



May 4, 2021

A paradox is a situation where opposite ideas or realities can be true at the exact same time. For instance, since announcing my resignation, I've been both excited and sad at the exact same time. It's hard to leave Saint Andrew and I'm sad that this important time is coming to an end. I'm so excited for this new endeavor to work for the regional church and the chance to live near Don (my significant other for over two years now). A paradox gets us thinking less in black and white and more in the "grey."

When a congregation is "open to all" – it asserts that it belongs to the "grey."

We are not all alike. We do not all agree. That doesn't mean that we can't come to the same table to receive the same grace and love – especially when we disagree. And yet, as much as I've loved to serve the mission of being "open to all," I've also struggled when some have been quick to call perspectives that truly belong to "openness" political. Calling something political is a buzzword. What is the purpose of politics at its core? It has to do with the relationship between people living in a society. Somewhere along the way, the separation of church and state gave the world the assumption that religion and politics can't sit at the same dinner table and talk as friends. But the truth is, religion also has to do with the relationship between people living in society – just look at the Ten Commandments. The Women of the ELCA

developed a really helpful study guide to ponder the intersection between [faith and politics](#).

Issues of social justice are often cast as “political”, but they are of vital importance to Jesus, to the ELCA, and to a church whose mission is to be “open to all.” In a spirit of openness, I want to make sure that as I take my leave I am clear with you on a few of the ELCA’s positions that some have recently shared with me seem “too political.” For instance, the sharing of gendered pronouns in the Weekly Wave articles. There’s a reason why Pastor Justin and Michelle do that regularly and it has to do with what you will find in the [Social Statement on Human Sexuality](#) from the ELCA. (See page 20 for the various faithful stances you will find on human sexuality in the ELCA). There is diversity in the body of Christ! As we honor that diversity, we care for the vulnerable.

I will challenge you to know what is really at the core belief system of the denomination where you are worshipping whether that’s at Saint Andrew – or if the Holy Spirit has sent you to seek nurture elsewhere in Covidtide. What does the ELCA believe about social issues? You’re in luck! There’s a whole list of social statements you [can access here](#). If in this interim time you have sought out refuge in other worshipping in-person congregations, you can find their belief systems here: [Lutheran Church Missouri Synod](#) (LCMS – Mount Olive, St. Mark’s, Trinity), [Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ](#) (LCMC - Zion Lutheran Church), [Non-Denominational Churches](#) (Highland Community Church), and here’s a resource that can help you identify differences and similarities between the ELCA and [any other Christian denomination](#).

For Saint Andrew, staying “open to all” means honoring that call through the lens of the ELCA. That might be why you hear Pastor Justin or myself sounding “political.” The truth is we will never be partisan; but we will address issues of justice in society due to our call to talk about these matters as they pertain to God’s greatest commandment, to “love our neighbor as we love ourselves” and to honor the promises made in baptism, “to work for justice and peace.” How different the world would be if we could see God’s love wrapped in the paradox of human experiences. Together, staying open means embracing the grey. And I figure – if God is open to me, then surely God must be “open to all” ... and maybe in that case, we are invited to be, too.

Pastor Jenn
She/Her/Hers
[Why Share this?](#)

Highway Clean-up Volunteers Needed

Highway Cleanup will take place on **Saturday, May 8 at 8:30 am** if the weather permits. Volunteers must be eleven years of age or in the sixth grade and older. Suggested attire includes full length pants, long sleeves, sturdy shoes, work gloves, hat, eye protection/sunglasses, and sunscreen. Come join the Saint Andrew family and have some fun caring for creation on SALC's stretch of Highway NN!

"God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does." - Martin Luther



Celebrate the Class of 2021!

Saint Andrew would like to recognize the high school seniors in our congregation and would love to celebrate their plans for the future, whatever those may be. If you would like to recognize a high school grad, please fill out [this short form](#) and upload a picture by **Wednesday, May 12.**

Crane Pick-Up

The Lenten Crane Project called the congregation to make beautiful things out of ordinary paper. Each crane holds the peace, hope, and prayers that were lovingly folded into them. On **Ascension Sunday, May 16**, please visit the Fellowship Hall following worship to

take them home, individuals or garlands, with you or give to someone you think may need them. We are releasing the cranes into the “air” to be reminded that what we practice in the smallest level flows into the wider world and transforms it.



PSALM 63:7

FOR YOU HAVE BEEN MY
HELP, AND IN THE SHADOW
OF YOUR WINGS I SING
FOR JOY.

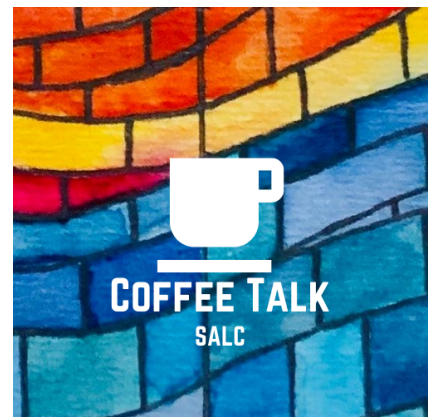
The Final Coffee Talk

Pastor Jenn and Pastor Justin’s last Coffee Talk together will take place after outdoor worship on **Sunday, May 9 at approximately 11:30 am**. You can watch in person on the Celebration Patio or through the livestream.

To celebrate the call of the Holy Spirit, Pastor Jenn will donate in dollars the number of live online viewers and in person attendees at twenty minutes into Coffee Talk. The beneficiary will be the Seminary Support Fund, where gifts will be received in honor of Pastor Jenn’s ministry at Saint Andrew. This fund supports our two seminary students and ensures those who enter into theological education from Saint Andrew know that we are behind them as they prepare for ministry.

Part of this special Coffee Talk will include what many have been waiting for: Pastor Justin will have his hair cut live during coffee talk as a “biblical act of mourning!” and in celebration of being fully vaccinated. (See Micah 1:16!)

Grab some coffee. Join us in the talk!



Waypost Spring Volunteer Day

On **Saturday May 8, 10 am-3 pm**,

come enjoy time outdoors and be a part of helping camp happen this year!

Registration is requested to space out the arrival of individuals. You can register [here](#). After you arrive, stay for as long as you would like! Minimum of two hours is recommended. Please bring your own food. Water and restrooms will be available.



Email john@crosswayscamps.org with questions.



SALC Treasure Sale

Thursday-Friday, June 3-4

8:30 am-5:30 pm

Sunday, June 6 Following Worship

Bring in your gently used donations for the Treasure Sale then come back and shop for new treasures! A free-will donation will be received for most items. Donated items should be in good working order and in very

good condition. The following items will not be accepted: computers, printers, televisions, phones, batteries, chargers, light bulbs, microwaves, carpets/rugs, paint/chemicals, large appliances, or exercise equipment.

Ministry Night

Ministry Night will be taking place on **Tuesday, May 11 at 6:30 pm**. Make sure to follow the Zoom link down below if you plan on attending!

Saint Andrew - Host is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Saint Andrew Ministry Night

Time: Apr 13, 2021 06:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Tue, 7 occurrence(s)

Apr 13, 2021 06:30 PM

May 11, 2021 06:30 PM

Jun 8, 2021 06:30 PM

Jul 13, 2021 06:30 PM

Aug 10, 2021 06:30 PM

Sep 14, 2021 06:30 PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89666511673?pwd=WWhnT2FpWkVmS1IzeUtENnVkWGQ5QT09>

Meeting ID: 896 6651 1673

Passcode: 109632

One tap mobile

+19292056099,,89666511673#,,,,*109632# US (New York)



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.

A Message from Pastor Jenn

As was announced on **Sunday, May 2**, Pastor Jenn has accepted a call to serve as the Assistant to the Bishop: Director of Communications and Community. You can find her resignation letter [here](#) and her farewell video [here](#). Her last day will be **Sunday, May 23**, which is Pentecost. If you would like to schedule some time to meet with Pastor Jenn in the coming weeks prior to her departure, **please contact Joy at joy@salc-wausau.org**. To celebrate Pastor Jenn's time of service at Saint Andrew, there will be a blessing service for her on **Sunday, May 23 at 1:00 pm**. More information will be coming on this celebration soon.

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: 5/4/2021

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

www.salc-wausau.org/covid to review an updated *Plan to Gather*.

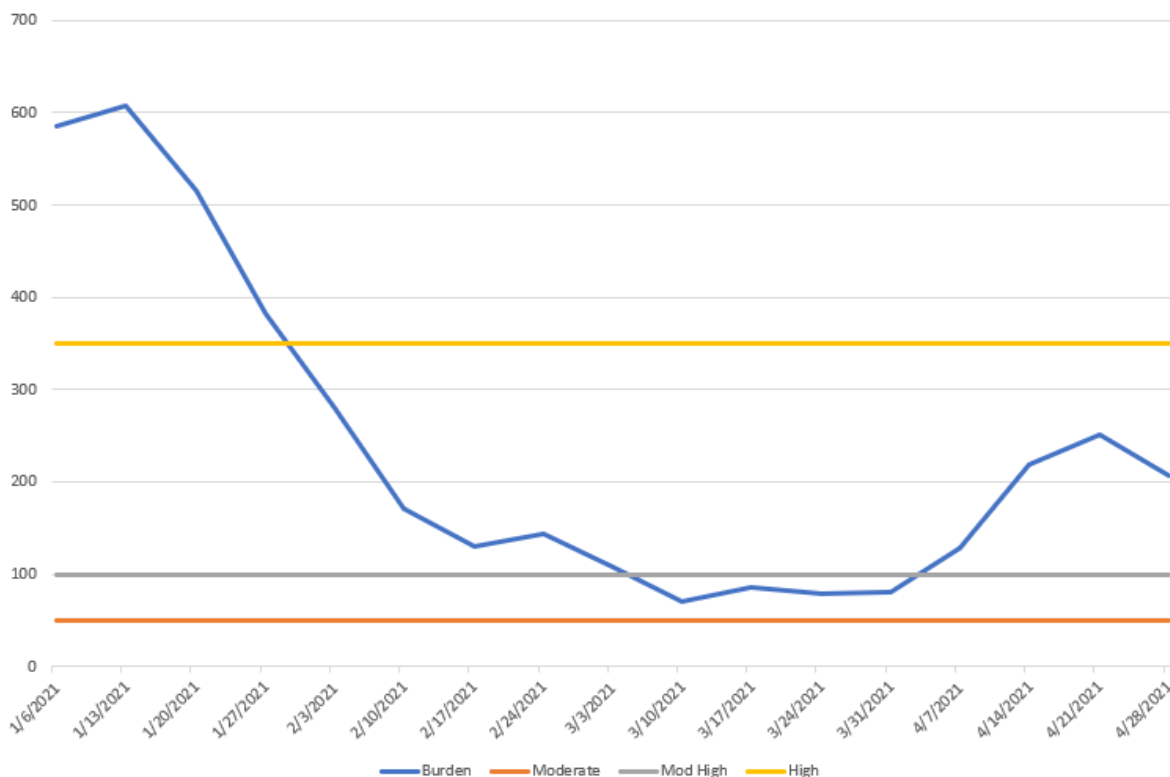
SALC COVID-19 UPDATE

As of 4/28/2021

Date	Burden #	Trajectory	Burden Status
4/7	129.1	Increasing	High
4/14	219.7	Increasing	High
4/21	251.6	No Change	High
4/28	206.3	No Change	High

Current SALC Status: Phase One

2021 Case Rate Per 100,000 Marathon County Residents
AKA Burden



About

Worship

Learning

Calendar

Contact Us

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