



Good News

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

From the Rector *Spiritual Communion*

Our Book of Common Prayer is a life-long spiritual formation guide for Episcopalians throughout the world. It is prayer book, daily devotional, and a tangible symbol of our unity as followers of the Way of Christ in the Anglican tradition. The first English prayer book was published in 1549. The most recent edition of our prayer book was published in 1979. With the 1979 prayer book came a new/old emphasis on the centrality of Holy Eucharist as the ground of our faith.

*“I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry again.
Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”*

-John 6:35

For me, it has never been otherwise. I joined the Episcopal Church as a young adult after the publication of the 1979 prayer book, and the centrality of Holy Eucharist, along with the “three-legged stool” of scripture, tradition, and reason brought me to the Episcopal Church and into a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ and all of creation.

For these reasons, it is especially painful to be separated from you and the Holy Meal we share together every Sunday. It is painful, even though we know that this temporary separation is saving lives. Last week, when Dawson and I met up (at a distance) to share Morning Prayer, we talked a bit about what Holy Eucharist means to us. At our virtual coffee hour last Sunday, some of you encouraged me to offer a “spiritual communion” sometime soon. Well, the time is now! Join us this Sunday, May 5, for a Celebration of Spiritual Communion. There is precedent for spiritual communion found at BCP page 457 in the context of ministrations to the sick. St. Augustine's Prayer Book, an Anglican devotional first published by the Order of the Holy Cross in 1947 includes an order for Spiritual Communion. This Sunday we will share a spiritual communion together. Look for your service leaflet in the next day or two, which will arrive via e-mail/flocknote. I will celebrate, Dawson will preach, Beth and Jim Brown will read the lessons, and John Spiesman will help us make a joyful noise together from the sacred space of our own living rooms. After our spiritual communion, join us for a virtual coffee hour at 11:30 and share your thoughts about the experience. Until then, our journey continues in Christ.

Flower Sale Pick Up

Thanks to everyone who ordered flowers from the St. Andrew Spring Flower Sale! Over \$600 was raised to support youth activities here at St. Andrew. Flowers will be delivered on Friday, May 22nd and can be picked up from 1 to 7 PM. Everyone who provided an email address will receive a reminder email a few days before the pickup date. This year, due to the pandemic, there will be no additional flowers available to purchase, and orders will be loaded into vehicles for contactless pick up.



Slowly Returning to In-Person Worship

In a recent pastoral letter Bishop Hollingsworth, outlined how the Diocese of Ohio would proceed in returning to in-person worship.

"With Governor DeWine's announcement of a three-phased "reopening" plan scheduled to begin on May 1, we are all imagining how it might inform our own decisions about our common life, work, and worship as the body of Christ. As the descriptions and directives of Phase 1 continue to emerge, it is clear that what we are currently doing is in accordance with both the federal and state guidelines. While religious institutions have been excluded from the ban on gatherings of a certain size in Ohio, our Christian responsibility to the safety and security of others mandates that we err on the side of caution and adhere to what medical and scientific professionals define as best practices. He goes on to say, "moving forward, our vigilance must not be compromised, especially for the sake of those who are most susceptible." With the conclusion that **"all congregations of the Diocese of Ohio will continue the suspension of public worship until further notice."** While this is disappointing, it is also the safest and wisest way to proceed. We are all in this together - and with God's help we will make it through this! The Bishop's entire letter is posted on our Facebook page.

May

Birthdays

Emma Heim 05
Mark Lemieux 05
Todd Penkowski 06
Kevin Penkowski 10
Alena Lassen 11
Erin Garlock 11
Steven Smith 18
Jerry King 19
Tim Herczog 19
Janna Penkowski 25
Marguerite Brunner 29
Randy Pengov 30

Anniversaries

Wayne & Christine Heim 08
Vince & Alissa Sitkowaki 08
Robert & Norma Pattison 12
Ken & Judy Cudnik 15
Doug & Maryellen Sundstrom 18
Sandy & Bernadette Sandacz 28
Chris & Sarah Peshek 29
Randy & Carol Pengov 30



Dates to Remember - May

- 3 - Pantry Distribution, 1 - 3 PM
- 10 - Mother's Day
- 12 - Pantry Distribution, 1 - 3 PM
- 13 - Online Vestry Meeting, 6:30 PM
- 22 - Plant Sale Pick Up, 1 - 7 PM
- 25 - St. James Lunch Bunch, 10:30 AM - 2 PM

FOOD PANTRY GRANT

Thanks to our partners at Advent Lutheran for raising additional funds for the Food Pantry. With many losing their jobs during the pandemic, families needing help and food have increased.

The ELCA's (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) Daily Bread Matching Grant provides relief and funding during the COVID-19 pandemic with 100 matching grants of \$500 each, available to local hunger ministries to help them raise funds for front-line response. The hope was to raise \$500 and receive the \$500 grant. But, during the two week fund raising period, Advent raised \$1,154 plus the \$500 matching gift through ELCA World Hunger. The funds will truly help feed the many neighbors needing food during this difficult time. Thank you to all donated and all who give time and money to the Pantry all year long!

Time to Mow

It's lawn mowing season and we need volunteers to help mow the lawn at St. Andrew. No experience is necessary and we will provide training! This is a perfect job for parishioners age 14+. A Flocknote sign-up sheet will be emailed to the congregation. Please consider signing up for a week or two! A neatly mowed lawn says we care about the church and take care of it.



Jubilee Garden Update

Then God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind..."

Over a year ago a dream of a garden to provide fresh produce to supplement our St. Andrew feeding program, and with abundance to feed even more, was discussed and planned for the future. This year we will take our first step into making this dream a reality with the addition of two raised garden beds at St. Andrew. We're starting small and going to see what grows!



In just a few weeks we will plant these raised beds with a wide variety of tomatoes, peppers, and eggplants. We are looking for gardeners and non-gardeners to be involved in nurturing the plants and the project. Please contact Lisa to find out more about this exciting project.

Volunteer to be a Lector

We are looking for Lectors for our online virtual Sunday worship services. It's easy to do, especially if you have a smart phone. Just aim the phone's video camera your way and record yourself reading the assigned lesson. Once completed, you email the file and you're done! Two readers are needed each week. If you are interested, contact Lisa via phone or email and she will send you a reading and answer any questions you might have. As our virtual worship has evolved, we have added familiar faces to each service. It's great to see members of the parish - even if it is online. We miss everyone and joining together to worship makes it easier to get through the pandemic and stay connected. We're all in it together and hope you all will volunteer!



Barb Sopko was one of our virtual worship Lectors on the Third Sunday of Easter, April 26th. Thanks Barb!

Happy Belated Birthday Marcus!

We inadvertently missed wishing a happy second Birthday to one of the youngest and cutest members of St. Andrew! We hope he had a wonderful day on April 17th!



Struggling to Make Ends Meet?

Contact Lisa if you are struggling financially right now and need cash assistance, help with food, or other resources. The Rector's Discretionary Fund is available to help parishioners as well as those outside the parish. All information provided is strictly confidential. There are some funds available now that can help support the St. Andrew parish family. Additionally our Food Pantry is available for Parish members as well as our neighbors from the community if you need a helping hand.

Here to Help

Feeling spiritually lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic? Erin Garlock is a certified Spiritual Director and has offered to help parish members and make time available, for spiritual direction via the internet. You may contact him at eringarlock.sd@gmail.com. He does not charge for his time.

Online Giving Available

Please continue to support the ministry and mission of the church. During this difficult time we ask that if you are able, to continue to honor your pledge. While we are not meeting in person, you can either mail a check, pay through the church's PayPal account accessed via www.standrew-mentor.com (be aware that a small convenience fee is charged), or through the Diocese of Ohio's website - www.dohio.org (no handling fee is charged here). Click on the "Designate a Gift to Your Parish" box and select "Mentor- St. Andrew Church" from the drop down menu. Your gifts help fund essential programs and allows the church to continue to function.

We thank you for your generosity!



A Prayer of Thanksgiving

*We give you thanks, most gracious God,
for the beauty of earth and sky and sea;
for the richness of mountains, plains,
and rivers; for the songs of birds and the
loveliness of flowers.*

*We praise you for these good gifts, and
pray that we may safeguard them for
our posterity.*

*Grant that we may continue to grow in
our grateful enjoyment of your abundant
creation, to the honor and glory of your
Name, now and for ever. Amen.*

St. John of the Cross, 16th century friar, priest, and mystic suffered imprisonment and torture throughout his life. During a time of imprisonment when he was denied Holy Eucharist, John wrote this mystical poem about Christ as living water and bread of life, ever present to him in darkness. May it speak to us in our time of privation.

How well I know that fountain's rushing flow
Although by night.

II

Its deathless spring is hidden. Even so
full well I guess from whence its sources flow
Though it be night.

III

Its origin (since it has none) none knows:
But that all origin from it arose
Although by night.

IV

I know there is no other thing so fair
and earth and heaven drink refreshment there
Although by night.

V

Full well I know its depth no man can sound
and that no ford to cross it can be found
Though by night.

VI

Its clarity unclouded still shall be:
Out of it comes the light by which we see
Thought by night.

VII

Flush with its banks the stream so proudly swells:
I know its waters, nations, heavens, and hells.
Though by night.

VIII

The current that is nourished by this source
I know to be omnipotent in force
Although by night.

IX

From source and current a new current swells
which neither of the other twain excels
Though by night.

X

The eternal source hides in the Living Bread
that we with life eternal may be fed
Though by night.

XI

Here to all creatures is crying, hark!
That they should drink their fill though in the dark,
For it is night.

XII

This living fount which is to me so dear
within the bread of life I see it clear
Though it be night.