

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

**News Notes for the Week of March 17, 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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**THIS SUNDAY, March 17, 9:30 a.m.**  
**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**  
**Liturgy of Holy Communion**

Join the final steps of the Lenten journey of remembering, returning and baptismal renewal as we gather around Word and Table seeking with the Greeks who come to Jesus' companion Philip in order "to see Jesus." Jesus' reply may seem surprising. Come and see and hear!

With the Psalmist we sing this week: *"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."*

Look around you this week as we gather — greet and welcome those you know and those you don't yet know with Christ-like hospitality and warmth.

Build community with one another during the coffee hour following worship.

As you prepare for worship this week you are invited to read the Scripture readings we will hear together: Jeremiah 31.31-34; Psalm 51.1-12; Hebrews 5.5-10; John 12.20-33.

**This Sunday during the Coffee Hour...**  
**Join in Conversation over the Proposal for a New Ministry**  
**Presented by the Four Church Collaboration Committee**

You are invited to gather this Sunday after worship for conversation over the "Proposal for a New Lutheran Ministry in Bristol/Plainville" that was presented last Sunday afternoon at a meeting for members from our four Lutheran congregations — Grace, Gloria Dei, Zion and St. Andrew — held here at St. Andrew Church. The Proposal was forwarded to all St. Andrew members via email or land mail this Monday morning.

The proposal is a reflection of over seven months of discussion, planning and prayer among the four congregations and representatives from each congregation serving on the Four Church Collaboration Committee. It outlines the way forward for our congregations to join together to form a new ministry to serve and witness to the greater Bristol area. It also proposes that our St. Andrew building be the center for the ministry as well as maintaining the Meals for Neighbors ministry at the current Zion Church location.

If you did not receive a copy of the Proposal, please call the church office. Printed copies are also available at the church.

This conversation on Sunday is meant to prepare the congregation for a formal vote on the Proposal at a specially called Congregational Meeting after worship on April 7. A positive vote will set in motion the steps to formalize our joining together and moving forward together in ministry. At that time we will also elect three members from St. Andrew to serve on the new Transition Steering Committee which will guide the process forward. We will also elect two members to serve on the Call Committee to search for a new pastor to serve the newly formed congregation. Each of the four current congregations will have equal representation on these two very important groups.

All four congregations will be voting on the Proposal after their worship services on April 7.

Still to be determined is a name for the new congregation. Dozens of ideas were raised at this past Sunday's meeting. They will be considered by the Collaboration Committee at its next meeting, Monday, March 18.

Please stay informed as we move closer to making very important decisions about ministry in the weeks ahead. Ask questions. And keep our four congregations in your prayers that we may all listen to the Spirit's guiding us into a new day.

Our thanks to Arlene Creswell, Karen Biernat, Owen VanBrocklin, and Bob Herold who have faithfully served on the Four Church Collaboration Committee along with representatives from Zion, Grace and Gloria Dei Churches.

Here are a couple photos from Sunday of the 100 or so folks who gathered to hear the Proposal and to discuss its challenges and promises. And to suggest names for new church.



## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, March 17, 2024; Fifth 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/Informal Congregation Meeting to discuss Four Church Proposal

### **Monday, March 18, 2024**

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

### **Tuesday, March 19, 2024**

6:45 p.m. Hand Bells

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

### **Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

6:00 p.m. Four Lutheran Congregation Lenten Gathering at St. Andrew

### **Thursday, March 21, 2024**

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

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

### **Friday, March 22, 2024**

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. St. Andrew Tag Sale

### **Saturday, March 23, 2024**

8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. St. Andrew Tag Sale

### **Sunday, March 24, 2024; Passion/Palm Sunday**

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

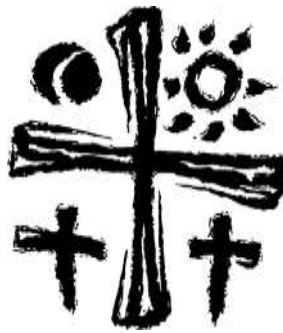


**FINAL LENTEN MIDWEEK GATHERING FOR SOUP, REFLECTION, EVENING PRAYER NEXT WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, AT ST. ANDREW CHURCH....**

The fourth and final Wednesday night Lenten gathering for our four Bristol/Plainville Lutheran congregations will be held at St. Andrew Church next Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The gathering will begin with a light supper of soup and breads to be followed by table conversation and reflection focused on a selected Biblical reading, and will conclude with the beautiful liturgy of Holden Evening Prayer.

If you would like to help with the supper by making soup, bring bread, or assisting with clean-up, please volunteer your help to Karen Biernat or by signing the poster in the Hall. Thanks.



**LOOKING AHEAD TO HOLY WEEK AND EASTER...**

*From Hallelujahs to Sorrow to Hymns of Joy*

**Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24, 9:30 a.m.**

We will gather outside the front doors of St. Andrew Church for the blessing of the palms and the procession into church singing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor."  
We then turn to the hearing of the Passion Story according to Mark.

**Maundy Thursday, 7:00 p.m.**

Four Church Worship at Gloria Dei Church, 355 Camp Ave., Bristol.  
On this night we witness and experience the servant love of Jesus as he kneels to wash the feet of his disciples on the night of his betrayal.

**Good Friday, 7:00 p.m.**

Four Church Worship at St. Andrew.

Gather at the foot of the cross to hear the Passion according to St. John and hear the proclamation that "Christ reigns from the wood of the cross."

Hear anew the ancient Bidding Prayers that gather the whole creation within the embrace of the cross.

**Easter Sunday, The Resurrection of our Lord, March 31, 9:30 a.m.**

St. Andrew Church

Sing with joy! Shout Alleluia! The Lord is risen!



A new creation breaks out!

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**EASTER FLOWERS**



We are accepting donations for Easter flowers. If you wish to honor a loved one or have a special thanksgiving, please complete the form attached in the Bulletin. Please submit your form and check by March 24<sup>th</sup> – either by mailing it to the church, placing the form in the offering plate or dropping it in the slot of the church office door. Suggested donations are \$20



Many thanks to our instrumentalists, Britt Lynch and Michael Beaudoin who joined together to enliven our worship service this past Sunday. They usually play along with the piano on every "Second Sunday" of the month. We can look forward to hearing the combo next on April 14th as they lead the congregation in the singing of some joyful Easter hymns.

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE**

Confirmation is going well! Looks like some good conversation this week!



Coming up: The students and chaperones are heading to Camp Calumet in NH on Apr 12-14 for "Confirmation Camp".....if you'd like to make a donation to keep their snack supply full for the weekend, please see Arlene C.

### **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

**ONLY A FEW WEEKS LEFT!**



Thank you to all who have donated to our upcoming sale. We will stop accepting donations on FRIDAY, March 15<sup>th</sup>. There is a sign-up sheet in the hall for anyone who wishes to help out on Friday or Saturday. PLEASE take the time to look at it and hopefully sign up to help.

There are still many ways for each of us to help. One way is social media. We have a flier that we would be happy to email to you so you can share it with your contacts. Please contact Robin at [rnland@comcast.net](mailto:rnland@comcast.net). You can volunteer for a few hours or more, whatever works for you.

How about some homemade cookies (2 or 3 cookies in a Zip lock bag to sell for a dollar each). It is a very popular item with a cup of coffee!

**SPRING TAG SALE!**

**Saint Andrew Ev.  
Lutheran Church  
1125 Stafford Ave  
Bristol, CT**

**Friday March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
5 - 8 pm**

**Saturday March 23<sup>rd</sup>  
8 - 2 pm**

**Over 500 pieces of Jewelry!**

\*Furniture \*Clothing –most new with tags \*Shoes  
\*Toys \*Holiday Items \*Antiques \*Appliances  
And MUCH, MUCH MORE!

*Snacks & Drinks  
will be available  
for purchase.*



**Try Roy's  
famous Hot Dogs!**

**Requested Entry Fee:**

1 non-perishable food item per person  
(to be donated to local food kitchens)



**God's Work. Our Hands.**



BSA Troop 1425 presents

# EGG MY YARD FUNDRAISER

**WAKE UP TO A YARD FILLED WITH  
EASTER EGGS PLUS A NOTE FROM THE  
EASTER BUNNY!**

**PRICING**  
\*Eggs includes 1 small toy or 1 piece of candy\*

- 24 Eggs = \$25**
- 48 Eggs = \$45**
- 72 Eggs = \$65**
- 100 Eggs = \$80**

**Delivery Saturday Night  
March 30th after 8 pm**

Orders due by Friday March 22nd  
Email [troop1425committee@gmail.com](mailto:troop1425committee@gmail.com)  
or call/text Whitney (860) 941-7895  
to schedule delivery or more info

\*\*Delivery available for Bristol area\*\*

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING TROOP 1425'S FUNDRAISER  
TO ATTEND HIGH ADVENTURE AT THE SUMMIT WV 2025

**Community Wide  
Sunrise Easter Service  
March 31st 6:30am  
Federal Hill Green**



## PRAYERS

### **We offer prayers of thanksgiving and supplication for:**

- those known to us in need of healing: Bill Murtha, Callum Rescsanski, Paul Rescsanski, Charles Schissler, Steven Siecienski, Johanna Tessman, Carole Wedler, Marge Pearson, Anna Zurell, Tracey Simpson, Donna Ouellette, Larry Holyst, Denise Holyst, Robert Gergler, Roy Zurell, Lee Hardin, Sandy Bidwell, Charlie Caston, Todd Wish, Patricia Castro, Ann Maher, and all those in nursing homes and the homebound, including Nancy Denehy.

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.*



**A gift was given, to the Glory of God,  
In memory of:**

**By:**

**Arthur Potz  
Arthur Potz**

**Glenn A. Wall  
Elisabeth Krause**



## 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 March 17, 2024 bulletin can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nrMC6GPAbwbSmsYCWCHasabOpogeWB7I/view?usp=sharing>