:00 AM Worship 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship with Sunday School Christmas Program 9:45 AM Sunday School Classes 10:45 AM Gingerbread House Decorating 10:45 AM Spending Plan Review	16 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen 7:00 PM Darball at Wesley	17 9:00 AM Reading Reflections 10:00 AM Quilting for LWR	18 6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study 9:30 AM Wonder? Women's Lectionary Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 11:00 AM Art Devo 5:15 PM Handbell Reh. 6:15 PM 7th & 8th Grade Conf. 6:30 PM Chancel Choir	19 12:15 PM Worship 6:15 PM Worship	20 	21
22 8:00 AM Worship 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School Classes	23 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen	24 4:00 PM Family Christmas Worship 6:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Choirs 8:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship with Choirs 10:00 PM Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship	25 9:30 AM Christmas Day Worship Christmas Day-Church Office Closed	26 12:15 PM Worship 6:15 PM Worship	27 	28
29 8:00 AM Worship 9:30 AM Adult Bible Study 9:30 AM Worship 9:45 AM Sunday School Classes	30 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen	31 	<div> <div> November 19 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 </div> <div> January 20 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 </div> </div>			

WE PRAY

For Baptisms:

Giving thanks for the gift of baptism, we lift up those children, parents and sponsors who have recently been received or will be received into the family of faith. We pray especially for:

Duncan Joshua Denzin - October 6
Hailey June Mroczenski - October 20
Everly Mae Mayer - November 24
Delaney Rose Laher - December 29

For Weddings:

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

Tou Bee and Mallory Yang - October 5

For Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

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

Lee Burmeister

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...

Aiden	Jennifer	Neil	Amy	Angie & Laura
Ali	Jerry	Nikki	Tom	Harper
Alice	Jim	Nora	Yvonne	Emmerson
Ashley	Karen	Orreanna	Laura	Cullen
Babs	Kristin	Pam	Frank	Jay
Bev	Kristine & Family	Phil	Pam	Barb
Bill	Leann	Robin	Helen	Audrey
Brian	Lynne & Dan	Roland	Riley	Deb
Callie & Zak	Meg	Shirley	Katie	Bella
Charles & Gerry	Meghan	Tom	Joe	
Ed	Melanie	Tony	Judy	
Jaime	Michael	Zoe	Becky	
Jan	Monica	Zurn	Dale	

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)



150202 County Road NN
Wausau, WI 54401-7275

Parish Staff

Rev. Jenn Collins, *Pastor*
Rev. Jeff Martinson, *Visitation Pastor*
Joy Mitchell, *Secretary*
Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*
Jenna Diedrich, *Faith Formation Coordinator*
Sheldon Geiger, *Bookkeeper*
Shannon Vujnovich, *Custodian*
Dave Paisar, *Custodian*
Matthew Clark, *Sexton*
Jenna Rusch, *Sexton*
Dave Mueller, *Sexton*

Interested in a paper copy of the Network?

Pick one up on the Information Desk in the Narthex or
call the office to be added to the mailing list.

Upcoming Events/Activities

DECEMBER

1	10:45 am	Safety Procedure Training
3	11:30 am	OWLS Potluck and Christmas Sing Along
3	7:00 pm	Holy Spirit(s) at Timekeeper Distillery
8		7 th Grade Bake Sale
8	9:30 am	First Communion Worship
8	10:45 am	Safety Procedure Training
8	4:00 pm	Trim the Trees and Deck the Halls
10	5:00 pm	40 th Anniversary Planning Team Meeting
15	9:30 am	Sunday School Christmas Program
15	10:45 am	Spending Plan Review
15	10:45 am	Gingerbread House Decorating
24	4:00 pm	Family Christmas Worship
24	6:00 & 8:00 pm	Candlelight Worship with Chancel and Handbell Choirs
24	10:00 pm	Candlelight Worship
25	9:30 am	Christmas Day Worship

JANUARY

5		Sunday School Resumes
8		Confirmation Classes Resume
24-26		Grades 3-6 Mid-Winter Retreat at Waypost Camp
26		SALC Annual Meeting



**SALC is on Facebook! Follow the link on the Saint Andrew website
and click "like" to keep up with the latest news and events!**