

# Network



Volume 9, Issue 12

December 2017

## *An Advent and Christmas Message by Pastor Craig*

While I enjoy the four-week season of Advent, I admit I do not savor it as much as I should. Christmas is such an important and special celebration that the seasons on either side (Advent/Epiphany) often get shortchanged. There is decorating, school programs, parties, family gatherings, shopping, feasting and that all takes so much time that we often neglect the special season that leads up to Christmas. This year will be particularly challenging since December 24 (Advent 4) is on a Sunday, Christmas Eve day. It will be a quick turnaround as we shift from Sunday morning worship (9:30 only on that Sunday) and make ready for the larger gathering of people who will come to celebrate the Christmas story highlighted in Luke 2 beginning at 4 pm. (This year's story at 4 pm, by the way, will be a reading of a children's book about a camel and his experience with Christmas and I am excited to share it with the children!)

See how easy it is to shift to Christmas? And I'll bet some of you are already becoming curious! In an effort to slow us down a bit and help shape a focus for Advent, two resources will be available for individuals and families. ELCA World Hunger has developed an Advent Study and a daily tab calendar to help us see the importance of feeding, clothing, accompanying and advocating with others to extend the blessings God provides us and the challenge to be generous and joyful. Look for these in the narthex.

As this special season unfolds, I encourage you to develop some kind of pattern that keeps you looking forward with hopeful anticipation as we long for rebirth and new life through the dark places of our lives and the world. Whether your life seems on the fast track pace or whether your days are long and lonely, know that the promised Messiah, Jesus, has come among us and his presence illumines our path with hope beyond our challenges. Lean in and savor the season that is before us. Blessed Advent – Merry Christmas!

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

## **Weekly Worship**

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

### **Advent 4, Sunday, December 24**

9:30 am **Worship (one service only)**

### **Christmas Eve, Sunday, 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, Monday, December 25**

9:30 am **Christmas Day Worship**

### **Sunday, December 31**

9:30 am **Worship (one service only)**



3200 N. Mountain Road  
Wausau, WI 54401-7275  
715.842.3333 (FEED)  
[www.salc-wausau.org](http://www.salc-wausau.org)



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## OWLS

**Tuesday, December 5**

**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.



## Christmas Food Baskets

If you or someone you know would appreciate receiving a Christmas Food Basket, please call the church office by **Tuesday, December 14** at 715-842-3333. Baskets will be assembled on **Saturday, December 16**.

## Noisy Offering

A Noisy Offering will be received on **Thursday and Sunday, December 14 & 17** during worship in support of **ELCA World Hunger**.

## Blood Pressure Checks

Blood pressure checks will be available on **December 17, 9:00-9:30 am** in the library area of the Fellowship Hall.

## Fair Trade Products

**Sunday, December 17**

A recent order from Equal Exchange has adequately stocked the shelves for all your Christmas and New Year's needs and wishes. Thanks for your purchases since, not only is it good for those who purchase these products, it helps the communities in which the small landowner farmers who grow products for Fair Trade support, bring hope and help to their neighbors and friends.

## GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

**Sunday, December 3, 10:45 am**

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. Sign-up at the Information Desk.

## HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE

**Sunday, December 10, 9:00 am**

It's that time of year when the best cookies are made... what fun to make more to share and to trade!

Here's how it works:

- \* Bake six dozen holiday cookies
- \* Package your cookies in bundles of six to exchange. Be creative!
- \* Attach a copy of your cookie recipe to each package. (optional)
- \* Bring a container to take your cookies home.



A sign-up sheet is available at the Information Desk.

## SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER!



Please help spread Christmas cheer to home-bound members of the community! The Christian Education Ministry is gathering Sunday School families to make visits on **Thursday December 14. We will meet at church at 4 pm**, sing kid-friendly Christmas songs at two homes, and end with fellowship at Polito's Pizza. Please sign up at the Information Desk.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS SING

The Sunday school children will share Christmas songs during **9:30 am worship on Sunday, December 17**. Christmas cookies will be served following the service. Plan to attend to hear the Christmas message through song from our youngest members!

## SALC "GIVING TREE"

As the holiday season approaches there will be a "Giving Tree" in the Fellowship Hall. Please feel welcome to take a paper ornament as a reminder when out shopping to purchase an extra gift of a child/youth size hat or pair of insulated gloves and mittens to then be shared in our local schools. Ornaments will also be available to support ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for sharing in ministry and outreach in the community and around the world through Saint Andrew.

## WAUSAU WARMING CENTER

The Saint Andrew Warming Center Team is looking for cooks to make meals for the Wausau Warming Center. The disposable containers with insulated carrying case will be supplied. Some supplies will also be provided. Approximately 25 guests are served. There are six dates to choose from and a sign-up sheet is available on the Information Desk. **Note:** the center currently is in need of men's long underwear, hats and winter gloves.

**Ministry Members Needed**

The Finance/Stewardship Ministry needs one or two new members starting in January and meets monthly. If you would like to help provide new ideas for the stewardship efforts and guide the church's finances, please indicate this on your Time and Talent form- no finance or accounting experience is necessary. This is a great opportunity to learn and serve!

**2018 Altar Flowers**

Honor a loved one or special event with altar flowers in 2018. Your flowers may be taken home to be enjoyed following the last worship service on Sunday. Sign up on the Flower Chart posted on the kiosk in the Narthex. More details and a Flower Chart to sign up are available on the Flower Chart.

**Memorial Gifts Received**

Memorial gifts were received in memory of Lucy Lahr, Sara Quirt Sann and Brian Loy. 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.

**Pastoral Care**

As a practice, three area hospitals are contacted during the work week to inquire about member hospitalization. If you or a family member is in need of pastoral care during a particularly challenging time, please contact the church office.

**2018 BUDGET INFORMATION MEETING**

A special informational meeting will take place on **Sunday, December 10 at 10:45 am** in the Activity Room for anyone who wishes to learn about the budget process. Using giving records for 2017, pledged support for 2018, 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 28, 2018.**

**FAST, CONVENIENT GIVING WITH A TEXT!**

Simply send a text message to 715-800-2369 with the amount you would like to contribute. Within a few minutes, you will be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and debit or card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email. For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text "repeat" to make it a recurring donation. This is just another opportunity to assist you in generous giving in support of Saint Andrew. Through whatever method you give, thank you!

**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 3.**  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUR PICTURES ARE WANTED!

The Saint Andrew Church History Team continues their work to create "history frames" for the Fellowship Hall. The current focus is on collecting pictures related to youth events. They would like you to dig through your pictures to help locate group photos of the following past youth events.

### Group photos from the National Youth Gatherings:

July 1997 - New Orleans	July 2000 - St. Louis
July 2003 - Atlanta	July 2006 - San Antonio
July 2009 - New Orleans	July 2012 - New Orleans
July 2015 - Detroit	

### Group photos from mission trips:

July 1999 - South Dakota	July 2002 - West Hamlin, West VA
July 2005 - New Orleans, Louisiana	July 2008 - Rosebud, SD
July 2010 - New Orleans, Louisiana	July 2011 - Philadelphia, PA
July 2016 - Sky Ranch Camp	

**Group Photos from Boundary Waters trips:** 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007

**Group Photos from the Annual Synod Youth Gatherings (and year taken)**

**Group Photos of the Broom Ball Teams (and year taken)**

Having the names of the individuals in the photos would be a great help. Drop photos off at the church office and indicate if you would like to have the photo returned. Thank you for your assistance! Please let the church office know if you are interested in participating on the Church History Team!

## 2018 ZEERUST TRIP

In a recent correspondence from our sister church, Zeerust Luthern Church in South Africa – we received a warm invitation to be a part of the companion synod visit in the summer of 2018. Dr. Benjamin Molokoe writes, *"We learn that there will be a visit by the churches from Central Wisconsin River Valley Conference from the 07 July to 16 July 2018. It is exciting news as we hope some members of Saint Andrew will also be able to travel. We look forward to host as many people as possible. Send our kind greetings to all our brothers and sisters at Saint Andrew."* If you might have interest in traveling to South Africa in July of 2018, plan on attending an informational meeting on **Sunday, December 17 at 10:45 am**. We will gauge interest, talk about the purpose of the trip, and share the logistics that are known.

## MID-WINTER RETREAT AT CROSSWAYS

For the past few years, there has been a retreat for the younger members of Saint Andrew to get out to camp, have fun playing and exploring in the snow with Pastor Craig and Pastor Jenn, do group building activities and games, interactive Bible studies and worship – all in God's beautiful creation. We will spend two nights away at Waypost camp near Hatley, Wisconsin – about a 30 minute drive from church. **Chaperones are needed.** Please contact the church office if you are willing to help. THANK YOU!

**Who:** 3-6 Grade Students

**When:** Friday, January 12 (drop off: 6:30-7:00 pm) — Sunday, January 14 (pick up: 11:00 am)

**Where:** Crossways Waypost Camp in Hatley, WI

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

**Register by January 3**

## CONFIRMATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL UPCOMING DATES

**December 3**—7-12 Grades Movie Night

**December 6**—7-12 Grades Tree Decorating

**December 17**—Sunday School Christmas Sing  
during 9:30 am worship

**December 24 & 31**—No Sunday School Classes

**December 27**—No Confirmation Classes

**January 12-14** — Grades 3-6 Midwinter Retreat at Waypost

**March 4, 11 & 18**—First Communion Classes at 4:00 pm

**March 25**—First Communion Worship at 2:00 pm

## WEDNESDAY CONFIRMATION FELLOWSHIP

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade confirmation students are invited to stay after confirmation class on Wednesday evenings for snacks, fellowship and fun in the Emmaus Youth Room beginning in December. Initial plan for students choosing to participate to then be picked up at 8:00 pm. Watch for more information to be sent home with your student on Wednesday, November 29!

## FPU

A Financial Peace University (FPU) class is currently scheduled for **Sundays at 6:00 pm beginning January 7**. Classes run nine weeks and the cost includes a one year \$100 subscription to the "Everydollar Budgeting App" that connects to your bank account for easier budgeting. Two FPU kits and one Smart Money kit are available at no cost on a first come, first serve basis—please call the church office if you are interested in one. Sign up for the FPU class is available on the Dave Ramsey website: <https://fpu.com/1052968>



## ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Date	Worship Time	Altar Guild	Usher Team	Lay Readers	Greeters	Fellowship
<b>December 3</b> <i>Advent 1</i>	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 5	Johnson	Paul Nelson Susan Paisar	Mike & Julie Spalding Brandon & Melissa Murphy	David & Nancy Larson Pam Mielke & Joanne Howard
<b>December 10</b> <i>Advent 2</i>	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 5	Shepherd	Gary Hibbard Shirley Bickford	Tom & Deb Garton Travis & Emilie Puig	Bill & Doreen Radloff Ann McDonald & Mary Wittich
<b>December 17</b> <i>Advent 3</i>	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 6	A	Julie Spalding Susan Paisar	Jim Jacobson & Eugene Moyer John & Jayme Rusinek	Jim Jacobson & Susie Soukup Mike & Carrie Clemment
<b>December 24</b> <i>Advent 4</i>	9:30 am	Team 6	TBD	TBD	TBD	Sid & Leslie Sorensen
<b>December 24</b> <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm 10:00 pm	Team 6	B Tipple Weidman Johnson	TBD Ray Skare Sean McCarthy TBD	_____	_____
<b>December 25</b> <i>Christmas Day</i>	9:30 am	Team 6	Shepherd	TBD	_____	_____
<b>December 31</b> <i>New Year's Eve</i>	9:30 am	Team 2	A	TBD	_____	_____

## LECTIONARY READINGS

Dec. 3	Dec. 10	Dec. 17	Dec. 24 (Advent 4)	Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)	Dec. 25	Dec. 31
Isaiah 64:1-9 Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:24-37	Isaiah 40:1-11 Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 2 Peter 3:8-15a Mark 1:1-8	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 Psalm 126 1 Thess. 5:16-24 John 1:6-8, 19-28	2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16 Luke 1:46b-55 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38	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 61:10--62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:22-40

# December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 8:00 AM WORSHIP- Advent 1 9:30 AM WORSHIP <b>9:40 AM Sunday School Classes</b> <b>10:45 AM Gingerbread House Decorating</b> 10:45 AM WORSHIP 6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM AA, Alanan & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Dartball - SALC @ St. Michaels	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Reading Reflections 11:30 AM OWLS - Polluck & Christmas Sing A Long w/SALC Staff	<b>6</b> 6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:10 PM Women's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th&8th Grade Confirmation Classes 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP	<b>8</b> 5:00 PM Lay School Classes	<b>9</b> 8:00 AM Lay School Classes
<b>10</b> 8:00 AM WORSHIP-Advent 2 <b>9:00 AM Cookie Exchange</b> 9:30 AM WORSHIP <b>9:40 AM Sunday School Classes</b> <b>10:45 AM 2018 Special Budget Conversation</b> 10:45 AM WORSHIP 6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM AA, Alanan & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Dartball - St. Paul @ SALC	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Reading Reflections 10:00 AM Quilting Group <b>6:30 PM Ministry Night Meetings</b>	<b>13</b> 6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th&8th Grade Confirmation Classes 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 12:15 PM WORSHIP <b>4:00 PM Christmas Caroling to Nursing Homes</b> 6:15 PM WORSHIP	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:00 AM WORSHIP-Advent 3 <b>9:30 AM WORSHIP w/Sunday School Christmas Singing</b> <b>9:40 AM Sunday School Classes</b> <b>10:45 AM July 2018 South Africa Trip Information Mtg</b> 10:45 AM WORSHIP 6:30 PM Bible Study	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM AA, Alanan & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Dartball - SALC @ Peace	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM Reading Reflections 10:00 AM Quilting for Lutheran World Relief 6:00 PM Council Meeting	<b>20</b> 6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:10 PM Women's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th&8th Grade Confirmation Classes 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30 AM WORSHIP - Advent 4 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	<b>25</b> <b>9:30 AM Christmas Day Worship</b> 7:00 PM AA, Alanan & Alateen Meetings <b>Christmas Day Holiday - Church Office Closed</b>	<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Reading Reflections	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

January 18						
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			

November 17						
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**  
 9:30 AM WORSHIP

## 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:*

Quinn Kai Sierk - October 1	Mila Jane Kasson - November 12
Adalyn Marie Huerth - October 8	Carter James Drolshagen - December 10
Emmaire Lynn Kolbe - October 22	Bronson Charles Puig - January 11
Alexis Rae Denzin - November 12	

## 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...

Aaron	Monica	Dixie	Zoe
Ali	Nic	Laura	Shirley
Arlen	Nikki	Frank	Marie
Babs	Pam	Pam	Jeff
Bill	Pete	Angie	Larry
Brian	Robin	Ruth	Herb
Callie & Zak	Tom	Jerry	Riley
Charles & Gerry	Tony	Sue	
Jennifer	Ella	Derrick	
Leann	Amy	Helen	
Lynne & Dan	Tom	Merlin	
Meg	Yvonne	Charles	

*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

3200 N. Mountain Road  
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*  
Benjamin Johnson, *Sexton*

## Upcoming Events/Activities

### DECEMBER

3	10:45 am	Gingerbread House Decorating
3	6:00 pm	7-12 Grades Movie Night in Emmaus
5	11:30 am	OWLS Hymn Sing and Potluck
6	7:30 pm	7-12 Grades Tree Decorating and Fellowship in Emmaus
10	9:00 am	Christmas Cookie Exchange
10	10:45 am	Budget Information Meeting
14	4:00 pm	Sunday School Christmas Caroling
17	9:30 am	Sunday School Christmas Sing
17	10:45 am	2018 Zeerust Trip Informational Meeting
24 & 31		No Sunday School Classes
27		No Confirmation Classes

### JANUARY

7	6:00 pm	FPU Classes Begin
12-14		Mid-Winter Retreat at Waypost Camp (3-6 Grade Students)
28	9:30 am	Congregation Annual Meeting



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