

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

News Notes for the Week of December 3, 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

December 3, 2023
First Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, December 3, 2023; First Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
27 Judd Street
Bristol, CT 860-589-7744

Website: <https://bristolzion.org/>

Facebook (for viewing the service online):

<https://www.facebook.com/Zion-Evangelical-Lutheran-Church-263980580955036>

Monday, December 4, 2023

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, December 5, 2023

6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

7 p.m. 4-Church Bible Study via Zoom

Thursday, December 7, 2023

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

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Sunday, December 10, 2023; Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

(Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

Facebook and YouTube:

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

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

10:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting - Update on 4 Church Collaboration

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour



**THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 9:30 A.M.
FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT,
WORSHIP AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL!**

This Sunday as we mark the beginning of a new liturgical year and the beginning of the season of Advent, we will gather with our neighboring Lutheran congregations at Zion Lutheran Church, 27 Judd Street, Bristol.

It is a joy to worship with the folks from Zion, Gloria Dei and Grace Lutheran Churches as we continue to grow our partnership in ministry and lean with hope and expectation into the year ahead.

A festive coffee hour will follow worship, a wonderful time to continue building relationships with one another.

Advent literally means “coming” and the season is filled with reminders that it is not only the miraculous birth of a child born to bring new life and hope to us that we await, but it is the coming again of that child who became our crucified-risen Lord to complete what he has begun and to bring his new creation to fulfillment.

At Advent, God’s people summon the courage and the spiritual strength to remember that the holy breaks into the daily. In tiny ways, we can open our broken hearts to the healing grace of God, who opens the way of peace. May that peace come upon us as a healing balm, as a mighty river, gushing and rising through the valleys of our [fears and anxieties]...Advent is not a season for passive waiting and watching. It is a season...of opening up our lives and our souls with active anticipation and renewed hope. (From “Feasting on the Word...Advent Companion,” WJK publishers, 2014)

We will return to St. Andrew Church to worship for the remainder of the Advent season on December 10.

An idea for Advent Home Devotions...

As you pullout your four candle Advent wreath or make a new one and light one candle at the beginning of each week, use the Litany for Lighting the Wreath that we will also be using during worship on Sundays. There is a special theme for each week — Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Let the dawning light of Christ shine in your home as you journey through this season!

In the weeks to come, you will find the Advent Candle Lighting Litany in the bulletin attached at the end of these NewsNotes, or bring the Sunday bulletin home with you each week. (And let the Prayer of the Day and the readings heard in worship ring again in your hearts and minds through the week.) But because we will be at Zion Church this week, here is the litany for the first week in Advent. (If you are gathered around the table as a family, share the reading out loud together. Or if you are alone, read the prayer silently or aloud.)

Week One:

When I look around, I see shadows of hunger. So many neighbors, nearby and around the world, will go to bed hungry tonight...

When I look around, I see shadows of injustice, the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer — and someone somewhere will fall asleep under a bridge tonight...

In the face of hunger, we light a candle of hope...

In the face of injustice, in the face of despair, we light a candle of hope... (Light the first candle in your Advent wreath.)

May the light from this candle overcome the world.

May the light from this candle say to all that God's hope is coming, on earth as it already is in heaven.

Be not afraid, God's hope is at hand!

An invitation for your Advent journey... A poem/prayer by Thomas H. Troeger

Clear out the cluttered heart

Clear out the cluttered heart,
lest like the crowded inn,
there is no room, no way to part
a path to let Christ in.

Then use the opened space
for faith, for hope, for prayer,
for nurturing a life of grace
toward strangers needing care.

An unexpected guest,
arriving late at night,
whom you provide with food and rest,
will fill your heart with light.

And with that light comes more,
a gift that can't be priced:
the joy of learning through your door
you welcomed in the Christ.

*From "God, you made all things for singing,"
Thomas H. Troeger, Oxford University Press, 2009*

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY VIA ZOOM FOR FOLKS AND FRIENDS OF FOUR CHURCHES

You are invited to share in a brief Bible Study and time of prayer led by Pastor Ed Duffy of Zion Church during the Advent season on Wednesdays, December 6, 13 and 20 from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

To let Pastor Duffy know that you are interested in participating, send him an email note (edwduffy75@gmail.com) and he will send you a Zoom invite in return. Have a Bible at your side for each of the sessions.

Topics for the three sessions will be:

December 6 — "The Fifth Gospel" (Isaiah and Its Prophecies)

December 13 — "The First Gospel" (Matthew and Its Fulfillment)

December 20 — "Incarnation"



With Gratitude and Invitation...

- Thanks to all who have submitted their estimate of giving cards to support and build the ministry of St. Andrew Church for 2024. We are a generous people!
- And thanks for all who have not yet submitted their estimates of giving but will soon. Every gift is important to the life of the church as we lean into a new year. If you need a card, they will be available this Sunday morning, or call the church office and ask Nicole to send you one.
- And our gratitude to Arlene Creswell who has faithfully and competently led our "We are called!" efforts over the past weeks, despite her broken foot and fashionable walking boot!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, AFTER WORSHIP...
INFORMAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
FOR UPDATE ON FOUR CHURCH COLLABORATION NEWS**

News about our continuing movement forward in our collaborative efforts with the four Lutheran churches in Bristol and Plainville will be shared at a special informal congregational meeting following worship on the Second Sunday in Advent, December 10.

The Collaboration Committee comprised of representatives from the four churches (Grace, Plainfield, Zion, Gloria Dei and St. Andrew of Bristol) met on November 29 to discuss the results of each congregation's conversations regarding the proposal to intentionally move toward one shared ministry in one location with a full-time pastor called to serve this new ministry. Our representatives on that Committee (Arlene Creswell, Karen Biernat, Owen VanBrocklin and Pastor Swenson) will report on the results of those conversations and the next steps that the Collaboration Committee is proposing in order to move forward toward a common goal.

You are encouraged to be a part of the conversation and the movement forward. Your questions and insights continue to be valued and are essential to the process.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DONATIONS

If you would like to donate a poinsettia plant to help adorn the altar area for Christmas, please fill out the form that will appear in the Sunday worship bulletins or call Nicole in the church office. Cost will be \$20 per plant. If you would like to give the plant in honor or in memory of someone please note that as well. Thanks.

CHILDREN'S STORY TIME

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.

4-CHURCH CONFIRMATION - KICK-OFF EVENT Dec 11th

Students enrolled in grades 6, 7 & 8 are invited to come (and bring their parents) to a kickoff gathering on Monday Dec 11th at Gloria Dei from 630-8p.

Come meet the leaders, review the curriculum, meet other young people, and have some fun!

Classes begin Jan 8th, and pre-registration is required. Contact Pr Swenson, Arlene Creswell or the church office for details.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



On Sunday November 26th, December 10th and December 17th, St. Andrew will be having a mini Christmas Bazaar following Sunday service. It will be held in the Fellowship Hall. There are new and hand crafted items to chose from.

All Items are pre-boxed and ready to go. They are perfect gifts for teachers, friends and neighbors.

GROCERY CART CHALLENGE:

Do you have a favorite holiday food? Some canned cranberry or package of stuffing or cherry pie filling for that favorite dessert? You can't forget those canned green beans, crunchy onions and mushroom soup. Green bean casserole!
What about that cup of peppermint hot cocoa and cookie at Christmas.

When you are going shopping please remember your neighbors.

ST. PAULY SHED

The shed continues to help us and others. Clothes are being donated to other churches for clothing ministries, some clothes generate income for us to financially support food banks. Your donations of clothes are vital to our outreach. Thank you

YES! THERE WILL BE A TAG SALE.



There will be a tag sale on Friday and Saturday, March 22 and 23, 2024. Please start going through items you may want to donate. No big items please.

Drop offs will begin in January.

Main contact is Dawn Stitham, dstitham@gmail.com or Robin Landrette at 860 582.7807.

St. Gregory the Great Church
Presents



A Sacred Christmas
with choir, piano, & strings

Sunday December 3rd at 2pm

A Free Will Offering
will be taken to benefit
St. Gregory the Great
Music Program

235 Maltby Street
Bristol



Photo by Laura Hope on Unsplash

Blue Christmas

A Service of Healing & Hope
for those who are
grieving, lonely, hurting

Sunday, December 17, 4pm
First Congregational Church
31 Maple Street
Bristol, CT

PRAYERS

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, Marge Pearson, Anna Zurell, Susan Provenzano, Tracey Simpson, Donna Ouellette, Michael Positano, Larry Holyst, Denise Holyst, Robert Gergler, Karen Schumann, Roy Zurell, 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.*



A gift was given, to the Glory of God,

In memory of:

Pat Joyce

By:

Ken and Barbara Soden



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

3	Julia Biernat	15	Cora Neumann
3	Kristen Pratt	17	Luke Adam
3	Noelle Sonstrom	18	Kim Wagner
5	Richard Killiany	20	Emily Gdovin
5	Rachel Tessman	21	James Hein
9	Kathy Dahlberg	21	Emily Hopko
13	Stephen Adam	23	Timothy Treacy
13	Ivy Nadeau	25	Jonathan Nelson
14	Leana Gleicher	26	Jamie Nadeau
15	Rachel Beauregard	28	Jacob Rindfleisch
		30	Paul Martin