

# St. Andrew's Net



FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

## St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church Rev. Ben Lander

201 South Main Street

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### SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship: 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.

For All Ages!

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



Coffee time

before and after  
services!



# From The Pastor's Desk

*"Come, let us return to the Lord; for He has torn us, that He may heal us...Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; His going out is sure as the dawn; He will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth."*

- Hosea 6:1,3

In theology, the doctrine of prevenient grace states that a person comes to faith in God by grace alone. The giving of this grace is a divine action which precedes (is prevenient to) a person's response. Before someone can claim "Jesus is Lord," there must be a work of enlightenment in their heart engendered by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3). Jesus Himself says in John 6:44 that "no one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws them." This "drawing" of our affections is initiated by God and sustained and perfected by the Holy Spirit.

But, the question deserves to be asked: "If it is God who initiates the work of faith in me, then why is my faith not perfect? Is God's work not perfect?" Indeed, Deuteronomy 32:4 states, "He is the Rock; His work is perfect." It would seem that God desires to teach us something through this mystery. Perhaps the gap between our current level of faith and our desired level of faith is a sort of "breathing room" which God allows so that we may participate in the exciting work of sanctification. In allowing us space to explore the riches of God's mercy for ourselves, it makes the discovery of them that much sweeter.

As we approach Lent, we are reminded again of how wide the gap actually is between who we are and who we want to be. Lent is a season of reflection, repentance and sanctification. It is an invitation for us to "return to the Lord," as Hosea says. Just as no one comes to God by accident, neither does anyone return to God by accident. The intentional pursuit of God is a cornerstone quality of genuine faith and discipleship. The Christian life is one of daily repentance and spiritual discipline, but the encouragement we receive especially during these 40 days of preparation is to "fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2). Jesus is the perfecter of our faith, not us. If we hold fast to Him, we know that "He who began a good work in us will bring it to completion" (Philippians 1:6). We do have a part to play in our spiritual growth, and Jesus invites us along for the journey. Will you follow Him?

Growing together,

Pastor Ben





## FEBRUARY OUTREACH - THE SON LIGHT HOUSE

The Son Light House is a non-profit organization, that with your generous donations will be able to distribute food, clothing and limited furniture to eligible individuals and families in our community

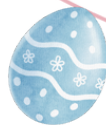


### Lenten Cross

During Lent this year, we will be collecting donations to the Lenten cross for Meagan's Box Foundation. As a child in Hughesville, 25 years ago, Meagan Murray started to use her birthday and yard sale money to buy gifts for children at Christmas. Believing all children should have a wonderful Christmas, she gave out 16 gifts that first year. Her efforts have grown and today she has many helpers who share in her dream to help deliver cheer to children during the celebration of Christ's birth. If you would like more information before donating, you can check out her website on Facebook.

### Monthly Bible Study

If you've been thinking about starting the new year with a Bible study, consider joining a new men's or women's basic once-a-month study with your friends at St. Andrew. The women will be meeting February 3rd from 8-9am, to start "Seamless" a 7-part study showing how the Old Testament relates to the New Testament. The men will meet February 10th from 8-9am for a study on the book of Daniel.



### Easter Trunk Hop

March 31st means an early Easter this year! On Palm Sunday, we will have a Trunk Hop, rather than our traditional Easter Egg Hunt. Just as we gather our decorated vehicles for Trunk or Treat in the church parking lot on Halloween, we are asking you to consider decorating your vehicle in an Easter theme and joining us on March 24th at 3:00 pm, to join us in the laughter and fun of sharing the love of Christ.

As in the past, we are looking for donations of wrapped candy and snacks. Any donations are greatly appreciated and may be placed in the church library. Thank you!



# Easter Season

## Shrove Tuesday Meal

Mark your calendars for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 13, 2024; join your St. Andrew family for some relaxation, conversation and another delicious dinner hosted by our Parish Life Committee. Please sign-up on the sheet in the Narthex so we know how many to prepare for. Thank you!



## Holy Week 2024

### Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024

### Maundy Thursday

March 28, 2024

### Good Friday

March 29, 2024

(Tenebrae Service, ending in darkness)

### Easter Sunday

March 31, 2024



## Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2024

Open Sanctuary: 9-11 am

(a time of prayer and imposition of ashes for those to come as their schedules allow)

Worship Service & Imposition of Ashes

7:00 p.m.

## Lenten Bible Study

Join us this Lent as we journey together toward the cross with our friends at Muncy Baptist Church. We will meet every Wednesday at 7pm, alternating locations. Our first meeting will be at Muncy Baptist church on February 21st. We hope to see you there.





# HELLO February

## Birthdays

February 04 - Julie Roller

February 09 - Kelly Merrifield

February 10 - Joy Barto

February 13 - Nancy Heivly

February 13 - Lukas Merrifield

February 15 - Michele Styer

February 17 - Grace Hogan

February 20 - Leslie Houser

February 25 - Spencer Gardner

February 27 - Gina Styer



## Anniversaries

February 18, 1995 - Jim & Karen Krum

February 27, 1999 - Jack & Cindy McArdle

HAPPY  
Valentines  
DAY



## **Nursery**

February 04 - Need Volunteer

February 11 - Katie Lander

February 14 - Need Volunteer

February 18 - Need Volunteer

February 25 - Need Volunteer

## **Lector**

February 04 - Sheila Morehart

February 11 - Amy Brinser

February 14 - Larry Barnard (7pm)

February 18 - Kay Myers

February 25 - Michele Styer

## **Sunday School Teacher**

February 04 - Kay Myers

February 11 - Luanne Libbey

February 18 - Darlene Waldron

February 25 - Karen Krum

## **Acolyte**

February 04 - Lila Styer

February 11 - Teagan Brinser

February 14 - Levi Lander (7pm)

February 18 - Gina Styer

February 25 - Addison Detweiler

## **Greeter**

February 04 - Larry & Sharon Barnard

February 11 - Jerry Watson

February 14 - Katie Lander (7pm)

February 18 - Luanne Libbey

February 25 - Need Greeter

## **Altar Flower Delivery**

Becky Hibsichman

## **Communion Assistant**

February 04

Michele Styer

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

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