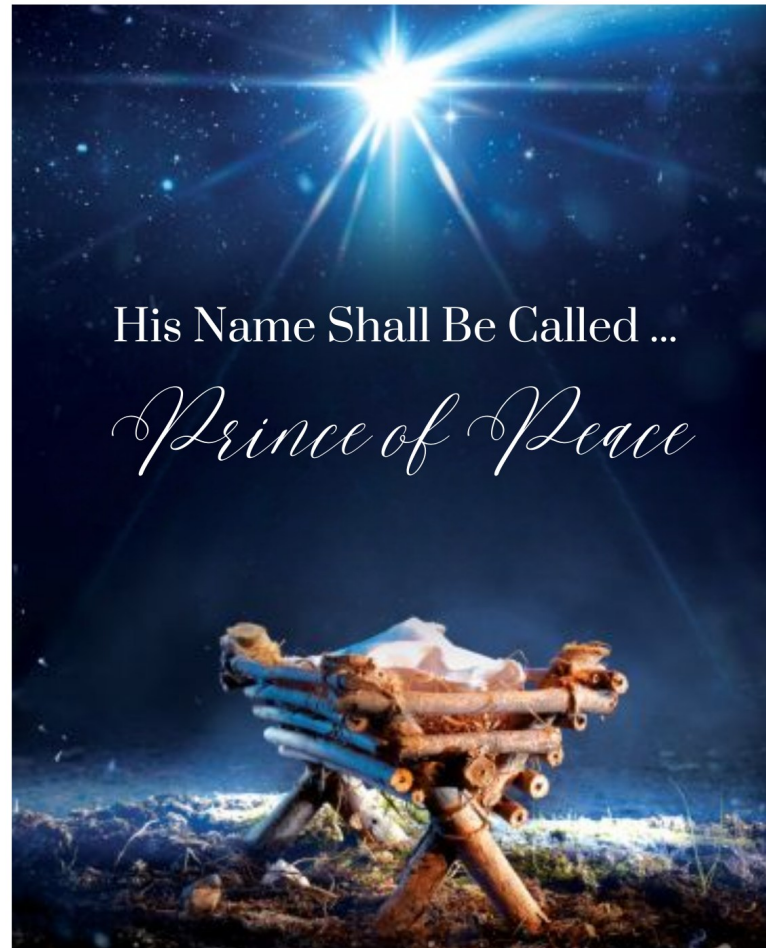




ST. ANDREW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

~ TO KNOW JESUS CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN ~

Third Sunday in Advent



December 14, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025

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

DECEMBER OUTREACH - PASTORAL FUND - Pastor Ben will use the donated funds to serve our 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 need to be returned today December 14th for collection.

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.

CHRISTMAS FAMILY FUN DAY - 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!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTICE - We will conduct a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, December 21, 2025 immediately after the 9:15am worship service in regards to the building addition and elevator installation. Please join us, if you're able. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE - Wednesday, December 24th, 7:00 p.m. Communion & Candlelight Service

MONTHLY WOMEN'S STUDY - On January 3rd, the women's Saturday 8AM Bible Study 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)

PARISH LIFE - Thank you from the Parish Life Committee for helping to decorate our cold weather accessories trees. Thank you, Jerry, for delivering the 151 items to the Son-Light House!

THE PRELUDE

WELCOME - Announcements

** (Indicates The Congregation To Stand)*

*** INVOCATION**

LBW PAGE 56

*** A CALL TO WORSHIP**

P: Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.

C: Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

P: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

All: For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.

C: We humbly confess that we have failed to follow your ways. We have not loved others as ourselves. We have not obeyed Your Word but have followed the leading of our own sinful hearts. In humility, we ask for Your forgiveness, Your cleansing, and Your renewing power. Fill us with Your Spirit, so that we may live and glorify Your Name. Amen

PRAISE AND PRAYER

*** Opening Hymn**

“Joy to the World”

LBW PAGE 39

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

L: During Advent we listen for the wonder of God’s Word.

C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

L: During Advent we reach beyond the noise and distractions of this world.

C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

L: During Advent we ponder the good news that is our great joy.

C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

L: During Advent we speak words of hope to those engaged in life’s struggles.

C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

L: During Advent we offer words of eave to those overcome by life’s fears.

C: Speak to us, O Lord, for our hearts are open.

CANDLE LIGHTING AND PRAYER

THE WORD OF GOD

THE PSALMODY - PSALM 146

L: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

C: Put not your trust in rulers, nor in any child of earth, for there is no help in them.

L: When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

C: Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! whose hope is in the LORD their God;

L: Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps his promise forever;

C: Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger.

L: The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up

those who are bowed down;

C: The LORD loves the righteous; the LORD cares for the stranger; he sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.

L: The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 11th Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

THE GOSPEL - MATTHEW 11:2-15

When John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John, and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P: This is God’s Word.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Hymn “What Child is This?” **LBW PAGE 40**

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

No SHINE TIME TODAY

THE SERMON “Love Everlasting” **Pastor Ben Lander**

Apostles Creed **LBW PAGE 65**

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).*

CHANCEL CHOIR CANTATA “LET THE WHOLE WORLD SING” **SEE PROGRAM**

GO IN PEACE, SERVE THE LORD

*** BENEDICTION**

Postlude

Let The Whole World Sing

By Joel Raney

“Let the Whole World Sing”

“Come, Come, Emmanuel”

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

“Christ Is Born, Sing Noel!”

“Rise Up, Shepherd”

“Sleep In Heavenly Peace”

“Hear the News of Christmas”

(Medley)

“Let the Whole World Sing”

(Reprise)

Narrator: Sheila Morehart

Audio: John Dougherty & Dick Gruver

Joy would like to thank the Chancel Choir, Sheila, John & Dick for their dedication and hard work on this beautiful Cantata. It's been fun working through the different style of each piece! Christmas is such a wonderful time of year to sing praises to the newborn King all around the world! Merry Christmas to everyone!

ST. ANDREW PRAYER LIST

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

MEMBERS

Jim Muffly
Bill Ritter
Pretta Hose
Martha Miller
Arlene Kiess
Jim & Jonnie Stahl
Frances Worthington
Naomi Wertman
Kay Myers

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF ST. ANDREW

Mary Slater
Steve Krum
Jamie Fox
Allen Fanelli
Dave Doran
Shirley Doran
Chris Blass
Bill Keller
Sharon Shutt
Nathan Witmer
Judy Yagel
Piper Frey
Pam Hill
Jeff Wendorf
Mark Miller
Sue Gilbert
Kathy Stauffer
Jeremy Hauch
Logan Merrifield
Jaxon Yereb

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God

& in memory of Marlin Wertman.

By: Naomi Wertman

STEWARDSHIP ON DECEMBER 07, 2025

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Gifts to the Lord | \$2457.00 |
| Attendance | 80 |
| Weekly Budget Amount Needed | \$3280.00 |

(Does not include L.C.M.C., Local Benevolence, Outreach, Sponsor, or Capital Categories)

ACTIVITIES OF ST. ANDREW

| | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Sunday, Dec. 14 | Worship Service | 9:15 a.m. |
| After Service | Adult Sunday School w/ Kathy H. | Upstairs Chapel |
| After Service | Youth Sunday School | Downstairs Youth Room |
| Sunday, Dec. 14 | Christmas Family Fun Day | 3:00 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Dec. 16 | Women of St. Andrew | 2:00 p.m. |
| | Cookie & Candy Plate Assembly | |
| Wednesday, Dec. 17 | Chancel Choir | 7:00 p.m. |
| Thursday, Dec. 18 | Chapel Prayer Group | 1:00 p.m. |
| Sunday, Dec. 21 | Worship Service | 9:15 a.m. |
| GREETER | Larry & Sharon Barnard | |
| ACOLYTE | Teagan Brinser | |
| VIDEO SOUND | John Dougherty Jerry Watson | |
| FLOWER DELIVERY | Darlene Waldron | |

The Bulletin is sponsored by Julie Souter

Our Organist/Pianist is Mrs. Joy Barto.

ST. ANDREW EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

REVEREND BEN LANDER

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