



St. Andrew's Net
DECEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

201 S. Main Street, Muncy, PA 17756

570-546-3591

www.standrewlutheranmuncy.org

Rev. Ben Lander

SUNDAY MORNINGS

Worship - 9:15 a.m.

Sunday School - 10:30 a.m.

Coffee time before and after service.

Communion: First Sunday of the
Month & Special Sundays
throughout the year.



From the Pastor's Desk

This may be a familiar memory – your family gathered around the Christmas tree on Christmas morning, eager to see what Santa has brought them. With it being the Christmas season, I thought I could share with you a tradition that we have in the Lander household. On Christmas, before we open any gifts we take time to sit down together and open the greatest gift, which continues to give – day in, day out, year after year: that gift is God’s word.

In Martin Luther’s exposition of Psalm 122, he says this: “Among all the gifts, the gift of the Word of God is the most valuable. For if you take this away, it is like taking the sun away from the earth. For if the Word were removed, what would the world be but a hell and mere realm of Satan... For only the Word keeps a joyful conscience, a gracious God, and all of religion, since out of the Word, as from a spring, flows our entire religion. Without the Word and Christ the world would not continue to exist for one moment. Therefore, though there are many great gifts of God in the world...yet the one which includes and sustains all the others is the Word, which proclaims that God is merciful and promises forgiveness of sins and life everlasting.”

Our children have told us that their favorite part of Christmas is that it's Jesus' birthday. They then proceeded to ask if we could sing 'happy birthday' to Jesus and get him a cake and a present. To them, there's still a sort of sacred harmony between the religious and the festive. But to paraphrase C.S. Lewis, there comes a point in every child's life where they begin to separate the religious from the festive aspects of Christmas. Christmas gifts will no longer seem sacramental. And when that happens, we're left with a choice. Which one do we put first? If we put the spiritual first, we can still experience something of the wonder of Christmas. But if we put the gifts first, they'll soon become nothing more than any other trinket.

It's difficult this time of year not to get preoccupied with the commercialism and getting the perfect gift for someone. According to the website “statistic brain”, here is an abbreviated list of the “must-have” gifts of the past few decades: in 1983, the must-have gift was a cabbage patch doll. In 1985, it was Pound Puppies that went for \$18 apiece. In 1989 it was the popular handheld gaming system, the original GameBoy. 1995 was the height of the Beanie Baby craze and everyone was scrambling to collect them. The next year they fizzled out and everyone was scrounging to find the elusive “tickle me Elmo,” which even incited mobs of frenzied shoppers. Moving into the 2000's, there was iPod in 2002, the Wii in 2006, a Kindle in 2010, the singing Frozen Elsa doll in 2015... Each year the fads change and our attention is pulled in a different direction, but the Word of God is unchanging. It's a gift that offers joy and hope in the midst of life's difficulties. It offers strength in our weakness. It offers instruction in the face of uncertainty. In so many words, it offers life.

It is a profound privilege to share our life with all of you at St. Andrew, and from our family to yours, we wish you a very Merry Christmas!

In His Peace,

Pastor Ben

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!



ANNUAL DONATION TREE

Our annual mitten, hat, scarf & sock tree will be in the Narthex & Penn St. Entrance Dec. 4th & 11th. Items donated will be distributed to the Son Light House.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE PLATES

The Women of St. Andrew are meeting December 6th at 2pm to put together cookie & candy plates for our shut-ins. Donations are welcome!



TOUCH A HEART TAGS

Gifts need to be returned on December 11th

Joy

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The Chancel Choir will be raising their voices in singing *Joy Has Dawned* by Lloyd Larson on Sunday, December 18th. It's a wonderful time to spread the message of Christmas joy to our newborn King!



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve: December 24th @ 7:00pm

*Communion & Candle Light Service

Christmas Day: December 25th @ 9:15am

*Service of Carols. Please keep an eye out for suggestion slips so we can sing your favorite carols on Christmas morning.



Birthdays

December 01 - Karen Krum
December 18 - John Hose
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

Anniversaries

December 12 - Michael & Amanda Hogan
December 29 - Dean & Joy Barto





Alter Flower Delivery

Darlene Waldron



Acolytes

December 04- Addison Detweiler

December 11- Sam Haddon

December 18- Teagan Brinser

December 24- Nora Styer

December 25- Levi Lander



Greeters

**December 04- Luanne Libbey
& Linda Moyer**

December 11- Penny Wettlaufer

December 18- Tom & Dee Knight

December 25- Jerry Watson



Lectors


December 04- Shelia Morehart

December 11- Steve Haddon

December 18- No Lector-Cantata

December 24- Erik Houser

December 25- Julie Souter



Sunday School


Teachers

December 04- Katie Lander

December 11- Joy Barto

December 18- Terri Stermole

December 25- Merry Christmas! No Classes!



Video & Sound

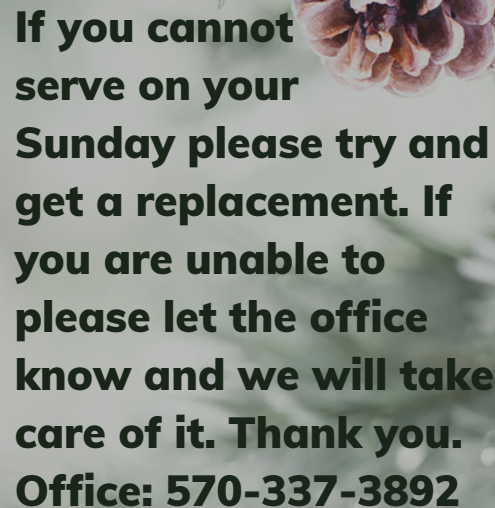
December 04- John Dougherty & Jerry Watson

December 11- John Dougherty & Jerry Watson

December 18- John Dougherty & Jerry Watson

December 24- John Dougherty & Jerry Watson

December 25- John Dougherty & Jerry Watson



**If you cannot serve on your Sunday please try and get a replacement. If you are unable to please let the office know and we will take care of it. Thank you.
Office: 570-337-3892**