



ST. ANDREW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Ben Lander

201 South Main Street | Muncy | 17756

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www.standrewlutheranmuncy.org

570-546-3591

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Coffee Fellowship before & after service!

Worship Service

@ 9:15 am

with children's program

Sunday School

@ 10:30 am

Youth grades 4 and up

All Adults

COMMUNION

The first Sunday of every month

and special Sundays throughout

the year!



2025 December Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death, a light has dawned...for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be upon his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:2, 6

Scripture often calls God's people to remember. In Psalm 103, David urges his soul, *"Bless the Lord... and forget not all His benefits."* Gratitude begins with remembering; pausing long enough to notice the fingerprints of God on our lives. Even in seasons that feel thin or heavy, gratitude gently reminds us that God has not left us. He is still giving daily mercies, still working good in hidden places, still carrying us with unfailing love.

Advent invites us into a holy season of remembrance and waiting; not passive or anxious, but expectant. In Isaiah 9:2 we read, *"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light."* Long before Jesus arrived, God planted hope in the hearts of His people: a promise that light was coming, a Savior would be born unto them. We often find ourselves in our own seasons of waiting: waiting for answers, for healing, for clarity, for peace. Advent reminds us that waiting is not wasted when God is in it. He works in the unseen and draws us closer as we lean into His promises. As we light candles and walk through these days of anticipation, we remember that Jesus came once and He will come again. The same God who kept His promise then will keep every promise now.

Take a moment today to reflect: Where has God met you this year? What prayers has He answered, quietly or boldly? What strength has He given you to walk through things you couldn't have carried alone? As you reflect on God's love and faithfulness, let it steady your heart. Let it draw you closer to the One who gives every good gift. May this season awaken a fresh hope in each of us as we look not to our circumstances, but to Christ Himself, the Light who breaks into every darkness.

Preparing Him room,
Pastor Ben



2025 Waldron Grant Press Release

In late 2024, the existing lift in our Penn Street Entrance at St. Andrew Lutheran Church malfunctioned and remained out of service for several months, preventing some congregants from attending worship because we no longer had reliable accessibility to our church building. With that model being over 30 years old, maintenance and repairs had become a challenge. Since then, the property committee has been hard at work developing a strategy to update and improve the accessibility to our beautiful historic church building that would be functional,

while maintaining a cohesive aesthetic to the existing architecture. Working with the architect Michael Rempel, we believe we have developed a design that will serve our congregation and the community well, providing easy access to all who wish to participate in our various services and events.

In March 2025, Pastor Ben and the property committee with the help of Andrea Welch submitted a request to the Waldron Foundation to receive partial funding for this project. We are so blessed to announce that St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church has been awarded a grant in the sum of **\$15,000** from **First Community Foundation Partnership of Pennsylvania** through the **Waldron Memorial Fund**. Thank you to all who have supported this initiative and continue to support it! We look forward to its completion and the positive impact it will have on our congregation and the community of Muncy.

The Foundation works to improve the quality of life in north central Pennsylvania through community leadership, the promotion of philanthropy, the strengthening of nonprofit impact and the perpetual stewardship of charitable assets. FCFP strives to create powerful communities through passionate giving.

For more information visit www.FCFPartnership.org.



December Outreach - Pastor's Fund

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



Care Cards

Our December care cards will be going to Martha Miller. We have cards available in the Narthex or you can use your own.

Please sign an encouraging note or thoughtful message. You can mail them or give them to the office to be mailed.

Touch A Heart

Gift tags are available and will need to be returned by December 14th for collection. Please take one or more.

Annual Donation Tree

The last Sunday that Parish Life Committee will be collecting hats, gloves, mittens, scarves & socks to be donated to the Son Light House for distribution is December 7th. Please help decorate our warm accessories Christmas Tree!



Thank You!

I want to thank my family and friends at St. Andrew for all the thoughts and prayers, the flowers, cards and telephone calls received over the past couple of months. I am completing my treatments and transitioning into this next chapter of living with my daughters in Pennsylvania and Florida. There is power in prayer and I truly appreciate all of your caring and thoughtful ways.

~Naomi Wertman



Christmas Cantata

The Chancel Choir will be raising their voices in singing "Let the Whole World Sing" by Joel Raney on Sunday, December 14th. It's a wonderful time to spread the message of Christmas joy to our newborn King!

West Branch Chorale

Some of our members will be singing in the West Branch Chorales upcoming concert. See the flyer to the right and come out and support our members!



Cookie & Candy Plates

The Women of St. Andrew will be meeting on December 16th at 2p.m. to put together cookie and candy plates for our shut-ins. Donations of treats and time are welcome. Thank you!

Christmas Eve Service

Wednesday, December 24th, 2025
7:00 p.m.
Communion & Candlelight Service



Christmas Family Fun Day

DATE: December 14th

START TIME: 3:00 p.m.



Looking for a break from the busyness of Christmas preparations? Bring your family and friends for a great time of fellowship. We'll start at 3:00p.m. with games, crafts, and a visit from St. Nicholas for the children. Bring your favorite goodies for a cookie auction at 4:00p.m. followed by barbecue and caroling!

Parent's Night Out

Calling all parents! Do you have difficulty finding time to Christmas shop or work on those special projects? Drop off your little ones for fun and games at St. Andrew for Parents Night Out on Friday evening, December 12th from 6:00-9:00p.m.



When Faith
Becomes Sight
HEAVEN
JENNIFER ROTHSCHILD

Monthly Women's Study

The women's Saturday 8AM Bible Study on Angie Smith's Matchless. The last session in the workbook is a personal one for each of the participants to complete. On January 3rd, we will begin the new year study – Jennifer Rothschild's Heaven. If you've had questions about your future in eternity, please consider joining us for some answers and discussion as we study the scriptures together. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. For questions please contact Kathy Heilman (570-546-21126 or kiheilman@comcast.net)



Kids Korner

Christmas Wreath Cookies



These Christmas wreath cookies are made using cornflakes and cinnamon candies. They're just as fun to make as they are to eat. Get the kids to help decorate with the candies.

Prep Time: 20 mins | **Cook Time:** 10 Mins | **Additional Time:** 15 mins
Total Time: 45 mins | **Servings:** 18 | **Yield:** 18 cookies

Ingredients

- ½ Cup Butter
- 30 Large Marshmallows
- 1 ½ Teaspoons Green Food Coloring
- 1 Teaspoon Vanilla Extract
- 4 Cups Cornflakes Cereal
- 2 Tablespoons Cinnamon Red Hot Candies

Directions

Step 1: Gather Ingredients.

Step 2: Melt butter in a large saucepan over low heat. Add marshmallows, and cook stirring constantly, until melted.

Step 3: Remove from the heat, stir in food coloring and vanilla, then stir in cornflakes.

Step 4: Set out one or two sheets of wax paper. Fill a skillet with 1 inch of very hot water. Place the saucepan into the skillet so cookie dough stays warm.

Step 5: Quickly drop a heaping tablespoon of cookie dough onto the wax paper, and used lightly greased fingers to form it into a wreath shape. Immediately decorate cookie with red hot candies. Repeat to shape and decorate remaining cookies.

Step 6: Allow to cool to room temperature before removing from wax paper, about 15 minutes. Store in airtight container. Enjoy!





Anniversaries

December 03 - Rob & Emma Gillen

December 29 ~ Dean & Joy Barto



Birthdays

December 01 ~ Karen Krum

December 05 ~ Atira 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



“People are like stained-glass windows. They sparkle and shine when the sun is out, but when the darkness sets in, their true beauty is revealed only if there is a light from within.”

~Elizabeth Kubler Ross





SHine Time

December 07 ~ Amy Brinser & Sheila Morehart

December 14 ~ No SHine Time-Christmas Cantata

December 21 ~ Joy Barto & Julie Roller

December 28 ~ Katie Lander & Luanne Libbey

Altar Guild

Joy Barto

Altar Flower Delivery

Darlene Waldon

Greeters

December 07 ~ Need Greeter

December 14 ~ Larry & Sharon Barnard

December 21 ~ Need Greeter

December 28 ~ Need Greeter

Communion Assistants

December 07 ~ Joe Cardinale

December 24 ~ Steve Haddon

Acolytes

December 07 ~ Levi Lander

December 14 ~ Teagan Brinser

December 21 ~ Gina Styer

December 24 ~ Sam Haddon

December 28 ~ Lila Styer

Lectors

December 07 ~ Sheila Morehart

December 14 ~ No Lector

December 21 ~ Steve Haddon

December 24 ~ Amy Brinser

December 28 ~ Larry Barnard

If you can't serve on your Sunday, please try to get a replacement and let the office know.

If you are unable to find a replacement please contact the office and we will take care of it.