



March 2, 2021

Hang on... there is reason to hope.

A recurring thought has been a part of my day to day life: it's getting harder and harder to be apart. I imagine for you, it's difficult to stay interested in church when the in-person component of our life together has become a livestream. I've heard stories about what it's like "from the other side of the screen" – the struggles of keeping children engaged, the way singing along to a hymn falls flat when it's just your voice.



As we prepare plans A, B, C, and even LMNOP, for Easter and Holy week, I want to encourage you – hang on! Hold tight to your faith. We do have plans for hybrid in

person/live streamed worship and are holding that up next to our Plan to Gather. Our greatest need? People willing to help lead the worship ministry into re-gathering. If you are interested in learning more about worship ministry, please join us as we meet next Tuesday evening, **March 9 at 6:30 pm** for Ministry Night or contact the office to learn more.

Thank you for holding on... There's something so exciting just around the corner and it would be a shame for you to miss it. And it would be a shame for all of us to miss out on what you can uniquely bring to the table as we paint the canvas together of what church will look like following our shared sabbatical. We get to rebuild "the gathering" together.

Here's the best/worst kept secret when it comes to feeling connected to the church: If you are asking "what can I get out of this church?" you are asking the wrong question. Real connection comes when you start to ask the question, "What can I give? What can I contribute to the mission we share so that others know they belong and are not alone? How is God using me to help bring love, peace, life, community, and joy to another person?" The good news is – there is room and great need for you to participate in our life together. You don't have to wait to participate. There is vitally important work going on even now.

Many are wondering about the status of the Plan to Gather. The best way to connect to what's happening there is by watching the [video](#) which was shared at the annual meeting that tells you the history and where we are now. We are so very close. There is hope for light at the end of the tunnel. It's not about us. It never has been. It's about what God is doing through us. It's about the ones Jesus loves and gave his life for.

We are so close. I cannot wait for the reunion and I hope, God willing, to be there with you.

Pr. Jenn +

What We Learned from Last Week's Mid-Week Worship

What a week it has been! The cranes are taking flight in the sanctuary, soup was shared with over 250 people, generosity was shared with the Monk Botanical Gardens, and items were collected for the food pantry and hygiene drive.

We also shared in a mid-week lent service that was... well... not the most worshipful. At points it was uncomfortable or felt more like a meeting and not like the devotional services that keep us centered in our Lenten theme. Thanks for the helpful feedback

and for staying with us as we tried something new! We put in some elbow grease, asked for help on technology, and have a new plan.

We invite you to give mid-week lent services another try this week. Here is what you can expect:

- Worship will be led from the sanctuary and include singing like you are accustomed to on Sunday mornings and a brief sermon from one of the pastors. We think this will help it feel more familiar.
- Worship itself will be less participatory. Instead of breakout rooms for discussions, we will invite you to connect in the chat, as many are familiar with on Sunday mornings or to ponder reflections with the people you are with or through drawing or writing. We have eliminated the part of the service where we will ask for shared spoken community participation or observations.
- You can watch over Facebook or Zoom and have the same experience. Zoom will be in presenter mode, much like we shared in for the annual meeting. This means, other people who are joining in will not be central on the screen. We are retaining Zoom to be able to bring in our community partners safely and to allow those who would still like to participate by phone the chance to do so. Directions are below.
- We are reading the text twice and will be more intentional about our inclusion of Children: You might wish to have your bible handy because we will hear the passage once from the NRSV and once from the Spark Story Bible. If there are children in your life and you would like to have that copy available, we will share the page number so everyone can follow along with the pictures.
- Those who would like to enter a deeper dive can participate in a bible study, conversation on the theme or passage, and a Q&A with our community partner are welcome to connect via Zoom AFTER worship. We will cut the live stream to Facebook at that point so you can participate as you'd like – (or come back after putting the kids to sleep!)
- Worship itself will be about 30 minutes and available to watch later.

This Week in Lent

To access the Lent mailer, click [here](#).

This week in Lent, we remember that we have been created in community with *the Saints*.

The featured text for this Wednesday, March 3 is Mark 9:2-8. Called the transfiguration, Jesus shares community with those who have gone before.

This week, we pray for the saints in partnership with North Central Healthcare who will be receiving the proceeds from this week's soup donations.

Join us for worship via Facebook livestream or by using the Zoom information listed below:

Click [here](#) to join the Zoom Meeting.

Meeting ID: 818 0905 7687

Passcode: 484955

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,81809057687#,,,,*484955# US (Chicago)

+19292056099,,81809057687#,,,,*484955# US (New York)



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. Proceeds from soup this week will be going to Northcentral Health Care.

You can place your soup order [online](#). Orders for the week are due by 4:30 on Mondays.

When picking up your soup, enter through our main door (near the bell tower) and we will have signs directing you to the Fellowship Hall where our volunteers will assist you.

If you ordered for **curbside pick-up**, please pull up to the North entrance (near the chapel). Please call the number listed on the sign to let our volunteers know you have arrived. They will then meet you at your car with your order.

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 are 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

Church Council Updates

At the first council meeting after the annual meeting, the church council elects leadership from within, appoints officers, and chooses ministry liaisons. Here are the following leaders of our congregation and their positions. Please pray for God to strengthen, inspire, and encourage them in their leadership.

Derek Hoff, Council President

Dayna Herold, Council Vice President, Worship Ministry Liaison

Phil Bickley, Social Ministry Liaison

Ken Luer, Personnel Ministry Liaison

Herb Heyne, Personnel Ministry Liaison

Tammy Schilling, Member Outreach Liaison

Bob Wiederhoeft, Finance/Stewardship Ministry Liaison

Vickie Mrotek, Fellowship Ministry Liaison

Mark Clark, Communication Ministry Liaison

Jeanne Willems, Property Ministry Liaison

Pastor Jenn and Pastor Justin, Faith Formation Liaison

Denise Skare, Secretary

Terri Fronek, Treasurer

Financial Secretary – More info to come soon, in process of transition



Phil Bickley



Dayna Herold



Herb Heyne



Derek Hoff

2020 Council Vice President



Ken Luer



Tammy Schilling



Bob Wiederhoeft



Vickie Mrotek



Mark Clark



Jeanne Willems

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.
- 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!

Easter Food Baskets Available and Donation Opportunities

At the beginning of the pandemic, Social Ministry needed to donate or dispose of all the food and supplies that were on hand in the food pantry. Now all these months later, the ministry has decided to resume some of the pre-pandemic activities. A collection area will be set up in the Narthex for items to be donated to the Wausau Warming Center, the Hygiene Drive and the Saint Andrew Food Pantry. Emergency food baskets will also begin to be distributed as well as Easter food baskets for those in need. If you know of someone who could use an Easter food basket, please contact the church office no later than **Wednesday, March 24**. Easter food baskets will be available for pick-up on **Saturday, March 27**. Any donations are appreciated for any of these outreach ministries. Below are items currently needed:

Easter at the Saint Andrew Food Pantry: canned yams, canned corn, canned green beans, cream of mushroom soup, canned fried onions, canned cranberry sauce, jello, gravy, canned pie filling and Easter candy

Emergency use at the Saint Andrew Food Pantry: pasta, marinara sauce, macaroni & cheese, canned vegetables, canned fruit, cereal, crackers, ketchup, mustard, salad dressing, mayonnaise, jams & jellies, canned soup, canned tuna or chicken, rice, boxed potatoes and beans

Wausau Warming Center: cleaning supplies to include general disinfecting cleaners, toilet bowl cleaner, laundry detergent, dish soap, disposable coffee cups, disposable to-go containers and individually wrapped plastic forks

Hygiene Drive: shampoo, conditioner, feminine hygiene products, diapers in sizes 4-7, baby wipes, toothpaste, deodorant and toilet paper

Thank you from the members of the Social Ministry of SALC.

Art in Verse

This new social media series will be featuring the art work of members of the SALC congregation and how art connects them to their faith. To read a WSAW news feature about this new series, click [here](#). Last week we featured Mark Robinson, a beloved artist in our congregation. Read on to learn about Mark's journey as an artist.

At the young age of 67, the Holy Spirit has awakened a new passion in

Mark. Mark began his journey in painting a few years ago and has enjoyed to use this new gift to stay in touch with his family and friends. Though Mark has not used particular Scripture in his art, he includes spiritual messages on the back when he sends pieces to his friends.

Following is one of the poems he has shared with a friend:

Happy Place
A beautiful gift Sunrise
Dawn of a wonderful new Day!
Time to Arise
Time to Pray
Dear Lord,
Help us see the Beauty through your eyes.
Bless and keep us safe Along our Way!



When asked how he feels when creating different art pieces and how he connects to his faith through this practice, Mark had this to say:

"I feel awesome! It helps me to feel like I am doing something so others can feel the same way about an image that brings out emotion. I think the things I create allow me to find God's beauty in nature by seeing things from a different perspective, and allowing it to bring me closer to understanding how to bring God's goodness to those who see the art."

Thank you for sharing your gifts with us Mark, and reminding us of seeing God's creation in new and beautiful ways.

Easter Altar Flowers

Help beautify the altar for Easter with Tulips, Chrysanthemums or Easter Lilies - \$15 each - or Begonias for \$20 each. Order forms are available in the Narthex or you

are welcome to call the church office to place your order (715-842-3333). Order forms will be available online soon. **Order deadline: Sunday, March 14.**



A Night at the Warming Center

Take a look at what a typical night in the Wausau Warming Center looks like in [this video](#). Volunteers are currently needed to help sort through donations. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ruth Poutanen at repoutanen@aol.com or by phone at (715)409-0674.

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: 3/2/2021

Last Thursday the council again updated the Plan to Gather that you can find in full detail at www.salc-wausau.org/covid. Some have shared it would be helpful to have a different visual to show how the number in our graph correlate to our plan. The various lines on the graph below are the benchmarks we have currently set in order to gather in person. The grey line is our

current bench mark for outdoor worship.
We're so close!

In the coming week, the Plan to Gather task force will meet to reassess and talk about the following:

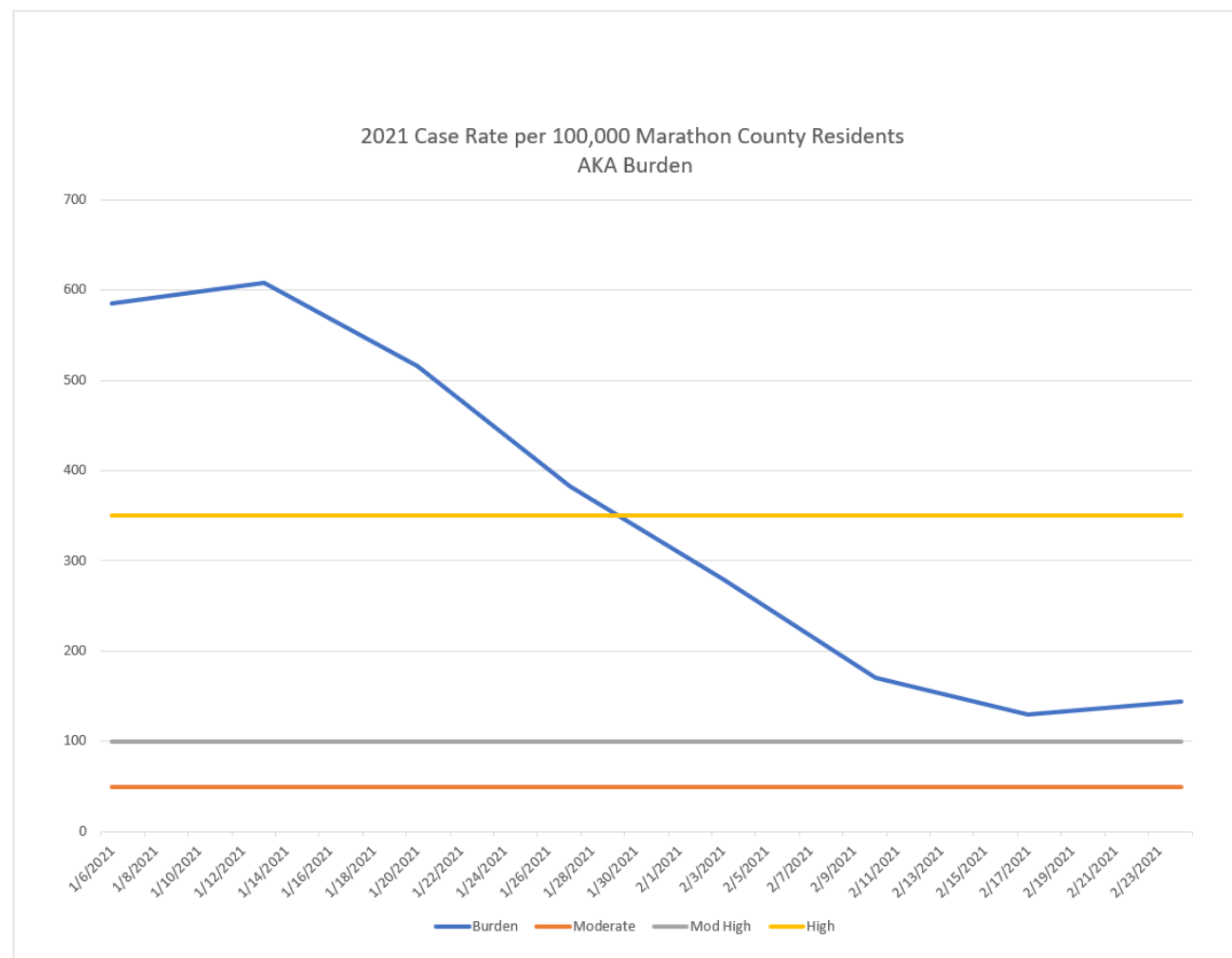
- Procedures and priorities for re-gathering
- Reassess the plan itself and the criteria for phase transition
- Addressing frequently asked questions of members and a communication plan

SALC COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 2/24/2021

Date	Burden #	Trajectory	Burden Status
2/3	279.8	Shrinking	High
2/10	170.7	Shrinking	High
2/17	129.9	No Change	High
2/24	144	No Change	High

Current SALC Status: Phase One



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Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

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