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

3200 N. Mountain Road
Wausau, WI 54401-7275
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www.salc-wausau.org

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

Network

SAINT ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Volume 6, Issue 12 **December 2014**

Advent and Christmas blessings from Pastor Craig, Pastor Jenn and Pastor Jeff

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas,

Both seasons come together quickly as December unfolds. All of the activities and ministry opportunities, all the planning and preparing are highlighted in the Christmas message, "to you is born this day a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." It is an exciting time of year and it is important that the universal message in Christ Jesus is the focus for what is done, seen and heard among us.

Sunday school children will present "This Noisy Night" on Sunday, December 14 at 9:15 am. This program was written by Pastor Jeff Martinsen several years ago to invite people to consider what it might have been like in the city of David the night Jesus was born. All are invited to the sanctuary to listen in and hear the story as it is treasured in both the telling and the hearing.

On ***Sunday, December 21*** there will be two opportunities to enjoy the presentation of ***"The Winter Rose."*** This special music event includes a choir of 100 voices, handbell choir, piano accompaniment and full orchestra under the direction of Al Freiberg. This year, Al is celebrating 50 years of directing choral music in the Wausau community including 20 years of music leadership at Saint Andrew. Please come and celebrate with us and enjoy this special music presentation highlighting the Christmas message taking place at 2 pm and 7 pm.

Christmas Eve Worship on Wednesday, December 24 is a special time for many families, especially the church family at Saint Andrew. The evening begins with a re-telling of the Christmas drama at ***4 pm***. Again, with the creative assistance of Pastor Jeff, the skit will be modified slightly to include various band instruments, piano accompaniment and several favorite hymns to expand the musical experience. Worship at ***6:00 & 8:00 pm*** include the participation of all three choirs. These choirs are eager to share in the telling of the Christmas story through music. The evening comes to a close with a contemplative celebration at ***10:00 pm***. Three services include candlelight and ***all four*** worship services will include Holy Communion this year.

A Christmas morning worship is offered Thursday, December 25 at ***10:00 am*** for those who wish to include this worship opportunity as a family celebration.

So you can see, if you thought life was already busy, it is about to get busier. But this is a good kind of busy-for adding these opportunities into your lives brings hope, joy, love and peace to you and to all the world.

Here is praying for the best the seasons have to offer and the joy of celebrating the real gift among us, Jesus the Christ, God's very Son, our Savior and Lord.

Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00 pm	***"Visit the Manger"***
6:00 & 8:00 pm	***Candlelight Worship with Chancel and Handbell Choirs***
10:00 pm	***Candlelight Worship***

Christmas Day, *December 25*

10:00 am	***Christmas Day Worship***

Baptism Orientation

Sunday, December 7
9:30 am
Expecting a baptism in your family or do you want to learn more about baptism? One of the pastors will lead an orientation session in the sanctuary for those families anticipating a baptism or who want to learn more about the possibilities for baptism. Please contact the church office to register.

OWLS Christmas Potluck

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 11:30 am
Bring a dish to share and your festive holiday spirit as we enjoy good food, fellowship, sing beloved Christmas songs with the Saint Andrew staff and decorate the Fellowship Hall Christmas tree. Please RSVP to joy at 715-842-3333 or joy@salc-wausau.org.

Play Group at SALC

Thursday, December 11, 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 Thursday of each month***.

Noisy Offering

A Noisy Offering will be received on ***Sunday, December 21*** in support of the Wausau Community Warming Center.

Fair Trade products will be available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall on ***Sunday, December 21.*** Consider purchasing Fair Trade items for Christmas gifts. Contact the church office if you are interested in a coffee we do not currently provide.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 11 am-1 pm
All are welcome to a traditional Thanksgiving Day meal at Saint Andrew. A free-will offering will be received in support of the outreach efforts of the Social Ministry. To RSVP or volunteer, please call the church office at 715-842-3333.

Christmas Food Baskets

If you know someone who needs a basket, please call the church office at 715-842-3333 by *December 18.* Baskets will be assembled on *Saturday, December 20*.

"The Winter Rose"

Sunday, December 21, 2 and 7 pm
Nearly 100 singers and instrumentalists are preparing to present "The Winter Rose". The cantata is based on the song, "Lo How A Rose E'r Blooming." Mark your calendar and plan to come and enjoy the beautiful sounds and story told.

Holiday Cookie Exchange

Sunday, December 7, 9:30 am
It's that time of year when the best cookies are made...What fun to make more to share and to trade! Please join us in the fellowship hall for the annual Cookie Exchange and enjoy fellowship while your assortment of treats are put together for you. Here's how it works:

1) Bake six dozen homemade holiday cookies.
2) Package your cookies in fun bundles of six to exchange. Be creative!
3) Attach a copy of your cookie recipe to each package. (Optional)
4) Bring a container to take your cookies home.

Gingerbread House Decorating

Sunday, December 7, 12 pm
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. Please call the church office at 715-842-3333 by December 4 to sign up!

SALC Christmas "Giving Tree"

As we celebrate our blessings at Thanksgiving, there now is an immediate shift in our hearts and minds to prepare for Advent and the Christmas season. A "Giving Tree" will be located in the Fellowship Hall and adorned with hat & mitten paper ornaments. Several Saint Andrew members are educators in our local schools and have provided the awareness that there is a significant need for hats and mittens to be available for children who arrive at school without them to help stay warm and healthy during the winter season. Please take a paper ornament as a reminder when shopping to purchase Christmas gifts for friends & family to also add an extra gift of a child/youth size hat or pair of insulated gloves/mittens to be shared in our local schools. Thank you for sharing in ministry and outreach in the community through Saint Andrew.

NYG Silent Auction Gift Basket Extravaganza Fundraiser

November 23-December 14
Come to the Fellowship Hall to bid on the Gift Baskets donated in support of the youth going to the ***ELCA National Youth Gathering (NYG)*** in Detroit next summer. *"Dog Lovers", "Cat Lovers", "Chicken Soup for the Soul", Spaghetti Night", "Handmade Quilt" and "Handmade Greeting Cards"* are just some of the great baskets that are available to bid on. This silent auction event is another great opportunity to support the youth of Saint Andrew as they prepare to attend ***NYG*** next summer!

Altar Flowers

Honor a loved one or special event and help beautify the altar with flowers. Sign up on the 2015 Flower Chart posted on the kiosk in the Narthex.

"Christ In Our Home" Devotionals

The 2015 first quarter of "Christ In Our Home" devotionals are available in the Narthex. All are welcome to pick up a copy.

Memorial Gifts Received

Memorial Gifts were received in memory of Chris Millard, Nancy Moyer and Ervin Koenig.

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.

Stew's Sunday Sessions

December 7 - Final Expenses
What happens when I die? How do I get to a funeral home? What are the many different funeral options available to me? What is the cost of an "average" funeral or cremation? How do I get a cemetery plot and a head stone? Are things different for children? PLUS much more you may wish to know but have not asked.

January 4, 2015 - Financial Peace University

In this nationally known 9 week course we will cover Dave Ramsey's ideas on how to reach **Financial Independence** through Family Financial Planning & Budgeting. Learn how to control your expenses, work your way out of debt and stay out of debt. The average family reduces their debt by $5,300 and saves $2,700. That's an $8,000 change in your financial position. The cost of purchasing this program from Dave Ramsey is $93 per family. This course will run for 9 consecutive Sunday nights. Sign-up and order your program kit ***BEFORE December 1st***. Each Family must have this kit in order to participate. For a better understanding of what this course is all about, go to:

http:www.daveramsey.com/fpu/locations/org/51575/class/261127

Please register now so we can plan for this exciting life-changing program that has helped bring about a renewed sense of financial peace for countless families.

Poinsettia Order Form

Help beautify the altar 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 14.*
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: _____

Good Stewards 2015

Have you returned your commitment cards indicating how you wish to share your time and talent through Saint Andrew? Have you responded with your intended financial pledge of support for the work of the church? All gifts are appreciated and every member is important. For the few and many, small and great ways you participate and support the work we do together as an expression of Christ's church—THANK YOU!

Coming Soon to Worship!

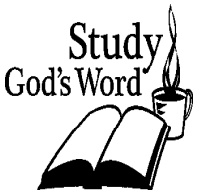
Child activity bags, "Busy Bags", will be available for your child's enjoyment during worship services. Pick up a bag in the Narthex before coming into services, and return the bag into the basket after services. There will be quiet type activities in the bags, which change from time to time. There will also be a box of children's books available, so your child can pick one up to go along with the Busy Bag.The books are from the SALC Library. (If you and your child would like to take home some of these books for a week or two, please sign them out from the Library in the Fellowship Hall. The library cards are inside the book covers.) For worship services, you don't need to "check them out." Just return them to the book box after church! We hope our younger members enjoy these "Busy Bags".

9th Grade Confirmation Reunion

Sunday, December 7, 4:00-5:30 pm
Reunite with your confirmation classmates for an evening of PIZZA & GAMES! Come for the food, stay for the games, live for the Word! Please RSVP by calling the church at 715-842-3333 or email Craig Gauerke at craig@salc-wausau.org so the appropriate amount of pizza can be ordered.

Adult Learning Opportunities

Reading Reflections
Tuesdays, 9 am
Bible Study
Sundays, 9:15 am



CROP Walk 2014

The final results are in! Saint Andrew raised over $1100 for the 2014 CROP Walk. With the help of eight other congregations and a total of 1067 walkers, $11, 508.25 was collected. A total of 25% will be returned to the community to support the work of The Neighbors Place and The Salvation Army. Thank you to all who participated in making a difference!

3-5 Grade Winter Retreat

Who: 3-5 Grade Students
What: Winter Retreat
Where: Crossways Waypost Camp in Hatley, WI
When: Friday, January 23—Sunday, January 25
Cost: $45 (will need to provide your own transportation)

Register by January 5. For more information, call the church at 715-842-3333 or fill out the registration form at www.salc-wausau.org and return to the church office. Parent Chaperones are also welcome to attend!

Mark Your Calendars

NOVEMBER

Sunday, 23 thru Sunday, Dec. 14	**Silent Auction Basket Fundraiser**
Wednesday, 26	**No Confirmation**
Wednesday, 26	**Thanksgiving Eve Worship**
Sunday, 30	***No Sunday School***

DECEMBER

Sunday, 7	4:00 pm	**9th Grade Confirmation Reunion**
Sunday, 14	9:15 am	**Sunday School Christmas Program**
Sundays, 21 & 28		***No Sunday School***
Wednesdays, 24 & 31		***No Confirmation***

JANUARY

Sunday, 4	**Sunday School Resumes**
Wednesday, 7	**Confirmation Resumes**
Friday-Sunday, 23-25	**3-5 Grade Winter Retreat**

DECEMBER

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP

		December 7	December 14	December 21	December 28
Altar Guild		Team 2	Team 2	Team 3	Team 3
Usher Team		Brekke	Weidman	Johnson	Johnson
Layreaders	8:00 am 10:30 am	Diane Goetsch Chris Kensmoe	Eric Verber Dewey Allen	Marv Meier Sue Paisar	Julie Spalding Carolyn Kiesau
Greeters	8:00 am 10:30 am	Duane & Sharlene Kreft Cindy markowski & Pam Clark	Duane & Jill Meyer Mary Wittich & Rosetta Ahles	(TBD) Dick & Lynn Lawson	Eric & Jamie Hane Fred & Pat Fuchs
Fellowship	8:00 am 10:30 am	David & Nancy Larson Amy Frolik	Larry & Annette Bindl Mike & Carrie Clemment	Marv & Joleen Meier Deb Bradshaw & Shirley Bickford	Keith & Sandi Rusch Mary Wittich & Ann McDonald

		December 24	December 25 *(10 :00 am)*
Altar Guild		Team 3	Team 3
Usher Team	4:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm 10:00 pm	Shepherd Brekke B A	Weidman

LECTIONARY READINGS

December 7	December 14	December 21	December 28
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 Thessalonians 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 61:10—62:3 Psalm 148 Galatians 4:4–7 Luke 2:22–40

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:

Ivy Mae Kasson - *October 5*
Hailey Marie Bauman - *October 16*
Nora Kathryn Paduan - *October 19*
Layla Jo Cornele - *November 2*
Taetym Jean Jirschele - *November 2*
Delaney Elizabeth Johnson - *November 9*
Jordy Daniel Bradford - *November 16*
Landon Ellis Fritz - *December 14*
Brody Paul Waldvogel - *December 21*
Leo William Knighton - *January 18*

A Wedding Prayer

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

Adam Malm & Ashley Patterson - *October 11*
Derek Hilmershausen & Kate Schutte - *October 18*

We Pray...

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

Michael Robert Yirkovsky

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	John	William	Gary
Babs	Julie	Zerin	Meg
Barb	Kevin	Ella	Julie & Family
Bev	Lucy	Kathleen	Tom
Brianna	Lynn	Jim	Vicky
Callie and Zak	Miranda	Katie	Elle
Deb	Monica	Diane	Stephanie
Dennis	Patricia	Clayton	Yvonne
Gary	Quinn	Amy	Dixie
Holly	Robin	Carrie	Laura
Irma B.	Roland	Noah	Dale
Jack	Sue	Bill	Joan
James, Henry & Elsie	Susan	Adrienne	Chris
Jennette	Virjean	Lynne	
Jenny	Walt	Charlotte	

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

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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, *Pastor*
Shelby Gjertson, *Parish Administrator*
Joy Mitchell, *Secretary*
Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*
Sheldon Geiger, *Bookkeeper*
Craig Gauerke, *Coordinator of Youth and Family Education*
Shannon Vujnovich, *Custodian*
Dave Paisar, *Custodian*
Jared Gjertson, *Sexton*

Upcoming Events/Activities

December 2	**11:30 am**	**OWLS-Christmas Carols and Potluck**
December 7	**9:30 am**	**Baptism Orientation**
	9:30 am	**Holiday Cookie Exchange**
	12:00 pm	**Gingerbread House Decorating**
	4:00 pm	**9th Grade Confirmation Reunion**
December 9	**6:30 pm**	**Ministry Night**
December 14	**9:15 am**	**Sunday School Christmas Program**
December 14	**11:30 am**	**NYG Meeting**
December 21	**2 & 7 pm**	**"The Winter Rose" Cantata**
December 24	**4:00 pm**	**WORSHIP - "Visit the Manger"**
	6 & 8 pm	**WORSHIP - Candlelight Worship with Chancel & Handbell Choirs**
	10:00 pm	**WORSHIP - Candlelight Worship**
December 25	**10:00 am**	**WORSHIP - Christmas Day**
		Church Office Closed
January 1		***Church Office Closed***
January 23-25		**3-5 Grades Winter Retreat**
January 25	**9:00 am**	**Congregation Annual Meeting**
February 3		**Variety Show & Decadent Dessert Buffet**

Snow Policy

<u>If school is cancelled, Saint Andrew classes & meetings will be also.</u> Listen to local radio stations, check the SALC website or Facebook page, or News Channels 7 & 9 websites for the list of school closings.