

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT
1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

News Notes for the Week of September 10, 2023

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

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor

Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator

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



September 10, 2023 9:30 a.m.
15th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion

Dear Friends,

As summer turns toward autumn and we begin a new season of life together at St. Andrew Church, there is much to anticipate. While we mark a new liturgical season, resume our Sunday morning Children's Story time, and celebrate God's rich and diverse gifts showered upon us, we at the same time will continue the conversations about collaborative ministry with our neighboring Bristol and Plainville Lutheran congregations.

Since the end of our August joint worship services that were met with eager enthusiasm (isn't it great to worship in a full or nearly full worship space?), there have been two meetings with representatives from our four congregations to discuss "where do we go from here?" They have been positive, constructive meetings. Pastor Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop of our New England Synod, has been extremely helpful in facilitating these meetings.

An informal, informational congregational meeting will be held after worship on Sunday, September 17, to keep you up-to-date on these collaborative conversations and to offer you an opportunity to ask questions and provide input. Please plan to participate. This is a journey that we need to be taking together!

At our last information congregational meeting on July 30, I offered some thoughts and encouragements as we stood on the verge of our August worship services and the beginning of our collaborative work. I think they still are valid.

- Be prayerful. (Keep in mind the story about young King Solomon asking for a discerning mind, a "God listening heart.")
- Be willing to be surprised. Give the Holy Spirit lots of space to work among and through us!
- Keep in mind through this time of change and uncertainty God is still calling and leading us.
- Be thoughtful. Ask a lot of questions. Do a lot of careful listening. Be constructive. The key question in all of this is: "how will we fulfill our calling to proclaim God's life giving Word and what kind of community in Christ will we be?"
- Sure, we will experience some loss. But at the same time, loss is held in creative tension with opportunities and possibilities yet unseen that will unfold, providing excitement and joy in the days ahead.
- This collaborative work takes time. Each congregation has its own history, style of life together, and unique sense of calling and ministry. Big decisions about joining together in shared, common ministry shouldn't be rushed. But move we must, with deliberate urgency and purpose. Once a ball starts rolling we need to keep it rolling on a straight path as possible. God is leading!

With gratitude for your faithfulness as we journey together,
Pastor Swenson

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, September 10, 2023; 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Service of Holy Communion

(Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

Facebook and YouTube:

<https://www.facebook.com/Standrewct/>;

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSSna5Ti_WSwRJ_ySbMA3Q.

3:00 p.m. Wedding of Victoria Trudel and Brett Dube

Monday, September 11, 2023

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

6:45 p.m. Hand Bells

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Summer Bells

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, September 14, 2023

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

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Sunday, September 17, 2023; 16th Sunday after Pentecost

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

3:00 p.m. Connecticut Handbell Concert

CAR NEEDED

Perhaps you were in a situation where you are trying to get rid of an extra car. A member of our congregation needs a vehicle for his work as a professional landscaper. If you think you can help, please contact David Soden on his cell at 860-673-4320

GWYNNE'S NOTES

The Lutheran Church is known for and has a tradition of being an especially musical church. Here is insight into why the choir exists and how the choir functions to enliven the church's song.

We continue this Lutheran tradition of a strong music ministry at St. Andrew with leadership from our Voice Choir. One of the choir's most important functions is to lead the congregation's song. When the congregation will be singing a new hymn or liturgical song in the worship service, the choir begins preparing this new music weeks ahead so they will be supportive of the congregation's singing. This is important to us as members in the Lutheran church, that we remain a "singing congregation".

The choir spends the majority of its rehearsal time singing their challenging anthems, because singing music beautifully is difficult to do and takes lots of practice. Their motivation (as presented in last week's "News") is to glorify God and help people to experience a spiritual moment.

As the choirs resume their music ministry on Tuesday, **September 12th**, keep this schedule in mind:

HANDBELL CHOIR - 6:45 - 7:30pm

VOICE CHOIR - 7:30 - 9:00pm.

On Sunday afternoon, September 3, we celebrated the marriage of Vicki Trudel and Brett Dube. Congratulations and blessings to Vicki and Brett as they begin their life together!



CHILDREN'S STORY TIME RETURNS ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10!

Children's Bible Story Time returns to Sunday Service on September 10! Children ages 2-12 are invited to join adult leaders in our Sunday School room from the first lesson through the sermon to learn about the day's lessons and gospel and enjoy related activities and song. In lieu of CBST on the fourth Sundays of the month, children will remain in the sanctuary and hear a Children's Message from Pastor Swenson.

Please contact Britt Elise Lynch if you have questions, wish to participate as a helper or leader, or would like more information.

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.

GROCERY CART CHALLENGE: PUMPKIN SPICE SEASON IS HERE!

When you're planning those memorable family meals, please remember the food insecure in Bristol. Please donate canned veggies, pumpkin, gravy or boxed potato mixes and mac n cheese as examples, all things that fill our stomachs and warm our hearts. Put your donations in the grocery cart at worship and we'll get them to local food drives.

ST. PAULY SHED: IF IT'S PUMPKIN SPICE TIME IT'S TIME TO CLEAN OUT YOUR CLOSETS

The weather will start getting cooler and it's time to bring the sweaters and boots and pants out of storage. Tired of that old sweater? pants a little too tight/loose? donate them to the shed in our parking lot!

CONNECTICUT HANDBELL CONCERT – SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

The Connecticut Handbell Musicians would like to show our appreciation to your congregation for allowing us to rehearse in your space all summer by offering a free concert in your sanctuary.

It will be held on September 17th at 3pm and will feature our full bell choir as well as a small ensemble named FaLiSaD (pronounced Felicity).

The Connecticut Handbell Musicians are a group of orphaned ringers from all over the state of CT whose home choirs have taken a break for the summer. One key tenet of this group is that we are focused on the process. We are learning skills, styles, and positions that we would not be able to try out with our home groups in an effort to continue grow in skill and musicianship over the summer.

We welcome all of you to attend this free concert as well as your sister churches. All are welcome.

Our beautiful Summer gardens! Thanks to a very generous anonymous contributor our summer gardens alongside the church underwent a tremendous transformation recently. What a wonderful gift!



WOMEN'S GUILD QUESTIONNAIRE

Are you interested in attending the resurrected Women's Guild?

Yes / No

What are convenient times/days for you to attend?

Weekday afternoon - are always good

Weekday afternoon - occasionally are good

Weekday evening - always are good

Weekday evening - occasionally are good

Which weekday is best? _____

Saturday afternoon - always are good

Saturday afternoon - occasionally are good

Name and contact info: _____

Thanks for your input! Leana Gleicher

leanagleicher@gmail.com

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, Nancy Denehy, Susan Provenzano, Tracey Simpson, Donna Ouellette, Gary Dubnansky, Michael Positano, Pat DiMaria, and all those in nursing homes and the homebound: Marie Ouellette and Jean Wentland.

*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.*

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



2 Nancy Denehy	16 Raymond Glidden
2 Jean Gustafson	20 Kaylee Hall
4 Linda Mackey	21 Kyle Galvin
4 Madison Phaneuf	21 Ethan Hoyt
5 Nathaniel Simmons	21 Amanda Kalat
7 Kyle Cruz	23 Alan Fournier
7 Kevin Kalat	24 Anna Vertefeuille
8 Roger Brunelle	25 Kari Karp
8 Cindy Tessman	25 Noreen Zurell
12 Douglas Beaudoin	26 Rachel Hahn
12 Sandra Werner	27 Victoria Trudel
15 Timothy Hein	30 Tricia Galvin
15 Roy Tessman	

The September 10, 2023 Bulletin is found here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1avfME2rh4E-5w_IPUGdm8KLroSsJHDfd/view?usp=sharing