



ST. ANDREW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

~ TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN ~

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost



September 27, 2026

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 27, 2026

WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW!

God is serious about his Word in both law and gospel. It is addressed to us both collectively and individually. This Sunday it is well summed up in the pertinent question: Where are you? In the liturgy of confession may we answer honestly! In the absolution and the gospel may we hear God's response! For faith begins and ends with confession and absolution; They are its constants that are never to be taken for granted.

Please sign our guest registry in the narthex, and fill out a guest info card located in your pew or the narthex, we would love to connect with you. If you could also, take time to introduce yourself to the Greeters and Pastor Ben. A nursery is available, and is located behind the Penn St. entrance. Restrooms are also located there and in the lower level of the church. The greeters will be glad to assist you with any need you may have. May God bless your worship with us this morning.

ST. ANDREW ANNOUNCEMENTS

SEPTEMBER OUTREACH – Montgomery Elementary Backpack Program - This organization packs plastic grocery bags with kid friendly, nutritious, non-perishable food to be distributed anonymously to students, for the weekend, prior to dismissal on Friday afternoons. Your gift can help us feed a hungry child on the weekends during the school year.

SEPTEMBER CARE CARDS - Our September care cards will be going to Bill Ritter. We have cards available in the Narthex or you can bring your own. Please sign them with an encouraging note or thoughtful message and give them to the office and we will mail them out for you! Thank you!

WARM CLOTHING COLLECTION - The Parish Life Committee will be collecting warm clothing during the month of October to be donated to the Son Light House. Please consider donating gently used items! Thank you!

CELEBRATION CHOIR - Your kids are invited to join Celebration Choir as we begin to practice lifting a joyful noise to the Lord! Practices begin immediately after service on September 27th and the kids will sing on October 18th in church. We hope to see them there!

LIFE CHAIN - The annual Lycoming County Life Chain will be held on Sunday October 4th from 2:30-3:30pm in Williamsport. See the September Newsletter or Larry & Sharon Barnard for more information.

FALL BIBLE STUDY - The Muncy Ministerium will be leading another Fall Bible Study. We will be meeting at Muncy Baptist Church on Wednesdays from October 7th– November 11th. Refreshments will begin at 6:45p.m. and our study time will begin at 7:00p.m. More information to come!

Fall Hymn Sing - Join us at Old Immanuel Lutheran Church October 11th at 2:30pm with Mr. Stuart Hague; Certified Lay Pastor in the Presbyterian Church. The theme of this years service will be "God's Grace". Light refreshments to follow on the lawn.

Fall Rummage Sale - Our bi-annual Rummage Sale will take place October 16th from 8am-3pm & 17th from 8am-11am. All donations are welcome. Please try to place items on appropriate tables.

Rise & Dine Breakfast - Oct. 25th @ 8:00am - Please consider joining us for this time of food and fellowship before our Sunday service. If interested in attending, please sign-up in the narthex or contact the church office. We hope to see you there.

Trunk or Treat - Join us on October 31st from 6-8pm (set up at 5:30pm) in costume or not for our annual Trunk or Treat! If interested in decorating a trunk, please sign-up in the Narthex or contact the office. All donations of individually wrapped candy or snacks will be appreciated. Donations may be placed in the library no later than October 27th. (nothing outdated please)

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes - Shoeboxes and information will be available beginning October 11th. Collection date is November 15th. Information will be provided for gift ideas and guidelines. Do not include soap! You may make a donation to cover shipping costs and can do so either online or by mailing a check using a pre-addressed envelope (see office for envelope). Do not put the \$10 in the shoebox

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME - Announcements

** (Indicates The Congregation To Stand)*

*** INVOCATION** **LBW PAGE 56**

*** THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS** (YOU ARE WELCOME TO KNEEL IF ABLE)

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*** Opening Hymn** "The Church's One Foundation" **LBW PAGE 369**

*** The Apostolic Greeting and Response** **SCREEN**

*** The Kyrie**

*** The Hymn of Praise** **SCREEN**

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O Almighty and most Merciful God, through your bountiful goodness, keep us from all things that may hurt us, that we, being ready both in body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish those things that you would have us do. Grant this, we pray, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST LESSON - EZEKIEL 18: 1-4, 25-32

The word of the LORD came to me: "What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'? As I live, declares the LORD God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. "Yet you say, 'The way of the LORD is not just.' Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had

committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the LORD is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the LORD God; so turn, and live."

Anthem "Cornerstone" **Chancel Choir**

THE PSALMODY - PSALM 25:1-9

L: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.

C: Let none who look to you be put to shame; let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.

L: Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.

C: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

L: Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.

C: Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

L: Gracious and upright is the LORD; therefore he teaches sinners in his way.

C: He guides the humble in doing right and teaches his way to the lowly.

L: All the paths of the LORD are love and faithfulness to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

SECOND LESSON - PHILIPPIANS 2:1-18

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among

yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

L: Here ends the reading.

* **THE RESPONSE (Alleluia)** **LBW PAGE 62**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 21st chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

THE GOSPEL - MATTHEW 21:23-32

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. What do

you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

Hymn “Lord, Speak to Us, That We May Speak” **LBW PAGE 403**

THE CHILDREN’S MESSAGE **Pastor Ben Lander**

CHILDREN ARE DISMISSED FOR SHINE TIME

THE SERMON “Follow the Leader” **Pastor Ben Lander**

* **Apostles Creed** **LBW PAGE 65**

GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

The Offertory Response **SCREEN**

Offertory Prayer

OFFERING: *Offering plates are located at the entrances to the church for you to leave your gift. There’s also an online giving option available on our website. One way the members of St Andrew show their love for their Savior is by sharing with him a generous portion of the blessings they have received. However, our guests should not feel obligated to give. We want everyone to give out of love for Jesus and what he has done for us, and not “reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:7).*

* **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

* **THE LORD'S PRAYER** **LBW PAGE 71**

GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

* **BENEDICTION**

* **CLOSING HYMN** “Before You, Lord We Bow” **LBW PAGE 401**

Postlude

ST. ANDREW PRAYER LIST
NAMES WILL BE KEPT ON PRAYER LIST FOR FOUR WEEKS UNLESS OFFICE IS OTHERWISE NOTIFIED.

MEMBERS	FAMILY & FRIENDS OF ST. ANDREW	
Bill Ritter	Norman Magaro	Olive Gillen
Pretta Hose	Sandi Graham	Melinda Ritch
Martha Miller	Teresa Edwartowski	Pastor Lee Harder
Arlene Kiess	Jane Baker	Paul Cohen
Jim & Jonnie Stahl	Brenda Miller	Duane Mills
Frances Worthington	Jeremy Hauch	Pat Hess
Naomi Wertman	Pastor Carol Butler	Bruce & Nella Storm
Ziva Moore		
Judy VanBuskirk		

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God

& in memory of Kathy Stauffer & Family

By: Letha Rupert

STEWARDSHIP ON SEPTEMBER 20, 2026	
Attendance	69
Gifts to the Lord	\$3,008.00
Weekly Budget Amount Needed	\$3,511.00
Year to Date Giving	\$131,299.37
Year to Date Needed	\$133,418.00
<i>(Does not include L.C.M.C., Local Benevolence, Outreach, Sponsor, or Capital Categories)</i>	

ACTIVITIES OF ST. ANDREW		
Sunday, September 27	Worship Service	9:15 a.m.
After Service	Adult Sunday School w/ Kathy H.	Upstairs Chapel
After Service	Celebration Choir	
Wednesday, September 30	Chancel Choir	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 1	Chapel Prayer Group	1:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 1	Small Group Bible Study	2:30 p.m.
Saturday, October 3	Women's Bible Study	8:00 a.m.
Sunday, October 4	Worship Service	9:15 a.m.
GREETER	Rick & Sue Sarginger	
LECTOR	Larry Barnard	
ACOLYTE	Aliyah Lander	
SHINE TEACHERS	Stacie Kilgore & Luanne Libbey	
VIDEO SOUND	John Dougherty Jerry Watson	
FLOWER DELIVERY	Ginny Gruver	

The Newspaper Ad is Sponsored by Letha Rupert

The Bulletin is sponsored by Letha Rupert

Our Organist/Pianist is Mrs. Joy Barto.

ST. ANDREW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
REVEREND BEN LANDER
201 SOUTH MAIN ST.
MUNCY, PA 17756
PHONE: 570-546-3591
office@standrewlutheranmuncy.org
www.standrewlutheranmuncy.org


