



February 2, 2021

What Is the Question?

Why do you follow Jesus?

Who is the Jesus we follow?

Is the power of God something to have on your side?

Have you needed the strength of Jesus' conviction to stand in the storms of life?

If the salvation granted by walking his path a source of pride and joy?

The Gospel of Mark challenges us by confronting us with the question that it seems like Jesus is trying to keep from being answered. We feel pressed to wait and keep holding out for more information until we find a satisfying answer for who Jesus is.

While we seem to keep gaining insight with each new story, the heavens tearing open at his baptism and God speaking, calling fishermen to fish for people, and now the powerful teaching and acts of power. The legend grows to include exorcism and teaching, soon we'll see miraculous healings and challenging religious authorities. Each time something miraculous and powerful happens, each time there is something particularly noteworthy, Jesus attempts to silence those involved.

This isn't a one-time event, or a random textual variant, but a deliberate patter. He even silences his own disciples!? When Peter, James, and John go up to the mountain with Jesus, God's glory shines around him, and it appears as if we get glimpse of Jesus' true self in the Transfiguration, he is explicit about not telling anyone about this until after he is raised from the dead.

It is frustrating, with Jesus never coming out directly and rallying people around the power of heaven, using it to forge the people of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem into a holy nation to stand against the powers of this world, create a safe haven for his followers, and become an unassailable bastion of God's wisdom.

Yet, each of these ways that tempt us with the satisfaction of our frustrations and fill our deepest longings for God's actions to take concrete form before our eyes, is also taking the path that the worldly powers take. When you define yourself over and against others as the best and most powerful, then that identity can be challenged and your center can be lost because you are not grounded in anything solid.

If Jesus was only the only one for whom the heavens opened at their baptism, then the baptism of another timed at the advent of a storm or other atmospheric event could challenge Jesus for power. If Jesus was a leader of people, then any charismatic leader could rally a large group and become better than Jesus. If Jesus was a wise teacher, then the wisdom and rhetoric of better speakers could subordinate Jesus to them. If Jesus was a miracle worker or healer, then any who could create a similar work of power and might could show themselves to be more powerful and impressive than Jesus. An identity based on comparing yourself with what came before is an impressive castle made of sand, that slips into the sea, eventually.

The question implicit in every story that Mark tells us about Jesus. The question of who Jesus is is answered only in the aftermath of the death and resurrection, the point when the power and the greatness and everything we want God to do happens at the moment when all hope is lost.

Have you been healed by God, restored to life?

Have you been carried through the deepest valley of the shadow of death?

Have you found the stillness in the midst of the storm?

Have you found the loving embrace of God in the midst of our cold world?

Then you are beginning to understand the true power of Jesus that is born of the world's weakness. You are beginning to understand who Jesus is. You begin to follow Jesus, not for your own gain, but because you have been given something more powerful and precious than anything in all of creation. In following, the answer to the question of why God would draw closer to us in Jesus, why God seems to bend heaven and earth for our benefit becomes clear. Out of love, pure, transformative love for us.

Let's Do the Work of the Church Together

SAVE THE DATE for the 2021 Annual Meeting on February 14, 2021 at 9:45 am. The Saint Andrew Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will take place virtually (call-in available for those without computers or internet). We will reflect on 2020 and refresh our spirits as we look forward to the new year. **It is an event you won't want to miss!**



The meeting will include:

- Annual Meeting Agenda & Vote
- Special Messages in honor of our 40th Anniversary from prior Pastors
- Bloopers Reel - "Living with Live-stream"
- Plan to Gather Information

Registration is required in order to vote during the meeting. Registration instructions will be made available on-line in the coming days, and through a special communication - please watch for details.

Below are links to the meeting materials:

[2020 Annual Report](#)

[2021 Spending Plan Details](#)

[2021 Narrative Budget Detail](#)



Extending Deepest Sympathies to South African Companions

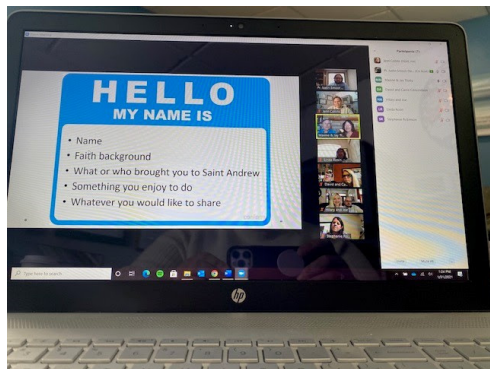
With our siblings in Christ at Zeerust Lutheran Church, we mourn the death of the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa (ELCSA), Bishop MJH Ubane, and give thanks to God for his witness and now his resurrection. May God keep him in light everlasting and comfort all who grieve.

Saint Andrew will be sending formal condolences directly to Zeerust Lutheran Church and to the ELCSA, but if you have companions in South Africa, you might reach out to them directly with words of comfort and solace.

Let us pray for all who grieve...

Eternal God, your love is stronger than death, and your passion more fierce than the grave. We rejoice in the lives of those whom you have called into your eternal embrace, especially MJH Ubane. Keep us in joyful communion with Bishop Ubane and all the saints of every nation and people gathered before your throne in ceaseless praise, through your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

-prayer adapted from ELW, p. 82, Remembrance of the Faithful Departed



Saint Andrew Welcomes New Members

On Sunday, January 31, Saint Andrew welcomed 8 new members with various backgrounds and experience from health care, to law, to IT, and urban planning. We are grateful for these siblings in Christ and welcome them in worship on Sunday,

February 7. Hilary Steltenpohl, Joe Novak, Maxine and Jay Tlusty, Carrie and David Edmondson, Linda Rosin, and Stephanie Robinson – welcome!

We also welcomed two “new” members through council action who grew up at Saint Andrew and moved away. They have since returned home to the Wausau area: welcome back, Dylan and Shelby!

Ministry Night Resumes

Next 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).

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 chairperson soon about the meeting format and agenda.

Look for the link to join in the opening in next week's Wave!

Financial Secretary to Retire

Mike Howlett, our dedicated Financial Secretary who has served faithfully for over 35 years is retiring this year. The Finance/Stewardship Ministry, on behalf of council, is seeking a replacement for this important volunteer position.

The financial secretary at Saint Andrew is responsible for maintaining records of pledges, contributions, electronic contributions, for maintaining the church database/Powerchurch contributions module and for sending quarterly contribution statements and providing reports as needed by the Bookkeeper, Treasurer, Finance/Stewardship Ministry or Church Council.

If you are interested, you can find a copy of the duties [here](#) or pick up a paper copy from the church office. Thank you, Mike, for your many years of faithful service!

Saint Andrew is Hiring

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 fill out the [application](#) and [questionnaire](#) and submit them along with your resume to personnel@salc-wausau.org by **February 5, 2021.**

[Job Description](#)

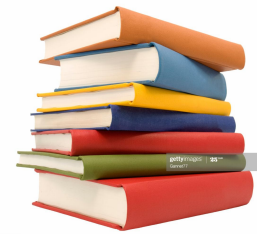
[Application](#)

[Questionnaire](#)

SALC Library Closed This Sunday

As weather patterns shift, the library will not be open this coming **Sunday, January 7**. Books may be browsed and checked

out during office hours, Monday-Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.



Created for Community – Lent at Saint Andrew

The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together “**with the whole church**” because “**we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.**”

Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of “repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love,” Lent is also a time for deepening of community relationships with one another and our neighbors.

Especially in this time of feeling further apart from one another, isolated, and socially distant, Christ calls us to be sewn into the quilt together – an array of patches with different patterns, shapes and sizes. Using readings from Mark’s gospel, we invite you to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God. Here is an overview of what you can expect this Lent:

- We will kick off lent with a live-stream worship on **Ash Wednesday at 6:30 pm**. You can participate in this as you would any Sunday morning live-stream.
- Starting next week, **February 8, “Created for Community” bags will be available** which will include Ashes and a blessing to share with your family and friends for Ash Wednesday, communion elements for each Sunday in lent, Lent tokens, and a Lent devotional booklet
- We will worship together in a new format, over Zoom, on Wednesdays in Lent beginning **February 24 at 6:30 pm**. If you would rather join via the live-stream on Facebook, you can do that as well and engage through the chat.
- **Soup for Community!** is launching to provide the Lenten soup you love “to go.” It will be available for pre-order on-line and through calling the office. Each week it is offered for a free will donation of your choosing – or for free, based on need – and proceeds not used to cover costs will go to local partners in our community. Also be on the lookout for a chance to safely volunteer to help with soup delivery, curbside pickup, or filling orders.
- **A special lent mailing** with more details is going to hit your mail box next week along with a special edition Wave coming soon.



t.R.I.B.e. - Small Group or At Home Sunday School Resumes!

Are you looking for an at-home Sunday school resource? tRIBE, our small group curriculum, will be starting up again on **February 14**. We will be continuing our lessons exploring Jesus' Ministry. If you are new to tRIBE, and your family would like to start receiving lessons, or join a small group, you can find a sign-up form here: <https://www.salc-wausau.org/learning/sunday-school/>

Communion Sundays

We have been in the practice of sharing in communion over the live-stream 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 elements for **Sunday, February 7**.

Furniture Available

A couple pieces of furniture remain from updating the building.

- A solid oak desk
- A solid maple 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"

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





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 1/27/20

Date	Burden #	Trajectory	Burden Status
1/6	584.8	No Change	Very High
1/13	607.8	No Change	Very High
1/20	515.8	Decreasing	Very High
1/27	382.2	Decreasing	Very High

Current SALC Status: Phase One

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