



# *St. Andrew's Net*



## *January 2025 Newsletter*

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

201 S. Main Street

Muncy, PA 17756

570-546-3591

[www.standrewlutheranmuncy.org](http://www.standrewlutheranmuncy.org)

### *Sunday Mornings*


Worship @ 9:15am

Coffee time before & after services

Sunday School @ 10:30am

All Ages Welcome

Communion on the first Sunday of  
the month and special Sundays  
through the year.





# From The Pastor's Desk

Have you ever wondered where the center of the universe is? Well, scientifically speaking, there is no definitive “center” of the universe. Science tells us that the universe is expanding at a constant rate, and everything in the universe is moving away from each other at that same rate. If I were to draw a bunch of dots on a balloon and then blow it up, they would all move away from each other as the balloon expanded. Now, if you imagine one of those dots as the earth and place yourself on it, you can get a feel for what scientists call the “cosmological principle.” There is no clear “center” on the surface of the balloon - it’s relative to the observer. In other words, the center is whatever your frame of reference is, i.e. whichever “dot” you happen to be focused on at the time.

New Year’s is a time where many make promises to change their lifestyle, but few have lasting success. 12% of all gym memberships are opened in January, and 80% of those new memberships are canceled within five months. Many who fail to keep their resolutions are focused on the wrong thing; they want to get to the end result quickly and neglect the power of daily, incremental growth. When progress is slower than they’d like, they give up. In the same way, faith requires endurance. But the only way to have lasting endurance in this marathon of faith is to “fix your eyes upon Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” (Hebrews 12:2). When we take our eyes off of Christ and place ourselves as the focal point, we’re bound to get discouraged and we’ll be tempted to give up. Unlike the balloon example, Jesus is the true center of the universe because “in Him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:17). Christ is our true frame of reference; everything else is a shadow. Shadows can point us to where the light comes from, but only the light gives a shadow its shape.

Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 18:3-4, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Jesus is referring to the child-like faith and humility which is required to move mountains (Matthew 17:20). When we humble ourselves before the Lord, what we are saying is, “I am small and weak, like a child compared to You. I’m not the center of the universe, but I know that You are, and so I will trust You with my whole heart.” Only once we have placed our lives in the proper perspective before God can we expect to see Him at work. By humbly submitting ourselves to His authority, He picks us up and places us on His shoulders, where the mountains in our lives become little more than anthills. So, what would this new year look like if we approached it with the humble, expectant faith of a child? What problems or challenges are you looking at “from the wrong side of the balloon”, so to speak? Will you trust God enough to surrender it to Him? I pray that this year will be filled with blessings and breakthroughs as you walk confidently in the victory of Christ.



A fellow stargazer looking to Christ,  
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 and pastoral counseling, bedding and hygiene items, medical transportation assistance, medical, dental and vision assistance, and referrals.

### *January Care Cards*

Our January Care Cards will be going to Jim Muffley. We have cards available in the Narthex or you can use your own. Please sign an encouraging note or thoughtful message and give them to the office to be mailed. Thank you!

### *Volunteers Needed*

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!

### *Parish Life Committee Meeting*

Parish Life Committee will meet on Thursday, January 9, 2025  
at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall



# 2024 Christmas Cantata

Row One: Andrea Welch, Jayci Welch, Lou Ann Shoup,  
Rev. Janet Dougherty, Joy Barto

Row Two: Sheila Morehart, Julie Souter, Shirley Watson

Row Three: Pastor Ben Lander, Rudy Moyer, John  
Libbey, Walt Gross

Our talented Chancel Choir, directed by Joy Barto,  
presented a beautiful Christmas Cantata entitled,

*"Swaddling Clothes!"*

by Mike Harland & John Darin Rowsey  
on December 15, 2024



## *Toys For Tots*

In December a few of 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:

150 stocking stuffers

2600+ toys

and more.

We are so grateful to be a part of sharing Christ's love and giving spirit,

especially during the holidays!



## *Touch a Heart*

The Touch-A-Heart Program has come to another end.

Because of you generosity, we were able to provide 190

children with gifts and 150 senior citizens with wonderful

toiletry bags. Your support is so important to this program. May  
your holiday season and new year be especially wonderful. In

Christ's Love, Candy Winters





# *Handicap Access Renovation Project*

During our November 10, 2024 Congregational Meeting it was approved that the Property Committee would work with Design & Build Contractors to reduce the Architects (\$400,000) estimated cost, as well as, to have the Finance Committee conduct a Capital Appeal Campaign to determine the possible funding for the project. The Property Committee has sent the written specification to four contractors and anticipates receiving proposals in February. The Finance Committee is finalizing the capital appeal information, and our membership should be receiving this material in January.

Your prayers and cooperation for this project are appreciated and please remember, no money will be committed until the project is recommended by the committees and the Church Council approves having a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of approving the project.

Thank you, Property & Finance Committees

## *Thank You!*

To The Congregation of St. Andrew,

The Parish Life Committee would like to express their appreciation for all of your generous giving during the last three months of 2024. You are aware of the projects that we have done during this time but you are not always informed of how generous you have been. We would now like to share this information with you.

Please continue to bring in food items such as canned goods, cereal, pasta, spices, etc. as you are able. These items are then delivered to the Son-Light House.

1. October Trunk or Treat: The people who lined up with their vehicles provide their own goodies. All of the donations from the congregation are put into small bags of 5 or 6 pieces and placed on a separate table. That is how we know you have provided for approximately 300 Trunk or Treaters.
2. October Warm Clothing Collection for the Son-Light House: You graciously gave coats, hoodies, sweaters, pants, sweatshirts, etc. for a total of 115 items.
3. November Shoeboxes: This year we had 29 shoeboxes donated for Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. These boxes can end up anywhere in the world to help share the word of God and God's love for the children.
4. November to December Warm Accessories Tree: A total of 126 hats, scarves, gloves, mittens and socks were delivered to the Son-Light House and they were thankful for this donation.
5. Donations through the church during November and December for other organizations include Toys for Tots and Touch A Heart. Toys for Tots received 106 donations and 30 gift tags were filled for Touch-A-Heart.

During this busy time of year, the St. Andrew Congregation has done a tremendous job of donating and sharing your love to others. From the bottom of our hearts, we give you a big **THANK YOU** for your caring support.



# *January Birthdays*

January 01 - Rachel Detweiler

January 15 - Julie Souter

January 23 - Sue Sarginger

January 25 - Emilie Detweiler



HAPPY  
*New Year*

*January 01, 2025*



## *Sunday School Teachers*

January 05 - Luanne Libbey

January 12 - Terri Stermole

January 19 - Joy Barto

January 26 - Karen Krum

## *Volunteers*

### *Lectors*

January 05 - Sheila Morehart

January 12 - Hiliary Haddon

January 19 - Erik Houser

January 26 - Larry Barnard

### *Greeters*

January 05 - Need Greeter

January 12 - Need Greeter

January 19 - Larry & Sharon Barnard

January 26 - Need Greeter

### *Acolytes*

January 05 - Gina Styer

January 12 - Levi Lander

January 19 - Lila Styer

January 26 - Teagan Brinser

## *Altar Flower Delivery*

Julie Roller

## *Communion Assistant*

Walt Gross

If you can't serve on your Sunday, please try to find 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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