



ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH
And
Early Childhood Campus

7750 State. Hwy. 144 N
 www.standrew-westbend.org
 Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

West Bend, WI 53090
 standrewchurchwb@gmail.com

(262) 335-4200
 St.AndrewECC@gmail.com
 Sunday School and Bible Class 9:15 a.m.

December 2017

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

God is Attentive

I recall a few times as a first-year seminarian in St. Louis, where taking Beginning Hebrew with Dr. Reed Lessing, he would call out my name in class and encourage me to pay attention. I would often find myself looking out the window, day-dreaming, or (more often than not) “multi-tasking” by preparing for another class while at the same time studying Hebrew.

Thankfully, we have a God who pays attention! One man said that God used to rain bread down from heaven, smite the Philistines, sling fire on red-light districts (Sodom and Gomorrah) and even make a personal appearance ever so often. Yes, indeed, God pays attention! And He is attentive to you! As God's children in Christ, he has “plans to prosper you, not to harm you....” (Jeremiah 29:11)

There is a true story about a German pastor named Paul Gerhardt who, due to his unwillingness to compromise on his beliefs over God's Word, was forced to resign from the parish he served in 1666. Not knowing what the future had in store for him, he wrote a hymn to comfort his wife: “Commit Whatever Grieves Thee” (TLH 520). The hymn is based on Psalm 37:5, where it is written, “Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.” Eventually, in Paul Gerhardt's situation, God did act. Paul Gerhardt eventually received a new ministry appointment.

Like Paul Gerhardt, through the power of the Holy Spirit, we commit our lives and our everything to the Lord. We dump everything in God's lap – lock, stock, and barrel. Included in this, as a worshipping family of faith at St.

Andrew, we commit the future of our congregation, the year and years ahead, to the Lord our God who pays attention and is very good at all that He does.

Our Lord has already attended to our greatest need by giving the world a Savior who was born as a babe in a manger in the town of Bethlehem. And He (that is, Christ Jesus) was born with a purpose... to rescue us from sin and death by His own bodily death on the cross and resurrection.

As we approach a new year, remember that we have a God who is always attentive to our needs, and who invites us to PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens).

Dear brothers and sisters, please be aware of all of the happenings taking place at St. Andrew. And, as always...please contact me if you or a loved one is in the hospital, celebrating a milestone, or would just like a visit.

Let's stay connected!

*Your Brother in Christ,
 Pr. Jonathan Vierkant*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have **all** newsletter articles for January in by **Tuesday, December 26th** to Cathy Grande at **standrewchurchwb@gmail.com**. **Confirmations** will be sent for articles sent via e-mail. Thanks.

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

So that you might thank and praise God for his blessings we have added a number of additional worship opportunities. Please mark

these on your calendar and join us to praise our loving God.

Wednesday Evening Advent Services
December 6, 13, and 20 at 7 p.m.
without Holy Communion
Soup Suppers at 6 p.m.

Early Childhood Campus Christmas Program
Friday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Program
Sunday, December 24 at 1 p.m.

Christmas Eve
Sunday, December 24 at 7 p.m.
without Holy Communion

Christmas Day
Monday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m.
with Holy Communion

New Years Eve
Sunday, December 31 at 7 p.m.
without Holy Communion

SOUP SUPPERS

On December 6, 13, and 20, we will have 'Soup Suppers at 6 p.m. To make sure we have something to share, please look at our bulletin board and sign up to bring something. This is a good chance to get acquainted with other St. Andrew members.

STEWARDSHIP/EVANGELISM

Matthew 9:37-38 - *Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."*

Isaiah 6:8 - *And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."*

As Christmas approaches, we give thanks for the birth of our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He was sent here by our Father in heaven to give his beloved children

the gift of his grace, love, and forgiveness, that we may all dwell in the house he is preparing for us in heaven.

As Pastor Vierkant so eloquently expressed to us in one of his wonderful church services (We have temporary bodies with eternal souls), our short time here to serve the Lord is an honor and a blessing with our promised land in heaven as our glorious and wonderful reward.

Let us reach out to others and bring them along with us. Please pray for our Stewardship/Evangelism committee as we have a goal of growing our church family., We need everyone's help and input .

We are in need of one or two members to join our committee, contact anyone from our group if you would consider this.

Thank you and God bless.

Sue Hetzel

EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPUS

Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. Luke 2:19

A Very Merry Christmas St. Andrew!

Can you imagine what was going through Mary's head? This child that she just gave birth to would be the Savior of the world, God made flesh! Her heart must have been ready to explode with love and compassion. Imagine all the happenings surrounding her; like the many visitors that came to worship the new born king. Yes indeed, her heart was full. Jesus is our heart's treasure too. Think about what God has done for you, ponder it this season, and then be grateful. Now go tell others the good news! Live a life that reflects your heart's treasure. Teach it to your children and your children's children.

I invite you to our Keepsake Christmas event on Friday, December 8th at 6:30pm. Come build a memory with your family. Your family will be given the chance to create a Nativity while watching the Christmas story come to life on stage. Sponsored by our Sisters in Christ, it will be a night to treasure.

I invite you to attend our 3K and 4K Christmas program. Friday, December 15th at 6:30pm. We will have a short program of songs and recitations and a reception following.

May each of you hold tight to our treasure, and Merry Christmas!

Sandy

BOARD OF ELDERS

We are in the Christmas season where we get ready for the coming of our Lord. To help get ready we are having Advent services on Wednesdays 12/6, 12/13 & 12/20 starting at 7:00 pm. Please also join us for our soup supper which starts at 6:00 pm. The Elders will again be bringing the soup for the first Wednesday but we will need other members (or another church board) to sign up for the rest of the food and for the other two soup suppers.

On Christmas Eve day (Sunday) we will have a 9:00 am normal Sunday service, 1:00 pm Sunday School program and a 7:00 Christmas Eve Service. We will close out the calendar year with a 9:00 am service on New Year's Eve Sunday and then a 7:00 New Year's Eve service.

We are looking for more ushers to help out on Sunday mornings so if you decide you would like to serve the Lord in this capacity please let one of the elders know your name, phone number or email address and if you prefer 8:00 or 10:30 services. You do not need prior experience because we are willing to do on the job training which will not take very long.

Again, a reminder to people worshipping at St. Andrew that we have large size services available for anyone who may have trouble reading the hymnal or if the hymnal is starting to get a bit heavy to hold for the service. The larger format services can be found in the yellow folders under the mail boxes and they

contain the service along with the hymns that will be used.

This is your church home, and we are your church family so we are very interested in what you think. Please contact one of the elders and let us know if you have any concerns, questions, need help or just want to talk. We are here to help you in any way we can. Below is the list of Elders and which area of responsibilities they are heading. You can talk to any Elder about any concerns or questions and we will bring it up to the full board.

In God's service,

Rick Bruss (Chairman & Inactives)
Randy Sheffield (Secretary & Youth/Confirmation)
Elmer Frey (Sick/Shut-Ins)
Paul Heinz (Fundraiser & Personnel)
Curt Gnatzig (Inactives)
Joseph Gutschmidt
Craig Falk (Ushers, Music/Readers)

SISTERS IN CHRIST

A Blessed and Merry Christmas Dear Sisters!

Just a reminder of our coming events as we look ahead into December.

Tuesday, December 5th- Sisters Christmas Party at Maricios beginning at 5:30. Please sign up on our bulletin board.

Friday, December 8th- Keepsake Christmas event 6:30pm. Please sign up your family on the church's bulletin board.

Sunday, December 10th- Giving Tree gifts are due. Delivery will be Monday, Dec. 11th.

May this Christmas season bring you joy and happiness as we celebrate God's most precious gift to us.

*Christmas Blessings,
Sandy and Judi*

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday School Christmas service is scheduled for **Sunday, December 24th at 1:00 pm**. The children will be celebrating the birth of our Lord in multiple ways during the service, including music, song and narrations. All are invited to see the children's joyful celebration.

We need the Sunday School families to commit their children for that date and for practices. If you can not make it, please let me know ASAP so we can plan accordingly. **Saturday practices start on December 2.** They will be every Saturday in December from **10:00 am to 11:30 am**. The kids should have brought home a little booklet of the songs we will be singing. We will be practicing those songs as a group every Sunday before Sunday School starts.

*Yours in Christ
Jeff Grande
Superintendent*

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sandy Ruback
- 2 Kevin Falk
- 5 Ryan Riedel
- 6 Diane Nelson
- 9 Sandy Holladay
- 10 Michele Buehler
- 14 Jennae Beaupre'
- 14 Julian Becker
- 15 Tonia Keaton
- 17 Sarah Peterson
- 17 Tracy Rochwite
- 18 Becca Knox
- 21 Judi Riedel
- 21 Chris Struebing
- 22 Alason Koenig
- 23 Brad Becker
- 25 Brittany Osgood
- 28 Emma Betz
- 28 Norman Rettamel
- 31 Nancy Legate
- 31 Karen Unruh



DECEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Sydney Brehmer
- 2 Zachary Brehmer
- 5 Emily Shebanek
- 6 Olivia Dieringer
- 6 Lucille Woods
- 7 Matthew Neumann
- 9 Sandy Holladay
- 10 Sandy Ruback
- 11 Kelly Bruss
- 11 Landon Thill
- 12 Jennifer Backhaus
- 12 Steven Williams
- 13 Paige Kirchner
- 13 Gary Puestow
- 13 Katie Vierkant
- 14 Deborah Osgood
- 17 Carla Peterson
- 18 Joan Schlicht
- 21 Michele Buehler
- 21 Sue Harrison
- 23 Alex Nuoffer
- 28 Pat McWilliams
- 28 Leo Ruback
- 30 Kara Ruback



DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 Don & Marian LaPlant
- 7 Gary & Debbie Puestow
- 17 Chris & Alisa Eichhorn
- 20 Pete & Donna Hesprich
- 27 Lee & Sharon Oelke

