



Good News

Together, we seek to know Christ and make him known.
-Mission Statement

From the Rector

Making the House Ready for the Lord

- By Mary Oliver

***Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but
still nothing is as shining as it should be
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an
uproar of mice-it is the season of their
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves
and through the walls the squirrels
have gnawed their ragged entrances-but it is the season
when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the
cupboard while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling
In the yard and on the fox who is staring boldly
up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will
come, Lord: You will, when I speak to the fox,
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know
that I am speaking to you whenever I say,
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.***

The Advent season invites us to be still, breathe deep, and wait patiently for the coming of Emanuel, even as the culture explodes in a cacophony of consumption. How do we find our spiritual grounding in the midst of all this noise? Come to church, friends. We need you and you need us. If you can't make it to church, call us and we'll give you ride or come to you. Don't face this season of promise and challenge alone-we all know that the holidays can be lonely indeed, even with a full house in the midst of plenty, without the spiritual support that a loving faith community provides. St. Andrew is just such a community. Come as you are. We're all in it together! Need to talk? Contact Lisa+ at 440-255-8842, or 216-402-9860 (cell)

***"O lay aside each earthly thing
And with thy heart as offering,
Come worship now the infant King.
'Tis love that's born tonight!"***

-From *Some Children*, A Christmas hymn by Wihla Hutson & Alfred S. Burt

Christmas Giving Tree

This year, the focus of our giving tree will be personal care items for our Food Pantry neighbors. Show your love this Christmas by donating a box of kleenex, bottle of shampoo, hand soap, body wash, toilet paper or laundry detergent. These are items that cannot be purchased with Food Stamps and are often not available through the Cleveland Food Bank. The St. Andrew giving tree will be in the Narthex through December 25th. Place your donation under the tree. It may seem like a small gift, but it is so appreciated! Our Food Pantry serves over 2000 families each year. If you would like to volunteer to help with the St. Andrew distributions, contact Barb Sopko at 440-354-2844.

Worship Times

Sundays:

8:00 AM

Quiet Holy Eucharist

10:30 AM

Holy Eucharist with Choir

12:00 PM

Contemporary Eucharist
with Celebration Band

Wednesdays:

9 :00 AM

Centering Prayer

9:30 AM

Healing & Eucharist

Dates to Remember: December

4 - We Make the Road By Walking book study, 6 PM

9 - St. Nicholas visit @ Sunday School & 10:30 Holy Eucharist

16 - Vestry Meeting, 9 AM

16 - Advent Nativity Display, following Sunday Eucharists

16 - Arts & Crafts Fair, 3:30 to 6:30 PM

16 - Sanctuary Concert, 4:30 to 6:30 PM

20 - Compline in Candlelight with Taize, 7 PM

22 - Altar Guild Christmas All Clean, 9 AM

23 - Christmas Church Decorating, 1 PM

24 - Christmas Eve Family Eucharist & Pop-Up Pageant, 7 PM

24 - Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist, music starts at 10:45 PM

25 - Christmas Day Holy Eucharist, 9 AM

30 - Tetélestai Planning Committee, 1:30 PM

Advent Nativity Display

Parishioners are invited to bring a Nativity scene to display in the Narthex on Sunday, December 16th. Manger scenes depicting the birth of Christ are varied and beautiful. The first Nativity scene is said to have been created by St. Francis in 1223 to remind folks of the true meaning of Christmas. Today, these works of religious art still serve the same purpose to remind us of the birth of Our Savior.

Tables will be set up in the Narthex on Saturday, December 15th. You may stop by and set up your Nativity, or bring it on Sunday morning. Please plan to leave your Nativity on display until after the Noon Contemporary Holy Eucharist. You may pick it up later in the day, or in the office the next week.

So on Sunday December 16th, plan to linger a bit to enjoy a Christmas cookie and the beautiful Nativity scenes.



Volunteers Needed

Rev. Lisa is looking for one or two people to help with the "Pop-up" Christmas pageant at the Family Holy Eucharist at 7 PM on Christmas Eve.

The beauty of the "Pop-up" pageant is that there are no rehearsals, no lines to learn, and no fuss. Just before the gospel, children who want to participate in the pageant step out into the Narthex and put on a simple costume. Some will be shepherds, some will be sheep, some will even be angels! Then during the gospel reading of the beautiful Christmas story, the children will get to act out and bring to life the age-old tale of the Savior's birth. The "Pop-up" Coordinators will help the children get into costume and guide them as the gospel unfolds. All children present are welcome to participate.

If you are interested in helping out as a Pop-up Coordinator, please contact Lisa.

Celebrate the Birth of Jesus!

Thursday, December 20:
Candlelight Compline, 7 PM

Christmas Eve December 24:
Family Holy Eucharist with "Pop-up" pageant, 7 PM

Traditional Candlelight Holy Eucharist with Organ & Choir, 10:45 PM

Christmas Day December 25:
Holy Eucharist, 9 AM

Invite your Friends and Neighbors!

Arts & Crafts Fair and Final Sanctuary Concert

As we reach the end of our time with Laura and the boys, we will be hosting one final Sanctuary event. This has been a year of growing and sharing at St. Andrew. We all have come away with a better understanding after putting into practice Jesus' command to "Love our neighbor as ourselves." On December 16th beginning at 3:30 PM please join us as local artists bring beautiful crafts and gifts to display and sell in the Narthex. Proceeds will be generously donated to St. Andrew and our Sanctuary family to help with their move into the community.

The final Sanctuary concert will start at 4:30 PM and will be a special celebration with many of the artists who so selflessly gave to support the church and Sanctuary returning to perform. Selections will include original music as well as some Christmas music. It is because of these generous musicians and others in the Mentor community that our church was able to support this project.

How wonderful it would be if we could fill the church for this final concert! Please mark your calendar and plan to attend.



***All Welcome!
Come as you are, give
what you can,
your presence is gift!***



We Need Your Help!

The Cleveland Performing Arts Ministries will be performing Tetélestai, a musical Passion Play at St. Andrew the weekend of Palm Sunday. "Tetélestai" means "It is Finished" in Greek, This musical portrayal of the trail, execution and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah has traveled throughout Northeastern Ohio and surrounding states for the past 41 years. With over 100 people in the cast and crew, and hopefully a full audience for the three performances, this will require lots of coordination and many volunteers.

The first meeting to discuss what is needed will be on December 30th at 1:30 PM in the Worman Room. We need your help! If you are interested in volunteering, please plan on attending.

Proposed Christian Book Discussion Group

Hello, my name is Marilyn Pastor. I am a long-time member of St. Andrew parish. Because of my circumstances, I am unable to attend Sunday services, but I often come Wednesday morning at 9:30 to enjoy the lovely Healing and Communion service, A very small group attends, but I heartily recommend it to anyone who is free that morning. Lisa and Dawson are both usually there, ready with anointing oil, Holy Communion, and their ears to hear. At 9:00 contemplative prayer is also offered. As some of you may know, My husband Dan was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2002. That kept us housebound for many years. Dan died on November 20 and we gathered together at St. Andrew on December 3 for his funeral. Throughout Dan's illness and my own health challenges, which continue, we have been very grateful to have our son and daughter able to help. My daughter, Kim, is with me during the week and takes me to church.

December Celebrations

Anniversaries

Kevin & Erin Koehler 28

Birthdays

Samantha Heim 02

Deborah Dittebrand 03

Barbara Sopko 04

Liam Browne 04

Nicholas King 06

Carol Pengov 06

Bonnie Semenik 07

Betsy Lee 07

Shawn Dittebrand 11

Chris Peshek 16

Brian Sandacz 19

Beth Brown 22

Conrad Galayda 22

Andrew Kucera 24

Don't see your Birthday or Anniversary? Contact the Office at 440-255-8842 and let us know!

Lately, Lisa and I have discussed ways I can participate in the body of Christ at St. Andrew. Since I have always enjoyed reading, especially books that build my faith, we agreed that there might be some interest in a group that would like to discuss this type of book. Once or twice a month, after the healing service would work for me, beginning in January. We thought that the book group could plan to meet about 11 am for conversation about our book selection, ending our time together with a light lunch of soup/bread and fellowship. I have discussed this with my dear friend Claire Sonewald, who was also a long-time member, but has since returned to her childhood church Trinity Lutheran. I am hopeful she will join us. We are both reading Max Lucado's book, *Traveling Light*, a wonderful guide through the Twenty-third Psalm. I think it might be a good place to start. In the future, we could study books those in the group might choose. There are always the classics to consider. Let Lisa or me know if you might be interested in such a venture. You may email Lisa at revlisastandrew@gmail.com

On-line Advent Resources for Individuals and Families:
www.adventword.com
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/journeying-way-love>

Pick Up 2019 Stewardship Envelopes in Narthex

If you indicated that you wanted 2019 Stewardship weekly Pledge envelopes, they have been delivered and are available to pick up in the Narthex. If you want Pledge envelopes, but did not order any - we've got you covered! Extra Pledge envelopes are available in the church office. Just let Rev. Lisa or Senior Warden Andy know, and we will get them to you. Please remember that Stewardship is not something that we just talk about in the Fall, but it is a spiritual discipline that continues throughout the year.

There are ample opportunities for everyone to donate Time, Talent and Treasure to support St. Andrew's mission and ministries. It is never "too late to pledge."

2019 pledge cards are available in the Narthex.

Beautiful Handmade Christmas Cards

Did you know that Louise Hassink, long-time St. Andrew parish member, is an artist? Her drawings, paintings, and designs grace homes all over Northeastern Ohio. For love of St. Andrew and with a resolve to support our window project, Louise has turned her hand to creating hand-made, beautifully detailed holiday cards. Each features an original drawing or design with festive embellishments. Purchase a packet of 6 cards for \$10 and share the love of St. Andrew with those you cherish. All proceeds benefit the St. Andrew window fund. Interested? Place your order at the church office by December 15th. After Christmas, Louise will have note cards available featuring her print of St. Andrew.



Window Project Update

You may be wondering "What's happening with the St. Andrew Window Project?" Well it turns out due to the odd sizes of our windows it's not as easy to replace those 1956 original windows as we first thought. But, rest assured, it's going to happen! We are currently working with the folks at Anderson Windows (the same company that made the replacement windows for the Parish Hall) to create the size windows we need to replace the windows in the rear Assembly (Choir) room before the really cold weather sets in. The good news is that we have worked together to raise \$13,000 of the funds needed to complete the project. Thank you to all who have donated to make this very necessary project get started! We will continue to work together toward our goal of replacing all the windows in the Education and Office wing.





Some faithful members of the St. Andrew Altar Guild

A Visit from St. Nick

We will celebrate the Feast of St. Nicholas on Sunday, December 9th with a visit from this favorite Saint. Bring the kids to Sunday School where Saint Nicholas will visit and then process with the children into the 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist when the Peace is passed. Cameras are welcome! Help you're little ones to learn about this very real and beloved Saint by attending on Sunday December 9th.



Altar Guild:

Join us for the All Clean on Saturday, December 22nd at 9 AM

All Clean is done twice a year before Easter and Christmas. At All Clean all team members, or anyone who would like to help, attend to do the following:

- * polish all silver and brass***
- * dust and mop all altar area furniture and floor***
- * set up for the upcoming services***
- * change hangings including pulpit to the correct color of the church season***
- * fill all the candles with oil***
- * change all the linen on altar and credence tables***

Save the Date:

Winter Convocation 2019 February 1-2, 2019 Kalahari Convention Center, Sandusky

Join the Diocese of Ohio for this special program featuring Rev. Kit Carlson presenting ideas from her new book *Speaking of Faith*, also Heidi Carter will lead a workshop on Youth Ministry in Smaller Congregations. Attend to learn, visit and worship.

Register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-winter-convocation-kalahari-resort-and-convention-center-entrance-a-tickets-52617521423>

Christmas Flowers

Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for Christmas! We will meet in the Sanctuary at 1:00 pm on Sunday, December 23rd.

The Flower Guild will be collecting for Christmas flowers and candles during Advent. To donate, please fill out the below form and put in the collection basket, mail to the church office, or see Janna Penkowski after the 10:30 service. Please put "Flower Guild" in the memo line of your check.

In addition to Christmas flowers, you can donate Fresh Flowers for the altar in 2019. These cost \$50.00 for each week.

Christmas Flowers

Given by _____

___ In Memory of _____

___ In Memory of Loved Ones

___ In Thanksgiving (optional for) _____

Altar Flowers

Given by _____

Phone Number _____

Date* _____

___ In Memory of _____

___ In Memory of Loved Ones

___ In Thanksgiving (optional for) _____

* Dates currently available are January 6th - March 3rd, April 28th - November 24th. You will be contacted if your selected date is no longer available. Contact the Church Office or Janna Penkowski at 440-974-8295 or janna.penkowski@gmail.com for more information.

