

JANUARY 2024

**ST. ANDREW'S NET**



## **St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church**

**201 S. MAIN ST. MUNCY, PA 17756**

**570-546-3591**

**[office@standrewlutheranmuncy.org](mailto:office@standrewlutheranmuncy.org)**

## **SUNDAY MORNINGS**

**Worship Service: 9:15 am**

**Sunday School: 10:30 am**

**COFFEE TIME BEFORE & AFTER SERVICE**

**COMMUNION: FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH  
&  
SPECIAL SUNDAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR!**

# From The Pastor's Desk

*"And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again. . . . Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!" - 2 Corinthians 5:15, 17*

As a new year is upon us, it's time to get out our pens and paper and go back to the proverbial drawing board. What will this new year bring? What hopes and expectations do you carry with you into 2024? I'm sure we all have personal goals that we'd like to meet this year. You know, the classic resolution list: lose weight, eat healthier, read more, learn a new skill, start a new hobby, spend more time with loved ones, give more to charity, etcetera. Thinking about resolutions as I write this devotion several days before the new year, I am reminded of an anonymous quote I once heard: "This year, instead of focusing on what I *have* to do or *want* to do, I'd rather focus on who I want to *be*."

What if instead of writing a "to-do" list for the upcoming year, we wrote ourselves a "to-be" list? Don't get me wrong, losing weight and eating healthier and reading more are all great aspirations to have, but those goals predominantly serve ourselves, don't they? Sure, a healthier lifestyle will have overflow benefits that can be a blessing to others, but if we're really honest, most of us make our resolutions based on our own projections of what "bettering ourselves" looks like - physically, morally, financially, relationally, spiritually. But here's the rub: God says that if you are in Christ, the old is gone and the new is already here! No amount of self-improvement can make us into a new person; Jesus has already done that. He has won the victory, and now He wants us to live not for ourselves, but for Him (2 Corinthians 5:15).

To be clear, there is nothing wrong with wanting to better ourselves - in fact, there is a lot right with it. But what if our focus for this upcoming year had less to do with serving ourselves and more to do with serving Christ and others? What if our "to-be" list had only one entry on it: "Be more like Christ." How would that driving principle shape the rest of our resolutions? So yes, live healthier - but do it for Christ. Learn something new - but learn it for Christ. Spend quality time with loved ones - but make Christ the center of your time together. Give more - but give it to the least of these because you're giving it to Christ. Let's resolve to go into the new year as the new creations that God has made us into.

Growing in Christ with you,  
Pastor Ben

# JANUARY OUTREACH - SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS

Shepherd of the Streets is a ministry of the United Churches of Lycoming County that provides spiritual and material help to those on the streets, confronting fear, hunger, homelessness, unemployability or other difficulties. Through the Shepherd Ministry the churches of Lycoming County are able to assist people who need hope and peace in the midst of poverty and need, advocate with local agencies, law enforcement and correctional agencies. This ministry provides for: clinical pastoral counseling, bedding and hygiene items, medical transportation assistance, medical, dental and visual assistance, and referrals.

## PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING

Parish Life Committee will meet on Thursday, January 11, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall!

*Thank you*



After courageously battling a five year plus, re-occurring brain tumor, my beautiful cousin, Linda Gallaher Knight, is finally at peace. She is now with her Heavenly Father! Alleluia!

I want to thank friends and the Chapel Prayer Group for much support during this very sad, and difficult time.

In Christian Love,  
Lou Ann Shoup

**Volunteers  
needed**

## VOLUNTEERS

As we usher in the new year we are once again in need of volunteers to fill our ministry. Please see the sign-up sheets in the Narthex for some of those service opportunities! We are looking forward to serving along side you!

## 2023 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Row One:

Janet Dougherty, Andrea Welch, Joy Barto,

Lou Ann Shoup

Row Two:

Sheila Morehart, Julie Souter, Ruth Lundy,

Shirley Watson

Row Three:

Pastor Ben Lander, John Libbey, Rudy

Moyer, Walt Gross

Our talented Chancel Choir, directed by Joy

Barto, presented a Beautiful Christmas

Cantata entitled "Love!" by Joel Raney on

December 17, 2023



## TOYS FOR TOTS

In December a few members of our congregation assisted in the collection of donated gifts in the Muncy-Hughesville area to be given away this Christmas. In total those members

picked up:

2,901 toys

645 Stocking Stuffers

325 Books

11 Bikes

We are so grateful to be a part of sharing Christ's love and giving spirit, especially during the holidays!



## TOUCH-A-HEART

Dear Friends in Christ.

Another year for Touch-A-Heart is over. Many needs and a blessing of many gifts given. We sponsored 150 children and 120 senior citizens with your generous giving. May the New Year bring many blessings to your church family.

In Christian Love,  
Candy Winters, TAH



# JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 01 - Rachel Detweiler

January 15 - Julie Souter

January 23 - Sue Sarginger

January 25 - Emilie Detweiler



Hello  
**WINTER**





## **GREETER**

January 07: Need Greeter

January 14: Need Greeter

January 21: Need Greeter

January 28: Need Greeter

## **ACOLYTE**

January 07: Levi Lander

January 14: Sam Haddon

January 21: Gina Styer

January 28: Lila Styer

## **NURSERY**

January 07: Need Volunteer

January 14: Need Volunteer

January 21: Need Volunteer

January 28: Need Volunteer

## **ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY**

Julie Roller

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

Thank you!

Office: 570-546-3591

[office@standrwelutheranmuncy.org](mailto:office@standrwelutheranmuncy.org)

## **LECTOR**

January 07: Larry Barnard

January 14: Hiliary Haddon

January 21: John Libbey

January 28: Erik Houser

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS**

January 07: Karen Krum

January 14: Katie Lander

January 21: Joy Barto

January 28: Terri Stermole

## **COMMUNION ASSISTANT**

January 07: Walt Gross

