

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

**News Notes for the Week of January 14, 2024**

**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



**THIS SUNDAY, JANUARY 14,  
CELEBRATION OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

We will gather to hear the story of Jesus' baptism and God's declaration of Jesus as God's beloved child, as well as to give thanks for our own baptisms and God's declaration through the water and the Word

that we too are God's beloved,  
called to bearers of God's light to others in this world.

The Rev. Dr. 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. (See below.)  
Pastor Swenson will preside at worship.

**COFFEE HOUR CONVERSATION/DISCUSSION;  
FOCUS ON LIVING WELL TOGETHER  
IN A MULTI-FAITH COMMUNITY AND WORLD:  
REFLECTIONS ON ISRAEL AND PALESTINE**

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 community and country, we will turn our attention this Sunday after

worship 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? Dr. Grafton will lead the discussion during the coffee hour.

If you would like to do a little “homework” before our conversation on Sunday, Dr. Grafton has suggested looking at the resources on the New England Synod website from the Synod’s Global Mission Team (of which he is a member). Go to Synod website: [nelutherans.org](http://nelutherans.org), then to section at top “who we are,” then “Synod teams,” then Global Mission to see “October Statement on Crisis in Middle East,” also the link to the brief video “Helpful Definitions for Talking about the Middle East Crisis,” presented by the Rev. Carrie Ballenger, Pastor of University Lutheran Church in Cambridge, MA. Pastor Ballenger served for 8 years as an ELCA Missionary at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in the Old City of Jerusalem, and as an assistant to the Bishop of the Lutheran Church in the Holy Land and Jordan, before her return to the U.S. in 2022.

### **THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR**

#### **Sunday, January 14, 2024; Baptism of Our Lord**

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/Learning Hour – Focus on Living Well Together in a Multi-Faith Community and World.

#### **Monday, January 15, 2024**

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

#### **Tuesday, January 16, 2024**

6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

#### **Wednesday, January 17, 2024**

7 p.m. –8:00 p.m. Bible Study

#### **Thursday, January 18, 2024**

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

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

#### **Sunday, January 21, 2024; 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

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)

1:00 p.m. - 3 p.m. Meeting for Four Churches at Gloria Dei, Lutheran Church, 355 Camp St., Bristol, CT

### **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. There will also be time for questions about the process and directions ahead. The Rev. Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop of our New England Synod, will lead and facilitate our time together.

This is an exciting time, but not without questions and concerns about how the future will unfold. Please join the conversation!

### **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](mailto:mrland@comcast.net) or bring your items on Sundays!



## CAN YOU PROVIDE A RIDE?

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!

## 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, Joan Usala, Lee Hardin, 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](mailto: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.*



### **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
<b>15</b> Aiden Trudel	27 Evelyn Lynch
20 Bobbie Scoville	30 Judi Ferro
21 Arthur Potz, Jr.	31 Ian Karp

**The January 14, 2024 bulletin can be found here:**

**<https://drive.google.com/file/d/16AUBvy95mg7B1YRdIEFeC6YlqTAXHnMr/view?usp=sharing>**