

March

2025

Newsletter

Sunday Mornings

Worship: 9:15 a.m.



Sunday School: 10:30 a.m

All Ages Welcome



Coffee time
before & after
services



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

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Rev. Ben Lander

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From The Pastor's Desk

“Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.” - Galatians 6:7

I came across an interesting article recently in *Christianity Today* written by Russel Moore. In it, he addresses a growing trend he refers to as “extremism inflation.” Simply put, people have a tendency to portray a carefully curated version of themselves in public (and especially on social media) that may not match up with reality. In recent years, the culture wars and political division have driven a deep wedge between all kinds of people groups (politics, religion, gender, age and race, to name a few). People’s identities have become so enmeshed with their political or cultural affiliations such that loyalty to that affiliation demands them to adopt an ever-inflating array of values and social mores that may or may not actually line up with their personally held convictions. On top of that, the “outrage machine” demands tribute from each member of said group, or else risk becoming the target of the cancel culture.

The problem with this formula is that for those who just “go along to get along”, they have already violated their own integrity and stepped onto the slippery slope of becoming that which they once dismissed as “fearmongering nonsense.” In the words of Russel Moore, “You can pretend your way to vice, but not to virtue...that’s because integrity and morality and godliness do not come about by outward demonstration. Whitewashing the tomb does nothing to enliven the decomposing corpses underneath (Matthew 23:27-29)...the way of Christ starts with a recognition of lack - of the kind of empty-handedness that puts away falsehood (Ephesians 4:25).”

The season of Lent is an invitation to set aside all of our pretenses and return to God in humble vulnerability, confessing our sins, receiving His forgiveness, and committing to walk with Christ daily in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24). If we are to live openly and honestly before others, we must first be open and honest with ourselves and with God. Saint Thomas Aquinas says that “Truth lies between excess and defect; that we judge the thing neither greater than it is nor less than it is, but **as** it is.” Pertaining to our sin, we confess that all sin separates us from God and incurs the penalty of death (Romans 6:23). Pertaining to salvation, we confess that Christ’s once-for-all sacrifice is sufficient to cover all sins and if we confess those sins, God is faithful to forgive us (John 3:16-18, 1 John 1:9). What the Bible calls sin, we should not judge as anything less than sin - even if the culture tells us we are “hateful” or “bigoted”. What the Bible does **not** call sin, we should not judge as sin - even if our well-meaning brother or sister in Christ has a different conviction. This is what biblical discernment looks like - allowing the lens of Scripture to inform our **entire** lives - public, private and anything in between.

As we journey toward the cross this Lent, I encourage you to open yourself up (perhaps for the first time in a long time) to being vulnerable with God, yourself and others about your struggles and triumphs, joys and sorrows. Resist the temptation to put on a mask, and embrace the (sometimes scary) freedom of being known and loved by God *and* each other. Prayerfully what you will find is a greater sense of peace and the confidence to let your light shine, boldly and authentically before others, that they may see your good deeds - not as a virtue signal, but as the fruit of a life lived in true communion with God.

Seeking Truth and Wisdom,
Pastor Ben



March Care Cards

Our March care cards will be going to Frances Worthington. We have cards available in the Narthex or you can bring your own. Please sign the with an encourgaing note or thoughtful message and give them to the office and we will mail them out for you! Thank you!



March Outreach - Salvation Army

The Salvation Army is a Protestant Christian church and an international charitable organization. They report a worldwide membership of over 1.7 million, consisting of soldiers, officers and adherents collectively known as Salvationists. They assist approximately 23 million Americans annually. By making a donation, we can help them meet needs, fighting hunger and giving warmth all over the U.S.



Shrove Tuesday

Please join your St. Andrew Family on Tuesday, March 4th at 6pm for some relaxation, conversation and another delicious dinner hosted by our Parish Life Committee. If interested in attending, please sign-up in the Narthex or contact the office and let us know. We hope to see you there!



Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday, March 5th, we will have our Ash Wednesday Worship Service (with imposition of ashes) at 7p.m. We also invite you, as your schedules allow, to our Open Sanctuary, for a time of prayer and imposition of Ashes between 9 & 11am.



Lenten Bible Study

Join us every Wednesday in Lent, beginning March 12th at Muncy Baptist Church for our Lenten Bible Study. The Ministerium pastors will be rotating leading the study. A time of fellowship will take place at 6:45pm and the study will begin at 7pm.



Lenten Devotionals

We have Lenten/Easter Devotionals available for both adults and children in the Narthex. Please take one and join us in preparing our hearts for the upcoming Easter season!

Church News

- The 2024 Financial Audit is complete. If you wish to view, please call the church office to make arrangements. The Audit is on file in the office.
- The pledge cards for the building project are due back. If you are planning to pledge and haven't returned your card, please send it to the office. Thank you!

hello
march

Easter Flowers

Easter Flower Order Forms are available in the Narthex or digitally upon request. Please return your form, with payment, no later than March 30, 2025. Thank you!



Birthdays

March 02 - Carson Bloom

March 03 - Leonard Morehart

March 07 - Janet Myers

March 13 - Troy Detweiler

March 13 - Cam Myers

March 17 - Jerry Watson

March 24 - Brian Brinser

March 28 - Cindy Alexander

March 30 - Bruce Miller



Welcoming New Members

Charlie Bogaczyk

Darrin & Janelle Shirk



Soup, Sandwiches & Sweets

February 16, 2025



Sunday School Teachers

March 02: Stacie Kilgore

March 09: Karen Krum

March 16: Joy Barto

March 23: Kay Myers

March 30: Darlene Waldron

Greeters

March 02: Stacie Kilgore

March 05: Jerry Watson

March 09: Need Greeter

March 16: Larry & Sharon Barnard

March 23: Linda Moyer

March 30: Rick & Sue Sarginger

Communion Assistant

March 02: Adam Ridgdell

Altar Flower Delivery

Kay Myers

Acolyte

March 02: Lila Styer

March 05(Ash Wed): Levi Lander

March 09: Teagan Brinser

March 16: Sam Haddon

March 23: Gina Styer

March 30: Levi Lander

Lectors

March 02: Sheila Morehart

March 05 (Ash Wed): Julie Souter

March 09: Amy Brinser

March 16: Steve Haddon

March 23: Erik Houser

March 30: Larry Barnard

Altar Guild

Darlene Waldron

If you cannot serve on your Sunday please try to 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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