

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

**News Notes for the Week of January 7, 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

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**COME AND WORSHIP, COME AND WORSHIP....**



**THIS SUNDAY... 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, 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](http://gdeichurch.org)

Facebook (for viewing the service online):

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

**Monday, January 8, 2024**

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

**Tuesday, January 9, 2024**

6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

7 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Bible Study

**Thursday, January 11, 2024**

7:00 p.m. Council Meeting

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 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.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.

*Dear Friends,*

*There's a wonderful little poem by the Methodist pastor and poet, Jan Richardson, written as a reflection on the wisemen's journey to the Christ child and our continuing journey of faith.*

*She writes in part (and in order to save space I'm putting her words more in prose form rather than in her free-wheeling verse form):*

If you could see the journey whole, you might never undertake it, might never dare the first step that propels you from the place you have known toward the place you know not.

Call it the mercies of the road: that we see it only by stages as it opens before us, as it comes into our keeping, step by single step.

There is nothing for it but to go, and by going take the vows the pilgrim takes:

to be faithful to the next step; to rely on more than the map; to heed the

signposts of intuition and dream; to follow the star [that beckons you];

to keep an open eye for the wonders that attend the path; to press on

beyond distractions, beyond fatigue, beyond what would tempt you from the

way...\*

*As we move forward in our conversations with our Lutheran neighbors about partnering together to enhance and strengthen our ministry, I think about the continuing courage, trust and bold faith and wisdom we are called to summon and share with one another. Over the past months we have traveled an unexpected but exciting journey. The steps forward hold out more risk but even greater promise. I continue to pray for the Spirit's leading and for our*

*openness to the Spirit's stirring whispers and nudges. May our new year together be a blessed journey, welcoming the mercies of the road, step by single step!*

*With great anticipation and hope for the days ahead as we journey together!*  
Les Swenson, Transition Pastor

*\*Fragments of the poem from Circle of Grace, A Book of Blessings for the Seasons, Jan Richardson.*

## **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](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!

### **THANKS**

Dear St. Andrew Church Family,  
I enjoy celebrating the Christmas Eve worship service with you each year. And I thank you for the kind Christmas gift from you, my church family.  
Happy New Year Blessings to you all,  
Gwynne

## 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, 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