

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

News Notes for the Week of April 21, 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, APRIL 21, 2024, 9:30 A.M.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
LITURGY OF HOLY COMMUNION



Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

We continue our procession through the Great Fifty Days of Easter on this Sunday that is traditionally called "Good Shepherd Sunday," singing with one voice the beloved 23rd Psalm and hearing Jesus declare:
*"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me...
And I lay down my life for my sheep."*

In preparation for worship on Sunday read prayerfully the texts we will hear:
Acts 4.5-12; Psalm 23; 1 John 3.16-24; John 10.11-18.

Look around you this Sunday and greet warmly those you have not yet met.
Welcome them to share in our coffee hour after worship and to meet
the people of this community of faith!
"Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you!"

**DURING THE COFFEE HOUR THIS SUNDAY...
SPECIAL INFORMAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
TO HEAR UPDATES ON CHURCH CONSOLIDATION**

You are encouraged to participate in a special informal congregational meeting after worship this Sunday to hear the latest updates on the progress toward consolidating our Bristol/Plainville Lutheran churches into a new congregation. News will be shared from the meeting held this Monday night, April 15, of the Collaboration/Steering Committee of the local congregations. This meeting focused on the question: where do we head from here now that three congregations (Grace, Plainville, Zion and St. Andrew, Bristol) have committed themselves to a shared future? Does feasibility remain strong for the joining of the three into one? What are the next steps?

This Sunday's Congregational meeting will also follow our St. Andrew Congregation Council meeting to be held on Thursday evening, April 18.

One follow up to the Collaboration/Steering Committee meeting this Monday night... **We will be holding a special Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, May 5, to officially endorse moving ahead with the three-church collaboration.**

Join the conversation this Sunday and the special Congregational Meeting on May 5 to affirm our moving forward!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, April 21, 2024; 4th 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/Informal Congregational Meeting – Update on Progress of Three Lutheran Church Congregations Consolidation

Monday, April 22, 2024

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

No Hand Bells

No Voice Choir

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

7:00 – 8:00 p.m. Easter Season Bible Study, "The Church's Expansive Mission...Stories from the Book of Acts," via Zoom

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

Thursday, April 25, 2024

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

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

Sunday, April 28, 2024 5th Sunday of Easter

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

THE CHURCH'S EXPANSIVE MISSION...
STORIES FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS.
Easter Season Study
Wednesdays on Zoom, 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. Acts is also the source for the First Readings we hear during Sunday worship each Sunday during the Easter season.

The study will take place over Zoom to make it easier for people to attend. Pastor Swenson will lead. We will gather on the screen Wednesday nights. Join the conversation. Please have a Bible at hand. Please let Pastor Swenson know of your interest by emailing him: pastorlrs@comcast.net.

Here is the Zoom link for the bible study:

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

Here is the outline for the five-week series:

April 17. Introduction to Acts. Acts in the Sunday lectionary. Acts 1 – “A waiting, praying but not inactive community.”

April 24. Acts 8 – “Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch.”

May 1. Acts 10 – “Peter and the Household of Cornelius.”

May 8. Acts 17 – “Paul in Cosmopolitan Athens.”

May 15. Acts 2 – “Pentecost and the Early Days of the 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.



NEW ENGLAND SYNOD SCHOOL OF LAY MINISTRY BEGINS NEW SESSION IN THE FALL

"Curious? Maybe interested? see Arlene Creswell,
School of Lay Ministry (SLM) Class of 2010.
Remote learning, flexible schedule, fits into your life - it's great!

The New England Synod offers a two-year educational program for laypersons through its School of Lay Ministry. It is an innovative program designed to give adult students an opportunity to grow in their faith for the purpose of personal spiritual development, biblical enrichment and life-long learning. The School embodies the belief in the "priesthood of all believers," empowering its students to greater service to God and their congregations.

Enrollment is open to anyone over 18 years of age interested in learning more about the history and development of Christianity, the Bible, Lutheranism and more. No educational prerequisite or expectation of prior biblical or theological knowledge is required.

A Carpenter of Art For God



Nancy Carpenter designs and produces the beautiful bulletin boards displayed in the fellowship hall that are appropriate for every church season. Each one is not only a work of art but they all tell a religious story in a simple but meaningful way.

She has been active at St. Andrew for many years. Her involvement with tag sale preparation each year is appreciated. The last few years she has taken on the task of gardening, growing vegetables in the church garden.

Please take the time to observe her creations and feel how it can be an inspiration.



SUMMER STEWARDSHIP

Summer is coming soon (hopefully) and our thoughts turn to BBQs, vacations, sitting on the deck/patio and taking a deep breath. A time of restorative peace, perhaps. Vacations, beach days, yardwork! God wants us to rest, renew, revive.... physically and spiritually too.

Part of our spiritual discipline is giving. The Bible teaches us to be generous in our care for others, and we ask for your generosity this summer:

- to continue support of our community in Mission funds
- to continue the support of people in need in the region, country and the world
- to continue the care of our facility and staff
- to facilitate needed repairs and updates in preparation of a new ministry

Thank you for your generosity

ST. PAULY SHED

WARDROBE CHANGE TIME!!!!!!

As you flip your wardrobe from fall/winter to spring/summer, remember to bring any unwanted clothes and shoes for our St. Pauly shed.

Haven't worn that in a year? It goes!

Now that shirt is a little tight/loose? It goes!

Thank you for supporting this ministry!

GROCERY CART

HUNGER DOESN'T GO ON VACATION

When shopping, please pick up some extra items like boxed pasta salads, canned beans, cereal, powdered milk, pudding/fruit cups,

Items always needed are pasta sauce, canned meats and fruits, diapers of any size and baby wipes.

Watch for sales and feed your neighbor!

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, 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.*



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 21, 2024 bulletin can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-uARYb8mK0EBoxu7Ntk4YyWkJ02bV/view?usp=sharing>