



ST. ANDREWS NET DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church

201 S. Main Street, Muncy, PA 17756

570-546-3591

www.standrewlutheranmuncy.org

Rev. Ben Lander

Worship - 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.



Coffee time before
& after service.

Communion: First Sunday of
the month & Special Sundays
throughout the year.





From The Pastor's Desk

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit." - 2 Corinthians 3:18

One of the traditions in our home is to set up our Christmas decorations the day after Thanksgiving. This year, as we were decorating our Christmas tree, I was struck by the variety of different ornaments we have accumulated over the years. Some of my favorites include a beautiful yet simple nativity scene hand-carved onto an ornament in the shape of the star of Bethlehem, a pop-up Bible depicting David and Goliath, a lion and a lamb lying next to each other (reminiscent of Isaiah 11:6-9). On the other hand, I am also fond of some of the Disney characters, superheroes and Star Wars ornaments that adorn our tree. The thought of both religious and secular ornaments sharing space on our tree reminds me of Martin Luther's depiction of Christians being *simul justus et peccator* - at the same time sinner and saint.

Our lives are a mosaic of moments - some saintly, some sinful; some joyful, some sorrowful; some that we would be proud to present to God, and others that we would rather sweep under the rug. Despite our best efforts, we cannot hide anything from God, even the smallest, most mundane aspects of our lives. Whatever our secrets, God already knows them. Yet He still wants us, wholly and entirely. God doesn't want Ikea children - one piece of us at a time. Rather, He sent His Son to be our redeemer, wholly and entirely. Jesus came to make every moment sacred.

So yes, we will continue to have moments of weakness and poor judgment, but Jesus hung all of those moments on the tree of Calvary so that His righteousness could be hung over the mantle of our hearts. This Advent season, let us consider again what it means for every heart to prepare Him room; not just on the "Christmas branch", or the "Easter branch", or the "Sunday morning branch" - but may the entire "tree" of our lives shine with the light of redeeming grace.

Awaiting our Lord with hopeful expectation,

Pastor Ben



December Outreach - Pastoral Fund

Pastor Ben will use the donated funds to serve our parishioners in need and in other carious ways! You can help us be the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you so much for your generosity.

Thank You From Parish Life!

Parish Life Committee gives a big thank you to everyone who donated to our warm clothing collection. Through your generosity we provided 130 pieces to the Son Light House. We are also grateful for all of the donations for Trunk-Or-Treat!! It was a success!



Cookie & Candy Plates

The Women of St. Andrew are meeting on December 6th at 2 p.m. to put together cookie and candy plates for our shut-ins. All donations are welcome!

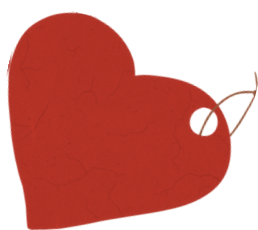
Annual Donation Tree

Parish Life Committee will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens, scarves & socks on November 26th, December 3rd & 10th to be donated to the Son Light House for distribution. Please help decorate our warm accessories Christmas tree.



Christmas Cantata

The Chancel Choir will be raising their voices in singing *LOVE* by Joel Raney on Sunday, December 17th. It's a wonderful time to spread the message of Christmas joy to our newborn King!



Touch A Heart Tags

All Touch A Heart Tags need to be returned by December 17th for distribution.

Parents of Preschoolers to Kindergarten Age:

During the Sundays of Advent, we will be showing three Christmas Veggie Tales episodes in the Nursery. If you have reservations about leaving your child(ren), you are welcome to join them and view the church service online later at home. You can also exit for Communion.

If you're interested in serving, we're looking for volunteers to help out in the Nursery on Sundays. You can sign up by signing the sheet in the Narthex. For more information, please call the church office (570-546-3591) or contact Kathy Heilman (570-546-2126, kiheilman@comcast.net)

Christmas Family Fun Day! December 17th

Please come and join together for a time of family fun and fellowship!

3:30pm - Children's activities

4:00pm - Cookie Auction for Adults

(Please bring a plate of labeled cookies to be auctioned off)

5:00pm - Light Refreshments (BBQ)

5:45 - Christmas Caroling

Then we will return to the church for cookies & hot cocoa.

Please sign up in the Narthex so we know how many to prepare for.



Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 24th

@ 7:00 p.m.

Communion and Candlelight Service



December Anniversaries

December 29 - Dean & Joy Barto



December Birthdays

December 01 - Karen Krum

December 05 - Aтира McArdle

December 08 - John Myers

December 13 - Terri Stermole

December 14 - Noelle Bloom

December 19 - Robert Gillen

December 22 - Erik Houser

December 23 - Faith Haddon



December 25, 2023



December 31, 2023



Greeter

December 03 - Katie Lander
December 10 - Luanne Libbey & Linda Moyer
December 17 - Phil & Kay Myers
December 24 - Jerry Watson
December 24 (Eve) - Need Greeter
December 31 - Larry & Sharon Barnard



Lector

December 03 - Sheila Morehart
December 10 - Hiliary Haddon
December 17 - Christmas Cantata
December 24 - Larry Barnard
December 24 (Eve) - Erik Houser
December 31 - Michele Styer

Acolyte

December 03 - Teagan Brinser
December 10 - Addison Detweiler
December 17 - Gina Styer
December 24 - Lila Styer
December 24 (Eve) - Sam Haddon
December 31 - Levi Lander

Nursery

December 03 - Sue Sarginger
December 10 - Katie Lander
December 17 - Rachel Detweiler
December 24 - Need Volunteer
December 24 (Eve) - Need Volunteer
December 31 - Need Volunteer

Sunday School Teachers

December 03 - Kay Myers
December 10 - Darlene Waldron
December 17 - Karen Krum
December 24 - No Sunday School
Merry Christmas!
December 31 - No Sunday School
Happy New Year!

Altar Flower Delivery
Darlene Waldron

If you cannot serve on your Sunday please try and get a replacement. If you are unable to please let the office know and we will take care of it. Thank you!

Office: 570-337-3892
office@standrewlutheranchurch.org