

Network



Volume 13, Issue 6

December 2021

A Note from Pastor Justin

Advent prompts preparation for the coming of Christ into our lives. One that we have in mind is Christmas, the birth of Christ into our world. Called the Incarnation. This draws our attention to the past, to the ways that God has worked in our world and our lives before this time, and to where we have seen Christ show up over the pandemic year.

The long, drawn-out presence of the Covid-19 virus has drained our endurance, tested our patience, and strained our relationships. We need the grace of God, the peace of Christ, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Especially as we look towards the celebration of Christmas with a respiratory virus hanging over our heads like some macabre mistletoe, we need a sign, a reminder, a vision of God's presence with us. We need Jesus.

This is the other way that Advent prompts us to prepare for Christ. We look from this day towards God's future. We look towards the end of time, when God's Kingdom fully comes into the world, the vision of complete peace and eternal life that we read about at the end of Revelation. We look towards a future untouched by the sin, brokenness, sickness, and death that we know too well in this world.

Last year, we were able to find a creative way to gather safely, in a luminary walk around the church building. We found ways to include the traditional candle lighting, kindling the light of faith, hope, peace, and joy in the cold, dark night. We were able to have a moment to remember pre-Covid Christmas while anticipating the day when we will gather for Christmas again.

This year, we are in a different place, but still know we are not where we want to be. Especially as we are looking at what could be described as a seasonal spike in Covid activity.

We are committed to hold Christmas services this year. We are adding a service earlier on Christmas Eve to give space to families with children who want to hear the Christmas story. We will be livestreaming services Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and the first Sunday of Christmas for those who are wanting to gather in their homes. For those who want to join us, in person, we are going to use all available space to maintain a safe and comfortable distance between families.

This is better than last year, but not what we have hoped for. We are the living embodiment of the reality of Advent. Christ has already come freed us from sin and death but will come again and complete the freedom by restoring us fully to one another. So, we gather as we gather, recognizing that we are not fully past the pandemic, but looking towards the day when our raised voices will shake the rafters of Saint Andrew with the reverberations of Christmas joy. Until then, we watch and wait.

The life and ministry of Saint Andrew Lutheran Church shall be open to all who wish to express their faith in God through Jesus Christ by *worship, learning, witness and service.*

-From Mission Statement-



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Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Weekly Worship

Thursday: 12:15 + 6:15 pm Sanctuary
Sunday: 8:00 Sanctuary
9:15 Sanctuary + Livestream



Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24

2:00 & 4:00 pm

Family Christmas Worship

6:00, 8:00 & 10:00 pm

Candlelight Worship

Christmas Day, Wednesday, December 25

9:15 am

Christmas Day Worship

Noisy Offering

Change to spare for a worthy cause? A Noisy Offering will be received on **Thursday and Sunday, December 16 & 19** in support of ELCA World Hunger.

Christmas Food Baskets

If you or someone you know would appreciate receiving a Christmas Food Basket, please call the church office by **Wednesday, December 15** at 715-842-3333. Baskets will be ready to be picked up on **Saturday, December 18, 9:30 am-12:00 pm.**

Weekly Worship Available on Facebook and Charter/Spectrum

Sunday, 9:15 am worship is livestreamed on the SALC Facebook page each week.

It is also recorded and can be found on Charter/Spectrum channel 980 on the following days and times:

Tuesday 2:00 pm	Friday 6:00 pm
Thursday 10:30 am	Sunday 7:00 am



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SEATING PLANS

A 2:00 pm service has been added to the regular 4:00, 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00 pm services to ease the possibility of over-crowding. The 2:00 and 4:00 pm services will be geared to the children. The 6:00, 8:00 and 10:00 pm services will be candlelight services. Seating in the Sanctuary will be limited to first come, first serve. Overflow seating will be available in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall and Chapel with video and sound. **Please note** that ushers will seat the congregation in all areas.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS



Help beautify the altar at Christmas with a poinsettia to remember or honor a loved one. Order forms are available online (salc-wausau.org) and at the Information Desk. Order deadline: **Friday, December 3.**

CHRISTMAS DECORATING EVENT

Saturday, December 4, 9:00 am

Calling all decorators!! The Advent season is rapidly approaching which also means it is time to plan for all the wonderful Christmas decorating! Help Saint Andrew get ready for Christmas. Property Ministry, with the help of volunteers, will have the trees up and ready during the week of November 29. The focus will be to get the Sanctuary ready followed by other areas of the church. Kids are great helpers!! ALL children and youth are welcome to help with a supervising adult. If you or your ministry group is interested in "adopting" a particular area of Saint Andrew to decorate, please contact Patrick at patrick@salc-wausau.org. As a reminder, ALL Christmas décor in the Sanctuary will need to be removed on Sunday, January 2 to allow for the renovation project to begin on Monday, January 3.

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

If you are looking for a way to touch lives with the love and hope of Jesus Christ, consider helping the residents and clients of North Central Health Care in Wausau with some needed essentials this Christmas. Items needed are: **socks (All sizes), sweatpants (M-4XL), underwear (Women's: S-4XL, Men's M-4XL), warm winter gloves and mittens, thermal underwear and fleece blankets.** Please bring them to the Giving Tree in the Sanctuary until **December 20** and they will be delivered for Christmas. Thank you for participating in this opportunity to spread some hope.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING

Sunday December 5, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Get into the holiday spirit by helping to decorate gingerbread houses that will be displayed at church and at a local nursing home. The gingerbread houses, frosting and decorating supplies will be provided. Sign up on the Information Desk in the Narthex.



SUNDAY SCHOOL PRESENTS THE JESSE TREE

This Advent, the Sunday school students will present symbols of The Jesse Tree—Jesus' family tree. Each Sunday during the children's message, Sunday school classes will present three Jesse Tree symbols. This four-week lesson will take the place of a traditional Christmas program. You won't want to miss a single Sunday in Advent to capture the whole story of the Jesse Tree! The following schedule shows when each grade will present the Jesse Tree Symbols.

November 28

Readers: Grades 5 & 6

Helpers: First Faith and PreK

December 12 (First Communion Service)

Readers: Grades 3 & 4

Helpers: Grade 1

December 5

Readers: Grades 5 & 6

Helpers: Kindergarten

December 19

Readers: Grades 3 & 4

Helpers: Grade 2

JESSE TREE ADVENT JOURNEY

Join us for an Advent journey of The Jesse Tree. We will remember stories and family members of Jesus by adorning the dry branches of our "Jesse Tree", located in the sanctuary, with symbols each day. Join us each week as we reflect with special video, narrative reflection, music and prayer. To view and interact with the digital Advent Calendar visit the homepage on SALC's website: salc-wausau.org. Be sure to check back each Sunday during advent to see the upcoming week's theme, symbols, readings and video. We hope you enjoy this special journey through Advent.



STUDENTS TO RECEIVE FIRST COMMUNION

First Communion worship will take place during the 9:15 worship service on **Sunday, December 12**. Please invite family, friends, and baptismal sponsors to join in celebrating with your child as they come to the Lord's Table for the first time. There will be no Sunday school class for 5th and 6th grade students on December 12. We invite students to participate in the entirety of worship for First Communion.

FAIR TRADE PRODUCTS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Sundays, December 5 & 12

Fair Trade products will be available in the Fellowship Hall before and after the 9:15 service. Re-fill your own supply of coffee or chocolate bars or fill someone's Christmas stocking with coffee, chocolate bars or any of the specialty products.

SANCTUARY RENEWAL PROJECT

Work will begin **Monday, January 3, 2022** and is expected to run through **Friday, February 18**. **Sunday, January 2, 2022 following worship**, volunteers are needed to help undecorate the Sanctuary from Christmas; Property Ministry will remove the furniture and wall hangings from the Sanctuary January 2-4 to allow the construction crews to begin work on Monday, January 3. During the renovations, the Sanctuary will be closed (**authorized personnel only**). Plans are being made to use the Fellowship Hall for worship services during this time. Worship will be back in the Sanctuary for the season of Lent with a fresh look!

SPENDING PLAN REVIEW

Sunday, December 12, 10:30 am

A special informational meeting will take place in the Activity Room for anyone who wishes to learn about the budget process. Using giving records for 2021, pledged support for 2022, and ministry needs, a proposed estimated budget will be presented to inform interested members of the anticipated budget for the coming year of ministry. Anyone is welcome to attend this informative meeting and to ask questions about the year ahead before the **Annual Meeting is held on January 30, 2022.**

ENDOWMENT SUPPORTS MONK BOTANICAL GARDENS

Earlier this year, the Saint Andrew Endowment Fund Committee approved a \$2000 grant to support the Monk Botanical Gardens - After School in the Gardens program. The Garden's director provided the attached report summarizing the program and highlighting its positive impact on children and families in our community. For more information on the Saint Andrew Endowment Fund, please visit the Endowment Fund page on the Saint Andrew website: <https://www.salc-wausau.org/endowment-fund/> If you are interested in serving on the Endowment committee, please contact the church office.

CALL PROCESS UPDATE

There are many steps involved in the calling of a pastor. The graphic to the right briefly lists those steps. Candles are very symbolic within the rites of the church. What better way than lighting this candle at the installation of our new pastor!

CURRENT STATUS:

The call committee is currently conducting initial interviews with the list of candidates provided by the East Central Synod of Wisconsin.

NEXT STEP:

After reviewing the initial interviews with the pastoral candidates, formal, in person, interviews will be conducted.

Status of Senior Pastor Call Process

From the Saint Andrew Call Committee



OVER 70 1/2? REDUCE YOUR TAXES

If you are over 70 ½ years old and taking a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA, you could reduce the taxable portion of your RMD by making a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) to a qualified charitable organization such as Saint Andrew, directly from your IRA. Rather than paying tax on the entire RMD distribution and then receiving an itemized deduction for your donation, the QCD portion would not be taxable income and you would still get the itemized deduction. The QCD needs to be taken early in the year before any RMD is withdrawn to get the benefit. Because there are certain restrictions and requirements for a QCD, you will need to consult with your financial advisor or institution to set this up.

Saint Andrew Spending Plan

Looking back at October:

Average attendance	344
Your gifts returned to God	\$ 56,140
Ministry costs for Saint Andrew	<u>44,958</u>
Gifts greater (less) than costs	\$ 11,182



For more information, please see the Finance and Stewardship bulletin board just outside the office.

Art Devo

**Thursday,
December 9
12:00 pm**

Classes will take place beginning at noon on the second Thursday of the month in the Activity Room.

SALC Memorial Gifts

Thank you for all gifts received in honor or in memory of someone special. If you would like to give a memorial gift to Saint Andrew, please contact the church office.

WE PRAY

For Baptisms:

Giving thanks for the gift of baptism, we lift up those children, parents and sponsors who have recently been received or will be received into the family of faith. We pray especially for:

Vera Kathleen Melville - November 7

For Weddings:

In celebration for lives joined together in the covenant of marriage, we pray especially for:

Gary and Hannah Flanery - November 13

Hilary Steltenpohl and Joseph Novak - December 31

For Those Who Have Gone Before Us:

For the families of those who have recently joined the church triumphant:

Lois Irick

PRAYER CENTER

As you review the day to day list of events that take place at Saint Andrew, please also give consideration to those who have requested prayers. Do you know of someone who is in need of prayer (*please ask first*)? Call the church office at 842-3333 to have names added to the list at the Prayer Center. Names will be updated on a regular basis.



FOR THESE WE PRAY...

Aiden & Dayna	Charles	Janeen	Lenette	Renee	Todd
Angie	Chuck	Jean	Marise	Rick & Tary	Tom & Barb
Anne	Dan M.	Jennifer	Marty	Robin	Zoe & Rich
Ashley	Dan	Jerry	Meghan	Roger & Ruth	Zurn
Barbara	Dave	Jesse	Monica	Rollie	Amy
Bob	Diane	Jim	Monica	Sandy	Frank
Brett	Ed	Kay	Nikki	Shirley	Katie
Brittney	Ellie	Kim	Nora & Melanie	Susan	Judy
Callie, Zak,	Greg	Kristin	Pam	Terry	Cullen
Kathy & Tom	Hilmar	Leann	Ralph	Tim	Joyce

Thank you, Lord, for always answering prayer, but not indulging my every petty, private request. Thank you for winnowing and refining, vetoing and delaying, refusing and revising. Thank you for being God and never less, for freeing me for wide horizons, for protecting me from my limited vision and wayward will. Thank you for foiling my every effort to unseat you and make myself king. Thank you for keeping it safe for me to pray.

—Gerhard E. Frost

From Seasons of a Lifetime: A Treasury of Meditations (Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 1989, p. 118)

October/November - Council's Communication Corner

Hello Saint Andrew! My name is Derek Hoff, your Church Council President. Here are the 5 monthly bullet points about the work of your church. This is the Council's Communication Corner for October/November.

1. Covid-19 & Church Services - Unfortunately our infection rates in Marathon County are on the rise. However, we want to ensure everyone that we will continue to have "Options for All." We will maintain our current schedule of services. We would ask all members to gauge your risk tolerance and attend a service that suits your needs. For those looking for "in person" services with lower attendance numbers please try going to the Sunday at 8:00 am service or the Thursday services at 12:15 pm or 6:15 pm. The Sunday 9:15 am service will continue to be in person with streaming and Sunday school will still be in place. This service is typically our most attended and may present a higher risk. For those attending this service please note that we are going to try to keep the side pews for those who would like the extra space and the center pews to be for those larger families or friend groups who are ok with the potential for closer interactions. Please wear your mask and be mindful of your neighbors so that we can continue to provide options for all.

2. Fellowship - It's BACK! Thanks to our ministry groups for stepping up and volunteering to serve coffee and treats after our Sunday service. It was really nice to see people safely gather in our Fellowship Hall the past couple of weeks.

3. Call Committee & Pastoral Updates - Our all-star Call Committee has continued to take on the duty of finding our next lead pastor. We have had approximately 10 candidates interview and the Call Committee has been extremely pleased with the pool and has a difficult decision before them. There are a couple more first interviews to be held and then they will call back the top candidates for in-person interviews. We hope to head into 2022 with clarity on a final decision to help lead our church!

4. +1 Ministry - The Council would like to continue to promote that little bit of EXTRA work that members of Saint Andrew are giving to our church. A big thank you goes out to our Liturgical Arts Committee as they have continued to do an amazing job of displaying their talents and creating such a beautiful setting for worship! An additional thank you for the work of our Communications Ministry as they have continued to receive more requests from the congregation and have taken on many tasks to make sure our members stay informed through video, website, and other publications!

5. Church Council Nominations and Annual Meeting Date - As we approach the turn of the calendar there will be three spots opening up on our Church Council. We will be looking for some motivated members to step up to the plate and help guide our church as we move into a new era with a new lead pastor. If you are interested please let Dayna or Pastor Justin know. The annual meeting will be on **January 30th during our 9:15 am service** and will have options for in-person voting and virtual voting.

That's the Council's Communication Corner. Again I'm Derek Hoff, your Church Council President. Make It a Great Day Saint Andrew! God Bless!



December 2021



Sunday							Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
November 2021 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30							January 2022 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				1		2		3		4	
8:00 AM Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes 9:15 AM Worship 10:30 AM Gingerbread House Decorating							6		7		8		9		10		11	
							7:00 PM AA/Alanon/Alateen		9:00 AM Quilting		6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM 7th Grade Conf. Class 6:30 PM 8th Grade Conf. Class		12:15 PM Worship 6:15 PM Worship		Lay School Classes-Online		Lay School Classes-Online	
12 8:00 AM Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes 9:15 AM Worship w/First Communion 10:30 AM Spending Plan Review							13		14		15		16		17		18	
							7:00 PM AA/Alanon/Alateen		9:00 AM Quilting 9:00 AM Alzheimer's Group		6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study 6:00 PM 7th Grade Conf. Class 6:30 PM 8th Grade Conf. Class		12:15 PM Worship 6:15 PM Worship 7:00 PM Council Meeting				9:30 AM Christmas Basket Pick-Up	
19 8:00 AM Worship 9:00 AM Sunday School Classes 9:15 AM Worship							20		21		22		23		24		25	
							7:00 PM AA/Alanon/Alateen		9:00 AM Quilting		6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study		No Worship		Christmas Eve Worship 2:00 PM Family Worship 4:00 PM Family Worship 6:00 PM Candlelight Worship 8:00 PM Candlelight Worship 10:00 PM Candlelight Worship		9:15 AM Christmas Day Worship	
26 9:15 AM Worship (No 8:00 am Worship)							27		28		29		30		31			
							Church Office Closed 7:00 PM Aa/Alanon/Alateen		Church Office Closed 9:00 AM Quilting		Church Office Closed 6:45 AM Son Riser's Bible Study 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study		Church Office Closed No Worship		Church Office Closed			



**150202 County Road NN
Wausau, WI 54401-7275**

Parish Staff

Rev. Justin Smoot, *Pastor*
 Rev. Jeff Martinson, *Visitation Pastor*
 Joy Mitchell, *Administrative Secretary*
 Al Freiberg, *Coordinator of Music*
 Jenna Diedrich, *Faith Formation Coordinator*
 Patrick Kieper, *Facility Coordinator*
 Dave Paisar, *Custodian*
 Sheldon Geiger, *Bookkeeper*

Interested in a paper copy of the Network?

Pick one up on the Information Desk in the Narthex or
 call the office to be added to the mailing list.

Upcoming Events/Activities

DECEMBER

4	9:00 am	Christmas Decorating Event
5	10:30 am-12:00 pm	Gingerbread House Decorating
12	9:15 am	First Communion Worship
12	10:30 am	Spending Plan Review
18	9:30 am-12:00 pm	Christmas Food Basket Pick-Up
22		No Confirmation Classes
23		No Thursday Worship
24	2:00 & 4:00 pm	Children and Family Christmas Eve Worship
24	6:00, 8:00 & 10:00 pm	Candlelight Worship
25	9:15 am	Christmas Day Worship
26		No Sunday School
26	9:15 am	Worship (NO 8:00 am Worship)
30		No Thursday Worship
27-31		Church Office Closed

JANUARY

2		No Sunday School Classes
2	9:15 am	Worship (NO 8:00 am Worship)
3		Sanctuary Renewal Work Begins
5		Confirmation Classes Resume
9		Sunday School Classes Resume
30		Annual Meeting

Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8:30 am-4:30 pm



**SALC is on Facebook! Follow
 the link on the Saint Andrew
 website and click "like" to keep
 up with the latest news and**