

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

News Notes for the Week of April 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

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**THIS SUNDAY, April 14, 9:30 a.m.**  
**Third Sunday of Easter**  
**Liturgy of Holy Communion**

**WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY!**  
**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**  
**APRIL 14, 2024, 9:30 A.M.**

The Resurrection festival continues!  
Gather around Word and Table this Sunday  
as we hear Luke's story of Jesus' stunning appearance  
to the disciples, talking and dining with them  
and opening their eyes to the reality of the resurrection.  
Sing with the Psalmist and the whole Church:  
*"Know that the Lord does wonders for the faithful..."*  
Rejoice and give thanks!

To prepare for worship, read the Scripture lessons we will hear:  
Acts 2.12-19; Psalm 4; 1 John 3.1-17; Luke 24.36b-48.

Before and after worship this Sunday ...  
greet folks you have not met before.  
Introduce yourself.  
And welcome them to coffee hour by sitting with them  
and introducing them to others.  
*Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you!*

Dear Friends,

Today (Tuesday) as I sat at breakfast to work on the daily Wordle word puzzle in the NYTimes (do you do Wordle?), the answer slowly unfolded after five attempts. It was MERGE. Which reminded me — coming to merge can be a slow process. But it can be solved and done! So we are learning, while we are at the same time highly confident it will happen!

While last Sunday's voting in our four Lutheran congregations in Bristol and Plainville resulted in three congregations (Zion, Grace and St. Andrew) voting strongly in favor of joining together to form one new ministry, it was not the four we had hoped for. We rejoice in the positive, affirming decisions and pray for the people of Gloria Dei as they pursue their own new paths into the days ahead.

So we move ahead with determination, filled with expectation — three congregations seeking new life together, shaping a new and vital merged, consolidated, life giving ministry bearing witness to the risen Lord!

A few points to remember, know and consider...

- Celebrate the vibrant energy that filled the hall on Sunday as we gathered to vote on the Proposal! The Spirit was alive and we voted overwhelmingly to move forward boldly. The vote was 66-1. Pray with thanksgiving for the vitality of this beloved church community!
- Keep in your prayers the people who were elected to represent St. Andrew on the Steering Committee that will give shape to the steps ahead — Bob Herold, Karen Biernat and Bill Golden, and for those elected to the joint Call Committee who will help nominate a new pastor for the new congregation — Britt Lynch and Arlene Creswell. Pray for courage, wisdom and careful discernment.
- Know that the Steering Committee (and the members of the Collaboration Committee that designed the Proposal after many months of conversation and consideration) will meet on April 15 to discuss the steps ahead with Pastor Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop of our New England Synod. Our own Congregation Council will meet later in the week to hear the Steering Committee's report and plan an informal congregational meeting soon thereafter to share the updates on the plans ahead.
- Continue to pray fervently for the Spirit's guiding. And move ahead expectantly knowing that God's "hand is leading us and [God's] love is supporting us..."
- Practice resurrection!

Your partner along the way,  
Les Swenson, Transition Pastor

## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, April 14, 2024; 3rd Sunday of Easter**

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

### **Monday, April 15, 2024**

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

### **Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

6:45 p.m. Hand Bells

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

### **Wednesday, April 17, 2024**

7:00 p.m. Spring Bible Study via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81822006513?pwd=QWpDazltQmdzeUM2WIVlQlTU2Y0Y3Zz09>

### **Thursday, April 18, 2024**

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

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

### **Sunday, April 21, 2024 4th Sunday of Easter**

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

**Stories of Growth and Change from the Early Church for Today,  
Spring Bible Study on the Book of Acts,  
Wednesdays on Zoom beginning April 17, 7-8 p.m.**

As our Bristol and Plainville congregations move toward a consolidated ministry, new opportunities for learning from the Bible emerge. Being in the season of Easter and working to form a new church, the book of Acts makes sense as a text for study. In the coming weeks, we'll discuss the book of Acts and catch a glimpse of the beautiful community that the Church is called to be.

The study will take place over Zoom to make it easier for people to attend. Pastor Swenson will lead. We gather on the screen on Wednesday nights beginning next week, April 17, 7-8 p.m. Join the conversation. Please let Pastor Swenson know of your interest by emailing him: [pastorlr@comcast.net](mailto:pastorlr@comcast.net). Here is the Zoom link for the Bible study:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81822006513?pwd=QWpDazltQmdzeUM2WlVlQTU2Y0Y3Zz09>

**CONFIRMATION CLASS UPDATE**

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 Creswell.

Emily Pratt from St. Andrew will be attending, and Matt Girard will be one of the chaperones and teachers. Pray for safe journeys and for a great weekend of friendship, fun and growth in faith!

**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

## **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, Roy Zurell, Lee Hardin, Charlie Caston, Todd Wish, Patricia Castro, Ann Maher, Vincent Provenzano, 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.*

### **Go Bags for Homeless Neighbors**

Many of our neighbors experience homelessness, bringing with it many related problems. People suffer from hunger, thirst, a lack of clean clothing, illness, alienation from others, and constant fear and worry about how they will make it through the day. We can help by sharing what we can. Please consider getting a reusable bag (lunchbox, backpack, or similar bag) and filling it with the following items and/or anything else that can be helpful. It doesn't need to be perfect in order to be helpful!

- Socks and underwear (all sizes)
- Toiletries
  - Toothbrush and toothpaste
  - Soap and shampoo
  - Feminine hygiene products
  - Hand sanitizer
- Hand warmers
- Notebook and pen
- Something to read (happier and easier books are best)
- Gift cards to local coffee places, restaurants, and grocery stores (\$5 denominations, but we can put multiple cards in each bag)
- Nonperishable snacks
- Lip balm
- Sunblock
- Gloves, hats, scarves, and Long Johns (the weather is getting warmer, but nights are cold)
- Backpacks
- First aid kits
  - Ointments
  - Anti-Fungal cream
  - Hydrocortisone Cream
  - Bandages
- Waterproof bags
- Reusable water bottle



## APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1	Kiernan DuBay	16	Giada Mazzarella
1	Daria Fournier	17	Kenneth Delkescamp
3	Susan Provenzano	20	Keith Clark
5	Lee-Ann Mastrianni	21	Margaret Delkescamp
7	Nancy Carpenter	26	Jack Alling
9	Layla McMahan	27	Jack Beaudoin
15	Claire Lessard	28	Catherine Matulis
15	Britt Lynch	29	Lillian Milbrandt
15	Avery Motta	30	Lucy Kalat
16	Elizabeth Hintz	30	John Werner

The April 14, 2024 bulletin can be found here:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/177VFVdlbGli4VhPr\\_wv3HSJZ3uH4AEBb/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/177VFVdlbGli4VhPr_wv3HSJZ3uH4AEBb/view?usp=sharing)