

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

News Notes for the Week of October 15, 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

Dear Friends,

First, let me say how good it was to be back with you this past Sunday. Please know how much I appreciated your support and your prayers while I was sidelined with Covid, pneumonia, and all their complications, including nine long days in the hospital. I'm feeling better every day and am eager to lean into the days ahead with you.

Which leads me to a second and a very important note ... ***this Sunday, October 15, after worship, I encourage you to participate in an informal Congregational Meeting that will focus on our growing Collaborative Ministry with our neighboring Lutheran congregations in Bristol and Plainville.***

While we will be sharing some news about our developing shared ministry at this meeting, the most important part of our time together will be spent talking together about your visions, your hopes and expectations for a future of a shared life together. We have taken small but exciting and significant steps together in the past few months. But we need to pray and think together about the road ahead — its wide and exciting potential, its challenges and possible roadblocks to its fulfillment. And your voice is important to the whole process!

At the last Collaborative Team meeting of representatives from St. Andrew, Gloria Dei, Zion and Grace Lutheran Churches we decided that each of the four congregations would have a congregational gathering with the same focus on "hopes, dreams and possible roadblocks" during the month of October. The representatives from each congregation (our representatives are Karen Biernat, Arlene Creswell and Owen VanBrocklin) will then share the results of their conversations to help determine our next steps together at their meeting on November 1.

This is a time for careful thought, prayer and willing openness to the Spirit, patience yet urgency, as we step ahead in trust and faith. We are called to be about Christ's mission in new, constructive and

exciting ways in these challenging days. In this month when we celebrate Reformation Sunday reminding us that the Church is always being renewed and made new, now is the time for all of us to be engaged in the work of helping to build a church for a new day!

Your partner along the way,
Les Swenson, Transition Pastor

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR



**October 15, 2023 9:30 a.m.
20th Sunday after Pentecost
Holy Communion**

Sunday, October 15, 2023; 20th 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.

Discussion regarding current work and future direction of collaborative ministry efforts with Grace Church of Plainville, Zion and Gloria Dei Churches of Bristol after worship.

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Monday, October 16, 2023

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

7:00 p.m. Zion Lutheran Church Bible Study via Zoom

Tuesday, October 17, 2023

6:45 p.m. Hand Bells
7:30 p.m. Reformation Choir
8:00 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, October 19, 2023

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

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Sunday, October 22, 2023; 20th Sunday after Pentecost

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

New England Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Message from Bishop Hazelwood

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Dear People of the New England Synod,

Many of us awoke Saturday morning to the news of violence and war in the Gaza section of Israel and beyond. "Though we can't be sure why Hamas chose to launch this attack now, we do know that there are several background conditions — including not just the ongoing occupation but also recent surges of conflict in Jerusalem and the West Bank, a far-right Israeli government, the possible role of Iran and Israeli-Saudi negotiations about normalizing relations — that made the situation especially combustible... ([read more here](#))".

As I write this letter to you on Saturday evening here in the US, I am offering up prayers for the entire region, and especially our partners in ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). I ask you to lift up Bishop Ibrahim Azar, the pastors and people of the ELCJHL, as well as our ELCA missionaries Revs. Meghan and Gabi Aelabouni.

As this situation unfolds, I will keep you abreast of the needs of our companion synod in the Land called Holy. In the meantime, please pray for peace.

Sincerely,

Bishop James Hazelwood

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

"May they prosper who love you.

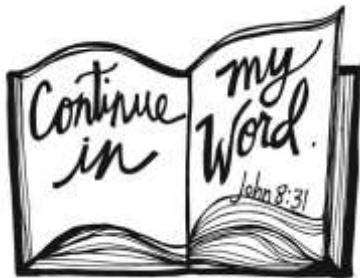
7 *Peace be within your walls*

and security within your towers."

8 *For the sake of my relatives and friends*

I will say, "Peace be within you."

9 For the sake of the house of the Lord our God,
I will seek your good.
From Psalm 122



TWO BIBLE STUDIES - OPEN TO ANYONE FROM THE 4 COLLABORATING CONGREGATIONS AND MORE!

Monday Nights via Zoom...

Leviticus – a bird's eye view! The book where two of us got “stuck” when we made our first attempt to read the Bible cover to cover is deep in meaning and holiness. Not incidentally, it is the foundation for a New Testament book, *The Letter to the Hebrews*, which has been described as a New Testament commentary on *Leviticus*. Having some understanding of its accent on “sacrifice” is key to understanding Christ's “once and perfect” sacrifice for us. Come (on Zoom) to four sessions:

Monday, October 16 “Bird's Eye View of *Leviticus*”; and October 23, “Bird's Eye View of *Hebrews*.”

To participate, let Pastor Ed Duffy know (edwduffy75@gmail.com) that you are interested in coming (he will send you a Zoom invite); and have a Bible at your side for the sessions we will hold on Mondays in October.

Wednesday Nights at St. Andrew Church, Live from 7-8 p.m. ...

Come build 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.



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Join friends from our neighboring Lutheran congregations in
Bristol/Plainville

for a special **BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**
on the lawn of **Grace Lutheran Church, 222 Farmington Ave., Plainville,**
this Saturday afternoon, October 14, 2:00!

All God's critters and their caretakers are invited
to share in this special event that celebrates the place our animals have
in our lives.

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME HAS RETURNED !

Children's Bible Story Time has returned Sunday mornings! 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.

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



FOUR CHURCHES TO CELEBRATE REFORMATION SUNDAY FESTIVAL

AT ST. ANDREW CHURCH, OCTOBER 29!

The four Lutheran Churches of Bristol and Plainville will join together at St. Andrew Church to celebrate the festival of Reformation on Sunday morning, October 29, 9:30 a.m. A 25+ member choir of folks from the four churches is already rehearsing robust music for the day.

Instrumentalists will add to the full sound. The Rev. Steven Wilco,

Associate to the Bishop of our New England Synod, ELCA, will preach. Once again the genuine hospitality of St. Andrew Church will be on full display. A special coffee hour will follow worship. And remember to wear something red, the color for the festival, to add to the vibrancy of the day!

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 PUMPKINS 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!



YES! THERE WILL BE A TAG SALE.

There will be a tag sale late March (date TBD). Please start going through items you may want to donate. No big items please.

Drop offs will begin early February.

Main contact is Dawn Stitham, dstitham@gmail.com or Robin Landrette at 860 582.7808.

PRAYERS

As we approach All Saints Sunday, November 5, please let us know of beloved church and family members and dear friends who have died in the past year (since last November) that you would like included in the prayers of remembrance that day. Call the church office (860.583.5809) or send an email (churchoffice@standrewct.org) with names. Thank you.

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, Michael Positano, Les Swenson, Larry Holyst, Denise Holyst, Robert Gergler, and all those in nursing homes and the homebound: **Nancy Denehy**, Marie Ouellette and Jean Wentland.

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.

*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.*

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS



2. Peggy Hoyt	18 Marianne
3. Joelle Stairs	Beaudoin
4. Angela	19 Joelle Rindfleisch
Provenzano	20 Matthew Girard
5. Maci Smith	21 Peter Mitchell
6. Bob Herold	21 Donna Ropp
6 Mark Shackford	22 Sharon Werner
7 Megan	23 Laurence Beaulieu
Beauregard	25 Hilda Schauss
9 Robert Deveau	26 Carol Emond

The October 15, 2023 bulletin can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZECpDY9XoYQVwXaia2Q896Nm-nMWybZp/view?usp=sharing>