

# Network



## Weekly Newsletter November 30, 2023

### Come Home

Last weekend the Froseth's did most of the work of decorating our home for Christmas. We ask our children and grandchildren to Come Home so that Christmas preparations can be done together. This coming Sunday, the Saint Andrew family will gather to do much of the work of decorating our church home for Christmas. I invite you, too, to Come Home to Saint Andrew so that those Christmas preparations can be done together. But there is more to it than the decorating, isn't there?



Once all the garland is hung, the grandchildren's homemade decorations are placed, the various twinkling lights find their homes, and the trees are declared "perfect," it all needs to get plugged in. Without energy, the effect is considerably lessened. It is like there is no star for the Magi to follow. The same is true for Saint Andrew. While we dearly want everyone to Come Home during this Advent season, and we also want you to be energized and to get plugged in. This ministry is better when we do it together. Frankly, without the help of my children and grandchildren, I wouldn't be able to do half of what we are able to do together. The same is true at Saint Andrew. Without the help of everyone, the Saint Andrew light won't be nearly as bright.

I need your help. As a first step, come to worship. I am setting a goal of 250 souls in worship every Sunday. Nothing energizes me more than a full church! Then, I will ask for help getting plugged into our new ministry of Communion to the Homebound. This congregation will be both high tech and high touch. As we look to the future, we will use new technology to deepen our connection to this family and to one another.

Come Home. Plug in. Invite! Invite! Invite!

God bless you in this ministry we share. I will see you at worship!

Pastor Gary

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## **A Message From Pr. Gary**

**November 22, 2023**

I call it the Ministry of Persistent Invitation. I probably coined the term. I use it to describe how I came to pursue ministry.

I was in my late teens or early 20's when my pastor decided that I would be a good fit for the Social Ministry Committee. In my late teens/early 20's that didn't seem very exciting. So, I put him off or told him "later" or did any number of things to avoid his invitation.

Except! He never stopped inviting. For him, "no" just meant "not right now." As time progressed I joined the Social Ministry Committee, then joined the Youth Committee, then became a Sunday school teacher and confirmation mentor, then became a council member and on and on and on until, finally I entered the seminary. All because of the Ministry of Persistent Invitation.

Today I extend an invitation to you – each one who reads this note. Come Home! We are preparing for Christmas. It is the season of coming home. Not just to be with your nuclear family but – this year, especially – to be with your church family. Come Home!

I also encourage you to enter into a shared Ministry of Persistent Invitation. I bet you know some folks who have taken a brief sabbatical from worship at Saint Andrew. Ask them to Come Home. It is a time of transition. It is a new beginning. Ask them to experience Saint Andrew once again. Ask them to Come Home!

As I have been visiting with Saint Andrew leaders, I am impressed by the number of people who came here because of someone's Persistent Invitation. Remember "no" only means "not right now."

God bless you in this ministry we share. I will see you at worship!

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## Council Communication Corner

- 1) Pastor Gary presented an overview of how different sizes of churches function and we reflected on what Saint Andrew could/should aim for.
  - 2) Council discussed the process of forming the Ministry Site Profile Committee, which is the next step in calling a new pastor.
  - 3) Regarding the Congregational Survey: council members will personally follow up with those who expressed concerns or had ideas to share.
  - 4) Preparations continue for the Annual Meeting which has been rescheduled to January 28 following the 9:00 am worship service.
  - 5) Reviewed 2024 SALC spending plan with Finance Ministry Chair, Mark Gleisner.
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## Sunday, December 3

**There will be no Sunday school or Adult Bible Study.** Families are invited to the Fellowship Hall for the annual Gingerbread House decorating event.

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**Gingerbread House  
Decorating Event  
Sunday, December 3  
10:00 am - 12:30 pm  
Fellowship Hall**

**Get into the holiday spirit by decorating gingerbread houses that will be on display at church and at a local nursing home. The gingerbread houses, frosting and decorating supplies will be provided along with beverages and snacks. Bring your creativity and join us for some fun!**

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## Advent/Christmas 2023 Schedule

**December 3 - Advent 2:** Pr. Gary Froseth

**December 10 - Advent 3:** Pr. Sharon Fox Bogen

**December 17 - Advent 4:** Pr. Gary Froseth

**December 24 - Christmas Eve:** Pr. Gary Froseth

4 pm and 6 pm - Candlelight Worship with Chancel and Handbell Choirs

10 pm - Candlelight, Contemplative Worship

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## ELCA World Hunger Advent Study 2023

### Available

*The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together.*

Isaiah 40:5

Explore our biblical past and find the many ways the glory of the Lord is revealed to us. Study booklets are available in the Narthex.



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## December Ministry Night Meetings

***Tuesday, December 5 at 6:30 pm***

Pr. Gary will open Ministry Night in the Fellowship Hall with a presentation on Church Size Theory. All are welcome to share their gifts and talents and participate in the ministry of their choice.

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## 2024 Budget Review Meeting

***Sunday, December 10, 10:15 am, Activity Room***

Prior to congregational approval at the Annual Meeting on January 28, 2024, the proposed 2024 Spending Plan will be presented for review and questions. The Finance Ministry invites everyone to attend this informative meeting.

Throughout our history at Saint Andrew we've been able to do things that are important to our mission, community, and the world because we haven't been afraid to step forward and ask our members for financial support.

As we move into the final months of 2023 and prepare financially for 2024, **thank you, thank you, thank you** to all who have already completed your pledge for giving in support of the ongoing ministry here at Saint Andrew. Plans for giving are extremely important for Saint Andrew's budgeting process (Spending Plan), and we are asking this year more than ever to consider completing a pledge.

As of November 28, 2023 we have received almost enough pledges to support a proposed 2024 spending plan of \$548,000 which is approximately \$77,000 below our 2023 spending plan of \$625,000.

This means that for those who have yet to turn in their plans for giving, we ask that you thoughtfully and prayerfully consider your plan following your heart, and trusting in God's promise to provide for all that you need and more.

While we are currently a congregation in transition, we are still a healthy, vibrant community. We have many expressions of ministry that have a profound impact. Increased giving means that we are not only able to support all that exists but to develop our ministry in broader ways.

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## End of Year Contributions

Any 2023 contributions or 2024 prepaid contributions you wish to be recorded on your 2023 Annual Contributions Statement must be received at Saint Andrew before Saturday, December 30, 2023 or postmarked on or before Sunday, December 31, 2023.

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## American Red Cross Blood Drive

**Thursday, December 14 - 12:00-5:00 pm, Fellowship Hall**

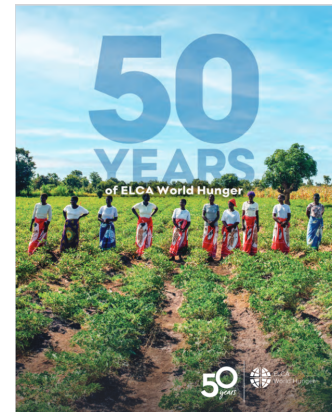
Donors can give blood every 56 days. Walk-ins are welcome, however, appointments are helpful and can be made online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) or call

1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767). Two volunteers are needed to help with registration, refreshments, or other support. Please contact Jan Nelson at [jannelson.79@gmail.com](mailto:jannelson.79@gmail.com) or 715-470-0038 if you have questions or want to volunteer.

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## Noisy Offering

Bring your noisy coins to church to drop in the Noisy Offering can on **Sunday, December 17** in support of ELCA World Hunger/Good Gifts.



## Christmas Food Baskets

If you or someone you know would appreciate receiving a Christmas Food Basket, please call the church office at 715-842-3333 by **Thursday, December 7**. Baskets will be ready to be picked up at the south entrance on **Thursday, December 21 between 3:00 and 4:00 pm**.

If you would like to donate items for these baskets, please bring them by **Tuesday, December 19**. Non-perishable items can be placed in the baskets inside the church



entrances and hams can be put in the marked area in the freezer.

Items now being received:

- Ham (Half Hams Preferred)
- Canned vegetables
- Stuffing Mix
- Canned Pie Filling
- 5 lb. Bag of Potatoes
- Canned Cranberry Sauce
- Christmas Candy Treats



## Blue Christmas Service

**Thursday, December 21, 6:00 pm**

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 503 Schmidt Ave, Rothschild**

All are welcome to gather on the longest night of the year for a Blue Christmas service to honor grief and renew hope giving time and space to remember loved ones, acknowledge and honor grief, remember the gift of hope given through Jesus Christ, and know we are not alone. Hosting

Congregations are: Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Saint Andrew Lutheran Church, and Saint John Lutheran Church, Mosinee.

## Communion for the Homebound

Saint Andrew is starting a ministry of distributing Communion to the homebound.

This will require 15 volunteers to visit one person each Sunday after worship, or at a minimum of twice a month. Please contact

Pastor Gary at [pastorgary@salc-wausau.org](mailto:pastorgary@salc-wausau.org)

with any questions, or to let him know you

plan to attend the training on Tuesday, January 9 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.



## Communion Subs Needed

Saint Andrew has expanded to 5 communion stations including gluten-free to better serve the congregation. Communion Server subs help fill in the need when a scheduled server is out of town or sick. This role is ideal for those with variable Sunday schedules. Please email [jonathan@salc-wausau.org](mailto:jonathan@salc-wausau.org) if you are willing to serve as a sub.



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## Weekend Snow Shoveling Help Needed

Are you available to help with weekend shoveling?  
6-8 volunteers are needed to help clear sidewalk  
entrances on weekends prior to Sunday morning  
worship on a rotational schedule with

2-3 volunteers each week. If you would be interested in helping out, please sign-up on  
the sheet below the Narthex bulletin board or contact Patrick at [patrick@salc-  
wausau.org](mailto:patrick@salc-wausau.org).



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## A Ministry Opportunity at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Wausau

***Saturday, December 16, 2:00 pm***

***709 Weston Ave., Wausau***

Enjoy a Christmas singalong followed by light refreshments.

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Mt Calvary  
Lutheran Church  
(503 Schmidt Ave., Rothschild)  
Cookie Walk

Saturday  
December 9  
9:00 - 11:00 am

\$8.00 per pound  
Candies & Lefse are sold  
separately



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## Epiphany Pageant - Save the Date

*Sunday, January 7*

More details and sign-up coming soon!

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### Worship

Sundays  
9:00 am

*(The Sanctuary is  
T-Coil Hearing Loop Enabled)*



**Office Hours**  
Monday-Thursday

### Recorded Worship on Spectrum

Sunday worship is livestreamed on the SALC Facebook page each week. The recorded service can then be found on channel 980 through Charter/Spectrum on the following days and times:

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



8:30 am-4:30 pm

SALC Calendar

About

Worship

Education

Calendar

Contact Us

## Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

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[www.salc-wausau.org](http://www.salc-wausau.org)

