



July 17, 2020

Funeral for Normal

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and from our Lord, Jesus, the Christ.

We are gathered here today in memory of a time when life seemed easier, because life was easier. The pattern of our lives was not marked, as it is now with the specter of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus, or Covid-19. We have not just lost our schedules and routines as we have known them, we have gained a respiratory virus. An unseen, yet present force. This brings us grief upon grief as months have passed and more and more is lost. As what we hoped for this summer was swept away, the welcome and expected seasonal changes of the fall appear like autumn's last leaves, ready to fall and be blown away.

We have lost so much.

We hurt so much.

We have so many questions.

There are some things that help with our grief. Visitations and funerals provide a sense of closure. Memorials can mark a legacy to bring hope. But in the grief that we are feeling at the world being placed behind the pall of Covid-19, we cannot mourn our

losses in the same way. The life we lived before this year is before our eyes in a way that makes it seem all too real.

We can see it, but we cannot grasp it. Frustration builds. We hear that we must do things in different ways, but we cannot always see why. Confusion grows. We look for ways to cope and we hear different things wherever we turn. We hear different stories. We look for hope, but it is as invisible as the virus.

Paul encouraged the Romans in this way, "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us." (Romans 8:18) He did not deny the fact that we are suffering in this age. He did not deny the pain that exists staring across the gulf between the vision of Heaven's Dominion and the world in which he lived.

Paul acknowledged the suffering.

Throughout his life he suffered for the sake of a future he saw in Christ and knew the discomfort, the pain, the struggle was worth the new reality. "As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing." (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

Paul feels poured out, as many of us feel, stretched thin and empty. The struggles have worn at him, truly grieved and afflicted him; this cannot be denied. If he were to deny the suffering, he would deny the transformation at work. If he were to have avoided the suffering, the reward of what is to be revealed would not be his.

A future world, with Covid-19 under control will look very close to what the world was before. The pain, suffering, and uncertainty are real. Grieving for our losses as a world, as a nation, as a state, as a county, as a community; is necessary work for building the hope that will carry us through.

As we grieve what was and look forward to what will be, please be gentle with yourselves. Grief is more than an emotion, it is an experience. Our whole selves endure grief in proportion to our connection to what is lost. Our experience, our suffering, our loss, our pain is not the same. Covid-19 has stolen different things from different people and their experiences of grief may be deeper than some, or less intense than others, but it is still grief and honoring the experience of it leads to transformation.

So I will not say, “do not grieve,” because grief forges hope within. Hope that the specter of Covid-19 will diminish as our understanding and medicine grows. Grief lifts the pains of this life up to God in sacred lamentation, until that day when treatments will be wider-spread than the virus. Know that our grief is real, our lament is holy, and our struggles are honored by the God who does not exempt us from suffering, but carries us through it, with hope.

Amen.

Pr. Justin

Pastor Jenn to Take One Month Sabbath

Two years ago Pastor Craig announced his departure from Saint Andrew. (Holy moly, two years!) Much has happened since then but his legacy and faith still impact this community today. I still remain so grateful for this brother, mentor, colleague, pastor, friend. I am also thankful that the Council and Personnel Ministry have approved a month long “refresh” for my spirit because of a marathon-sprint from that time to now.

Because of this I will be out of the office from July 20-Aug 16 and will be unavailable for pastoral care and will respond to messages or calls when I return. I will be spending time reading, writing, praying, focusing on my health and spending time with the ones I love. You might catch me around Wausau with my folks or out and about and I’d be glad to say hello.

Thankfully Pastor Justin and the staff are ready to roll and provide that care that is needed for you - even as the Task Force and the Council are working to bring us together in person as safely as possible. In an emergency, Pastor Justin can be reached by cell phone through the church voicemail system. These last two years of ministry that we have shared have been wonderful and challenging and I would not have been sustained without you and without the gift of God’s spirit.

Thank you for all of the encouragement and prayers. I can’t wait to see what is in store for us in all the years that are to come! God willing, I will return on August 17 refreshed and ready to go! Until then,

Peace be yours in Jesus -

Pr. Jenn



Welcome Michelle!

When the budget was approved at our annual meeting it included funds for a part time Communication Coordinator whose role would be to use written words and various multimedia formats to express ideas and interpret the story of Saint Andrew. In collaboration with pastors, staff, and lay leadership of the congregation, this position will create content that can be viewed on screen, listened to, or read in order to advance the mission of Christ and of Saint Andrew.

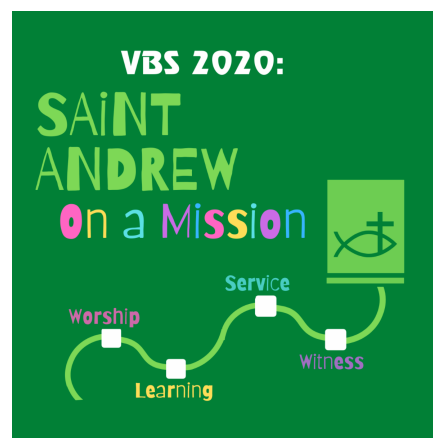
Saint Andrew is pleased to introduce Michelle Tlusty who will begin later this month as our new part time Communications Coordinator. Michelle is a gifted writer, speaker, actress, and singer. Formed for ministry at Waypost – Crossways camp and formed for leadership as the assistant director of the vocal ensemble ChicagoVox, Michelle became a member of Saint Andrew in 2017. She is a recent graduate of Columbia College in Chicago and taught many of us ASL in order to pass the peace of Christ on the live stream a few months ago. Please join me in welcoming Michelle to the Saint Andrew staff!

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Faith Formation is creating a 4-week, at-home VBS experience for families. **Starting July 19** we will post a short video each week for your children to watch that includes a bible story, a song, and a challenge for the week. We will also provide a list of fun activities that can be done at home.

This program was created with flexibility in mind. Families can engage in videos and activities whenever it is convenient!

Videos and resources will be posted Sunday mornings to our Facebook page and to our new [Family Faith Formation Facebook group](#). This new group will help members better connect and serve as an internal network with focused content geared toward family and household Faith Formation.



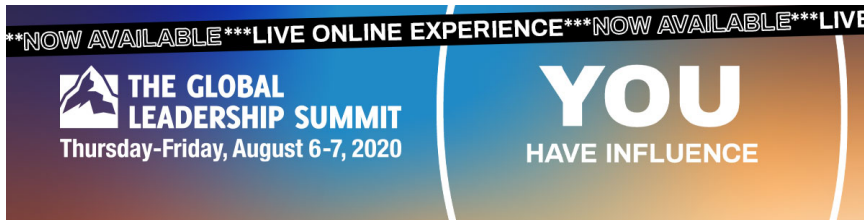
Sunday School Takes on a New Look in the Fall

Faith Formation Ministry met last week to discuss and re-imagine our in-person Sunday school format. With so many variables to consider, it was decided to not offer our traditional Sunday school classes this fall, with a plan to reassess in December.

As an alternative, the ministry is developing a plan for small-group, family-based Sunday school programming. Families and members interested in participating will create small groups of around 10 people (kids and adults) to meet weekly and engage in a 12-week program for all ages. Curriculum and additional resources will be provided by SALC.

More details regarding registration, creating groups, and meeting options will be announced later this month.

Global Leadership Summit 2020 - August 6 & 7



Saint Andrew Lutheran Church is excited to host The Global Leadership Summit 2020 Online.

The GLS is an opportunity to access a wealth of leadership insight from a world-class faculty ready to equip and inspire you—no matter where you have influence. Now, more than ever, Saint Andrew is looking to equip its members with skills to lead our church and our community. Leadership takes perseverance, dedication, and a commitment to stretch your mind, expand your heart and use your God-given gifts to impact your world in real and powerful ways.

On **August 6 and 7**, you're invited to join with thousands of leaders across North America for The Global Leadership Summit. This year the GLS is being presented online. Your registration will give you access to the 2-day livestream event and video recording for 7 days, giving you flexible options to watch. GLS will also be offering two replay events in October and November.

As a host site, SALC members can use the Priority Code: **LEAD2020** for a discounted price of \$99 until July 21. Register with Priority Code after July 21 for a price of \$129.

To register, [click here](#).

To view the 2020 faculty, [click here](#) .

Join the Stream Team

Do you enjoy videography or video production or would like to learn more about it? Consider joining the group of Saint Andrew members, the Stream Team, who support the video streaming of worship services. Six teams will be created for a rotating schedule about every six weeks. Interested? Send an email with your contact information to info@salc-wausau.org and someone will contact you with more information.

Fair Trade Products Are Back!



Fair Trade products are back! You can now order your favorites using our online order forms. After they are filled you can arrange to pick up your order at church. We have two forms for your use:

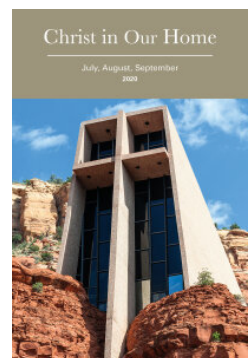
+ [Order form for Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate](#)

+ [Order form for Home Products and Clothing Items](#)

Your purchase of fair trade products help directly support the individual artisans and independent farmers from around the world!

Christ in Our Home Devotional

Christ in Our Home quarterly devotional resource 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. Augsburg Fortress Publishing has extended the complementary email subscription for the third quarter (July-August-September). [Click here to sign up.](#) ***Copies are also available at church in a plastic bin outside the north (Chapel) entrance. Please feel free to stop by and pick up a copy.***



About

Worship

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