

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

News Notes for the Week of December 31, 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

COME AND WORSHIP, COME

AND WORSHIP....



THIS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31...

**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 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

Tuesday, January 2, 2023

6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, January 3, 2023

7 p.m. –8:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, January 4, 2023

7:00 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. Choir Rehearsal at Gloria Dei

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

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Sunday, January 7, 2024; Epiphany Sunday

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

355 Camp St.

Bristol, CT

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

Website: gdeichurch.org

Facebook (for viewing the service online):

<https://www.facebook.com/GloriaDeiBristol/>

Dear Friends,

What a joyous Christmas Eve worship we had at St. Andrew Church! If you were not able to be with us for that glorious gathering, I encourage you to watch the service on Facebook or YouTube (just type in St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Bristol, CT. in your search). Our thanks to all who helped enrich our worship all through the Advent season and on Christmas Eve — Gwynne and all our wonderful choir members, instrumentalists, bell ringers, assisting ministers, lectors, altar guild folks, ushers, church decorators, streaming team, and more. How gifted this congregation is!

And now the festival continues into the days ahead...our Lessons and Carols

Service this Sunday (this is a season for singing after all!) and then joining with our Lutheran neighbors from Grace, Zion and Gloria Dei Churches for the celebration of Epiphany at Gloria Dei on the first Sunday of a new year. Come and worship the newborn King!

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve among you and to be a part of the exciting and bold ministry of this congregation as we move into a new year. Thanks much for your partnership. And thanks as well for your kind greetings and gift I received from the congregation.

*With joy and thanksgiving,
Les Swenson,
Transition Pastor*

**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.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, JANUARY 28

After nearly a year of thoughtful conversation about the future of this congregation's ministry, and as we stand on the verge of making important decisions about moving forward into deeper relationships with our three neighboring Lutheran congregations, the people of St. Andrew Church will gather for their Annual Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, January 28. We will review the year past and all of its committed and fine ministry that has taken place, and discuss and continue to imagine the year ahead. Financial reports will be presented, a budget for 2024's ministry will be

adopted, Congregation Council members and officers will be elected. Lots to be grateful for! Much to anticipate! Please plan on participating in the meeting!

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.

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.



Drop off for the Tag Sale is now in progress. Weekly times are Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you need a time other than those days, please contact Robin at mrland@comcast.net or bring your items on Sundays!

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:**

By:

**Jim Prior
Phyllis Hardenstine**

Ken and Barbara Soden

PRAYERS

We offer prayers of thanksgiving and supplication for:

- those known to us in need of healing: Bill Murtha, Arthur Potz, Callum Rescsanski, Paul Rescsanski, Charles Schissler, Steven Siecienski, Johanna Tessman, Carole Wedler, Marge Pearson, Anna Zurell, Susan Provenzano, Tracey Simpson, Donna Ouellette, Larry Holyst, Denise Holyst, Robert Gergler, Karen Schumann, Roy Zurell, and all those in nursing homes and the homebound: Nancy Denehy, 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 Beaugard	28 Jacob Rindfleisch
	30 Paul Martin

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

7 Linus Clark	24 Vonda Deveau
9 Erik Glidden	24 Dennis Rindfleisch
11 Andrew Alling	24 Laurie Rindfleisch
14 Alex Vertefeuille	25 Donna Ouellette
15 Aiden Trudel	27 Evelyn Lynch
20 Bobbie Scoville	30 Judi Ferro
21 Arthur Potz, Jr.	31 Ian Karp

The December 31 2023 bulletin can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1usRG-cusv1V2axEcoJaNwKDeRkiszszsBB/view?usp=sharing>