

Network



Volume 8, Issue 12

December 2016

by Pastor Craig

We are entering the season of gift-giving and celebrating. As a time in history when anxiety levels are high following a lengthy and contentious political campaign, many people still feel the need and desire to be generous and help make lives of other better through generous means. The expressions have come in many forms and I wanted to lift up several as highlights. Donations to support a program to ensure children are fed and cared for with backpacks of food when home for weekends, donations of fabric for quilts made for local and global needs as well as Alzheimer patients, volunteers who hosted and provided support for Zeerust guests, volunteers showed up to clean the landscaping around the church to prepare for winter, lawn care, labor to assist with an Eagle Scout sidewalk project, cash donations to be shared with identified families who could use an added boost to brighten their holiday season, Thanksgiving dinner, new chairs for the Sunday school rooms (enough to place an initial order), new First Faith program and room decorations for 2 & 3 year-olds, confirmation mentors, Sunday school teachers, choir members and for the first time in many years, an increase in total pledged support for the next year of ministry. Each week I am privileged to experience acts of kindness and generosity. It is a gift in itself, for I see a spirit of gratitude which prompts generosity to be shared in a variety of ways as participation in the work of Christ's church in profound and meaningful ways. For these and for all other generosity shared, THANK YOU!

As December comes our way so does another year in the life of the church. Advent is a four week season that begins the year and prepares us to celebrate God's greatest gift of all through the birth of Jesus and his gift of love for the whole world. Whether you are on the giving or the receiving end of generosity, I have been blessed to see the hand of God bringing comfort and hope for those who give as well as those who receive these expressions of love and kindness. I see lives changing and the image of God being revealed as community is formed and nurtured.

Even as we enter a new political reality with mixed feelings, one thing remains constant, generous and repeated support is taking place and the foundational and sustaining presence of God is as vibrant today as always. This is good news. This is promised hope. This is Joy to the World!

Jesus truly is Lord of all seasons. Let heaven and nature sing—blessed 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



3200 N. Mountain Road
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 & 10:45 am

Christmas Eve, Saturday, 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, Sunday, December 25

9:30 am *Christmas Day Worship*

New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1

9:30 am *Worship*



Christmas Food Baskets

If you or someone you know would appreciate receiving a Christmas Food Basket, please call the church office by **Tuesday, December 13** at 715-842-3333. Baskets will be assembled on **Saturday, December 17**.

OWLS

Tuesday, December 6

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.



Play Group at SALC

Friday, December 9

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 Friday of each month**.

Noisy Offering

A Noisy Offering will be received on Thursday and **Sunday, December 15 & 18**, during worship in support of the Wausau Community Warming Center.

Fair Trade Products

will be available for purchase in the Fellowship Hall on **Sunday, December 18**.

COOKIE EXCHANGE

Sunday, December 4, 9:00 am (Please note time change)

It's that time of year when the best cookies are made... what fun to make more to share and to trade! Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 9:00 am sharp for the annual Cookie Exchange and enjoy fellowship while your assortment of treats is put together for you.

Here's how it works:

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

Sign up by December 2! A sign-up sheet is available at the Information Desk.



GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

Sunday, December 4, 11:30 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. Please sign up at the Information Desk by December 1.



SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER!

Please join the Saint Andrew Playgroup to spread Christmas cheer to our elder members in nursing homes. We will meet at church with our children on Thursday December 8 at 3:45 pm, visit 1 or 2 nursing homes with songs and small gifts, and finish with fellowship at Polito's Pizza. Please sign up at the Information Desk.

JOIN US FOR "NEW STAR!" - A SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Sunday, December 11, 1:30 pm - Cookie Fellowship to Follow

Acting as narrators, an Old Star tells a younger New Star about the first Christmas. Everyone is invited to come and hear the Christmas story shared by the Saint Andrew Sunday school children. Following the program, enjoy Christmas cookies and Christmas cheer in the Fellowship Hall!

Memorial Gifts Received

A Memorial Gift was received in memory of Paulette Wadzinski and Deb Bradshaw. 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.

Altar Flowers

Honor a loved one or special event with altar flowers in 2017. Your flowers may be taken home to be enjoyed following the last worship service on Sunday. More details and a Flower Chart to sign up are available on the kiosk in the Narthex.

Blood Pressure Checks

SALC volunteers are available in the Bethlehem Room on the *3rd Sunday* of each month, 9-9:30 am, to assist you in a free blood pressure check. These are not diagnostic but informative. No sign up necessary. Basic blood pressure information is also available. Qualified volunteers are needed to do these checks. Please call the church office if you can help!

Pastoral Care

As a practice, three area hospitals are contacted during the work week to inquire about member hospitalization. We are grateful when we learn about pastoral care opportunities and make every effort to respond in a timely fashion. If you or a family member is in need of pastoral care, please contact the church office.

2017 BUDGET INFORMATION MEETING

A special informational meeting will take place on Sunday, December 11 at 11:40 am in the Chapel for anyone who wishes to learn about the budget process. Using giving records for 2016, pledged support for 2017, 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 29, 2017.

MAGIC PAPER BOX RETURNS

Saint Andrew will soon have the blue "Magic Paper Box" recycling bin available in the West parking near the current dumpster enclosure. This recycling program not only promotes care for the environment but also generates revenue from being paid for the paper waste collected. SALC members and others in the community are encouraged to collect and drop off newspapers, junk mail, magazines, office/school papers and catalogs. This program **is not** for cardboard, plastic, metal, glass, text books, hard cover books, garbage or paper contaminated with food, chemicals etc. Thank you for recycling and helping support the ministry programs at Saint Andrew.

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 4*.

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: _____

SALC "GIVING TREE"

Items needed for donations are located in the Fellowship Hall on a table along the north wall. Please take a paper ornament as a reminder when 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. Thank you for sharing in ministry and outreach in the community through Saint Andrew.

WEDNESDAY MEALS FOR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS AND CHOIRS

It started with a simple observation: students would come to confirmation on Wednesday nights tired and feeling rushed. Some would make a quick stop to grab dinner between practice and church. Others would wait to have dinner after confirmation. Most of the time, there was too much on the agenda to learn and not enough unstructured time for building relationships. New this year, confirmation students are invited to share a simple meal twice a month on Wednesday nights. Just this past week about 40 students and family members participated in sharing a meal. The meals are open to those who engage in ministry on Wednesday nights here at church and their families. Meals coming up:

Nov. 30 Hot ham & cheese, Chicken Noodle Soup, Brownies

Dec. 14 Sloppy Joes, Chips, Veggies & dip, Sugar Cookies

MID-WINTER RETREAT AT CROSSWAYS

Take a weekend to play in the snow. Sit by a fire inside of the lodge and roast a s'more. Play some games and laugh with old friends and new. Spend some time enjoying some interactive bible studies and worship with Pastor Craig or Pastor Jenn. The annual mid-winter retreat is open to students in grades three through six. Registration forms can be found at the Information Desk in the Narthex or on the SALC website: www.salc-wausau.org. Chaperones are also needed and welcome to attend.

Who: 3-6 Grade Students

What: Winter Retreat

Where: Crossways Waypost Camp in Hatley, WI

When: Friday, January 27—Sunday, January 29

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

Register by January 15

CLASSROOM RENOVATIONS

The successful efforts for the First Faith education program and creation of a bright, welcoming room has sparked the desire to refresh all of the Sunday School classrooms at Saint Andrew. The "Buy A Chair" fundraiser has allowed the transition to begin with the initial order of chairs just received. Additional funds received through the November Noisy Offerings will be utilized for materials to add fun and educational decorations. Each room will have a biblical story theme tied to the name already assigned for that room. Your support through time, talents and financial contributions is welcomed and appreciated to accomplish this new initiative. Please call the church office if you would like to learn more about how you can get involved!

CONFIRMATION & SUNDAY SCHOOL UPCOMING DATES

December 11—Sunday School Christmas Program

December 25—No Sunday School

December 28—No Confirmation Classes

January 1—No Sunday School

January 20-22 — Grades 3-6 Midwinter Retreat at Waypost

March 12, 19, April 2—First Communion Classes

April 9—First Communion Worship - 2:00 pm

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

A Financial Peace University (FPU) class is currently scheduled for **Sundays at 6:00 pm beginning January 8**. Classes run nine weeks with a cost of \$93 per individual or couple. Reflections from FPU graduates:



Hi Joel,

I'm so excited to tell you that we are debt free except for our house! We made the last payment on our camper this week, and now all our debt is gone! Thank you so much for teaching the FPU class. I know for sure we wouldn't be where we are right now without having gone through the class—that really changed our outlook on how we handle money, and it got my husband on board to do this. We started in Nov/Dec of 2015 and have paid off a total of \$45,000. I'm so excited!

Thank you again for all the time that you put into the FPU classes—you are making a difference.

God bless! - Scott and Janel

Sign up is available on the Dave Ramsey website: <https://www.daveramsey.com/fpu/classes/1030587>

ASSISTING WITH WORSHIP IN DECEMBER

Date	Worship Time	Altar Guild	Usher Team	Lay Readers	Greeters	Fellowship
December 4	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 4	A	Sean McCarthy Nate Card	Mark & Pam Czerwinski Jeff, Pam & Alex Kyhos	Cal Sprik & Susan Tobin Ann McDonald & Mary Wittich
December 11	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 4	B	Julie Spalding Lynn Lawson	Mike & Jeannine Matushak Tom & Mary Weiland	Sid & Leslie Sorensen Roger & Ruth Poutanen
December 18	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 5	Brekke	Dan Malm Jayne Germinaro	Kim & Cindy Skadahll Brandon & Melissa Murphy	Jim Jacobson & Susie Soukup Mike & Carrie Clemment
December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm 10:00 pm	Team 5	Weidman Johnson Shepherd A	Call to Volunteer Call to Volunteer Call to Volunteer Call to Volunteer	_____	_____
December 25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	9:30 am	Team 5	B	Call to Volunteer	_____	_____

LECTIONARY READINGS

December 4	December 11	December 18	December 24	December 25
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

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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:

Emma Claire Rusinek - October 2
Layla Rae Zastrow - October 2
Kennedy Marie Baumgardt - October 20
Eila Jane Johnson - October 23
Ella RaeAnn Kapellusch - November 6
Grayson William Melville - November 13
Dylan Robert Laher - February 5

For Weddings:

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

Eric & Brittney Behrens - October 15

For Funerals:

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

Brian Loy

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	Gene	Roland	Dixie	Jerry
Babs	Irma	Steve	Laura	Owen
Barb	Jean	Tom	Bob	Brinley
Brian	Jennette	William	Frank	Camden
Callie & Zak	Jerry	Ella	Pam	Don
Carrie	Kevin	Clayton	Kim	Katie
Charles & Gerry	Lynn	Amy	Bobby	Sue
Cullen	Lynne & Dan	Charlotte	Angie	
Dennis	Marta	Meg	Ruth	
Elaine	Monica	Tom	Mary	
Elsie	Robin	Yvonne	John	

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



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*
Cullen Stangel, *Sexton*
Zach Weis, *Sexton*

Upcoming Events/Activities



**We're on
Facebook! Follow
the link on our
website and click
"like" to keep up
with the latest
news and events!**

December 1	11:30 am	OWLS Christmas Potluck
December 4	9:00 am	Cookie Exchange
December 4	10:30 am	Christmas Program Practice
December 4	11:30 am	Gingerbread House Decorating
December 9	10:00 am	Play Group
December 11	11:40 am	Budget Information Meeting
December 11	1:30 pm	Sunday School Christmas Program
December 25		No Sunday School
December 21 & 28		No Confirmation Classes
December 24	4:00 pm	WORSHIP - A Christmas Story Worship
	6 & 8 pm	WORSHIP - Candlelight Worship with Chancel & Handbell Choirs
	10:00 pm	WORSHIP - Candlelight Worship
December 25	9:30 am	WORSHIP - Christmas Day
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January 1	9:30 am	WORSHIP
January 8	6:00 pm	Financial Peace University
January 20-22		3-5 Grade Retreat at Waypost Camp
January 29		Congregation Annual Meeting

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

