



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 26, 2023
Reign of Christ

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

+GATHERING+

The Holy Spirit calls us together as people of God.

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Concerto in A Minor* Vivaldi-Bach

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.
Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation.

Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,

and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.

Through † Jesus you are forgiven,

by Jesus you are welcome,

in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us

from the foundation of the world.

Amen

GATHERING HYMN Crown Him With Many Crowns ELW 855

- 1 Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.
- 2 Crown him the virgin's Son,
the God incarnate born,
whose arm those crimson trophies won
which now his brow adorn;
fruit of the mystic rose,
yet of that rose the stem,
the root whence mercy ever flows,
the babe of Bethlehem.
- 3 Crown him the Lord of love--
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified.
No angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bend their burning eyes
at mysteries so bright.
- 4 Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave
and rose victorious in the strife

for those he came to save.
 His glories now we sing,
 who died and rose on high,
 who died, eternal life to bring,
 and lives that death may die.

- 5 Crown him the Lord of years,
 the potentate of time,
 creator of the rolling spheres,
 ineffably sublime.
 All hail, Redeemer, hail!
 For thou hast died for me;
 thy praise and glory shall not fail
 throughout eternity.

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and
 the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY.

Let us pray.

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in
 him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what
 is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus
 Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
 Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+WORD+

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

A reading from Ezekiel

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 100

*Commissioned by the Northeastern Jurisdictional Convocation,
The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts,
Lycoming College, Williamsport, Pennsylvania, July 21-26, 2002*

Make a Joyful Noise

Psalm 100

Paul D. Weber

Choir: *Refrain*

All: *Refrain*

Choir: *Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.*

All: *Refrain*

Choir: *For the LORD is good, his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.*

All: *Refrain*

Refrain:

Make a joy - ful noise to the LORD all the earth.

Serve the LORD with glad - ness; come in - to his

pres - ence with sing - ing.

Text: Psalm 100 (NRSV).

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SECOND READING Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

A reading from Ephesians

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you

may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p. 102

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia

Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name | of the Lord.* Blessed is the coming kingdom of our an- | cestor David. *Alleluia.* (Mark 11:9)

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ³¹“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.’ ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON**HYMN OF THE DAY O Christ What Can It Mean for Us****ELW 431**

- 1 O Christ, what can it mean for us
to claim you as our king?
What royal face have you revealed
whose praise the church would sing?
Aspiring not to glory's height,
to power, wealth, and fame,
you walked a diff'rent, lowly way,
another's will your aim.

- 2 You came, the image of our God,
to heal and to forgive,
to shed your blood for sinners' sake
that we might rise and live.
To break the law of death you came,
the law of love to bring:
a diff'rent rule of righteousness,
a diff'rent kind of king.

- 3 Though some would make their greatness felt
and lord it over all,
you said the first must be the last
and service be our call.
O Christ in workplace, church, and home,
let none to power cling;
for still, through us, you come to serve,
a diff'rent kind of king.

- 4 You chose a humble human form
and shunned the world's renown;
you died for us upon a cross
with thorns your only crown.

But still, beyond the span of years,
 our glad hosannas ring,
 for now at God's right hand you reign,
 a diff'rent kind of king!

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.**
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.*
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

A Holy God, from Christ we receive our call to feed, clothe, and welcome. Direct your church to respond to this call with faithfulness and generous love. We pray for the work of ELCA World Hunger and partnerships with global feeding ministries.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A In Christ, the rock of our salvation, we are brought into union with all of creation. With mountains, seas, dry lands, and animals of the field, we seek your guidance and protection.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A In Christ we know merciful judgment. Guide rulers of every nation in ways of humble leadership and wise decision-making. Allow aid to come to all who are underserved and care to any who are neglected.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A In Christ we feel the depth of your love and care toward us. Nourish all who hunger, connect any who are isolated, and surround all who experience rejection or abuse. We pray for those who suffer, especially Bill, Marge, Arthur, Jim, Callum, Paul, Charles, Steven, Johanna, Carole, Anna, Nancy, Susan, Marie, Jean, Tracey, Donna, Michael, Pat, Robert, Karen, Roy, and those we name before you, on our lips or in the silence of our hearts.

(Pause for silence).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A In Christ we are made the people of his pasture. Inspire the outreach and social ministries of this congregation. We pray for all people who serve and attend to the needs of others.
Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A Holy God, in Christ we are welcomed home. We praise you for the faithful witness of those who have served you and extended your welcome and love to us. Unite us with them as one body of Christ.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

+MEAL+

God feeds us in the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING *An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY on *At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing*
arr. K. Hildebrand

OFFERTORY HYMN Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
ELW 885

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, consisting of quarter and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
 crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
 heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray:

God of all goodness,
 generations have turned to you,
 gathered around your table,
 and shared your abundant blessings.

Number us among them
 that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
 and give thanks for your rich blessings,
 we may feast upon your very self
 and care for all that you have made,
 through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**ELW pg. 108**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
 Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
 You have filled all creation with light and life;
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
 the promise to Israel,
 the rescue from Egypt,
 the gift of the promised land,
 the words of the prophets;
 and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
 who proclaimed the good news in word and deed

and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants

of every time and every place,
 and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
 until he comes as victorious Lord of all.
 Through him, with him, in him,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
 now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
 hallowed be thy name,
 thy kingdom come,
 thy will be done,
 on earth as it is in heaven.
 Give us this day our daily bread;
 and forgive us our trespasses,
 as we forgive those
 who trespass against us;
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are invited to come forward down the center aisle to the altar railing receive the Meal today. Please fill in along the railing from the pulpit to lectern sides. You may either stand or kneel to receive the Meal. The Meal will be served continuously. After you have received the Meal and after a quiet prayer of thanksgiving you may return to your seats via the side aisles. Gluten free wafers are available as an alternative. Please ask. White grape juice, in the center ring

of each serving tray, is available as an alternative to the wine. Praise God for the life giving presence of the crucified-risen Christ in the bread and wine of this holy meal!

There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN "Lamb of God" ELW p. 112

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray:
 Lord Jesus,
 in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
 Sustain us on the journey,
 strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
 and give us glad and generous hearts
 as we meet you on the way.
Amen.

+SENDING+

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the God of all creation,
 in whose image we are made,
 who claims us and calls us beloved,
 who strengthens us for service,
 give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
 The blessing of God,
 Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
 be with you today and always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN Thine the Amen ELW 826

- 1 Thine the amen thine the praise
 alleluias angels raise
 thine the everlasting head
 thine the breaking of the bread
 thine the glory thine the story

thine the harvest then the cup
thine the vineyard then the cup
is lifted up lifted up.

- 2 Thine the life eternally
thine the promise let there be
thine the vision thine the tree
all the earth on bended knee
gone the nailing gone the railing
gone the pleading gone the cry
gone the sighing gone the dying
what was loss lifted high.
- 3 Thine the truly thine the yes
thine the table we the guest
thine the mercy all from thee
thine the glory yet to be
then the ringing and the singing
then the end of all the war
thine the living thine the loving
evermore evermore.
- 4 Thine the kingdom thine the prize
thine the wonder full surprise
thine the banquet then the praise
then the justice of thy ways
thine the glory thine the story
then the welcome to the least
then the wonder all increasing
at thy feast at thy feast.
- 5 Thine the glory in the night
no more dying only light
thine the river thine the tree

then the Lamb eternally
 then the holy holy holy
 celebration jubilee
 thine the splendor thine the brightness
 only thee only thee.

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God,
 go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

WORSHIP LEADERS for Sunday, November 26, 2023

Ryan Heckman, Deacon Gwynne Hopko

Assistant Minister: Mike Beaudoin

Lector: Paul Martin

Tech Team: Abigail Griffin, Ken Griffin, Noah Galvin, Connor Pratt

Ushers: Donna Ropp, Rosemarie Tessman

Altar Guild: Emily & Matt Girard, Nancy Carpenter

Today we welcome back as our worship leader Ryan Heckman. Ryan has been approved for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and while he is awaiting a full time call to serve the Church he is serving as the Coordinator for our Four Church Collaborative Confirmation Ministry, as well as helping with pastoral care at St. Andrew. Ryan is at the same time serving part-time as Christian Education Director at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Avon. We have received permission from the Bishop of our New England Synod, James Hazelwood, for Ryan to preside at the Communion table today.

NEXT SUNDAY, THE FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT, WE WILL BE WORSHIPPING TOGETHER AT 9:30 WITH OUR NEIGHBORING LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS AT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 27 Judd St., Bristol. “O come, O come, Emmanuel!”

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THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Monday, November 27, 2023

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, November 28, 2023

6:45 Handbell Choir

7:30 Voice Choir

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

7:00 p.m. - Four Church Collaboration Ministry Committee meeting
at St. Andrew

Thursday, November 30, 2023

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

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

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>

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT

1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

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

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

Email: churchoffice@standrewct.org

The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister
of Music

Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator

POINSETTIAS AND WREATHS

Those wishing to adorn our sanctuary this Christmas season may do so by completing this form and placing it in the offering plate or leaving it for Nicole in the church office.

Donations of \$20.00 are requested. All donations will be used for the purchase of poinsettias and wreaths.

Please make checks payable to

"St. Andrew Lutheran Church".

All gifts are given to the Glory of God. Is there someone you'd like to recognize additionally with this gift?

In loving memory of: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please return by Sunday, December 17, 2023



SPECIAL GIFTS

I would like to make a special Christmas offering to the following St. Andrew fund:

Capital Improvement Fund \$_____

General Fund: \$_____

Mission Endowment Fund: \$_____

TOTAL Offering \$_____

All gifts are given to the Glory of God. Is there someone you'd like to recognize additionally with this gift?

In loving memory of: _____

In thanksgiving for: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to

"St. Andrew Lutheran Church"



