

# Network



Volume 2, Issue 24

November 24, 2011

## PASTORAL REFLECTIONS — *Pastor Craig*

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.” These are words recorded in the book Ecclesiastes and are commonly read at funerals. “A time to live, and a time to die.” But for me, the words are a reminder of the predictable pattern of season changes. The shifting of the earth’s proximity to the sun and the accompanying orbit of the earth’s moon highlight the changes of Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. We are entering the fallow season when in this part of the country especially, the earth sleeps and takes a break from planting, growing and harvesting. Winter’s rest is drawing near and the daylight hours are growing shorter while the length of darkness increases. For some people, it is a time to escape to a warmer climate and draw closer to the warmth of the sun.

At this same time, there is a change of seasons in the liturgical calendar of the church. November 27 marks the first week of Advent – the four week season prior to Christmas. Through this season, we prepare to celebrate once again the birth of Christ, God’s greatest gift to the world. While holiday planning moves us to celebrate Christmas early with Christmas parties and programs, decorating and family gatherings, the message of the church holds us back so that we look back to a time long before the birth of Jesus and the proclamation of the prophets who foretold the coming of God’s Messiah 800 years earlier. “A shoot shall come from the stump of Jesse.” These words were written to a people whose hope was fading fast. They needed reassurance of God’s promise of a Messiah to be fulfilled. The challenges of oppression, enslavement and even death were all around them. Outside forces were banning together to attempt to crush their hopes and vision for the future.

Advent is a season of hope and new beginnings. It is a season that prepares us to celebrate anew the ongoing revelation of Christ’s coming into our hearts and lives to restore hope and life among us yet in our seasons and in our time. What does the season of your life look like? Are you in a season of waiting and longing for light to come? Is your season one of hopeful anticipation or one of despair? Are you in a season of transition? The Advent season is one of new beginnings. We dare not allow it to pass un-noticed and left unprepared for its rich message of hope and gratitude for what God is doing among us.

### WEEKLY WORSHIP

Thursdays  
Sundays

12:15 and 6:15 pm  
8:00 and 10:30 am

#### Advent 1—November 27

*Stir up your power, and come! The psalmist’s plea in Psalm 80:2 has become familiar to us in the Advent prayers. Isaiah wants God to rip the heavens open. Both cry out for an apparently distant, angry God to show up, to save, to restore. When we hear Jesus describing the coming of the Son of Man with stars falling from heaven, it can sound dire and horrible, not like anything we would ever hope for. But when we really look at the suffering of people God loves, we can share the hope that God would tear*

#### Advent 2—December 1 & 4

*John called people to repent, to clear the decks, to completely reorder their lives so that nothing would get in the way of the Lord’s coming. The reading from Isaiah gives the context for this radical call: the assurance of forgiveness that encourages us to repent; the promise that the coming one will be gentle with the little ones. Isaiah calls us all to lift up our voices fearlessly and say, “See, your God is coming!” We say it to one another in worship, in order to say it with our lives in a world in need of justice*

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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The logo for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, featuring a stylized cross and the text "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America".  
God’s work. Our hands.

## ACTIVITIES

### Baptism Orientation

Sunday, December 4, 9:15 am

Orientation will be held in the sanctuary for those families anticipating a baptism. Please call the church office if you would like to attend.

### "Christ In Our Home"

#### Devotionals

The 2012 first quarter of "Christ In Our Home" devotionals are now available in the Narthex. All are welcome to pick up a copy.

### Chorus of OWLS

Tuesday, December 6, 11:30 am

Fa, la, la... Suggest your favorites and sing along as the songs of Christmas are enjoyed with Pastor John's fast fingers accompanying on the piano. A potluck lunch will also be enjoyed as we invite the Saint Andrew staff to join the fun!

### Altar Flowers for 2012

Honor a loved one or special event and help beautify the altar with flowers. Sign up on the 2012 Flower Chart on the kiosk in the Narthex.

### Christmas Poinsettias

Help beautify the altar at Christmas with a poinsettia to remember or honor a loved one. Order forms are available in the Narthex and on the Saint Andrew website, [salc-wausau.org](http://salc-wausau.org) and need to be returned to the church office by Sunday, December

### Quilting Groups

First Monday &  
Second Tuesday  
of each month  
10 am-4 pm

#### Items Currently Needed:

- Large pieces of cotton fabric for *quilt backs*
- New/Used (but clean) blankets for *quilt middles*
- Embroidery floss (no yarn) for *tying*
- Thread
- Sewing pins, safety pins

## GINGERBREAD HOUSE AND COOKIE DECORATING EVENT

Sunday, December 11, 12 pm

Get into the holiday spirit by decorating a gingerbread house or Christmas cookies during a fun-filled afternoon of fellowship, music and refreshments. Bring your gingerbread pieces, cookies, frosting and help yourself to the CANDY buffet provided by Fellowship Ministry. Sign-up and gingerbread recipes are located in the Fellowship Hall.



**\*\*Tailgate lunch served and Packer game on TV\*\***

## CHRISTMAS HAMS

Can you help those families less fortunate? The following items are now being accepted for holiday food baskets at this time: **hams, vegetables, pie/dessert ingredients and monetary donations.** Baskets will be assembled **Saturday, December 17.** If you know someone who needs a basket please call the church office by December 14 at (715) 842-3333.

## ASSISTING with WORSHIP

November 27

#### Ushers

Brekke Team

#### Layreaders

8:00 am - Joleen Meier

10:30 am - Cheryl Allen

#### Altar Guild

Team 1: Marilyn Olson

Sandra Fischer

Mary Weiland

#### Nursery

8:00 am - Tammy & Noah

Radloff

10:30 am - Christy & Doug

Keele

#### Fellowship

8:00 am - Annette & Larry

Bindl

10:30 am - Carrie Peterson

#### Greeters

8:00 am - Tom & Karen

Weidman

10:30 am - Fred & Pat

Fuchs

#### Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

December 4

#### Ushers

Weidman Team

#### Layreaders

8:00 - Kaja Yirkovsky

10:30 - Jayne Germinary

#### Altar Guild

Team 2: Donna Peth

Joleen Meier

Ann McDonald

#### Nursery

8:00 am - Linda Barttelt &

Michelle Berens

10:30 am - Sarah & Karlie

Hanke

#### Fellowship

8:00 am - Jim & Diane

VanEyck

10:30 am - Amy Frolik

#### Greeters

8:00 am - Duane &

Charlene Kreft

10:30 am - Helen Bickley &

Amy Frolik

#### Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalms 85:1-2, 8-13

2 Peter 3:8-15a

Mark 1:1-8

## GOOD STEWARDS (by the numbers)

As with any year, the pledged giving amounts never fully reflect budget predictions, however, history has shown that some things are reflective of patterns that give guidance with a good degree of accuracy. To date, the report shows 328 of 922 pledges possible have been returned (35.6%) for a Total Pledged amount of \$478,797.00. This amount is nearly 64% of the anticipated budget. Currently 110 families give regularly through automated giving (TOE).

Additionally, there are 90 families who did not pledge but who contributed support and it is anticipated will do so again. All this data reflects an intentional commitment of \$673,360.96 which is nearly 90% of the anticipated budget for 2012 with support of 57% of potential givers. Thank you to all who have responded with generous intents. It is exciting to consider future ministry opportunities as support comes through both pledged and unpledged commitments on behalf of the mission of Christ's church through Saint Andrew. Thank you!

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## CHURCH SCHOOL CHILDREN SHARE THE CHRISTMAS STORY

RECONNECT Sunday  
December 4 and 11

Come one, come all! Church school members and families will meet in the sanctuary. Choir members will lead the rotations to practice songs for the upcoming Community RECONNECT Sunday on December 18. On that Sunday, they will share the Christmas story of Jesus' birth with area shut-ins, at the hospitals and elderly housing. Church School children and their families would like to invite everyone to be a part of this "giving" time.

## CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

If you have not yet registered your child(ren) for church school, please do so by requesting an account at [salc.sparksundayschool.org](http://salc.sparksundayschool.org). Once an account is set up, family members can be registered and added!

Have you received an email from "webhelp"? These emails from [webhelp@sparksundayschool.org](mailto:webhelp@sparksundayschool.org) are actually from Saint Andrew church school. Messages can be sent to many families and/or groups using the church school website. So...please don't delete them! Instead, open them to read some important church school news! Also, visit the website <http://salc.sparksundayschool.org> for church school announcements.

## SNOW POLICY



If school is cancelled, Saint Andrew classes & meetings will be also. Listen to local radio stations or check the websites of News Channels 7 & 9 for the list of school closings.

## YOUTH MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

The Youth Ministry is currently working on programming plans for 2012 and would like to invite active members of the congregation of Saint Andrew to assist in a variety of ways. Volunteers are utilized for both local & out of town activities/trips as chaperones, adult leaders and to assist with transportation. If you would be willing to share your time & talents with the Youth of SALC and would like more information, please contact the church office at 715 842-3333.



**Time and Talent Opportunities to SUPPORT the Mission**

- Enjoy quilting? The quilting groups meet monthly-see pg. 2 for details.
- Donate Christmas Hams - pg. 2 has more information!
- See pg. 3 for details on how to participate in sharing the Christmas story.
- Youth Volunteers are needed- pg. 3 has more information.
- A great way to *recycle your paper*-drop your recyclable paper in the *Magic Paper Box* in the West Parking Lot.
- Prayer requests are welcome through the *Prayer Center* in the sanctuary and will be acknowledged weekly in worship.

**Parish Staff**

Rev. John Roseth, *Pastor*  
 Rev. Craig Swenson, *Pastor*  
 Everett Schmidt, *Coordinator of Youth*  
 Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*  
 Shelby Gjertson, *Parish Administrator*  
 Joy Mitchell, *Secretary*  
 Sheldon Geiger, *Bookkeeper*  
 Shannon Vujnovich, *Custodian*  
 Ron Sandquist, *Sexton*

**NETWORK Deadline**

The deadline to submit articles for the *December 8 Network* is: **Wednesday, November 30.**

**Open to All**



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 LUTHERAN CHURCH

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**At Saint Andrew—November 27 - December 10**

**Sunday, November 27**

8:00 am WORSHIP  
 10:30 am WORSHIP

**Monday, November 28**

7:00 pm AA & Alanon  
 7:30 pm Dartball vs. Our Savior

**Tuesday, November 29**

9:00 am Mtg: Reading Reflections

**Wednesday, November 30**

6:30 pm Reh: Chancel Choir  
 8:00 pm Reh: Handbell Choir

**Thursday, December 1**

12:15 pm WORSHIP  
 5:30 pm Church School  
 6:15 pm WORSHIP

**Sunday, December 4**

8:00 am WORSHIP  
 9:15 am Baptism Orientation  
 9:15 am Church School-  
 RECONNECT Sunday  
 10:30 am WORSHIP  
 11:30 am Reh: Children's Choir  
 6:30 pm Bible Study

**Monday, December 5**

10:00 am Quilting for LWR  
 7:00 pm AA & Alanon  
 7:00 pm Dartball at St. Mark's

**Tuesday, December 6**

9:00 am Mtg: Reading Reflections  
 11:30 am Chorus of OWLS & Potluck

**Wednesday, December 7**

6:15 pm Reh: Chancel Choir  
 8:00 pm Reh: Bell Choir

**Thursday, December 8**

12:15 pm WORSHIP  
 5:30 pm Church School  
 6:15 pm WORSHIP

**Friday, December 9**

5:00 pm Lay School of Ministry

**Saturday, December 10**

8:00 am Lay School of Ministry