



April 20, 2021

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## Why We Talk About Weather

When I worked at the bank, the thing I found myself saying the most was, “Yeah, it really is beautiful out today!” Or, “I know, that snow really did come out of nowhere!” and “I guess that’s Wisconsin for you...” Quick little interchanges at the bank over a transaction window often resulted in brief moments of human connectivity. We talk about weather with strangers in this culture.

We talk about the weather because we have no control over the weather. We talk about the weather because we are all subject to the weather. If the sun is shining, we share joy. If the snow is piling, we share misery. Regardless of the weather, what we are doing when we talk about the weather is finding moments of connectivity. Dear church, in this season of disconnect, connectivity is more important now than ever!

Here’s what ties us together as a church: the promise of God in Jesus Christ. Jenna’s [children sermon](#) from last Sunday really summarizes it well. Sharing Jesus, what he said and what he did, that connects us all in such a deep way. Please don’t hide the peace and joy of Jesus away! It’s stormy out there: the Derek Chauvin trial, the continued polarization over the Covid response, the languishing of human spirits in this marathon we are sprinting... seeing the people that are different than you as the ones for whom Jesus died helps us to see others with compassion, dignity, and love. The world needs more compassion, dignity, and love these days, don’t you think? There’s nothing better than Son-shine!

Pastor Jenn

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## Blood Center Donation Taking Place

On **Thursday, April 22, 1:00 - 5:00pm**, there will be a Blood Drive taking place at Saint Andrew. If you would like to donate blood, please contact the organization directly. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Pastor Justin at [pastorjustin@salc-wausau.org](mailto:pastorjustin@salc-wausau.org). Click [here](#) to find the Facebook event with more information.

## Saint Andrew Lutheran Church Blood Drive



**PRIMARY SUPPLIER OF  
BLOOD TO ASPIRUS  
WAUSAU HOSPITAL**

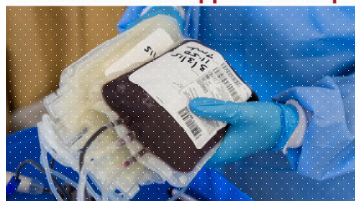
GIVE BLOOD. GIVE LOCAL!

**THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021**

**1:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

Location: Saint Andrew Lutheran Church  
150202 County Road NN, Wausau, WI 54401

**To schedule an appointment please call 715-842-0761.**



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## Two Ways to Worship Every Week

With the most recent update to the plan to gather confirmed by council last Thursday, there are now two ways to worship regularly:

### Sunday Livestream Worship – 9:00 am

Join us for livestream worship at 9:00 am through [www.facebook.com/salcwausau](https://www.facebook.com/salcwausau).

### Sunday Outdoor Worship on the Celebration Patio – 10:30 am

*This service is weather dependent.* If it's raining, we can't use sound equipment. We will be sure to communicate this through Facebook and e-mail if we need to cancel outdoor worship.

We learned some things after last Sunday about what would help people feel more worshipful: singing will be welcome at outdoor worship or the words to hymns will be available for meditation.

Bring a chair, a blanket for your lap, and shade if you'd like.

Wear your Sunday best or come as you are! Worship will be more informal. Please wear a mask and practice social distancing.

You do not have to register in advance but you *may* pre-register for worship [here](#) if you would appreciate any follow up contact with regard to covid updates or procedures.

**\*\*Please note, there is no indoor in-person worship available during Phase One of SALC's Plan to Gather.\*\***

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## Singing and Church

What's the deal with singing in church? Some churches are doing it – others are not. The science behind singing in the pandemic is important to understand. Below you will find an article from the Executive for Worship at the ELCA, John Weit. Within his words are links to resources to learn more yourself. For now – at Saint Andrew – we will plan to print words for the bulletins at outdoor worship. Soft singing or humming behind your mask is more than welcome when we are outside – but we want you to understand the bigger picture, too.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.  
Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Greetings in these 50 days of Easter.

As we continue to move through this time of the pandemic, we are making significant progress in vaccine distribution and see a path toward a safe return of certain in-person worship practices in the coming weeks and months. Although we also know that, even as vaccination rates continue to rise, other protective measures will need to continue for some time.

The question we have been asked most often in these last weeks is about assembly singing. Music is important to Lutheran worship, especially singing together in community. While congregations and other groups have offered creative musical offerings during this past year, many will agree that this doesn't replace singing together in person.

[One metric suggests](#) a threshold of 70% to 85% of the nation's population being fully vaccinated as a goal for safe singing in person in larger groups. This means robust singing will likely be one of the last things to fully resume. We continue to trust [scientists and medical professionals](#) as they help us to make informed decisions on important worship practices.

Even if we cannot yet fully participate, the church's song goes on. God's promise to love and care for humankind and all of creation never ceases.

In peace,  
Deacon John E. Weit  
Executive for Worship

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## Thank you, Mark Gleisner!

We give thanks to God for the thoughtful effort of all leaders in this season of Saint Andrew's life. But there are times when someone's effort and dedication goes above

and beyond the call of duty. In addition to organizing careful financial reviews and working with the finance stewardship team for thoughtful financial planning on behalf of the congregation, Mark also poured time and effort into the paperwork that shifted a PPP Loan from the Small Business Administration from a loan into a grant. We are grateful for his efforts which means that the \$71,000 received by Saint Andrew to cover essential costs at the start of the pandemic was completely forgiven. Thank you, Mark, for your passion, leadership, and care! We give thanks to God for you!



## Singers and Readers Needed!

Are you looking to be more involved at church? SALC is in need of members who would like to pre-record both readings and hymns for future services as well as read live for 10:30 am services on Sundays. If you are interested, please contact Al Freiberg at

(715)574-2138 or call 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: 4/20/2021

On April 15, the council met to consider the timing for indoor/in-person worship but due to the rising case numbers of Covid-19 for Marathon County and the regression back to Phase One, for now the Plan to Gather includes in person **outdoor worship only**. What did change was the waiting period for phase transition from three weeks to the burden number itself. Stay tuned for more information coming soon from the church council and visit

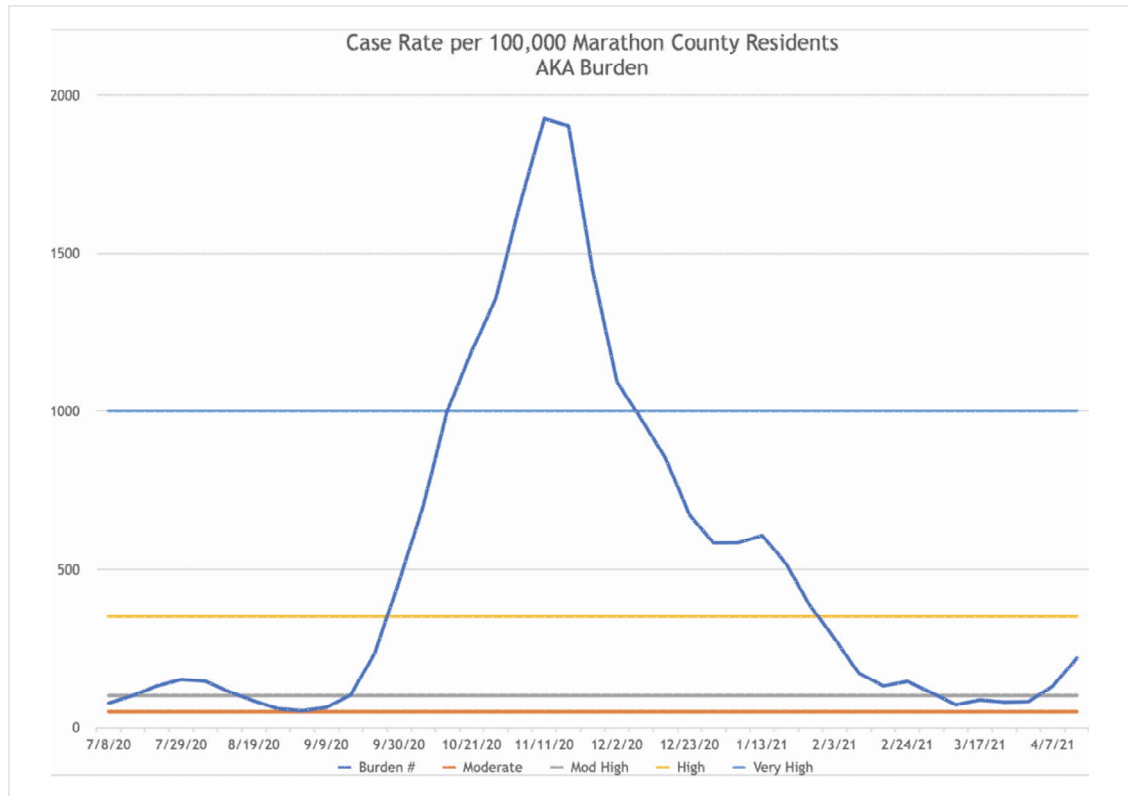
# SALC COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 4/14/2021

Date	Burden #	Trajectory	Burden Status
3/24	79.4	No Change	Moderately High
3/31	80.9	No Change	Moderately High
4/7	129.1	Increasing	High
4/14	219.7	Increasing	High

Current SALC Status: Phase One

[www.salc-wausau.org/covid](http://www.salc-wausau.org/covid) to review an updated *Plan to Gather*.



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## Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

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