



January 12, 2021

*“Look well to the growing edge!  
All around us worlds are dying and new worlds are being born; all around us life is  
dying and life is being born. The fruit ripens on the tree, the roots are silently at work  
in the darkness of the earth against a time when there shall be new leaves, fresh  
blossoms, green fruit.  
Such is the growing edge! It is the extra breath from the exhausted lung, the one more  
thing to try when all else has failed, the upward reach of life when weariness closes in  
upon all endeavor. This is the basis of hope in moments of despair, the incentive to  
carry on when times are out of joint and men have lost their reason, the source of  
confidence when worlds crash and dreams whiten into ash.  
The birth of the child — life’s most dramatic answer to death — this is the growing  
edge incarnate. Look well to the growing edge!”*

— Civil Rights theologian Howard Thurman

When I was a child, I remember having growing pains in my legs as I grew taller. You can watch a baby grow teeth and you’ll see the pain. But there’s goodness in the growth. There’s something more coming!

Howard Thurman is not wrong. The potential for growth in us is huge during these times. The learning is taking place at incredible speed. This is not the time to lose

hope. Even in the midst of pandemic and on the heels of the violence at the capitol last week, it can be easy to despair. Certainly, all of the responses to grief are natural: denial, sadness, anger, bargaining, acceptance. But as people of faith, hope is the fuel that restores in us a notion that things can and will be reconciled. Things can and will grow. Things can and will be better than they are in this moment.

“Do not lose heart” Paul says to the Corinthians when they had come to be divided (2 Cor. 4). Dear church, do not lose heart. Keep the faith. God is doing something that it would be a shame to miss it!

Pastor Jenn

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## New Member Orientation to Take Place Virtually

*Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 1:00 pm-3:00 pm via Zoom*

Membership is about naming a deeper connection of relationship to a community of faith. The benefits of membership include the ability to give voice and vote at congregational meetings, serve in leadership through ministry or council leadership, and assurance of pastoral care for the valleys and mountaintops of life.

New Member Orientation tackles the basics of what it means to be a Lutheran Christian, the history and mission of Saint Andrew, and ways to integrate more deeply through worship, learning, witness, and service. It also gives members a chance to connect to others and begin building relationships. Led virtually for the first time, those interested in membership will be given a link through the free platform, Zoom. If you're interested in participating, call the office or e-mail [joy@salc-wausau.org](mailto:joy@salc-wausau.org) with the subject “New Member” and she will reply with the steps to register.

If you are hesitant to participate virtually and would rather schedule a one-on-one socially distant in-person conversation with the pastors, simply call the office to schedule an appointment, indicating interest in membership.

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## 2021 Annual Meeting Has Been Scheduled

Mark your calendars for the annual meeting which will take place on **Sunday, February 14**, a little bit later than usual. This meeting will allow for us to give thanks for the ministry that took place in 2020, receive a spending plan for 2021 ministry, and elect council members. This meeting takes place in a hybrid/virtual format being explored by a council appointed task force. Stay tuned for more information about participating in this meeting.

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## 2021 Altar Flowers

Honor a loved one or special event with altar flowers in 2021. Bouquets are routinely ordered weekly unless otherwise requested. A letter or email 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. Payment - \$24.00 – can be mailed, dropped off or sent online through the SALC website. Your flowers may be taken home to be enjoyed following Sunday worship between 10:00 and 10:30 am or they can be picked up during the week, 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Stop in or call the church office to request the Sunday you would like. ***There are still multiple openings for January and February.***

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## 2021 Spending Plan Review

On **Sunday, January 17**, there will be a presentation on the 2021 Saint Andrew Spending Plan during Coffee Talk which will take place over Zoom to allow for interaction. Presented by the Finance Ministry and Pastor Jenn, you can call into the meeting or participate virtually. For ease of access it will also be streamed or posted to Facebook to watch at a later time. If you are interested in learning about the Spending Plan and want an opportunity to ask questions before the Annual Meeting on **February 14**, plan on participating. To attend the meeting use the information below:

To join the Zoom Meeting on your computer, tablet or smartphone, click [HERE](#).

- Meeting ID: 892 4640 1871
- Passcode: 010823

To call into the Zoom Meeting dial by your location dial +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

- Meeting ID: 892 4640 1871
- Passcode: 010823

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## Christmas Yard Signs

Are you wondering what to do with your “I’ll Be Home for Christmas” yard sign? You have a few options. You can keep it, throw it away (they are not



### 10 things to do with your Christmas Yard Sign

1. Convert to a “Garage Sale” Sign  
Remember them? Spray paint and add the info....
2. Create a “Happy Birthday” Yard Sign  
Especially for someone turning 40... 10 signs are best!
3. Build a Bird House  
Search for a plan that uses a piece of 18x24 plywood
4. Create an Outdoor TV Tray  
Add another set of stand wires and bend them over
5. Make an Outdoor Serving Tray  
Very unique! Glue halves together for stronger tray
6. Glass carrier tray  
Glue halves and drill holes a little smaller than glass diameter
7. Shade a plant  
Bend the wire stand to a right angle
8. Make a Bird Seed Tray  
Cut strips for an edge. Poke holes for drainage.
9. Build a fairy house for the garden  
Hot glue bark, moss, leaves and stones on your creation
10. Return to SALC

recyclable) or you are welcome to bring it back to church to be “recycled” to be used again for another purpose down the road. Signs can be brought into church or you can leave it outside against the building – at the main entrance.

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## 7th and 8th Grade Confirmation to Resume

Confirmation classes will resume **Wednesday, January 13** and will continue through **February 10, 2021**.

6:00 pm-7:00 pm: 8th Grade in-person

6:45 pm-7:30 pm: Virtual Small Group (meeting link below)

7:15 pm-8:15 pm: 7th Grade in-person

### Confirmation Virtual Small Group

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87402980926?pwd=Y1I3OWQvTmlpL0lMeHNXS3I3NIRvQT09>

Meeting ID: 874 0298 0926

Passcode: 350812

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## Videos Available on YouTube

Did you miss worship live? Was there something in particular that you’d like to listen to again? A children’s sermon that tickled your ear? Facebook not your thing? Church is uploading these video resources to our YouTube channel. Check out [this link](#) or search for Saint Andrew and hit “subscribe” to see and share the latest content.

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“God, you watch our going out and our coming in: bless this time of ending and beginning.”

*-Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Occasional Services for the Assembly, based on Psalm 121: 8*

Dear ones of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin,

I write to share news of the Holy Spirit at work in transitions, endings and beginnings. Pastor Amy Engebose, Bishop’s Associate for Rostered Leadership and Congregations in Transition, will be leaving synod staff to return to parish ministry. She has been called to be the pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Neenah. Pastor Amy joined the synod staff in October, 2016 and has worked with congregations in transition, call process, mobility, first call, candidacy, and Reimagining Church. “I have met some amazing people in this synod! It has been a privilege to work with them and serve the congregations and leaders of the synod for the past four years”, said Pastor Amy. Her last day in the synod office will be January 15. Please join me in giving thanks for Pastor Amy’s leadership, accompaniment and ministry with congregations and leaders

in transition as Bishop's Associate and for her joyful and faithful discernment of this new call to ministry with the people of St. Paul in Neenah. We will ask God to bless this transition in ministry for Pastor Amy and for our synod as part of a synod-wide Zoom worship service on January 9 at 1 pm (link and more information about this service will follow.)

As we mark Pastor Amy's transition from synodical ministry into parish ministry, we also prepare to welcome a new colleague in the synod office. Pastor Asher O'Callaghan was called by the East Central Synod of Wisconsin Council on December 28 to be Associate to the Bishop, Director for Transitions and Discernment. His first day will be Feb. 3. Pastor Asher is currently serving as pastor at Highlands Lutheran Church in Denver, Colorado. To his new call he brings training and background in interim ministry as well as work with people and congregations in candidacy/call/mobility processes during his time as Program Director for Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries. Pastor Asher writes: "As a transgender pastor, I am intimately acquainted with transition. In fact, it was my own gender transition that first sparked my passion for these tumultuous times. Transitions are holy ground—they are both uncomfortable and good. During these times, God invites us to let go of all that no longer serves the direction we're headed. As difficult as this letting go is, it frees us up to discover new life, new possibilities, new callings. I began to sense a call to ordained ministry in this church during my gender transition. Letting go of who I had been paved the way for who I would become. Similarly, it has been a joy to experience congregations finding new identity and direction during times of leadership transition."

I asked Pastor Asher about his priorities when he gets started in his new call, and he responded: "My first priority will be learning more about how you have been doing church together as the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. It's my hope to build on the good work that has been going on there already, so before anything else, I want to learn all about who you are as a synod and the ministry you've been doing."

Next, I plan to tend to the process for leadership transitions. What has already been working well? What further structures might be helpful for the vitality of congregations and rostered ministers in transition from one call to the next?"

While Pastor Asher will begin his work with the synod remotely, he and his wife, Pastor Leslie O'Callaghan, are excited to relocate to Wisconsin and begin this new chapter of ministry. "I'm looking forward to working with Bishop Anne Edison-Albright as a leader who cares deeply about this church's role in working towards a more just world," Pastor Asher wrote. "I can't wait to begin forming relationships with congregations and leaders in the synod, to learn about a different part of the church geographically, and work within the synodical expression of this church. And I'm delighted to get to work on shaping the processes used for leadership transition and candidacy, ensuring that they bend towards vitality."

Please join me in welcoming Pastor Asher O'Callaghan and his family to the East Central Synod of Wisconsin!

Let us pray:

God of thin spaces and in-between times, we give thanks for your Holy Spirit's creative and disruptive work in our lives and in our synod. Bless Pastor Amy and Pastor Asher in this time of hellos and goodbyes, of lasts and firsts. In the midst of many changes, give them everything they need: tenderly bless their farewells to people and ministries they are leaving, and give them joy in the new ministries they are beginning. We give thanks for these two leaders and the gifts you've given them for accompanying people in times of transition; send us to accompany them, now, and welcome them with your love. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Gratefully,

Anne Edison-Albright

Bishop Anne Edison-Albright  
she/her/hers

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## Plan to Gather Weekly Update: 1/12/2020

For now, Saint Andrew remains in Phase One of the Plan to Gather.

# SALC COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 1/6/2021

Date	Burden #	Trajectory	Burden Status
12/16	853.5	Shrinking	Very High
12/23	671.7	Shrinking	Very High
12/30	584.1	Shrinking	Very High
1/6	584.8	No Change	Very High

**Current SALC Status: Phase One**

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**Saint Andrew Lutheran Church**