

**ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT
ANNOUNCEMENTS for the Week of April 16, 2023**

*If you have pastoral needs or concerns, please feel free to call our transition pastor
The Rev. Les Swenson can be reached at 860.857.9362.*

Church Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, April 16, 2023; The Second Sunday of Easter

In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, April 16, 2023 ; Second Sunday of Easter

Service of Holy Communion

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Transition Process - Articulating St. Andrew's WHY (after worship)

Monday, April 17, 2023

6:45 p.m. Bristol Chorale (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday, April 18, 2023

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Class

6:45 Handbell Choir (Chapel)

7:30 Voice Choir (Chapel)

Thursday, April 20, 2023

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

Sunday, April 23, 2023;

9:30 Third Sunday of Easter

First Communion Informational Meeting (after worship)

Worship Services and Special Events

We invite you to join into the rhythm of worship life at St Andrew Church! Together, all who gather in the presence of God will find the gifts of godly grace and mercy, of community centered in Christ and encouragement to live faithfully in our daily lives.

We worship in person **Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**. Sunday's service is streamed on Facebook and YouTube: <https://www.facebook.com/Standrewct/>;

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSSna5Ti_WSwRJ_ySbMA3Q. Following the live stream, the video of worship will be posted so that you can worship as you are able any time after that.

PRAYER

We strive to keep the prayer lists updated both during worship and in our weekly announcements. If you have people or concerns that you would like to add to our communal prayer, please email churchoffice@standrewct.org, or leave a comment on our Sunday worship live feed. We will keep any requests made on for a month and then remove them.

We offer prayers of thanksgiving and supplication for:

- those known to us in need of healing: Bill Murtha, Arthur Potz, Jim Prior, Callum Rescsanski, Paul Rescsanski, Charles Schissler, Steven Siecienski, Johanna Tessman, Carole Wedler, Trudi Wedler, Marge Pearson, Anna Zurell, Owen VanBrocklin, Nancy Denehy, Andrew Alling, and all those in nursing homes and the homebound: Marie Ouellette and Jean Wentland.

In your prayers and in this congregation's prayer include and embrace the people of Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge, MA whose 113-year-old church building was tragically destroyed by fire on Easter Sunday evening. May God provide them courage, strength, and vision for new paths ahead as they discern their future through the days ahead without their beloved building. We will stay alert for ways we might provide help for them.

Let us lift our hymns of gratitude to all those who helped make our Holy Week and Easter Sunday worship life so full of meaning, of grace and new life ... Gwynne Hopko, instrumentalists, choir members, bell ringers, assisting ministers, lectors, cross bearers, banner wavers, ushers, lighting engineers, the team of techies doing the streaming of worship, altar guild members, Nicole Gergler, our secretary, and the members of our Worship and Music Team led by Jill Little, and more and more. Every worship service is a reflection of the loving and faithful reflection of all the many people who work to plan, prepare, and help make it life giving for all who gather. And thanks to the Galvins for coordinating the happy Easter Egg hunt on Sunday morning! **And now the great 50 days of Easter roll on, full of Alleluias and abundant life and hope! Come join the festival! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed calling us to new life in him!**



The cross transformed into a tree of new life! Thanks to the children for their beautiful work on Easter Sunday!

Preparing to Receive First Communion... An Easter Season Invitation

Parents ... if you have a child (or children) eager to receive Holy Communion, Pastor Swenson is eager to meet with you and your children to prepare the way. A meeting to help plan special gatherings for parents and children at church and for learning times at home in the family will be held after worship on Sunday, April 23.

What is the appropriate age for children to begin receiving Holy Communion? The guidelines from our Evangelical Lutheran Church in America do not specify an age (in some congregation's infants receive the Meal). Rather, "Baptized children begin to commune ... at a time determined through mutual conversation that includes the pastor, the child, and the parents...".

One helpful thing ... is your child curious about the meal, does s/he express a desire to participate? It's a good clue s/he might be ready. Remember, our appreciation and understanding of the meaning and mystery of the gift of the Meal grows through a lifetime of receiving it and sharing in the life of the gathered community of faith.

Parents... if you have questions ahead of the April 23 meeting, feel free to contact Pastor Swenson.

Transition News

A special announcement will be going out to members this Thursday regarding St. Andrew's transition process. Please check your email on Friday and come on Sunday ready to join the conversation after worship, led by our Transition Consultant, Deacon Natalie Bloomquist.

Children's Bible Story Time Continues: Attention parents, guardians, and grandparents of youth age 18 months through grade 6. Our caring and dedicated team of volunteers are delighted to continue holding Children's Bible Story Time (CBST) during the 9:30 am service in this new church year. Join us each Sunday as children and a rotation of two adult volunteers read from a children's bible, sing songs, and participate in activities that help children comprehend Sunday's gospel and connect it to their lives today. Children are invited to leave with our CBST leaders before the first lesson and return during the hymn of the day. There will be Children's Messages during worship on Palm/Passion Sunday (April 2 and on Easter Sunday (April 9). The children will be invited to join Pastor Swenson at the front of the church.

Children's Bible Story Time at St. Andrew is geared to children in preschool through 6th grade. Our curriculum is built to accommodate a span of ages and development. If your child is 18 months to 2 years old (or simply shy), they can still attend with a parent. Got a teenager in the household? We'd love to welcome them as a helper.

Please contact Britt Lynch (860) 302-6538 (ray.britt.2015@gmail.com) or see her in church if you have any questions.

GROCERY CART CHALLENGE: "Tuna, turkey, chicken and ham, vienna sausages and even SPAM"! Confirmation students AJ and Connor are collecting canned meats for this month's challenge. The food items will be donated to Gloria Dei's food drive and will be delivered by the students and their families at the end of the month. Please grab an extra can or two when you're shopping to help AJ and Connor end their confirmation year serving others!

St Pauly Shed: TIME TO SWAP OUT YOUR SWEATERS AND BOOTS FOR SHORTS AND SANDALS

Tired of packing away those same old fall clothes? donate them to the St Pauly shed at St Andrew. Clean out your closets of clothes, shoes and linens and help the church and people around the world. Time for some new fall/winter clothes this year anyway, right? Are your snow boots old enough to vote? Is your fall wardrobe bordering on being "vintage"? Out with old, in with the new! ...every item will help someone. Please donate!

Stuffies needed: Our Soothing Stuffies team is back to making blankets for Stuffies for the Bristol PD. New/like new stuffed animals are needed, please consider picking one up for the team.

COZY COVER MINISTRY A huge thank you to all who have left donations for the Cozy Cover Ministry and the Greeting Card Ministry. All will be used. Anyone interested in becoming part of these activities, please call Trudi @ 860-583-0554.

Also, will the crafter who created and donated the outstanding quilt with the pocket and cross , please call Trudi. May our Lord continuo to bless these generous friends.

You may not be able to donate anything. Your prayers for the success of these Ministries are the very best donations and bring glory to the God we serve.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL COMING TO A FELLOWSHIP HALL NEAR YOU

VBS July 17-21, 2023watch for details in next month's newsletter.....mark your calendars!



Spring DIABETES SUPPORT-EDUCATION SERIES- 2023

WHETHER YOU ARE NEW TO DIABETES OR NOT, IF YOU WOULD LIKE UPDATED INFORMATION, TIPS, TRICKS, SUPPORT, THESE FREE SESSIONS MAY BE FOR YOU !!!

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED – Just show up
6 SESSIONS 1.5 HOURS: April 10,17, 24,May 8,15,22

Where: Bristol Public Library 5 High Street, Bristol CT

When: Afternoon session starts 1:00 pm, repeated session begins 7 pm- same topic at both sessions

By: Betsy Gaudian MSN, RN-BC, RDN, CDCES

Questions:

April 10- Diabetes, what, why, the basics

April 17- Nutrition- and the DIET !

April 24- Monitoring + CGMs

May 8- Medications- and all that jazz (BP & Chol)

May 15- How to cope, emotions, problem solving

May 22- Exercise, open forum, resources, show + tell

The April 16, 2023 Bulletin is found here

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1277JVszs9bG-eR8QBPXlvm3bkGX8NQg/view?usp=share_link