

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

News Notes for the Week of February 25, 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 25, 9:30 a.m.
Second Sunday in Lent
Liturgy of Holy Communion

Join the Lenten journey of remembering, returning and renewal
as we gather around Word and Table
to give thanks for the faith of Abraham and Sarah
who trusted God to bring life into being where there was no life,
and to hear Jesus tell his disciples
of his road to Jerusalem and to his passion, death and resurrection.

Read and reflect this week on the texts we will hear this Sunday:
Genesis 17.1-7, 15-16; Psalm 22.23-31; Romans 4.13-25; Mark 8.31-38.

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

Share in coffee and conversation following worship.

Also...
THIS SUNDAY, 11 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
JOIN IN THE OPEN HOUSE AT GLORIA DEI LUTHERAN CHURCH,
355 Camp Ave., Bristol.

This Open House will provide the opportunity for folks from St. Andrew, Zion and Grace Lutheran Churches to tour Gloria Dei Church as we continue to consider our future life together and where our potential new ministry will be **house**. ... a time to walk through the Gloria Dei facility, ask questions and provide feedback (forms for your feedback will be provided).

We want as many people as possible to have the opportunity to participate in the choice of the building site.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

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 Coffee Hour

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

Monday, February 26, 2024

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, February 27, 2024

No Handbell Choir

No Voice Choir

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

6:00 Four Lutheran Congregation Lenten Gathering at Gloria Dei

Thursday, February 29, 2024

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

7:00 p.m. Al Anon

Sunday, March 3, 2024; Third 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



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

Beginning next Wednesday, 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 clean up for the evenings we will host the gatherings at St. Andrew Church, please offer your help to Karen Biernat or Bob Herold, or by signing up on the bulletin board poster across from the kitchen . 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.

Before we gather next Wednesday at Gloria Dei Church, you are invited to consider the "Reflection" piece below and what these words mean in the context of your daily life.

**REFLECTION
Week 1**

Here we are. Our Lenten journey has begun. Last year we found ourselves discussing transition. But what changes have happened since that conversation! Where is God leading us?

Here's our thought for this first week from the book Credo by William Sloan Coffin:

"Too often we picture God as some immovable rock, when, in fact it is God and God alone who never rests. I only quote scripture:

"He neither slumbers nor sleeps." It is God, who says, "Behold, I create all things new." Therefore God's most persistent enemies must be those who are unwilling to move in new directions... If

you choose, you're sometimes wrong; but if you never choose, you're always wrong.

The theme of our Lenten journey this year is preparation. Preparation for whatever God has in store for us. May we rejoice that God's love as revealed by Jesus is found here in four separate congregations, all part of God's great family!

**FOUR CHURCH COLLABORATION MEETING, MARCH 10, AT ST. ANDREW
TO HEAR PROPOSAL FOR NEW MINISTRY**

Please plan on attending the next very important Four Church Collaboration meeting on Sunday, March 10, at St. Andrew Church, when the Collaboration Committee will present its proposal for moving ahead in forming a new community of faith from our four Lutheran congregations in Bristol and Plainville. Included in the proposal will be the Committee's suggestion for where the new ministry will be located, as well as a vision for the new ministry and an outline for how the new ministry will unfold in the coming months.

The Rev. Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop of the New England Synod, will facilitate the meeting. He has been working with the Collaboration Committee since last summer.

Because it contains much important information regarding the collaboration process, we are sending out again this week under separate cover the "Join Us for More Input ..." sheet first sent out two weeks ago. Please read it carefully.

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

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

Reflection excerpt from William Sloan Coffin, *Credo*. (Louisville, Ky.: Westminster John Knox Press, 2004) p72.

CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE

We finished the Apostle's Creed with a lesson on the Holy Spirit.



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.

Our prayers of consolation embrace Carol Brunelle whose husband, Roger, died February 13. His funeral was held at St. Ann Church, Bristol, on February 17. "*Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.*"

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.*



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Holden Karp	12 Marlies Kolhossler
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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Peter Martin	18 Robin Landrette
3 Noah Galvin	21 William Wagner
4 Louis Dube	22 Terry Gustafson
5 Paul Caron	22 Nicole Treacy
5 Laurie Harrison	23 David Creswell
7 Harrison Dayton	24 Molly Kalat
7 Randy Levine	24 Kelly Simpson
8 Luke Clark	25 Amber Marie Cruz
9 Sydney Adam	25 Denise Martin
11 Calvin Cruz	26 Peyton Beaudoin
11 Nancy Shaw	26 Irek Biernat
11 Melissa Vertefeuille	27 James Hahn
13 Greg Vontell	27 Tamera Procko
16 John Galvin	27 Zoey Rupert
16 Rosemarie Tessman	28 Nancy Glidden
17 Alan Rindfleisch	29 Robert Hopko
18 Kathy Dayton	30 Ryleigh Hall
	31 San Martin

The February 25, 2024 bulletin can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/11vaaYrxiUbNTnfZf1EXPGHdRP8qWlZH-/view?usp=sharing>

