

Network



Volume 10, Issue 12

December 2018

Reflections by Pastor Gary

Martin Luther loved a good paradox.

The paradox which seemed to captivate him the most was that of the first Christmas morn. The infinite God of the universe became an infant. The incarnation was for Luther like it was for Mary, an occasion to ponder all these things in his heart (Luke 2:19).

Everything about the birth of Christ struck Luther as a paradox of sorts. Mary, though poor and rather socially "insignificant," was chosen. Bethlehem, "The City of David," belonged to Christ, but there was no room for him to be found anywhere in it. The announcement of Christ's birth came not to the noble and elite, as we might expect, but to the shepherds. Luther explores all of these paradoxes in his sermon on Christmas Day, 1530. "Is it not strange," he asks, "that the birth of Christ occurs in cold winter, in a strange land, and in such a poor and despicable manner?" And he adds, "How could God have shown his goodness in a more sublime manner than by humbling himself to partake of flesh and blood?" This is the paradox that rather gloriously confounds us all: God became human.

The announcement from the angels that night was one which was a long time coming. The first peals of it were heard in a garden, the Garden of Eden. A seed, promised, would come to reconcile a fallen and sinful humanity to a holy and righteous God. And then the promise echoes through the Scriptures. Abraham and Sarah heard it. Naomi heard it. David, Naomi's great-great grandson by marriage, heard it. And the shepherds were the first to hear of the fulfillment: A child has been born in David's city, who is our redeemer.

Salvation comes in and by and through an infant Son. This is more than a paradox, this is a miracle. May the miracle bring peace and goodwill to your family and our community as we gather to worship and celebrate all God has given through the infant Son.

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, Monday, 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, Tuesday, December 25

9:30 am *Christmas Day Worship*



OWLS

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 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 11** at 715-842-3333. Baskets will be assembled on **Saturday, December 15**.

Noisy Offering

A Noisy Offering will be received on **Thursday and Sunday, December 13 & 16** in support of ELCA World Hunger.

Blood Pressure Checks

Blood pressure checks will be available **December 16, 9:00-9:30 am** in the library area of the Fellowship Hall.

Fair Trade Products

will be available for purchase on **Sunday, December 16**. All purchases help small landowner producers sustain their families and villages.

NO NONSENSE BAND RETIRES

It is with much pride and prayer that we announce the retirement of the No Nonsense Band! The band has complemented the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service with great energy, musicianship and enthusiasm for the past 25-ish years. A new format will be presented to share the Christmas story for that service. Thank you to all that have ever participated in the band and thank you for all the sacrifices made over the years to be part of the group. So many rehearsals!

ADVENT RETREAT: "KNOWING CHRIST"

Saturday, December 8, 8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Waypost Camp on Mission Lake, Hatley

How does being a baptized child of God shape your life? What would you say if someone asked "What do you believe?" Openly sharing faith can be difficult if you do not feel confident in your response. This advent retreat is being held in the cozy lodge at Waypost. Come, sit by the fire, share a meal and make new friends as we explore this topic together, growing our understanding of the central things we believe as Lutheran Christians. Pr. Jenn will lead group conversation, bible study, time in creation, reflection exercises and silent moments. Register by Monday, Dec. 3rd online www.salc-wausau.org/learning or stop by the Information Desk in the narthex at church. Carpooling may be available if interested. Cost is \$15 for lunch and materials.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

Sunday, December 2

11:45 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 will be available at the Information Desk. Please sign up by November 30.



CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

Sunday, December 16

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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday school children will share Christmas songs during **9:30 am worship on Sunday, December 16**. Christmas cookies will be served following the service. Plan to attend to hear the Christmas message through song from our youngest members!

Christmas Books in the SALC Library

Look for the Christmas display in the SALC library in December. Some adult books include "Advent, Chain of Stars", "Wait in Joyful Hope" and "In Search of the Real Spirit of Christmas". A few of the children's titles include, "Where Jesus Slept", Berenstain Bears' "Christmas Treasury" and Veggie Tales' "Mary, Larry & the True Light of Christmas" DVD.

Time and Talent Immediate Needs

Thank you to all who have offered your time and your talent through the Time and Talent cards. There is currently a need in the following areas: Fellowship Hosting, Greeting (8:00 am), Greeter Coordinator, Ushers and Layreaders. If you are interested in assisting in any of these areas, please note it on your Time & Talent card or call the church office.

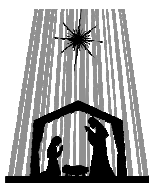
SALC Memorial Gifts

Memorial gifts were received in memory of Eugene Moyer, Christina Bickford and Mary Ann Koch. 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.

SALC Mailing List

Would you like to receive emails from Saint Andrew with announcements of activities, events and information? You could also receive the Network via email rather than a paper copy in the mail. Simply call the office or email: office@salc-wausau.org with your preference to begin receiving SALC notifications and/or the Network.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA—"LOVE CAME DOWN"



Sunday, December 16, 4:00 and 6:30 pm

From the star and angels in the sky above to the shepherds visiting the manger low, come, listen, and center your heart for the season through the beauty of "Love Came Down," a Christmas cantata featuring music by Dan Forrest and John Rutter with full orchestra and congregational participation. A free offering will be received to support further music ministry through Saint Andrew.

O JE KERESEMOSE MONATE! (MERRY CHRISTMAS!)

"Life and faith depend on exchange."
- ELCA Companion synod handbook

Everyone is invited to help send Christmas greetings to our brothers and sisters in Zeerust, South Africa. Using a card of your own or paper provided, please write a message of blessing for a blessed Christmas, wishing our partners well for the coming year. Look for the box in the Fellowship Hall that will be available until December 15.

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 our world through 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 2.**

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 checks payable to:
Saint Andrew Lutheran Church
Mail to:

3200 N. Mountain Rd., Wausau 54401

- or -

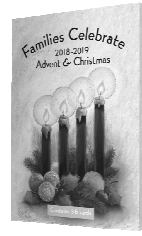
place in the designated box
on the Information Desk
in the Narthex

From: _____ Phone: _____

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY FORMED

At the conclusion of a significant time studying faith formation trends and following the creation of a report from the Faith Formation Task Force, the council approved at its last meeting a merger of Christian Education and Youth ministries beginning January 2019 to form Faith Formation Ministry. Look for the findings of the report to be featured at the annual meeting and the recommendations of the task force to appear over the next several issues of the Network. The first recommendation (of ten) is to *“develop Faith Formation Ministry and associated staff leadership that supports all members on their life-long faith formation journeys.”* Already underway, the ministry hopes to provide opportunities for all members to grow in faith at every stage of life.

CELEBRATE ADVENT



Families Celebrate Advent & Christmas is a colorful deck of cards that is full of rituals, prayers and reflections. Endlessly flexible for busy schedules, you can create a new after-meal ritual, use them

as decorations, or carry them on the go. Explore the entire season from Advent to Christmas through Epiphany. Look for the cards to be available soon as a gift from the Faith Formation Ministry for Saint Andrew Sunday School students and families.

IMPORTANT DATES

December 16: Sunday School Christmas Program

December 23 & 30: No Sunday School

December 26: No Confirmation

January 2: Confirmation Resumes

January 6: Sunday School Resumes

January 25-27: 3-6 Grades Mid-Winter Retreat

MID-WINTER RETREAT AT CROSSWAYS



Who: 3-6 Grade Students (and parent chaperones).

What: Time at camp in God's beautiful creation to play and explore in the snow, study bible stories, sing and play games around a theme focused on faith and life.

When: Friday, January 25 (drop off: 6:30-7:00 pm) —Sunday, January 27 (pick up: 11:00 am)

Where: Crossways Waypost Camp in Hatley, WI

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

Register by January 16—online (www.salc-wausau.org) or at the Information Desk in the Narthex

SAINT ANDREW RETURNS TO APPALACHIA SERVICE PROJECT IN 2019

In July 2017, 12 youth and 7 adults from Saint Andrew went to Kentucky and helped bring hope and warmth to people in need through the Appalachia Service Project. ASP is an organized Christian effort, bringing comfort and warmth to those in need in the Appalachian region. More importantly we show God's love through support and friendship with those we are serving. We shared time and hard work and left feeling like we received more than we gave!

Saint Andrew is now planning for a group of 10 youth and 5 adults to return next summer. The trip will be **June 22-28, 2019**. Basic requirements for the trip are that you have completed 9th grade (by June), that you have a willing attitude with an open heart. If you would like to learn more, please contact the church office for more information. Expenses for the week will be approximately \$250 or less with fundraising participation. Scholarship support is available. In addition to youth, adult leaders are required and needed for the teams. ***An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 6 at 10:45 am.***

2019 BUDGET INFORMATION MEETING

A special informational meeting will take place on ***Sunday, December 16 at 10:45 am*** in the Activity Room for anyone who wishes to learn about the budget process. Using giving records for 2018, pledged support for 2019, 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 27, 2018.***

2019 ALTAR FLOWERS

Honor a loved one or special event with altar flowers in 2019. Bouquets are routinely ordered weekly unless otherwise requested. A letter will be sent to you the week prior to the Sunday you signed up for flowers outlining the process, confirming what will be printed in the bulletin and will include an envelope for payment (cost is \$24.00). 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.

ASSISTING IN DECEMBER

Date	Worship Time	Altar Guild	Usher Team	Lay Readers	Greeters	Fellowship
December 2 <i>Advent 1</i>	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 6	B	Faith Martinson Mark Clark	Howe Alafouz	Sprick Alafouz
December 9 <i>Advent 2</i>	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 6	Tipple	Julie Spalding Lynn Lawson	Czerwinski Beyer	Jacobson Soukup Matushak
December 16 <i>Advent 3</i>	8:00 am 9:30 am	Team 2	Weidman	Dick Jarvis TBD	Garton Kyhos	Wiederhoeft Grabau
December 23 <i>Advent 4</i>	9:30 am	Team 2	Johnson	Mike Zenner Judith Marshall	Spalding Frolik	Stangel Frolik
December 24 <i>Christmas Eve</i>	4:00 pm 6:00 pm 8:00 pm 10:00 pm	Team 3	A B Tipple/Shep. Weidman	TBD Dave Mueller Ray Skare TBD	_____	_____
December 25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	9:30 am	Team 3	Johnson	TBD	_____	_____
December 30	9:30 am	Team 3	B	TBD	Rickstad Murphy	Breese Spiegel Frolik

LECTIONARY READINGS

Dec. 2	Dec. 9	Dec. 16	Dec. 24 (Advent 4)	Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve)	Dec. 25	Dec. 31
Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Thess. 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36	Malachi 3:1-4 Luke 1:68-79 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Isaiah 12:2-6 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Micah 5:2-5a Luke 1:46b-55 Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]	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	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM WORSHIP 9:40 AM Sunday School Classes 10:45 AM Gingerbread House Decorating 10:45 AM WORSHIP 6:30 PM Bible Study	3 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Darball - SALC @ St Michaels	4 9:00 AM Reading Reflections 6:30 PM Cantata Rehearsal OWLS - Poffluck & Christmas Carols Singing w/SALC Staff	5 6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study 9:30 AM Women's Lectionary Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:15 PM Women's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th & 8th Confirmation Classes 6:30 PM Cantata & Chancel Choir Rehearsal	6 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP	7 5:00 PM Lay School Classes	8 8:00 AM Lay School Classes 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM Advent Retreat @ Crossways Waypost Camp - Hatley
9 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM WORSHIP 9:40 AM Sunday School Classes 10:45 AM WORSHIP 6:30 PM Bible Study	10 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Darball - St. Paul @ SALC	11 9:00 AM Reading Reflections 10:00 AM Quilting Group 6:30 PM Cantata Rehearsal 6:30 PM Ministry Night Meetings	12 6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study 9:30 AM Women's Lectionary Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th & 8th Confirmation Classes 6:30 PM Cantata & Chancel Choir Rehearsal	13 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP	14 1:00 PM Cantata Dress Rehearsal in Sanctuary	15 1:00 PM Cantata Dress Rehearsal in Sanctuary
16 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:00 AM Cookie Exchange 9:30 AM Sunday School Christmas Program in Worship 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM 2019 Special Budget Conversation 10:45 AM WORSHIP 4:00 PM & 6:30 PM "Love Came Down" Christmas Cantata	17 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 7:00 PM Darball - SALC @ Peace Lutheran	18 9:00 AM Reading Reflections 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:00 AM Quilting for Lutheran World Relief	19 6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study 9:30 AM Women's Lectionary Bible Study 10:00 AM Men's Bible Study 12:15 PM Women's Bible Study 5:15 PM Handbell Choir 6:15 PM 7th & 8th Confirmation Classes 6:30 PM Cantata & Chancel Choir Rehearsal	20 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP 7:00 PM Council Meeting	21 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP	22 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP
23 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM WORSHIP	24 4:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings 8:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship	25 9:30 AM Christmas Day Worship Christmas Day Holiday - Church Office Closed	26 No 7th-8th Confirmation Classes 6:30 PM Cantata & Chancel Choir Rehearsal	27 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP	28 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP	29 12:15 PM WORSHIP 6:15 PM WORSHIP
30 8:00 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM WORSHIP 10:45 AM WORSHIP	31 7:00 PM AA, Alanon & Alateen Meetings					

January 19						
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 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	

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:

Clara Mae Radtke - November 11

Amelia Jane Radtke - November 11

Audny Jean Smithback - December 2

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...

Aiden	Dennis	Nikki	Yvonne	Katie
Ali	Ed	Pam	Laura	Laurie
Amy	Jak	Phil	Frank	Judy
Ashley	Jennifer	Robin	Pam	Adam
Babs	Jim	Ron	Angie	Darrell
Bill	Larry	Tom	Helen	Kurt & Family
Brian	Leann	Tony	Riley	
Callie & Zak	Lynne & Dan	Zurn	Rebecca	
Charles & Gerry	Maxine	Ella	Ted	
Charles	Meg	Amy	Katie	
Colton	Monica	Tom	Joe	

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. Jenn Collins, *Pastor*
Rev. Gary Brandenburg, *Interim Pastor*
Rev. Jeff Martinson, *Visitation Pastor*
Shelby Gjertson, *Parish Administrator*
Joy Mitchell, *Secretary*
Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*
Sheldon Geiger, *Bookkeeper*
Shannon Vujnovich, *Custodian*
Matthew Clark, *Sexton*
Jenna Rusch, *Sexton*

Upcoming Events/Activities

DECEMBER

2		Gingerbread House Decorating
4	11:30 am	OWLS Christmas Potluck & Sing Along
8	8:30 am—2:00 pm	Advent Retreat at Waypost Camp
16	9:30 am	Sunday School Christmas Program
16		Christmas Cookie Exchange
16	4:00 & 6:30 pm	Christmas Cantata
16		2019 Budget Information Meeting
23 & 30		NO Sunday School Classes
26		NO Confirmation Classes

JANUARY

2	6:15 pm	Confirmation Classes Resume
6	9:40 am	Sunday School Classes Resume
25-27		Mid-Winter Retreat at Waypost Camp
27		SALC Annual Meeting



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