

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

News Notes for the Week of February 18, 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, FEBRUARY 18, 9:30 a.m.
First Sunday in Lent
Liturgy of Holy Communion

Join the Lenten journey of remembering, returning and renewal
as we gather around Word and Table
to hear Mark's cursory story of Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness
and pray for God's gifts of courage, strength and wisdom
as we face the temptations and obstacles that lure us away
from being the people God intends and calls us to be.

Read and reflect this week on the texts we will hear this Sunday:
Genesis 9.8-17; Psalm 25.1-10; 1 Peter 3.18-22; Mark 1.9-15.

Greet with Christ-like hospitality those who arrive as guests this Sunday.

Share in coffee and conversation following worship.

"Bless now, O God, the journey..."

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, February 18, 2024; First Sunday in Lent

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 Coffee Hour

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. – Open House at St. Andrew

Monday, February 19, 2024

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, February 22, 2024

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

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Sunday, February 25, 2024; Second Sunday in Lent

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

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 pm. – Open House at Gloria Dei



**MIDWEEK GATHERINGS FOR SOUP, REFLECTION, EVENING PRAYER
BEGIN FEBRUARY 28 ...**

Beginning on February 28, members and friends of our four Lutheran congregations of Bristol and Plainville are invited to participate in four Lenten Wednesday evening gatherings for light suppers of soup and bread, conversation and study, and worship. All gatherings will begin at 6:00 p.m.

The schedule:

February 28 and March 13, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 355 Camp Ave., Bristol.

March 6 and March 20, at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Bristol.

If you would like to make a soup, bake or buy some hearty bread to accompany the soup, or help set up, serve or cleanup for the evenings we will host the gatherings at St. Andrew Church, please offer your help to Karen Biernat or Bob Herold. Thanks much.

For worship on the Wednesdays that St. Andrew Church hosts, we will turn to the beautiful liturgy of Holden Evening Prayer, originally written for the community gathered at Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in the Cascade Mountains of Washington state.

FOUR CHURCH COLLABORATION NEWS...

A LOT IS HAPPENING!

OPEN HOUSES THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18 AT ST. ANDREW,

AND GLORIA DEI, FEBRUARY 25,

AND MORE!

In order to help the members of our congregations determine where a new congregation will be housed in the future, **Open Houses** will be held at St. Andrew Church on Sunday, February 18, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., and at Gloria Dei Church, on Sunday afternoon, February 25, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The buildings will be open for members of our four congregations to tour and assess the potential for a new ministry to be centered in them. Guides will be available in each location in order to answer questions and receive feedback.

We look forward to offering our warm St. Andrew Church hospitality to all whom come to tour our building this coming Sunday. If you would like to help in any way on Sunday, please talk with Bob Herold.

The Proposal for a New Ministry presented by the Collaboration Team at the next All Church Meeting on Sunday, March 10, at St. Andrew Church will include a recommendation for the site. (It will also include the recommendation that the New Ministry will retain the Zion Church building in order to continue the vital Meals for Neighbors ministry.)

Questions about the process? Please speak to our congregational representatives serving on the Four Church Collaboration Team: Karen Biernat, Arlene Creswell, Owen VanBrocklin, Bob Herold, and Pastor Swenson.

Please read the very informative “*Join Us for More Input on the Collaboration Process*” prepared by the Four Church Collaboration Committee as we move forward together in this process and get closer to making critically important decisions about the future. It was sent to all our members last week and will be included in a mailing with any updates available during the week of February 25. Paper copies are also available at church.

The next meeting of the Collaboration Committee will be Tuesday, February 27, 6:30 p.m. at Grace Church.

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.

HOSPITALITY AT ST. ANDREW CHURCH...

In order to extend our ministry of hospitality at St. Andrew Church, we invite you to serve as a greeter in the area inside the doors from the parking lot (in the lobby outside the church offices). Many people use that entrance to the church, and if they arrive as guests it is always helpful for them to be greeted with a friendly welcome and to be offered directions to the worship space. Our thanks to Wendy Cunningham who has been serving as the greeter over the last few weeks. Offer to join her in this ministry of hospitality! Have a small stack of bulletins, wear your friendly smile and be your best welcoming self! Thanks much!

“Welcome one another...just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God!” (Romans 15.7)

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

Annual TAG SALE



The tag sale is Friday, March 22nd 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 23rd from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Donations are needed as well as help! We will need help especially on Friday to bring items out of storage and place on the tables. Hopefully, we will have enough volunteers to help bring the boxes out and arrange the items in groupings on the tables. Please contact Robin or Dawn to volunteer for either the set up or the tag sale.

Hopefully you will all spread the word of our sale on social media and by word of mouth. You can reach Robin at rnrland@comcast.net or Dawn @ dstitham@gmail.com!

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, Roy Zurell, Lee Hardin, Sandy Bidwell, and all those in nursing homes and the homebound, including Nancy Denehy.

We also include in our prayers those who mourn the death of family members and friends, especially the family Ronald St. Pierre, a former member of St. Andrew Church who most recently lived in Illinois, and the family of Patti-Jane Plourde, sister of Barbara Soden, who died last Thursday, February 8.

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.*



A gift was given, to the Glory of God,

In memory of:

**Joan Usala
Joan Usala
Jean Wentland**

By:

**Bob and Vera Herold
Renee and John Werner
Renee and John Werner**



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Holden Karp	12 Marlies Kolhoser
2 Parker Dayton	12 Zachary Shackford
3 Lucien Griffin	14 Kasey Simpson
3 Connor Pratt	14 Daniel Stitham
5 Grace Alling	17 Vera Herold
5 Joan Lagasse	17 Amanda Hintz
8 Mike Beaudoin	18 Timothy Treacy
8 Louis Usala, Jr.	20 Keith Hintz
10 Mona Rindfleisch	21 Linda Prior
11 Ursula Kaminsky	22 Eleanor Miller
	27 Rick Koonz

The February 18, 2024 bulletin can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fKIWIimgzzmNpXCy6KyJaUk2sDjkeSDQO/view?usp=sharing>