

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

News Notes for the Week of December 24, 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

CELEBRATE THESE HOLY DAYS AT SAINT ANDREW CHURCH!

**THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24...
A DAY FULL OF EXPECTATION AND JOY!**



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

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Lighting of the fourth candle on the Advent wreath.

The story of the angel's visit to Mary.

Music special for the day.

Holy Communion.

We await good news ...



*Then as the sun sets and we lean into the night...
the light shines in the darkness!
Come and worship, come and worship!*

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP!

4:00 P.M.

Hear the good news of Jesus' birth, of God-with-us!
Fill the church with joyous music and song!
The bells will ring, the choir will sing, instruments will play.
Children's message. Holy Communion. Candle lighting.
JOY TO THE WORLD!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 9:30 A.M.

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS!

The festival continues with more singing and joy!
Holy Communion.
"Cold December flies away...a new year nears!"



EPIPHANY SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 9:30 A.M.
WORSHIP AT GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH
355 Camp Ave., Bristol

As we mark the beginning of a new year we follow the star
to worship together with our Bristol area Lutheran neighbors
to hear the story of the wisemen
and the good news God gives to all peoples and nations.
A joint choir will sing. Holy Communion.
Coffee Hour/Community Building.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

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).

Tuesday, December 26, 2023

No Choir

Wednesday, December 27, 2023

7 p.m. –8:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, December 28, 2023

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

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Sunday, December 31, 2023; First Sunday of Christmas

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

FOCUS ON LIVING WELL TOGETHER IN A MULTI-FAITH COMMUNITY AND WORLD JANUARY 14

Stirred by the tragic conflict in Israel and Gaza and the West Bank, as well as troubling anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim incidents in our own country, we will turn our attention on Sunday, January 14, to questions of how we can live together in healthy and understanding ways within communities filled with people who practice a diversity of faiths. How can we be the peacemakers Jesus has called us to be?

The Rev. David Grafton, a Lutheran pastor and Professor of Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations at Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, will be our guest preacher for worship and conversation leader during a special coffee/learning hour following worship.

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

On Sunday afternoon, January 21, 1-3 p.m., members of our four Bristol area Lutheran congregations — Gloria Dei, Grace, Zion and St. Andrew — are invited and encouraged to 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.



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.

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 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.

A retired Lutheran clergyman has recently moved to the Holiday Village Gate on Rt. 6, Farmington, and needs a ride on Sunday mornings in order to attend worship. If you would be willing to pick him up and give him a return ride home on Sunday mornings, please call Nicole in the church office and she will provide his name and phone number for you to call. Thanks!



A gift was given, to the Glory of God,

**In memory of:
Marie Ouellette**

Phyllis Hardenstein

**By:
Ken and Barbara Soden
Bob & Vera Herold
Bob & Vera Herold**

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 24, 2023 bulletin can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/13FMHVTCV1zmLroPi2TDLVI7tzfN8GvRp/view?usp=sharing>

The Christmas Eve bulletin can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pnYCFY-TuCdPFEYAdTWdfy9_Xgl3zeI8/view?usp=sharing