



February 16, 2021

## Sacred Space for Sundays

Since we are going to practice virtual communion for the duration of the season of Lent, I would like to share a practice that one of our members uses to deepen the experience. Creating a sacred space can help make your experience of worship. Just as we set the table in worship prior to communion, so too can you set for table for this formal event.



Here is an example of such a space. Bruce and Linda Beyer have been gracious enough to share how they prepare for virtual communion. They have a cross and a candle, which are items that we have in the sanctuary. The light of the flame has been a symbol of the presence of God since the Ark of the Covenant was kept in the Tabernacle in the wilderness, the lights on the lampstand were lit. The cross has been the focal point of Christian worship for generations.

The other items, beginning from the left are glasses for the juice, which were from an Alaskan Cruise, and a bread plate that was table decorations from a wedding. These are for holding the elements prior to the Eucharistic liturgy. The die, the nail, the tear, and the bag are from an old Sunday school lesson. They all are part of Jesus' passion and death. The nail that pierced him, the bag of silver that was the price of betrayal, the die soldiers used to cast lots for Jesus' clothes, and the tears that were shed by Mary and John at the foot of the cross (or Jesus' own tears of agony). The cloth on the right is a stole for when Bruce would officiate in less formal settings.

These items, intentionally gathered, create a unique space to remember that we are gathered around the presence of the crucified and risen Christ, even when we are in our homes.

This is something that you can do as well. A white cloth is a good place to start, it does not have to be a stole, but just a cloth that gives the space a clean and simple look. Place the other items on top of the cloth. A cross, a candle, a hymnal or Bible, previous year's Lent tokens, and a few other items that have a special meaning to you in your journey of faith can be placed on the cloth along with the celebration cup. Don't clutter the space, but give it meaning for you and your family. For the season of Lent, purple is a color that you will see in worship a lot because it reminds us of the royal status of Jesus, enthroned on a cross. It would be appropriate to include this color in your sacred space.

Keeping this space up throughout the season of Lent, especially in the place where you participate in the livestream, will be a discipline that will shape your journey this season.

Blessings on your Lenten journey.

Pastor Justin Smoot (he/him)

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## Annual Meeting Recap

This past Sunday, February 14, Saint Andrew held their 41st Annual Meeting, but it was the first time the meeting was held virtually. There were over 160 connections on Zoom and Facebook with a total of 179 individuals registered to vote. Along with the standard meeting agenda items of prior year minutes, 2021 spending plan review and council nominees, we also had a number of memorable videos. These included a look back on our busy year of 2020 activities, 40th Anniversary celebratory messages from former pastors, a look at our past and present Plan to Gather, and an entertaining bloopers reel from our livestream team. All of these videos are available on Facebook and our YouTube channel for your viewing. With our business done, we are ready to do God's work with our hands.

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## Created for Community Lenten To-Go Bags

Please stop by the church, **Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-4:30 pm** to pick up a **Created for Community** Lenten To-Go Bag which includes:

- Ashes for **Ash Wednesday, February 17**
- Communion elements
- “God is Love” pocket token
- A daily Lenten devotional resource for adults or families

If you are homebound or quarantined and need a bag delivered or need an alternate time to pick up a bag, please call the church office.

For more information on Lent, click [here](#) to view the Lenten Mailer.

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## Soup for Community

SALC will be serving Lenten Soup To Go as a part of its Created for Community mission for this season of Lent. There will be a few different soup options available weekly to be picked up at church on each Wednesday from **February 24 through March 24**. Make sure to order your soup [here](#) and place your order week-to-week by **4:30pm** each Monday the week of.

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## Soup For Community Volunteers Needed

Are you looking for a way to dedicate your time to church this Lenten season? Volunteer for Soup For Community! Volunteers will be needed to help with various tasks such as delivery, food preparation, and others on Tuesdays and Wednesdays through the Lenten season. If you are interested, please contact Sandra Fischer at (715) 680-1566 .

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## 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.
- **“Created for Community” bags are available** which include ashes to-go 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 by 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 support local partners in our community. Also there are opportunities to safely volunteer to help with soup delivery, curbside pickup, or filling orders.

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## Called to Create and Participate: The Create-a-Crane Project

A colorful art installation will fly into the Sanctuary just in time for Easter and we need you to help grow the origami flock! Let your creative energy soar while transforming origami paper into cranes while relaxing at home. Then migrate your completed creations back to church to nest in SALC’s own artistic aviary.



Here's how you and your family can participate:

- pick up origami paper and step-by-step instructions at church in the Narthex, free of charge.

- make as many cranes as you would like, but please take only as much paper as you'll be able to complete.

- On **March 1 at 6:30 pm-7:00 pm**, join in faith and fellowship for a live Zoom "Create-a-Crane" class, including step-by-step instructions. We'll enjoy folding our feathers together!

- look for Facebook updates and instructional videos.

- drop your completed cranes off at church in designated baskets anytime between now and Palm Sunday.

- enjoy seeing the completed art installation in the church Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, knowing that you were Called to Create and Participate!



## 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, started 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](#).

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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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## Plan to Gather Weekly

## Update: 2/16/2021

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

# SALC COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 2/10/2021

Date	Burden #	Trajectory	Burden Status
1/20	515.8	Shrinking	Very High
1/27	382.2	Shrinking	Very High
2/3	279.8	Shrinking	High
2/10	170.7	Shrinking	High

**Current SALC Status: Phase One**

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