

St. Andrew's Net FEBRUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER


St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Rev. Ben Lander

201 S. Main St. | Muncy, PA | 17756

570-546-3591

office@standrewlutheranchurch.org



Communion is the First
Sunday
of every month
and special Sundays
throughout the year!

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship Service @ 9:15 am

Sunday School @ 10:30 am

For All Ages

*jesus
loves
you*

Coffee Time Before & After

Services!

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

"Do not judge, or you will be judged. For with the same judgment you pronounce, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." - Matthew 7:1-2

You've probably heard about the controversial sermon delivered on January 21st at the Washington National Cathedral by Bishop Mariann Budde. Many government officials were in attendance, including President Trump, and Bishop Budde used the opportunity to issue a plea for social justice, particularly for the LGBTQ+ community and undocumented individuals. Trump took offense and called for Budde's apology, and her sermon has since gone viral.

While I am optimistic whenever the Christian sphere gains notice in the public eye, I am equally hesitant. I am also extremely cautious when it comes to critiquing other preachers because of exactly what Jesus says in Matthew 7:1-2 - that with the judgment I use, I too will be judged. This verse, however, is often misunderstood. Jesus is not saying that we should never judge anyone or anything (that would be impossible; we use our God-given judgment to navigate the world every single day). What He is saying is that we should exercise extreme caution and discernment in the use of our judgment, lest we be guilty of leaving the proverbial plank in our own eye whilst attempting to remove the speck from our brother's.

That being said, I will throw out my two cents for the sake of reflection. My first observation while listening to Reverend Budde's sermon was that I did not disagree with the overall message of unity - we are called to be peacemakers, that is true. The main issue, in my opinion, is that she failed to rightly divide the Word of God. "Rightly dividing the Word of Truth" (2 Timothy 2:15) means to handle God's Word reverently, to teach it correctly and without bias. It is impossible to rightly divide the Word of Truth when the Word of Truth is never spoken. There was zero Scripture given in Reverend Budde's message, apart from two or three passing references to the Sermon on the Mount (which, ironically, is also where the above Scripture is taken from). Even then, the passing references were used in such a manner that displayed a clear bias. For example, she addressed "honoring the dignity of every human being," (particularly LGBTQ+ and undocumented individuals) but she failed to address the dignity of unborn human lives. This seems a very convenient omission, especially given her broad appeal to the dignity of human life.

She also gave three foundations of unity: honoring human dignity, honesty and humility. She cautions everyone to practice humility, or else run the risk of labeling ourselves "the good people" and everyone else "the bad people." This again is something that I would agree with at face value. However, by revealing her clear political bias, Reverend Budde flirted with violating her own principle and labeling anyone who disagrees with her political views as "dangerous" or divisive (i.e. a bad person).

In regards to honesty, she said, "There is a lot working against the truth now, but when we know what is true, it's incumbent upon us to speak the truth; even when - especially when - it costs us." I agree here as well, and the unfortunate truth is that Rev. Budde had a prime opportunity to share the Truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ with a large number of people in places of power and she opted to deliver a message other than Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

My intention here is not to condemn or divide, but to draw our attention back to Christ - the only perfect Judge. If we desire to see true, lasting unity, then there is only one foundation we can turn to. As virtuous as honor, honesty and humility are, they are as fallible as any other human effort. It is only the gospel of Jesus Christ which has the power to save, transform and unite broken, sinful people.

I share these thoughts with you at the risk of opening myself up for judgment, but if I be judged for proclaiming the gospel, then I gladly accept it. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes" (Romans 1:16). May the overwhelming love and grace of the gospel be the lens by which we live and move and have our being.

Your partner in the Gospel,

Pastor Ben

February Outreach – The SonLight 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.

love



Care Cards

Our February Care Cards will be going to Karen Myers. 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!



Soup, Sandwiches & Sweets

Please join us on Sunday, February 16th at 11:00 a.m. for a luncheon in celebration of Valentine's Day. No matter your age or stage in life, Valentine's Day can be celebrated because of God's great love. Enjoy an assortment of soups, sandwiches, and tasty sweets provided by the Parish Life Committee. If interested in attending, please sign-up in the Narthex.

Monthly Bible Studies

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 1st from 8-9am, continuing with "Matchless" The men will meet February 11th from 8-9am, for a study on The Titus Ten.



thank you

Outgoing Council Officers

Troy Detweiler
Michele Styer
Shirley Watson



Thank you to this years outgoing and incoming council officers. We appreciate the time and commitment you have given or will give to this congregation and our community! You truly are the hands and feet of Jesus!

New Council Officers

President: Dick Gruver
Vice President: Rev. Ben Lander
Secretary: Kathy Heilman
Treasurer: Jerry Watson
Joe Cardinale
Walt Gross
Karen Krum
Linda Moyer
Adam Ridgdell



We would like to thank Phil & Lindsey Noske for joining us and blessing us with their talents, as they shared special music with us in January!



Dear Pastor and Friends,

We are deeply grateful to you and your congregation for the generous gift of \$334.22 in support of the Living Water Project! Your kindness and compassion are helping to transform lives by bringing the life-giving gift of clean, safe water to communities in need. You may know that access to clean water is a true blessing the brings more than just health - it brings hope, dignity, and a brighter future for the entire community. Through your support, not only are churches playing a vital role, but local lay leaders are also stepping up to teach the essential principles of our WASH program, which includes: Proper handwashing techniques for improved hygiene., Maintaining a clean and safe environment around water wells., Understanding how to use and care for toilets to prevent contamination. Your support empowers communities with the knowledge and tools to protect their health and well-being, and that is a gift beyond measure. Thank you for your continued partnership and dedication to our mission. If you have any questions or would like more information, please feel free to reach out to me at 954-319-0617 or by email. May God bless you abundantly for your generosity and compassion. With heartfelt gratitude, Barbara Burns (Food For The Poor)

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 - Spenser Gardner
February 27 - Gina Styer

Happy
Valentine's
Day!!
February 14th, 2025



Anniversaries

February 18, 1995 - Jim & Karen Krum
February 27, 1999 - Jack & Cindy McArdle

SUNDAY VOLUNTEERS

Greeters

February 02 - Need Greeter

February 09 - Luanne Libbey

February 16 - Larry & Sharon Barnard

February 23 - Troy & Ellen Detweiler

Lectors

February 02 - Sheila Morehart

February 09 - Amy Brinser

February 16 - Michele Styer

February 23 - Larry Barnard

Communion Assistant

Dick Gruver

Altar Flower Delivery

Becky Hibsichman

Acolytes

February 02 - Levi Lander

February 09 - Teagan Brinser

February 16 - Sam Haddon

February 23 - Gina Styer

Sunday School Teachers

February 02 - Kay Myers

February 09 - Darlene Waldron

February 16 - No Sunday School

*Join us for Soup, Sandwiches & Sweets

February 23 - Luanne Libbey

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

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