



January 26, 2021

I'm caught between Psalm 29 and 1 Kings 19. God is either in the power of the storm, as the psalmist writes, or in the stillness of the storm's wake, as Elijah experienced. We know the devastation that the storms of this world bring. Regardless of the exact wind speed, storm surge, and category of the storm, there is the same eerie silence and strange stillness of a world destroyed before our very eyes. It is not hard to see God's power in the un-making of creation.



Yet, Elijah weathered wind that shattered rocks and broke the mountain; but did not experience God in the wind. God was not in the wind that blew, or the fire that consumed, or the quake that shook the earth. God was in the sheer, eerie silence in the wake of the devastation. He spoke to God then and did not receive a message clarifying the reason for the destruction, but the details of Elijah's own work in the wake of it.

I understand why people can sit back and claim God's judgement upon those in the path of the storm. There are differences between we who have been spared the

devastation of the storm and those in the path. God has used great forces to destroy those who opposed God in the Bible. Every reason under the sun emerges from the lips of those who see God in the storm wielding the instrument of righteous wrath upon those people whose values differ from our own. A righteous wrath that afflicts those who stray from our true and righteous path.

I understand why people point to God after the storm. We see communities bound together in service: welcoming strangers, healing the sick and injured, feeding the hungry, and doing the work of God's Kingdom on earth. The stories of restoration in the aftermath of destruction are often as awe-inspiring as the storm's fury. These stories of resurrection and restoration inspire us to look outward in service, living out our faith in new ways.

Yet, I'm caught between these two because I cannot see God in just one or the other, but in both at the same time. When we witness the awe-inspiring power of God, our proper response should be like that of the people in Psalm 29. We should be in worship of God, crying, "Glory!" We should not seek to understand which specific transgression invoked this display of might. We need to fall on our faces in awe and worship for the God whose might is seen in the power of the storm to shatter the world. When the sound of sheer silence comes in its wake, we go out and meet God in the neighbors whose lives we help rebuild.

God did not judge them sinful and punish them with the storm.

God did not judge us righteous by sparing us.

We are not God.

We cannot sit in that seat of judgement and determine who is sinful enough to have their world un-made by God. This task is pure idolatry. We can only look at the work that we must do in the wake of the storms of this world and set ourselves to the task. Serving our neighbor in ways they cannot serve themselves. This task is pure humility, following the model of Christ who calms the storms of life, freely forgives the sins which would condemn us, and leads us forth in humble service.

Pastor Justin Smoot, he/him

New Member Orientation to Take Place Virtually

You (and any friends or family who may wish to join you) are invited to attend new member orientation on **Sunday, January 31, 1:00-3:00 pm**. This gathering will take place online via Zoom – click [here](#) for the link. Membership in the life of the church establishes a set of promises and allows for a deeper level of connection and relationship. As a member, you have access to pastoral care in the midst of life's challenges and transitions. Members of Saint Andrew also have a say in how the

ministry we share in this community is conducted and have the opportunity to serve on ministry teams, the church council, and vote at congregational meetings. As a congregation we seek to be “open to all” and allow for the love of Christ to be shared in all we do.

Orientation is approximately one and a half to two hours long and consists of interactive conversation with the pastors in which you will get to know others joining in the life of the church, review what it means to be a Lutheran, and learn the ins and outs of life together at Saint Andrew through a sharing in the church’s history, mission, and opportunities to give back and serve.

If you are interested in membership at Saint Andrew and wish to participate in orientation, please call the church office at 715-842-3333 or email Joy at joy@salc-wausau.org by the end of the day, Wednesday, January 27. We can then add you to the list of participants and prepare materials you will receive via mail. If you wish to have further conversation or clarification regarding membership, please feel free to call the church to visit with one of the pastors.

Please complete the Membership Information Sheet with exact dates (to the day) including baptism and confirmation dates as this will assist in keeping your membership records accurate. If you don’t have the dates, please call the church where they took place to obtain those dates. You can scan the form and return it to joy@salc-wausau.org or mail it to the church. Click [here](#) for the Membership Information Sheet.

Thank you for your assistance with planning for New Member Orientation. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Serving in Christ,

Joy Mitchell, Pastor Justin Smoot, and Pastor Jenn Collins

Furniture Available

Some pieces of furniture have been updated in the building therefore leaving a few items in need of a new home.

- A metal L-shaped office desk
- An oak, solid wood desk
- A maple, solid wood desk with matching chair - has a built in power strip under the slide-out keyboard tray and would be available for a free-will donation. It measures 30 ½” h x 48” w x 24”d



-A hanging wall cabinet - measurements are: 42" h x 36" w x 13 1/4" d

-Loveseat

If you are interested in any of these pieces, please contact the church office.



Ministry Night Resumes

Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 pm

Saint Andrew uses small groups called ministries to embody the work of the church. By meeting on the same night, we are able to begin with a common devotion and prayer, collaborate across ministry teams, and build up community around the call we share to be "Open to All." If you would like to learn more about the various ministries at Saint Andrew, check out the details [here](#).

Each ministry will meet either in-person in designated areas of the church - with social distancing and masking in place, online over Zoom, or in a hybrid format (in person/on-line).

The opening portion of the evening will take place over Zoom – a free app you can use on any smartphone, tablet, or computer. If you are not on a ministry team and would like to listen in or check out a ministry and participate, just come! The link for Ministry Night will be shared in next week's Weekly Wave.

Persons who are already serving on ministries will hear from their chair person soon about the format of meeting and agenda. More information will be shared in next week's Wave.

Communion Sundays

We have been in the practice of sharing in communion over the livestream on the first and fourth Sundays of the month. In the month of February, communion will be offered on **February 7**, on Ash Wednesday evening – **February 17**, and on every Sunday in Lent beginning **February 21**. Next week more information will be shared about picking up communion elements for Lent. In the meantime, feel free to come by church during office hours to pick up communion for **Sunday, February 7**.

Check Your Email For End of Year Statements

It's that time of the year again. The year-end Contribution Statements were emailed last week. If you are not on the emailing list, your statement has been sent in the US mail. If you have not received yours and need it, contact the church office directly at (715)842-3333 or info@salc-wausau.org.

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.





Spend Your Summer with Crossways Camping Ministries

Hey everyone! It's Michelle, your Communications Coordinator. As many of you may or may not know, I spent my whole life camping at Waypost Camp and spent two summers on staff at Waypost as a Cabin

Leader. I'm back to remind you that there are plenty of incredible opportunities to serve at Waypost, Pine Lake, and Imago Dei Village this summer. **Currently, all Crossways Camps are looking for individuals to fill the positions of Cabin Leader, Health Coordinator, Waterfront Coordinator, Program Assistant, Kitchen Assistant, and Outfitter/Naturalist.** Have questions about what it's like to be on staff, what the hiring process is like, or know someone who would be a good fit for any of these positions? Feel free to contact me at michelle@salc-wausau.org or the current intern at Waypost, John Mai, at john@crosswayscamps.org.

Facility Coordinator Position Open

Saint Andrew is seeking to hire a Facility Coordinator. The [role of the Facility Coordinator](#) is to collaborate with the pastors, staff, and lay leadership of the congregation to maintain a clean, healthy and safe building that facilitates the ministry of the congregation to be “open to all.” If you are interested in full time employment and have desired experiences – please visit www.salc-wausau.org and fill out the application, questionnaire, and submit your resume to personnel@salc-wausau.org by **February 5, 2021.**

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.

Plan to Gather Weekly Update: 1/26/2020

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

SALC COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 1/20/2021

| Date | Burden # | Trajectory | Burden Status |
|-------|----------|------------|---------------|
| 12/30 | 584.1 | Shrinking | Very High |
| 1/6 | 584.8 | No Change | Very High |
| 1/13 | 607.8 | No Change | Very High |
| 1/20 | 515.8 | Shrinking | Very High |

Current SALC Status: Phase One

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