

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

News Notes for the Week of December 17, 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 17, 2023
Third Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, December 17, 2023; Third 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.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, December 18, 2023

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, December 19, 2023

6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, December 20, 2023

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

Thursday, December 21, 2023

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

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Sunday, December 24, 2023; Fourth 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.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

4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion (also on Facebook and YouTube).



THIS SUNDAY...ADVENT THREE THE DAY OF PROMISE DRAWS NEAR!

As we gather for **worship** this Sunday and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ into our lives and the life of this broken world, we will light the third candle on the Advent wreath, sing and pray for the joy that only God can bring, and hear John the Baptist pointing the way to Jesus "the true light, which enlightens everyone...coming into the world." Come and worship. Gather around God's Word and Table.

After worship, and during our always generous Coffee Hour, don't miss the **Christmas Bazaar** in the Hall! (See all about it below.)

An idea for Advent Home Devotions...

As you light one candle at the beginning of each week to mark the journey of these days, 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!

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

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

You are invited to share in the final Bible Study and time of prayer led by Pastor Ed Duffy of Zion Church during the Advent season on Wednesday, December 20th from 7 to 7:30 p.m. The Zoom gathering began Wednesday, December 6, but please join in for the next week.

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 next session on December 20th will be "Incarnation"

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE WEEKS AHEAD...

DAYS OF EXPECTATION AND REJOICING!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

In the morning, 9:30 a.m.,

*we mark the Fourth Sunday of Advent
and celebrate the visitation of the angel to Mary
announcing to her that the child born to her
will be the Son of God.
Surprise and wonder!*



Then at 4:00 p.m.,

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP!

***We gather to celebrate the birth of the promised Savior!
Come and worship, come and worship the newborn King!
, Bells, Carols, Children's Message, Candle Lighting, Holy Communion.
Invite family members and friends
to share in this holy night of wonder and joy.***

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 9:30 a.m.

The First Sunday of Christmas

A Service of Lessons and Carols.

*Come and sing and rejoice
in the echoing good news of Jesus' birth!*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 9:30 a.m.

We will join with our neighboring Lutheran congregations
at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,
355 Camp Ave., Bristol,
for a celebration of the **Feast of the Epiphany.**
A joint choir with singers from our four churches.
Holy Communion.



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.

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. This Sunday will be the last Sunday to sign up for your donation.

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.

LOOK FORWARD TO JANUARY 21...MEETING FOR FOUR CHURCHES

On Sunday afternoon, 1-3 p.m., members of our four Bristol area Lutheran congregations — Gloria Dei, Grace, Zion and St. Andrew — will gather at Gloria Dei Church to continue our conversations regarding the possibility of the creation of a new congregation and new ventures in ministry. There will be discussions in the large group and in small groups as we build on all the constructive conversation and work over the past seven months and think and dream together about the days ahead. The Rev. Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop of our New England Synod, will lead and facilitate our time together.

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.



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.



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

The December 17, 2023 bulletin can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZYW5iET-W9IJp1Zc800P_U1fbYt3M0wF/view?usp=sharing