

**ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT**  
**News Notes for the Week of June 25, 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.**

St. Andrew Church's "Why" Statement...

***To come together as a worshipping community, nourished by God's love so that we may reflect God's love to others.***

Adopted April 2023

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**June 25, 2023**  
**4th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Service of Holy Communion**

God does not promise that the path of the disciple will be easy. Jeremiah feels the pain of rejection from those who do not want to hear what he has to say. Jesus declares that his words may bring stark division. Even so, we need not be afraid for God accounts for each hair on our heads. Though we may experience rejection, frustration, division, and death, God's grace and love make us a new creation each day. Marked with the cross and filled with holy food, we are sent from worship to witness to Christ in the world.

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

**Sunday, June 25, 2023; 4th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Service of Holy Communion**

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023**

6:30 p.m. Summer Bells

### **Wednesday, June 28, 2023**

7:00 pm. Bible Study (Youth Room)

### **Thursday, June 29, 2023**

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

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

### **Sunday, July 2, 2023;**

9:30 a.m. 5th Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

### **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](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](mailto: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, Nancy Denehy, Susan Provenzano, and all those in nursing homes and the homebound: Marie Ouellette and Jean Wentland.

### **Bristol Area Lutherans Gather for Discussion about Collaboration in Ministry**

*On Wednesday evening, June 14, representatives from three Bristol Lutheran congregations (Gloria Dei, Zion and St. Andrew) and Grace Lutheran Church in Plainville gathered in the hall of Bristol's First Congregational Church to share where each is at in their transition process and to discuss the possibilities of collaborative work in the future. The meeting was convened by the Rev. Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop of our New England Synod.*

*More than 25 people from St. Andrew Church (we didn't get an accurate count) participated.*

*There was a strong sense of enthusiasm and energy in the whole group for moving forward with developing possibilities for working together in ministry.*

Two key steps for moving forward:

- *The congregations are beginning to plan shared worship services during the month of August. The plan is for the four churches to worship together as one on each of the four Sundays beginning August 6. St. Andrew Church is tentatively scheduled to host worship on August 27. But watch for further details in coming weekly news notes. Our own Karen Biernat is helping to coordinate this collaborative effort.*
- *Another joint team to work on "moving collaboration forward" will be taking shape during July. This group will explore further ways for the churches to do ministry together beyond the August*

*worship effort (youth ministry, adult learning opportunities, advancing ministries to the Bristol community, etc.). Two representatives from each congregation will soon be appointed by each congregation's Congregation Councils. Pastor Wilco will convene the meeting.*

*A future gathering inviting all interested people from the four congregations to deepen our sense of partnership and strengthen our Lutheran presence in the Bristol area will be scheduled after the above mentioned joint team meets.*

*As all four congregations are involved in transition processes, this is an opportune time to talk together about how our ministries might work together in the future.*

### **2023 New England Synod Assembly Update by Jill Little**

During the June 18, 2023 service, I gave my thoughts on the 2023 New England Synod Assembly that I attended in Worcester on June 9 and 10 as voting member for St. Andrew's. There were many highlights of this year's Assembly but the most impactful to me was the theme this year - Death and Resurrection in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Church. On a personal level, this was very timely with where we find our own church. We are not alone. The sobering numbers in our own New England Synod confirm a decline in attendance. From 2000 to 2020, the average number in the pews decreased from 65 to 37. In 2000, there were 183 congregations declining to 156 congregations in 2020.

The theme was woven throughout the 2 days, including the 2 church services. We heard stories of churches that prayerfully decided to do holy closure, mergers and partnerships. For mergers/partnerships, the message was clear: We are better together. Both churches have to die to create one new church. For example, we heard about Prince of Peace and First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Brockton, MA became one in 2022. I attended a break-out session titled The Changing Church. Panelists were from Christ the Good Shepherd Church in Hamden. This is a merged church comprised of members from Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd and Christ Lutheran Church. It was interesting to hear their story and how they made it work and how they are moving forward as one. While it was a process for them they were guided by the Holy Spirit that allowed it to happen.

The second break-out session I attended was about partnerships with our close cousins in the Episcopal Church. We heard from Christ the King Epiphany, a federated church in Wilbraham, MA that was formed by a Lutheran congregation and an Episcopal congregation. They became official on January 2020, but they had been sharing ministry for 10 years. We then heard from the pastor of Zion Lutheran in Oxford, MA and Church of Reconciliation (Episcopal) in Webster, MA. He is Pastor at both churches and indicated that "Church is better together." They are not federated but do share in some services and ministries.

The things that merged congregations share is that there has to be a death of their church and grief for the way things used to be. It is then that they can experience Resurrection – a new way of moving forward together. It is important to remember that through all of this we still have the Word of God. Through these stories, I was left hopeful for us. We will have pain and loss, but there is hope that we will become new and better to spread the Word of God. That is what all of us have in common.

The theme was woven into the 2 beautiful church services -Friday at Trinity Lutheran with a sermon by Bishop Regina Hassanally, Southeastern Minnesota Synod and the closing service on Saturday with a spirited sermon by Executive Conference Minister Rev. Darrell Goodwin. Rev. Goodwin spoke in his sermon about the reading from Jeremiah about the Potter's Wheel. We are all called to the potter's

house – like he reshaped the imperfect clay, we can reshape what has been. We can be Reshaped and renewed. If we crack the stone hard, resurrection is possible – don't we all just Love Jesus? It was very inspiring.

A special note for youth and young adults – for those in high school, there will be Youth Gathering in New Orleans from July 16 – 20, 2024. Huge gathering of Lutheran teens from across the USA. At the same time in the same place, a Young Adult gathering will take place. Information about both can be found on the ELCA website.

### **WEDNESDAY WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY – 7 p.m. – 8 p.m.**

Please consider building community at our weekly Bible study on the parables of Jesus. Come in person Wednesday night 7-8 pm in the fellowship hall or phone in. No questions are out of bounds and snacks are provided. The Prodigal Son, Great Banquet, Pearl of Great Price, and Vineyard and Laborers are all discussed soon to be met by others. Please invite your friends. Questions, call Matt Stojanov for more information (203) 768-7194.

**Scholarship Applications:** Graduating high school seniors and students currently enrolled in a post-secondary program are welcome to apply for this scholarship, which awards up to \$500 in scholarship(s) to eligible members annually. Applications are due in the church office ([churchoffice@standrewct.org](mailto:churchoffice@standrewct.org)) by **June 30, 2023**.

**The Pastor Perry and Sally Beaver Scholarship Application can be found here:**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/16OpPurAOT4aOM9uIVJd-zlim9P9u3WY4/view?usp=share link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/16OpPurAOT4aOM9uIVJd-zlim9P9u3WY4/view?usp=share_link)

**GROCERY CART CHALLENGE:** "HUNGER IS NOT ON SUMMER VACATION" - please continue to support our shopping cart throughout the summer by picking up a few things while grocery shopping. Food insecurity continues to be high in our town, so anything you can give is welcome.



Coffee Fellowship

**COFFEE HOUR –** Coffee hour will continue in a reduced form over the summer, consisting of coffee and a snack or two. Please consider bringing in something to eat or to sign up to host.



### **Weekly "News Notes" to Replace Monthly Newsletter**

At the June 5 Congregation Council meeting it was decided that we will "retire" our monthly newsletter and allow a somewhat expanded and revised weekly "news notes" keep informing members and friends of St. Andrew Church of our latest news and things you need to know about upcoming events and happenings in ministry. We hope that this step will provide more efficiency and effectiveness in communicating with members and friends.

Watch for the weekly news to continue appearing in your email each week on Thursdays. It will continue to be sent via land mail to those who do not have access to email.

Those who have news they want included in the weekly publication, please submit your news to Nicole, our Church Administrator ([churchoffice@standrewct.org](mailto:churchoffice@standrewct.org)), no later than Tuesday noon of the week you want it included. Thanks.

## CAN YOU HELP???



Help is really needed in the garden if we are to enjoy the fruits of our labor.

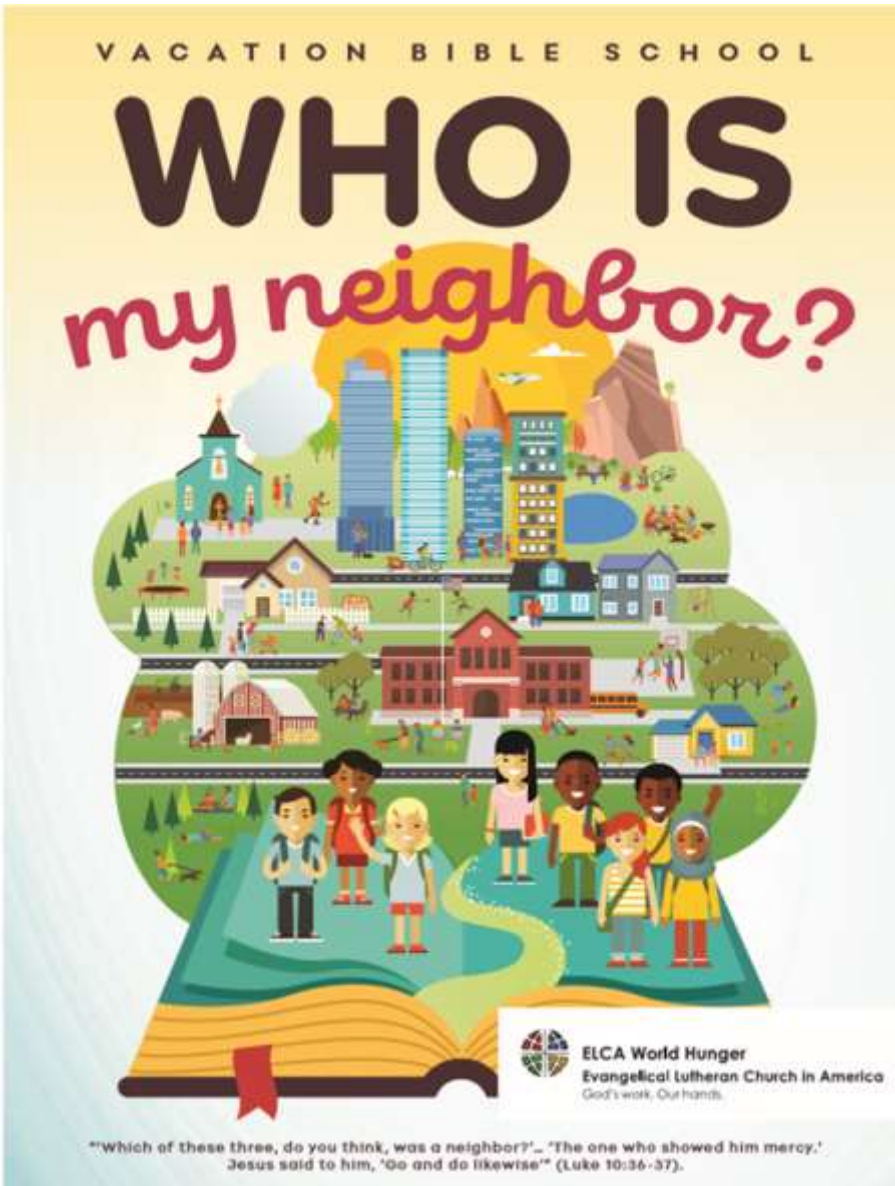
Currently, there is only one person doing all of the work.

Can you spare some time?? Your help would be greatly appreciated to make our garden a success!

Gardening skills not necessary. Even assisting a couple days a week with the watering would be helpful.

Please reach out to Nancy Carpenter if you can help out at [npcarpenter@aol.com](mailto:npcarpenter@aol.com).

Many thanks!



**VACATION  
SCHOOL 2023**

**BIBLE**

**July 17-21, 2023**

**5:30pm to 8:00pm**

**Includes dinner for your child**

**FREE**

**For kids entering Pre-K\* to kids  
entering 6th grade**

**\*must be potty-trained**

**Registration begins May 1, 2023**

**VBS is in need of a games person and fulltime 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers.**

**Please contact Arlene Creswell if interested at [aswellone@comcast.net](mailto:aswellone@comcast.net)**

**For more information see the St. Andrew Website at [www.standrewct.org](http://www.standrewct.org)**



BSA Troop 1425 Presents Their



# HUGE SUMMER TAG SALE!

Gloria Dei Church      Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup>  
355 Camp St, Bristol      9 - 2pm

## Thousands of items!

- \*Furniture    \*Clothing    \*Shoes
- \*Toys    \*Holiday Items    \*Antiques    \*Appliances
- \*Books    \*Kitchenware    \*Something for everyone!



Please consider bringing  
1 non-perishable food item  
(to be donated to Gloria Dei)

## **GIFTS TO THE GENERAL FUND WERE**

### **GIVEN IN CELEBRATION OF:**

- Baptism of Louis Luther
- First Communion of Michael Lynch and Nikolas Shackford
- Confirmation of Connor Pratt and Aiden Trudel
- For Vacation Bible School

### **BY:**

Roy & Rosemarie Tessman

**The June 25, 2023 Bulletin is found here:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Grdce1SnTABTVSxAQfccUOj8ZdaXmor8/view?usp=sharing>