

# Network



Volume 12, Issue 4

March 27, 2020

## *Network Note from Pr. Jenn*

I have come to value the question “How are you doing?” in new ways. I sincerely want to know and sincerely hear care and compassion when people ask that question of me. One of our hopes during this challenging season in our life together is that we all can answer that question and be well – even as we find life to be ever changing and somewhat stressful.

To answer the question, “How are you?” I would share that I am well. Many in my “family” are deemed essential workers who are risking their own health for care of others. That sometimes gets me down. But for the most part, I am adapting to work from home and the task of keeping church running smoothly. I have asthma so have been extra careful around social distancing. My cat might be found under the definition of “clingy” in the dictionary...a reality I quite enjoy.

“How are we?” I’ve got some updates to share with you and the staff has put together some resources for you in this special edition Network and also on our Saint Andrew Facebook page. Here are a few notes about what has transpired in the last week.

With Governor Evers’ order to stay “safer at home,” we have also taken precaution at Saint Andrew and the office has formally closed which means that we are asking people without any direct reason to be in the building to not be there unless the need is crucial to essential functions. AA has decided to meet via zoom and information is posted on our West entrance for anyone who may need that. The staff are working from home and are in frequent contact with me. Most days, Monday through Friday, at various times, one of us will be present on site to collect mail and check messages. Many thanks to you who have mailed in your offerings. We are receiving them and they have been vitally important in this time of uncertainty. Offerings will continue to be processed as usual on Mondays.

Pastor Justin is officially “off” this week as he helps his family conclude the move from Indiana, returning to Wausau with his wife, Pastor Phyllis. When he returns he will join us and the rest of the staff as we work our way through a rather substantial directory to be in touch with as many of you as possible via phone. Our staff along with a few volunteers will be calling you from their personal numbers and it will take some time to get to all of you since there are over 900 family units in our congregation. The goal of these calls is just to check in. We are assessing the needs of people in our community and want to make sure you have the care that you need to make it through this time.

We will continue to stream worship live from church and can feel your presence as you join us. We are thankful that Governor Evers’ order lists weddings, funerals, and religious entities in section 13.h as essential. But there are limits. No more than 10 people are to be in a room and individuals are to adhere to social distancing. On Wednesday and Sunday you will likely see the pastors and the accompanist in the livestream. We will do this as long as we are feeling well and can be present in person.

You will find our Facebook page has lots of resources that we will continue to update, and we plan to e-mail more frequent versions of the network via constant contact. If you haven’t done so, please “like” our Facebook page to be cued into the most recent updates.

Thanks to all of you who are doing your part to stay safe at home. Thanks to all who are living out their faith with courage as you report to work on the front lines of grocery stores, the streets of the Wausau/Metro area, and at places like Aspirus and Saint Clare. You are continually in our thoughts and prayers. We pray for your health and wellbeing and that you may continue to answer the question, “How are you?” with the words, “I am well” – or something similar.

As always, thank you for sharing these updates with those who may not have internet.

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.

## WORSHIP

### WORSHIP VIA FACEBOOK LIVE STREAM

Join us on Facebook live for worship 12:15 on Wednesdays and 9:00 am on Sundays at facebook.com/salcwausau. **You do not need a Facebook account to join in worship.** If you do have a Facebook account and "like" the Saint Andrew Facebook Page, you should receive a notification at the beginning of the live stream. These services will remain available on our Facebook page under the "videos" tab along the left side of the page. Watch whenever you can, and feel free to leave comments, prayers, or responses during the viewing. Council will be meeting next week to share updates about what Holy Week and Easter may look like.

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## LEARNING

### CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTIONAL

Christ in Our Home is a quarterly devotional resource that encourages readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day that follows the Revised Common Lectionary.

With the outbreaks of coronavirus disease 2019 in North America and around the world many people may be without a physical copy of Christ in Our Home. To assist with devotional life during this time, Augsburg Fortress Publishers is offering a limited-time complementary email subscription. Sign up and they will deliver the daily devotional to your email at 4am Central Time for the remainder of March and April 2020. For more details copy and paste this link into your browser: [https://go.augsburgfortress.org/christ-in-our-home-email-subscription?utm\\_campaign=AF%20Subscription%20Devotionals&utm\\_content=122713140&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook&hss\\_channel=fbp-373501085464&fbclid=IwAR1yEuVL\\_bhfQjt5CHxalScTh3RmRYjxe8InxxJRWZqIBZCJraML4\\_XYyqw](https://go.augsburgfortress.org/christ-in-our-home-email-subscription?utm_campaign=AF%20Subscription%20Devotionals&utm_content=122713140&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook&hss_channel=fbp-373501085464&fbclid=IwAR1yEuVL_bhfQjt5CHxalScTh3RmRYjxe8InxxJRWZqIBZCJraML4_XYyqw)

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### GATHER MAGAZINE

To help people of faith cope with the challenge of social distancing, *Gather* is giving away their March and April 2020 issues for free as downloadable PDFs to members of their enewsletter list. Gather, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. Copy this link to your browser to sign up for their enewsletter and receive March and April issues of Gather: <https://www.gathermagazine.org/>

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### ZOOM BIBLE STUDIES

Stay tuned! We are living into this new reality but hope to get some time for conversation around God's word up for all of you. In the meantime, you might download the free Zoom app on your smart phone, tablet, or computer. The app is free and can be found from wherever you get your apps or by checking out <https://www.zoom.us/>

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### GENEROSITY PROJECT

The Generosity Project is an intergenerational, household-focused approach to stewardship. Its goals are to connect generations, create centers for the faith practice of generosity, and grow in God's grace generation to generation. Lesson 2 focuses on the question, "Who is to be generous?". The link for the next Generosity Project lesson is <https://bit.ly/33Mly8K>.

## **WITNESS**

### **COMPASSION CONNECTION LINK**

Saint Andrew is looking for ways to reach out to those who may be vulnerable in our community by creating ways to support them in this time of uncertainty: running errands, sharing a meal, connecting via phone to extend friendship, assisting in child care, etc. Your eyes and ears are critical in identifying these needs. We have created an online database, Compassion Connection, where individuals can add their specific need and contact information, and other members are able to view needs and reach out appropriately. If you, or someone you know, needs assistance: Click the link below and add the name and best contact information (phone or e-mail) and a brief description of what is needed. This information will be kept as an internal communication, only accessible to SALC members.

#### **If you can help out:**

Take a look at the list via the link shown below. If there is something you can help with, you can make the connection. This is a live document that will be updated regularly. We are hoping it will be a way for members to make connections throughout this time of suspended church activity. Thank you to those who have already reached out. We are blessed to have such a generous and thoughtful congregation, gathered in spirit when we can't be together. Copy and paste this Compassion Link into your browser: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tOk0oYsyLfmpb1rrWRH1mNSEblon2C5shnKjSsSOXN4/edit#gid=0>

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## **SERVICE**

### **HELP SUPPORT LOCAL HEALTHCARE WORKERS**

A member of Saint Andrew who works at the ER at Aspirus has written and asked for help with sewing masks to be used as PPE (personal protective equipment) for Aspirus, local hospitals and first responders. Patterns can be easily found online, not unlike the one shown here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BCJcE-r7kcg&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR1Nf00MNvN4L-80EQZGsl6fJ7T5KExUA3tgR3fvaf-CQIJBhkZbdo5kFVs> The Saint Andrew quilters are working to take the lead on this project and have asked for your help. If you are able to safely do so, Linda Peterson will be picking up masks in the church parking lot today and next Friday from 3:30-4:00 pm. She has asked for the masks to be put in plastic bags and labeled with the number of masks made and the name and phone number of the maker. If you are unable to make either of these times to drop off masks or you have any questions, please contact Linda directly Linda at [lindaksp@aol.com](mailto:lindaksp@aol.com).

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## **SUPPORT**

### **A WORD ABOUT PASTORAL CARE**

Pastor Jeff, Pastor Justin, and Pastor Jenn are available for previously scheduled and emergent pastoral care via e-mail, phone, Zoom, or Facetime. Please contact them directly if you have pastoral care like pre-marital work or regular conversation to receive a link for a Zoom conversation. We are in touch with local chaplains and are learning that visits are not allowed at many facilities. Thank you for your patience as we learn a new way to minister during this time.

Pr. Justin Smoot | [pastorjustin@salc-wausau.org](mailto:pastorjustin@salc-wausau.org) | 715-842-3333

Pr. Jenn Collins | [pastorjenn@salc-wausau.org](mailto:pastorjenn@salc-wausau.org) | 715-842-3333

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFERINGS AND CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Now more than ever we are grateful for a gift of any amount you might share to further support the ministry of Saint Andrew. What you share makes a difference as we seek to be "open to all" in this time when many feel isolated.

Ways to share your offering:

- ♦ **Mail** an envelope to church at 150202 County Road NN, Wausau WI 54401.
- ♦ Give **online** at [www.salc-wausau.org/giving](http://www.salc-wausau.org/giving).
- ♦ Sign up for **TOE** (Transfer Offering Electronically). Simply give the church office a call with your bank information.
- ♦ Give through the "Give Plus" app by **Vanco**. Please visit <https://www.vancopayments.com/egiving/church-app>

For the many ways you give, thank you.

## OTHER ITEMS TO NOTE

### YOUTH SUMMER TRIP TO CHRISTIKON

As we monitor the ever-changing landscape of COVID- 19 and how it is affecting not only us in Central Wisconsin, but the country as a whole, we have made the difficult decision to cancel our youth backpacking trip to Christikon in Montana this July. We look forward to Summer 2021 where we can participate in the ELCA youth gathering which will be held in Minneapolis.

### SALC 2020 COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following individuals will serve as members of the congregation council and liaisons to the following ministries for 2020. Please pray for their efforts as they work together to fulfill the mission and ministry at Saint Andrew. (\*Indicates newly elected members)

Kerry Fehrman - President  
Derek Hoff - Vice President  
Denise Skare - Secretary  
Terri Wiederhoeft - Treasurer  
Mike Howlett - Financial Secretary

Dayna Herold	Faith Formation
Kerry Fehrman	Fellowship
Terri Fronek	Finance/Stewardship
*Tammy Schilling & *Bob Wiederhoeft	Member Outreach
Pr. Jenn	Memorial Gift
Ken Luer & Derek Hoff	Personnel
Chris Hagen & *Phil Bickley	Property
Sandra Fischer	Social
*Herb Heyne	Worship

The Saint Andrew Church Council meeting dates are listed below and begin at 7:00 pm unless otherwise noted. Anyone is welcome to attend these meetings.

## COMMUNION PRACTICES – TRUST IN THE WORD

*Our bishop, Bishop Jerry Mansholt* of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin wrote to the pastors and deacons of our synod with his wisdom on what we should do surrounding communion practices during this time. He writes:

A few of you have asked for guidance on the practice of Holy Communion, especially in light of some emerging practices in different parts of the Church. I know the reception of Holy Communion has become a very central part of our worship life. I myself was a strong advocate for and introduced the weekly celebration of the eucharist in every congregation I served from the beginning of my ministry onward. I give thanks to God for the centrality of the Eucharist in our weekly Sunday worship. There are good and worthy reasons to celebrate the Holy Meal on the day of Christ's resurrection.

I cringe, however, when I hear someone say that worship is incomplete without the Holy Communion or that people are not being fed without the Meal. It is important for us to remember Holy Communion is not separate from the Word, not some special food we must eat to fully know and receive God. The sacraments are a means of grace, the Word coming to the believer in water, bread and wine.

Jesus Christ is the Word of God incarnate. The proclamation of God's message to us as both Law and Gospel is the Word of God. The canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are the written Word of God. I have heard some powerful proclamations of the Word in your online worship services. You need to know and trust the Word you are proclaiming is bringing comfort and assurance to the hearts and souls of the people you serve.

I watched and listened to several worship services from around the synod these past two Sundays. I also tuned in early this past Sunday and heard Cardinal Dolan's homily from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. I was struck by how he connected the tactile aspects of Jesus ministry with the man blind from birth (John 9) with the communal nature of Holy Communion. He noted how Jesus spat, made mud and touched the man's eyes bringing forth sight. Then the Cardinal noted how the community gathers in Jesus' name. There in the gathered community is the sharing of peace, the physical presence of one another, and placing of bread in the hand of the communicant.

I am so thankful for online meetings, especially in these days of working from home. But while I immensely enjoy seeing faces on the screen, they remain a virtual presence. I love seeing my children and grandchildren when doing Facetime and talking with them and hearing their voices. But I long to hug them and to be in their physical presence. The sacrament of Holy Communion is deeply connected liturgically to incarnational theology and Jesus' presence in the community of believers. I think there are many questions yet to be explored about the nature of community vis a vis the technology of this age. It is also a time for us to think deeply about how the Word of God comes to us and how we receive that Word.

So my recommendation and counsel is that we trust in the power of the proclamation of the Word and not engage in practices like online communion at this time. Holy Communion is not the only way the Word of God is communicated, not even the preeminent way that the Word of God is communicated. Furthermore, when we are anxious and deeply concerned about so many things, I don't think this is the best time to be making decisions of this magnitude. I also know there are pastors and congregations who have experimented with distributing communion from the parking lot or making the sacrament available in other ways. Though I confess to my own reservations about some of these practices, there also is part of me that admires the bold innovation and desire to serve. But now in these days of Safer at Home, I encourage a fasting from Holy Communion. Let us do all that we can to maintain safe physical distances between people lest we contribute to the spread of the coronavirus. I speak this word to all of you with humility, knowing others around the Church are wrestling with these matters but coming to different conclusions. I encourage us all to be gentle with one another, to listen, study and think deeply, and pray about these matters. And let us trust the Holy Spirit is at work through our proclamation of the Good News of God in Jesus Christ and working faith and love in all of us.

## 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:*

Wyatt Archie Drake - March 8  
Kiera Lee Moeller - May 10

### For Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

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

Marvin Meier  
Geraldine Parsch

### For Weddings:

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

Melissa Brickner and Kurt Seubert - May 16

## 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	Jennifer	Neil	Zoe	Dale
Ali	Jim	Nikki	Zurn	Angie & Laura
Alice	Kara	Nora	Amy	Harper
Ashley	Karen	Orreanna	Tom	Emmerson
Babs	Kristin	Pam	Yvonne	Cullen
Bev	Leann	Phil	Laura	Jay
Brian	Leonard	Ralph	Frank	Audrey
Brittney	Lynne & Dan	Robin	Pam	Kelly & Benton
Callie & Zak	Marise	Roland	Riley	Family
Charles & Gerry	Meghan	Shirley	Katie	Kimberly
Ed	Melanie	Terry	Joe	Ariel
Jaime	Michael	Tom	Judy	
Jan	Monica	Tony	Becky	

*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)*





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**Parish Staff**

Rev. Jenn Collins, *Pastor*  
Rev. Justin Smoot, *Pastor*  
Rev. Jeff Martinson, *Visitation Pastor*  
Joy Mitchell, *Secretary*  
Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*  
Jenna Diedrich, *Faith Formation  
Coordinator*  
Sheldon Geiger, *Bookkeeper*  
Shannon Vujnovich, *Custodian*  
Dave Paisar, *Custodian*  
Matthew Clark, *Sexton*  
Jenna Rusch, *Sexton*  
Dave Mueller, *Sexton*

**LECTIONARY READINGS**

April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26
Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14--27:66	Acts 10:34-43 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 Matthew 28:1-10	Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35



*SALC is on Facebook ([facebook.com/salcwausau](https://facebook.com/salcwausau))! Or follow the link on the Saint Andrew website and click "like" to keep up with the latest news and events!*