

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

News Notes for the Week of November 19, 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

November 19, 2023 9:30 a.m.
25th Sunday After Pentecost
Holy Communion

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, November 19, 2023; 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Service of Holy Communion

(Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

Facebook and YouTube:

[https://www.facebook.com/Standrewct/;](https://www.facebook.com/Standrewct/)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSSna5Ti_WSwRJ_ySbMA3Q.](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSSna5Ti_WSwRJ_ySbMA3Q)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Monday, November 20, 2023

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, November 21 2023

6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, November 22, 2023

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, November 23, 2023

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

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Sunday, November 26, 2023; Reign of Christ

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour



Dear Friends,

Yes, we are called!

We are called to live generously!

You may have seen many of our St. Andrew folks occasionally wearing tee shirts with that encouragement over the past few years. You yourself may have sported one. The shirts were on full display during our Vacation Bible School this summer. In fact I looked it up the other day and discovered over 13 million of these “Live Generously” shirts have been distributed (and I trust worn boldly) across the country by Thrivent, the financial services organization with Lutheran roots.

Generosity, it has been said, is gratitude in action. The two go hand in hand. Generosity is rooted and rises up from gratitude.

I love that when St. Paul reminds us of the fruits of the Spirit richly poured into and through our lives and in our life together in Christ — “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, **generosity**, faithfulness, goodness and self-control” — he notes that there is no law against practicing any one of these gifts! Indeed we are set free by God to live them exuberantly for and with one another in the community of the church and at every intersection of our lives.

I for one am grateful for the abundant generosity that flows through this beloved St. Andrew community of faith. For the generosity of community building gifts shared so freely and willingly by so many of you ... for those who prepare the altar for worship, for those whose hospitality makes this a welcome and affirming place, for our musicians so committed and talented, for those whose love and care for children help provide foundations for growing faith lives, for those who tend to our fine building, for those willing to assume leadership positions to help guide and shape our ministry, for those working quietly behind the scenes who hold things together in splendid ways, for those who pray and sing, support and cheer on our ministry in so many immeasurable ways ... for all your gifts shared so generously, I sing my hymns of gratitude.

Now during these days of considering and offering our 2024 financial commitments to nurture, build and grow our calling to be a bold witness to the Gospel within and far beyond the walls of this church, let us all stand grateful for the rich generosity that has led us to these days of opportunity of discovering and stepping onto new paths of being Church in this changing world still in need of knowing the steadfast and certain love of God.

May God continue to open the eyes of your hearts to see and welcome the new life that awaits us in the days ahead, a future strengthened and emboldened by your growing, expanded generosity born

out of deep gratitude for the abundance of God's goodness.

With gratitude for your gracious giving and your partnership along the way,
Les Swenson
Transition Pastor



**THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19...
LET US WORSHIP AND GIVE THANKS
FOR THE ABUNDANCE OF THE GIFTS
WE HAVE BEEN CALLED TO SHARE GENEROUSLY!**

- With prayer, generosity, joy and thanksgiving we will offer our estimate of giving cards for the year ahead during the offering. Fill out the card you have received in the mail, or fill out a card that will be available for you during worship.
- Know that your generous gifts will provide strength to the ministry of St. Andrew Church as we move forward in ministry.
- If you are not able to attend worship this Sunday, please send your estimate giving of card to the church as soon as possible.
- After worship this Sunday come join a festive coffee hour as we continue to celebrate the abundant blessings of God we have been given to share for the sake of others!

WE SAY "YES!"

At our informal congregational meeting this past Sunday, November 12, those 30+ people present discussed a proposal for the next step in our continuing conversations regarding our growing partnership with our neighboring Lutheran congregations (Grace in Plainville, and Zion and Gloria Dei in Bristol). A clear positive response was expressed by all participants to the question posed: *"Are you willing to commit your congregation to engage in an intentional process to discern the possibility of all four congregations coming together as a single ministry to be served by a pastor we would call together for this new ministry?"*

This "Yes!" decision commits us to move forward in developing a new ministry that would bring new strength to our Lutheran witness in the Bristol area.

Each of the four congregations will be discussing and acting on this question in November and congregational representatives will report their responses at the next Four Church Collaboration Committee meeting on November 29.

The representatives from St. Andrew Church on the committee are Karen Biernat, Arlene Creswell, Owen VanBrocklin and Pastor Swenson. Pastor Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop of the New England Synod, is facilitating the work of the committee.



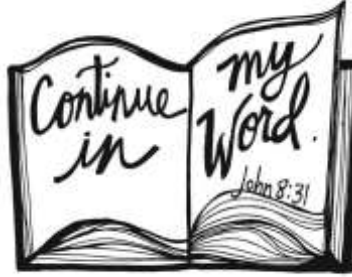
**LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NEW BEGINNINGS OF ADVENT...
SHARED WORSHIP AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, DECEMBER 3**

Our four Lutheran congregations of the Bristol area will worship as one to mark the beginning of the new church year, the First Sunday in Advent, December 3, at Zion Lutheran Church, 27 Judd St., Bristol, 9:30 a.m. Circle the date and anticipate a day of giving thanks for this new season of life together, a season of anticipation, longing and hope for the coming of Christ.

LOOKING WAY (but not so far) AHEAD TO OUR CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS!

This is one of those quirky years when Christmas Eve, December 24, falls on a Sunday which means we will be marking the Fourth Sunday of Advent that morning at 9:30, our usual worship time. Then we will gather again at 4:00 p.m. to lift our voices in the singing of carols and rejoicing in the good news of Jesus' birth. A full day of expectation and joy!

If you would like to donate a poinsettia plant to help adorn the altar area for Christmas, please fill out the form that will soon 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.



BIBLE STUDY

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.

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.

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 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 860 582.7807.



Join Us for the Annual Bristol Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

We will come together as a community of many faiths, joined in our gratitude for each other and for the blessings we share. Our 2023 theme is **GRATITUDE.**

Wednesday, November 22, 2023 7:30 p.m.

**Saint Joseph's Church,
33 Queen Street, Bristol, CT
(also live streamed on our Facebook page)**

Organized by Bristol Interfaith Coalition

For more information, visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BristolInterfaithCoalition/> or email

BristolInterfaith@gmail.com

A collection will be taken for Prudence Crandall Center. The Center is a leader in reducing the devastating impacts of domestic violence in the lives of survivors, their children, and our communities.

Services include: emergency shelter, 24/7 crisis hotline, supportive housing and more.

For information on how to make a monetary or supply donation, visit prudencecrandall.org/donate or see the Bristol Interfaith Coalition Facebook page.

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:**

By:

Trudi Wedler

Bob and Vera Herold
Joan and Bob Lagasse
Roy and Rosemarie Tessman



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Noreen Simmons	22 Timothy Beauregard
4 Matthew Stojanov	23 Gerald Beaudoin
5 Krista Rescsanski	23 Mark Voight
9 Sierra Narvesen	24 Ruth Vontell
9 Julieanne Voight	25 Tessa Segreve
13 Ashley Provenzano	25 Steven Siecienski
13 Barbara Soden	26 Jenny Culin
18 Jennifer Alling	27 Gabriel Ricciardella
18 Gwynne Hopko	27 Joan Usala
19 Donna Stockman	28 Kathy Golden
20 Eric Neuman	

The November 19, 2023 bulletin can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rkkBu_jS0GLqKtUEl8kTsdWojvUaMtlK/view?usp=sharing