

Network



Volume 4, Issue 2

February 2013

PASTORAL REFLECTIONS BY PASTOR CRAIG

My annual report describes 2012 as a year of transitions. Beginning with the approval of a five-year staffing plan in the fall of 2011, it seems there has been one transition after another for an entire year with both beginnings and endings. It's nice to think that there are no major anticipated transitions as we "transition" into a new year of ministry. With an early Lenten season (Ash Wednesday is February 13) our minds quickly shift from one season to the next. Christmas is behind us and Epiphany is soon behind us. Spring seed catalogs are arriving in the mail and our thoughts project us to longer days of daylight and anticipation of warmer days ahead.

Sometimes it seems we are always looking forward to the next event or opportunity and I fear we overlook the opportunities of present reality. What is your current stage of life? How are you enjoying the blessings of the present? It is only a matter of time and another transition comes along and we adjust yet again to the next opportunity.

The Stewardship theme for this year was printed on materials that arrived in the mail. While you may have returned your Time and Talent Cards and Pledge Commitment cards, it is easy to lose sight of the theme describing stewardship as a way of life. "It's all about gratitude. It's all about giving back. It's all about God" through "Prayer, Service and Sharing." Stewardship is not about paying the bills and preparing a budget. It is about learning to identify God's gifts and encouraging one another to share from God's abundance for the sake of supporting and enhancing our life together.

I am happy to say that I work with a supportive and competent staff who have a passion for the missional identity of the church and the work we do together. I also serve among creative and gifted people who gather weekly around word and sacrament and weekly there are new faces that show up looking for a place to connect and to identify as a church home. Each Monday, Pastor Jenn and I meet for an hour and reflect on life and ministry and pray for the staff, congregational members, our families, synodical as well as churchwide leaders. It is a helpful way to center our identity and to remember the privilege we have of serving through the office of pastor. Thanks to all who share partnership in the gospel.

This year this church body called the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America turns 25 years old. It will be a year to celebrate and reflect on the many ways we are united by our common identity. So as we begin a new year together I pause to recall how grateful I am to serve among you in this great church and I look forward to the transitions that are before us and the work that God in Christ Jesus continues to provide for us.

CONGREGATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 27, 9 am in the Fellowship Hall

Everyone is requested to attend the Congregation Annual Meeting with participating (regular contributing and communing) members having voting privileges. Council nominee biographies and the 2013 Proposed Budget are available in the Fellowship Hall for review.



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.

LENT

Begins with
Ash Wednesday, February 13,
and continues with
Midweek Lenten Services
each Wednesday through Lent.
12:15 and 6:15 pm
 — SERVICE OF THE WORD —

Every single time we worship, we gather to celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And each year, 40 days known as *Lent* are set aside to contemplate what the story of Christ's passion means for each of us individually and as a community. During these 40 days, with the whole church, we are invited into a time of remembrance. We acknowledge...

- ...that we are in need of repentance and God's mercy;
- ...that we are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another and to live in harmony with creation;
- ...that our sinfulness keeps us feeling separated from God, from neighbors, and creation.

During these 40 days, with the whole church we are invited to the discipline of *Lent*. For some this may seem like an opportune time to cut out chocolate or soda or add something like the reading of scripture each day. These are good disciplines. But at the heart of discipline are boundaries and intentionality. As a parent knows, discipline is also the way that children learn from places of error and brokenness. At the heart of the word *discipline*, is the word *disciple*. As disciples of Christ Jesus, we follow along with Christ on the journey toward the cross.

This Lent we are invited to the disciplines of self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love-strengthened by the gifts of Grace—word and sacrament. We journey together through these forty days, and to the three great days of Jesus' death and resurrection — the greatest story of God's love for us. We do not walk alone — we walk with one another, and Christ comes with us.

THE THEME THIS LENTEN SEASON

Questions around the Cross



"Take up your cross and follow me"

Faith is a mystery. Faith Clings to hope that the promises of God are true. But so often, questions arise about God and the state of our lives, causing us to wonder...

- How can I believe in a God I cannot see?*
- Why is my life so difficult?*
- Why doesn't God solve all my problems?*
- What is the purpose of my life?*
- Where are you God?*

Questioning takes courage. It's the way we learn and grow. Questioning is not the opposite of faith, rather—questioning is a faithful response to the mystery of God's love. When we keep the questions coming, we keep the conversation going with God and one another. This Lent we explore together one of the greatest mysteries of faith—God breaking into our lives with a love that can't be destroyed.

As we meet together on the Wednesdays of Lent we will meet around the story of the cross. As we worship, we will meet around these questions. Let's get curious together because God is not only found in answers—God is also in the questions.

LENTEN SOUP

Soup and Sandwich will be served each Wednesday (*not* Ash Wednesday) before and after midweek Lenten Services. (Please note: the menu is subject to change). \$4-adults; \$2-children under 10; Pre-Ordered Soup-to-Go- \$2/lb.

February 20

- Chili
- Cream of Wild Rice/Chicken
- Turkey noodle

February 27

- Taco
- Cheesy Potato
- Chicken Noodle

March 6

- Mexican Chicken
- Northwoods Cheese
- Beef Barley Mushroom

March 13

- Corned Beef and Cabbage
- Cheeseburger
- Unstuffed Green Pepper

March 20

- Chicken Dumpling
- Cream of Vegetable
- Corn Chowder

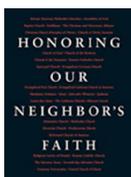
ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

Adult Bible Study

The Sunday Evening Bible Study will be back in session on

Sunday, February

3. Learn about the differences between Christianity and other religions as Pastor Craig and Pastor Jenn resume the study on the book, Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith. All are welcome to join the conversation, learning, and fellowship.



Super Bowl Snacks

Sunday, February 3

Donations of any kind of snack for the **Super Bowl Sunday Snack Sale** can be dropped off at church on *Friday, February 1* 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 Group

February 5, 11:30 am

At the February potluck, we'll gather at 11:30 am for lunch and conversation. Following lunch will be a time to get acquainted with Matt Seegert and learn more about the Christian Education Program that he coordinates here at Saint Andrew.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 12, 5-6:30 pm

Come for a traditional Shrove Tuesday at Saint Andrew where you can eat all you want before the season of Lent begins on *Wednesday, February 13*. Three varieties of pancakes, maple syrup, sausage and beverages will be served. Proceeds will benefit the 2013 Youth Boundary Waters Trip.

Cost: \$5 - adults

\$3 - children ages 5-12

CANTATA AT SALC

May 19, 2 and 7 pm

Anyone wishing to sing in the spring cantata is asked to contact Al Freiberg. Rehearsals will begin mid February; Tuesday, 7-8 pm, Wednesdays the first half hour of the regular choir rehearsal and Sundays, 9:15 am, between the church services. You do not have to be at all the rehearsals but it would be good if you could make one per week if possible. The choir will be about 100 singers and the orchestra 40 instrumentalists. At this time we already have about half the orchestra in place and more than 60 singers. If you have sung in a choir in your lifetime, you will enjoy being part of this special event. If you do not sing, we need great listeners. Tell your friends about the date so they may enjoy the beautiful music of the church year.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Sundays, February 10 & 17, 9:15 am

Orientation will be held in the chapel on both Sundays. New members will then be received at the 10:30 am worship service on February 17. If you are interested in joining SALC please call the church office to express your intent.

BAPTISM ORIENTATION

Sunday, February 3, 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.

SOUTH AFRICA TRIP

"Join the group!" A delegation from the east Central Synod of Wisconsin will be visiting the Western Diocese in South Africa departing on June 18 and returning on July 10, 2013. All congregations in the East Central Synod of Wisconsin are welcome to travel with this group to visit our partner congregation in the Miadikwe Circuit. Scholarship funds may be available to assist with costs. For more information, visit the website; westerndiocesetrip.weebly.com or call the office at 715 842-3333.

SALC PHOTO DIRECTORY

The photo sessions have begun for the New SALC Photo Directory and with two more weeks left to have your portrait taken to be included. There is still a variety of dates and time slots available for you to sign up online by going to the salc-wausau.org website or by calling the office at 715 842-3333. There is no sitting fee and you will receive a complimentary 8x10 photo and a copy of the directory as a thank you for your participation. All members are invited to participate. If you are unable to have a photo taken at this time, please call to learn how a photo can still be included.

"GOOD NEWS..."

On Saturday, March 9 our East Central Synod is sponsoring a workshop with Mark Allan Powell as the Keynote speaker. The workshop is designed to help us realize that "Stewardship is not just a way of life; it is the way to a better life." Please mark your calendar and contact the church office at 715-842-3333 for more information on "Good News for the Journey".

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AT SALC

Confirmation Parent Meeting: 7-8 Grades

Wednesday, February 6, 7:20 pm

Wednesday, February 6 will end the regular pattern for confirmation. That evening will provide information and an opportunity to answer any questions about the remainder of the year. Seventh graders will participate in service throughout Lent in various ways. Eighth graders will begin writing their faith statements in preparation for confirmation. Details of Confirmation practice and worship will also be discussed.

8th Grade confirmation

Faith statement classes: *Wednesdays, February 20, 27, March 6, 13 and 20, 7 pm*

8th Grade Confirmation Worship: *Sunday, April 28, 2 pm*

9th Grade Confirmation

Faith statement classes: *Wednesdays, April 3, 10, 17 and 24, 6:30 pm*

9th Grade Confirmation Worship: *Sunday, May 5, 2 pm*

First Communion - 5th Grade Students and Parents

Classes: *Sundays, March 3, 10 and 17, 4 pm*

First Communion Worship: *Palm Sunday, March 24, 2 pm*

Church School Food Drive Challenge for SALC Food Pantry

Church school students are encouraged to bring items to help restock the church food pantry. If students can fill up the grocery cart five times, they will be rewarded with donuts during church school for their efforts!

Church School Offerings Help to End Hunger and Care for the Earth

Church school offerings for the 2012-2013 year will be used to purchase an animal(s) through the Heifer International Project. The Project's mission is to work with communities to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth. In the next few weeks, a new bulletin board with a thermometer in the education wing will show children how much money was given thus far and what animal can be purchased for the money received. Our goal is to reach the top of the thermometer to purchase a cow for \$500.00. Watch those coins add up and make a difference!

2013 Vacation Bible School

Please mark your calendars for the ***mornings of July 22-26*** and enjoy a fun-filled week learning about God. Volunteers help to make the week run smoothly, so parents, please consider this great opportunity to get involved in your child's Christian Education.

BOUNDARY WATERS TRIP

July 13-20

There are still a few spots open for high school youth (those entering ninth grade next school year through those graduating this year). ***A meeting will be held on Sunday, February 17 at 11:45 am*** after the second service to discuss fundraising, participating in a group building activity and looking at what a normal day in the boundary waters will be like on the trip.

3-5 GRADE RETREAT

Thank you to all of the students, parents, and chaperones who were involved in the 3-5 grade retreat on January 18 and 19. The time spent learning about God, making friends, and having fun together was such an amazing growing experience for everyone who participated. I look forward to more retreats and activities like this one in the near future.



A BAPTISM PRAYER

May the unity that is shared be a witness of the unity we share together by our common identity in Christ. 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:

- Isabel Luise Knighton - November 4
- Kyleigh Mae Wert - November 4
- Kason Christopher Bargender - November 4
- Jordan David Henrichs - December 9
- Jack Martin Skadahl - December 16
- Envo Rei Murillo - December 16
- Orion Onyx Malueg - December 30

A WEDDING PRAYER

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

Cindy Wachsmuth and Edward Kijak - December 29

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 | Gerry | Linda | Suzi |
| Babs | Irene | Maddie | Thomas |
| Ben | Irma | Maggie | Tom |
| Beverly | Jackie | Mary | Tracy |
| Bonnie | James, Elsie & Henry | Marty | Verna |
| Brad | Jamie | Michael | Yvonne |
| Brianna | Jean | Nora | Harvey |
| Bruce | Jill | Pat | Irma |
| Callie and Zak | Jim & Marilyn | Paul | Laura |
| Carrie | John | Renee | Roland |
| Dixie | June | Robin | |
| Ella, Erik & Becky | Kaylin | Rodney | |
| Erv | Keegan | Sabrina & Shane | |
| Gary | Larry | Shannon | |
| George | Laura | Sue | |

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)

ASSISTING with WORSHIP**February 3****Ushers**

Weidman Team

Layreaders

8:00 am - Marv Meier

10:30 am - Shirley Bickford

Altar GuildTeam 3: Sheila McCarthy
Carmen Siegel
Darlene Caillouette**Fellowship**8:00 am - David & Nancy
Larson10:30 am - Ann McDonald
Mark Clark**Greeters**

8:00 am - Tom & Karen

Weidman

10:30 am - Greg & Jeanne

Willems

Nursery

10:30 am - Unstaffed

February 10**Ushers**

Johnson Team

Layreaders

8:00 am - Jonnie Malm

10:30 am - Renee Schroeder

Altar GuildTeam 3: Sheila McCarthy
Carmen Siegel
Darlene Caillouette**Fellowship**8:00 am - Bernie & LeAnn
Stankowski10:30 am - Susie & Ashley
Soukup/Craig Holmes**Greeters**

8:00 am - Mark & Cyndi

Moser

10:30 am - Adam Wurz

Deb Bradshaw

Nursery

10:30 am - Ken & Jess Bloom

February 17**Ushers**

Shepherd Team

Layreaders

8:00 am - Ray Skare

10:30 am - Linda Vogen

Altar GuildTeam 6: Stephanie Wage
Patty Marceille
Julie Weller**Fellowship**8:00 am - Joanne Howard
Joyce Schoepke10:30 am - Roger & Ruth
Poutanen**Greeters**

8:00 am - Dan & Lynne Holt

10:30 am - Tom & Mary

Weiland

Nursery

10:30 am - Heidi Wiesman

February 24**Ushers**

A Team

Layreaders

8:00 am - Kaja Yirkovski

10:30 am - Cheryl Allen

Altar GuildTeam 2: Donna Peth
Joleen Meier
Ann McDonald**Fellowship**

8:00 am - Jim Jacobson

Sara Millard

10:30 am - Adam & Kathy
Wurz/Linda Zastrow**Greeters**

8:00 am - Dan & Lynne Holt

10:30 am - Doug & Marilyn
Olson**Nursery**

10:30 am - Unstaffed

Lectionary Readings for February**February 3****Fourth Week After Epiphany**

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

February 10**Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Exodus 34:29-35

Psalm 99

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

February 17**First Sunday in Lent**

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

February 24**Second Sunday in Lent**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Psalm 27

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT—MEMBER OUTREACH

The **Member Outreach Ministry** is responsible for suggesting and coordinating ideas for fostering a welcoming climate for worship in the congregation, such as the greeter program and assisting with the New Member program, several times a year. The ministry has an active home visitation team that works with Pastor Jeff and is currently involved with the New Photo Directory. New initiatives for 2013 are to develop a funeral lunch guild and also a program to stay connected with Saint Andrew's young adults as they graduate from high school and move forward with their new activities. The ministry is in need of additional members. Please call the office at 715-842-3333 for more information or attend their meeting at Ministry Night on the second Tuesday of each month.

Open to All

 **SAINT
ANDREW**
LUTHERAN CHURCH
3200 N. Mountain Road
Wausau, WI 54401-7275

Parish Staff

Rev. Craig Swenson, *Pastor*
Rev. Jenn Collins, *Pastor*
Rev. Jeff Martinson, *Pastor*
Shelby Gjertson, *Parish
Administrator*
Joy Mitchell, *Secretary*
Matt Seegert, *Coordinator of
Christian Education*
Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*
Sheldon Geiger, *Bookkeeper*
Shannon Vujnovich, *Custodian*
Jared Gjertson, *Sexton*

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Upcoming Events/Activities

Tuesday, February 12

5:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 13

12:15 & 6:15 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Wednesdays in February

12:15 & 6:15 pm Lenten Worship/Soup & Sandwich Meal

Saturday, February 16

JYG in Neenah

Sunday, February 17

10:30 am New Members received at 10:30 am worship

Sunday, March 24

8:00 & 10:30 am Palm Sunday Worship

2:00 pm First Communion Worship

Thursday, March 28

12:15 & 6:15 pm Maundy Thursday Worship

Friday, March 29

12:15 & 6:15 pm Good Friday Worship

Sunday, March 31

6:00 am Easter Worship on top of
Rib Mountain

8:00, 9:30 & 11:00 am Festive Easter Worship