



Good News

DECEMBER 2025

FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

As we enter the season a preparation and anticipate the glorious celebration of our Savior's birth, I want to share a favorite Advent poem with you that always opens my heart. It's hard not to feel overwhelmed by the season at times -overwhelmed by the memory of Christmas' past, including people we have loved but see no more; overwhelmed by our desire for a "perfect" Christmas or by others' expectations of us as mother, father, child, grandparent, host/hostess, gift-giver, family member, friend. May this poem by Mary Oliver remind you that you, in whatever state you find yourself, are enough to make the Christ child welcome, and that our Messiah eagerly awaits the joy of reunion with you in the season of new birth to come! Thanks be to God!



Making the House Ready for the Lord

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

FROM THE RECTOR (CONT.)

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 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 really I am speaking to you whenever I say,
as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in,
Come in.

+ Mary Oliver

STEWARDSHIP

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

We formally ended our annual campaign on
November 23rd and we are grateful for your
thoughtful responses.

If you haven't responded you can still submit your
participation form either by email, mail or in
person. Forms are available in sanctuary.

Thank you!

Tell out my soul! The Greatness of the Lord!

For the Stewardship Committee
Doug Sundstrom



Important Dates in December

- 01 Women's Bible Study 1 pm
Men's Club 7 pm
 - 03 Adventures in Spirituality 10:30
 - 04 Choir Practice 1 pm
 - 06 Jingle Bell Jam 7 pm
 - 07 Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am
Food Pantry 1 pm
 - 08 Food Pantry Delivery 10:30 am
Women's Bible Study 1 pm
 - 09 Food Pantry 1 pm
 - 10 Adventures in Spirituality 10:30
 - 14 Morning Prayer 10:30
 - 15 Women's Bible Study 1 pm
Men's Club 7 pm
 - 17 Adventures in Spirituality 10:30
Finance Committee 6:30 pm
 - 20 Altar Guild All Clean 9:30 am
 - 22 Sunday Eucharist 10:30 am
Vestry 11:45 am
Christmas Caroling 11:45 am
 - 22 Flower Guild Decorating 12:00
Women's Bible Study 1:00
 - 24 Carols and Music 5:15 pm
Christmas Eve Service 5:30 pm
 - 25 Christmas Day Service 9:30 am
 - 28 Morning Prayer 10:30 am
 - 29 Women's Bible Study 1 pm
 - 31 Adventures in Spirituality 10:30
- 

JINGLE BELL JAM

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to our second annual Jingle Bell Jam! This is a free concert (donations accepted) featuring Jon "Guggy" Guggenheim, Anitakeys and our very own Chris Peschek and Ed Bridge. Concert is free with optional donation to our Food Pantry. Snacks and drinks will be available.

Please be sure to "share" this event on Facebook.

Click on the link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1929557497599302>

Click on the 'arrow' button

Click on "Share Now"

GIVING TREE



Every year we receive requests for assistance from neighbors (many of whom are pantry guests) who need financial help during the holidays. The last few years we've collected gift cards (Walmart, Giant Eagle, VISA/Mastercard,

Target) on our giving tree outside the narthex to share with these neighbors. These gift cards have meant the world to families struggling to make Christmas merry for those they love. During the next three weeks please consider gifting your neighbors in need with a gift card. Just take a gift card invitation from our giving tree and purchase a

December Celebrations

BIRTHDAYS

- 02 Samantha Heim
- 03 Deborah Dittebrand
- 04 Barbara Sopko
- 06 Carol Pengov
- 07 Bonnie Semenik
- 07 Betsy Lee
- 11 Shawn Dittebrand
- 14 Joe Papaleo
- 16 Chris Peshek
- 19 Brian Sandacz
- 22 Beth Brown
- 27 Lily Sitkowski

ANNIVERSARIES

- 31 Stephan and Megan Grau

gift card for our friends who need them. Then drop off your gift card to the parish office. If you would prefer to give a financial gift to the rector's discretionary fund (used to pay utility bills and address other pastoral emergencies) please mark your donation for this purpose and drop it in the offering plate on Sunday.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Christmas Caroling to the Homebound

Please join us on Sunday, DECEMBER 21, after the 10:30 service (11:45) to spread some Christmas cheer to our homebound members and friends. Our contemporary music group has led this tradition for over 20 years now. We bring treats and joy and have so much fun together! Please come join us!!!

To RSVP, suggest folks to visit, or ask any questions, please contact Marybeth Primeau at 440-476-4873 or mbprimeau@gmail.com



Our Caroling
Tradition Continues
at St. Andrew
Sunday, December 21st

FLOWER GUILD

Christmas Decorating: The flower guild is decorating the church on Monday, December 22nd at 12 noon. Additional help is always needed and very welcome.

Christmas Flowers: St. Andrew is collecting for Christmas Poinsettias and Candles through Sunday, December 14th. To donate, fill the attached Christmas Flower form out and either mail it to the church or place in the collection basket along with your donation. Forms are also available in the Narthex.

Altar Flowers: Events and memorials can be commemorated at St. Andrew by purchasing altar flowers for a Sunday service in 2026 (note that flowers are not used during Lent and Advent.) J. D. Ballentine's Flowers and Gifts in Mentor creates beautiful arrangements for us for a quite modest amount. The amount for the two altar arrangements is **\$60**.

To commemorate an event with altar flowers, please fill out the attached form and either mail it to church or place in the collection basket. Forms will also be available at church.

If you have questions or want to see if a particular date is available, please contact Janna Penkowski at janna.penkowski@gmail.com or by phone at 440.477.9084.

Thank you very much for all the faithful donations you make to decorate our church home for Sunday services and the Holidays!

Janna Penkowski, St. Andrew
Flower Guild



SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

I humbly thank you for allowing me to be a delegate to the Annual convention. I was privileged to represent St, Andrew at the opening Holy Eucharist celebration as a Cup Minister. The work on panic buttons for safety for Administration staff and renters will start this month. The new flooring has started, and blinds will commence and flooring in the outreach office. The Parish Hall ceiling repairs will start soon. Thank you, Doug, for coordinating these projects. Also, a big thank you to St. Gabe's for volunteers to trim trees. Hope all will have blessed holidays.

Marsy Berlan

ALTAR GUILD

Reminder – the Altar Guild All Clean is on Saturday, December 20th at 9:30 am. Please come help to polish and clean for Christmas!

June Webb

ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE

Thanks to all who helped out for the Election Day Bake Sale. We received over \$1300 in donations and had many happy customers!

JUNIOR WARDEN'S NOTES

- The project to repair the parish hall ceiling that was damaged from the roof leak is underway.
- The small office in the administration wing, that is a rental space has had the flooring replaced.
- Numerous trees throughout the property have been trimmed with a focus on the trees adjacent to the building and the trees which

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overhang the driveway and front walkway.

- Projects to replace all the flooring in the secretary’s office, rector’s office and old copy room have been approved and will begin after the first of the year.
- Project for new blinds for all the office spaces has been approved.
- We will obtain additional outdoor storage to be able to relocate items stored in the boiler room. Storage in the boiler room is not permitted under fire codes and was cited in last spring’s boiler inspection.

Please bring any facility issues to the attention of the Junior Warden either in person or put as note in the box outside the secretary’s office.

TAX ARTICLE

Your annual giving to St Andrew can be accomplished weekly, monthly or yearly.....if you are 70-1/2 and have a qualified retirement account you are eligible to give to St. Andrew through a Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD.

The rules are as follows:

- Generally, a qualified charitable distribution is an otherwise taxable distribution from an IRA (other than an ongoing SEP or SIMPLE IRA) owned by an individual who is age 70½ or over that is paid directly from the IRA to a qualified charity. See IRS *Publication 590-B, Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs)* for additional information.
- Your qualified charitable distributions can satisfy all or part the amount of your required minimum distribution from your IRA.

- Charitable distributions are reported on Form 1099-R for the calendar year the distribution is made.

Consult your personal tax professional for specifics as they apply to your individual situation.

In 2026 you will be able to deduct up to \$2000 from your tax calculation for charitable contributions even if you do not itemize your deductions.

The formal rules will be issued by IRS as soon as they approved.

EPIPHANY EVENTS

Church of the Epiphany in Euclid warmly welcomes St. Andrew to two Christmas Events in December.

On Sunday, December 7th, they are celebrating St. Nicholas Day. St. Nicholas will be joining them and they are collecting donations for their food pantry.

On Saturday, December 13th, they are holding a Christmas Party starting with a Potluck Dinner at 4 pm followed by concert. See the flyer at the end of this newsletter for details.

PRAYER CALENDAR

December 2025 Prayer Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Russell & Masia Berlan	Jeries & Samia Bishara <i>Samantha Heim(B)</i>	Ed Bridge <i>Debbie Ditterbrand(B)</i>	Beth Brown <i>Barbara Sopko(B)</i>	Heather Catlett	Ted & Katie Clark <i>(Jackson, Sarah) Carol Pengov(B)</i>
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Judy Cudnik <i>Bonnie Semenik(B) Betsy Lee(B)</i>	Chris & Heather DiAlfrdi	Doug & Deborah Ditterbrand (Shawn)	Frank & Mary Ellen Fecser	Steve & Magan Grau <i>Shawn Ditterbrand(B)</i>	Patricia Grisdale	Wayne & Christine Heim <i>(Nicholas, Samantha, Ivy, Emma)</i>
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Ted & Kim Herczog (Tim, Ben) <i>Joe Papaleo(B)</i>	Dorothy Hickey	Brittney Hosterman <i>Chris Peshek(B)</i>	Emma Krueger	Tom & Joan Lally	Alec Lawlor <i>Brian Sandacz(B)</i>	Betsy Lee
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Jake & Victoria Leitch <i>(Addalyn Vernon)</i>	Lis Leitch <i>Beth Brown(B)</i>	Mika Lock	Myrna Luskin	Genny Maistros	Eunice May	Sandra Mazelis <i>Lily Sitkowski(B)</i>
28	29	30	31			
Candace McCready	Michele Miller	Sherrie Miller	William & Meg Nemeth <i>Stephan & Megan Grau(A)</i>			

Let's Pray for Each Other! Introducing the Prayer Calendar, which will come to you each month. You'll note that there is a parish member/family designated for each day of the month on the calendar. Please take a moment to pray for that person on the day indicated, whether you know them or not! Prayer blesses the one who prays and the one who receives prayer, so incorporating this prayer calendar into your daily devotions is a win/win situation!

“Prayer is standing in the presence of God with the mind in the heart; that is, at that point of our being where there are no divisions or distinctions and where we are totally one. There God's Spirit dwells and there the great encounter takes place. There, heart speaks to heart, because there, we stand before the face of the Lord, all-seeing, with us.” — Henri J.M. Nouwen, *The Way of the Heart: The Spirituality of the Desert Fathers and Mothers*

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

December Volunteer Calendar 2025

Date	Altar Guild	Coffee Hour	Chalice Bearers	Lectors	Acolytes /Cross Bearer	Ushers /Greeters	Counters
December 7 Advent 2	Mary Provins, Sarah Peshek		Mary Provins	Randy Pengov, Dona Currutt, Barb Sopko, Alec I. Lawlor	C-Dona Currutt	Andy Spiesman/ June Webb/Russ B	Andy Spiesman, Kim Herczog
December 14 Advent 3	Randy & Carol Pengov		MP-Marsy Berlan	Marsy Berlan, Ed Bridge, Micki Rotz, Chris W.	C-Dona Currutt	Andy Spiesman/ June Webb/Russ B	Brian Sandacz, Andy Spiesman
December 20-All clean Dec. 21 Advent 4	Mary Provins, Sarah Peshek, Randy & Carol, June, Margaret, Marsy		Marsy Berlan-	Eunice May, Peggy Sturm, June Webb, Andy Speisman	C-Dona Currutt	Andy Spiesman/ June Webb/Russ B	Kim Herczog, Jack Semenik
December 24 Christmas Eve @ 5:30pm			Mary Provins	Chris Whitaker, Alec Lawlor, Barb Sopko, Peggy Sturm	C-Dona Currutt	Andy Spiesman/ June Webb/Russ B	June Webb, Brian Sandacz,
December 25 Christmas Day @ 9:30a					C-Dona Currutt	Andy Spiesman/ June Webb/Russ B	
December 28 1st Sunday after Christmas	Mary Provins, Sarah Peshek		MP-Mary Provins	Marsy Berlan, Ed Bridge, Micki Rotz, Chris W.	C-Dona Currutt	Andy Spiesman/ June Webb/Russ B	Brian Sandacz, Andy Spiesman,

READINGS



READINGS FOR THE DAY

December 7

Advent 2

- [Isaiah 11:1-10](#)
- [Romans 15:4-13](#)
- [Matthew 3:1-12](#)
- [Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19](#)

December 14

Advent 3

- [Isaiah 35:1-10](#)
- [James 5:7-10](#)
- [Matthew 11:2-11](#)
- [Psalm 146:4-9](#)
- *or* [Canticle 15](#) [*or* Canticle 3]

December 21

Advent 4

- [Isaiah 7:10-16](#)
- [Romans 1:1-7](#)
- [Matthew 1:18-25](#)
- [Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18](#)

December 24

Christmas Eve

- [Isaiah 9:2-7](#)
- [Titus 2:11-14](#)
- [Luke 2:1-14\(15-20\)](#)
- [Psalm 96](#)

December 25

Christmas Day

- [Isaiah 62:6-12](#)
- [Titus 3:4-7](#)
- [Luke 2:\(1-7\)8-20](#)
- [Psalm 97](#)

PARISH CALENDAR

10:30 am 2nd & 4th Sunday
Online Worship with music
10:30 am Eucharist Service with
Music

St. Andrew Episcopal Church
December 2025 Parish Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1pm Bible Study 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7pm Men's Club 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	2 12:15 AA 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	3 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 10:30-12:30 Adv. In Spirituality 7:30p McD AA	4 1p Choir	5	6 Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite Live NA 7 Jingle Bell Jam
7 10:30a Eucharist w/ Music 1-3 Choice Pantry	8 10:30 am Food Delivery 1pm Bible Study 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	9 1-3 Choice Pantry 12:15 AA 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	10 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 10:30-12:30 Adv. In Spirituality 7:30p McD AA 5pm-Fit 4 Moms Christmas	11 8-5 Chris-W.R.	12 12:15p AA	13 Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite Live NA
14 10: 30a Morning Prayer w/ Music Online service	15 1pm Bible Study 7pm Men's Club 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	16 12:15 AA 6p Scouts 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	17 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 10:30-12:30 Adv. In Spirituality 6:30p Finance 6-8 Choice Pantry 7:30p McD AA	18 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30a-Food Delivery 1p Choir	19 12:15p AA	20 9:30 Altar Guild All- Clean Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite Live NA
21 10:30a Eucharist w/ Music 11:45 Vestry 11:45 Christmas Caroling	22 12 noon Flower Guild Christmas Decorating 1pm Bible Study 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	23 12:15 AA 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	24 5:15 Carols and Music 5:30 Christmas Eve Service	25 9:30 Christmas Morning Service	26 12:15p AA	27 Ping Pong 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 2-4 Truth & Love 7-8 Sat.Nite Live NA
28 10: 30a Morning Prayer w/ Music Online service 2pm The Experience AA (Assembly Rm)	29 1pm Bible Study 6:00 3 Legged Beginners AA 7:15 12X12 Little Mountain AA	30 12:15 AA 6p Scouts 7-8 Augustine Flwshp	31 8-5 Chris-W.R. 10:30-12:30Tai Chi 10:30-12:30 Adv. In Spirituality 7:30p McD AA			

Altar Flower Contributions 2026

Given By _____

Phone Number _____

To the Glory of God and

In Memory of _____

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Thanksgiving (optional for _____)

Date Requested _____ First Choice
_____ Second Choice

Cost is \$60.00 for the two altar arrangements. Dates available are January 12 – March 2 and April 27 – November 23.

Christmas Flower Contributions 2025

The St. Andrew Flower Guild is collecting donations for Christmas Flowers and Candles. There is no suggested donation amount or minimum. Donations must be received by December 15th to be included in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.

To donate: Please fill out the below form, put "Flower Guild" in the memo line and

- Place in the collection basket on Sunday or
- Mail to the church at 7989 Little Mountain Rd., Mentor, OH 44060

Given By _____

In Memory of _____

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Thanksgiving (optional for _____)

Amount _____



Epiphany Christmas Party **Saturday, December 13th**



4 p.m. - Pot Luck Supper in Fellowship Hall

This year we will start the church.
It will be a potluck supper.

6p.m. - Christmas Concert

At 6 p.m. we will move to Our Lady of the Lake Church
for Halyna Chyrikina's Christmas Concert
"A Time of Miracles"



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Jingle Bell Jam

Saturday, December 6 at 7:00 pm

St. Andrew Church
7989 Little Mountain Rd., Mentor

Featuring: Jon "Guggy" Guggenheim
Anitakeys
Chris Peshek
Ed Bridge

**Includes
sing-a-longs for
kids of all ages.**



Free Admission!

Donations welcome
and benefit the St.
Andrew/Advent
Lutheran Food
Pantry

St. Andrew Episcopal Church, 7989 Little Mountain Road, Mentor, Ohio 44060
standrewmentor@gmail.com - 440.255.8842