



ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

And

Early Childhood Campus

7750 State. Hwy. 144 N
www.standrew-westbend.org
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

West Bend, WI 53090
standrewchurchwb@gmail.com

(262) 335-4200
St.AndrewECC@gmail.com
Sunday School and Bible Class 10:15 a.m.

DECEMBER 2024

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

"His Name Shall Be Called"

Imagine for a moment that one day you hear a knock at your door. You slowly open the door and glance down at the floor. There sitting at your feet is a little basket with a blanket over it. What could it be? You then lift off the blanket to see a baby boy! Attached there is a note that says: "Merry Christmas. This baby boy is for you." How would you respond?

Would you respond with: "Just what I always wanted?" Or would you wonder: "Why me?" Well, TODAY the prophet Isaiah lays a baby at the door of your heart, saying, "Merry Christmas. This baby boy is for you!" "For to US a child is born. To US a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). You see, there is an important ingredient to the celebration of Christmas that is often overlooked – that Christ was born FOR US! And the Gospel of Luke highlights this truth when the angels announced the birth of the Savior to the shepherds, saying, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

He is God's gift to you to address your greatest need: Salvation!

During the season of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the birth of God's Son, who was given the name Jesus—a Hebrew name that means "God saves." In addition to His earthly name, Holy Scripture calls Jesus by various titles which describe something about His person or work. During the midweek Advent services and on Christmas Day, we are going to examine four titles given to Jesus in Isaiah 9:6. Those

titles are "Wonderful Counselor," "Mighty God," "Everlasting Father," and "Prince of Peace." We will learn how each of these titles describes something about who Jesus is and what He did for our salvation.

As always, dear brothers and sisters, please contact me if you or a loved one is in the hospital, celebrating a milestone, or would just like a visit.

Let's *connect!*

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all newsletter articles in by **Friday, December 27** to Ginger Carerros at standrewchurchwb@gmail.com.

BOARD OF ELDERS

The Saturday morning Men's Group just finished studying the book of Revelation. Now that we know how the story ends, we can look to the beginning of God's plan to save His people through his one and only Son.

At the end of Revelation we learn that God has made a place for us in Heaven. A church made of solid gold with precious jewels in its gates. God has prepared a place for each of His believers In Heaven.

Now that we know how the story ends, let's go back to the beginning with the birth of our Savior, Jesus. Born without sin, lived the perfect life that we can't live, and willingly goes to the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, so that we can live with God in Heaven for eternity.

Come to the Wednesday Advent services at 7:00 pm on 12/4, 12/11, 12/18 to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior. Soup Suppers at 6:00 before the services. The Board of Elders will be hosting the first soup supper on the 1st of December.

There are quite a few options to study the Bible at St. Andrew.

- Sunday morning after church (10:15am). Currently studying the book of Hebrews.
- Tuesday morning (9:30am) Women's Group @ Sandy Berres' house.
- Week night (various nights depending on schedules) Women's Group. Meets at homes and church- Currently studying the book, The Women of Christmas by Liz Curtis Higgs.
- Saturday morning (8:30am) Men's Group led by Dan Berres meets at church- Currently taking a break until January.
- Monday evening (6:00pm) Men's Group led by Bob Buehler -Currently studying the book of Hebrews.

Talk to Pastor Vierkant or one of the elders and we will help get you plugged into God's word at St. Andrew.

Please contact Pastor, an Elder, or the church office if you are going in for surgery, having a hospital stay or have anything else you think we should know about. We are concerned for our members but if you do not tell us what is going on, we will not know to contact you to see if you would like a visit or would like to be included in our prayers.

This is your church home and we are your church family so we are very interested in what your concerns are. 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 and

most importantly, please keep us in your prayers.

In God's service,

Randy Sheffield—Chairman, Sick/Shut-Ins & Care Ministry
Thai Hua—Secretary, Ushers
Mark Oehme— In-Actives
Jeff Grande – Youth/Confirmation
Rory Hetzel—Lay Readers
George Muth—Fund Raisers/Personnel

BOARD OF MINISTRIES

Hebrews 13:16: "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

There are many opportunities to "do good" at St. Andrew. One opportunity is to become a member of one of the boards that work within our church to support our church family and the greater community. The Board of Ministries is in need of one or two new members to join us to help support our church in the areas of stewardship, evangelism, and education. If you are interested in joining the board, please contact one of us, or join us at our next meeting on December 19 at 6 PM.

There are many opportunities to support St. Andrew or join in fellowship in the months ahead:

Prayer Sunday

The prayer box will be at the front of the church on the first Sunday of each month. You are invited to write your prayer(s) on the insert sheet in the bulletin and place it in the box. Pastor will say a special prayer over the box of prayers, but they will not be read by anyone, as they are between you and God.

Bible Studies

There are many opportunities to learn more about God's Word! In addition to Sunday morning after service, there are daytime and

evening classes during the week. Check the church calendar or bulletin for more information.

Monthly Mission Collection

We are collecting items to help St. James Community Pantry in West Bend. The last date to bring items is December 15. Any nonperishable items (no glass) may be placed in the baskets in the narthex. Cereal, pasta, canned items, paper products, laundry soap, and personal hygiene products are just some of the items needed. We will continue to support the Kewaskum Food Pantry in January.

St. A's Weeders and Seeders

The group meets on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM in the fellowship area. A canning workshop was recently held, and 16 people attended. A donation was given to the church for use of the kitchen .

Christmas Parades

Contact Sarah Peterson if you are able to help with the float or participate in either or both parades. The West Bend parade is December 1 and Kewaskum's parade is December 8.

Soup Suppers

Join us at 6 PM on December 4, 11, and 18 for a light supper before Advent Service at 7 PM. It's a great way to get to know fellow members (and not have to cook supper!) Sign up on the bulletin board if you are able to bring a food item to share.

Candy Cane Hunt

This year the event will be held from 3 – 6 PM on Saturday, December 14. Volunteers are always needed! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board. Contact Katie Vierkant for more information.

Twelfth Night

Mark your calendar for January 5, 2025! This event celebrates Epiphany, and gives us one last opportunity to sing Christmas carols as decorations are removed from the Christmas tree. The gathering will begin at 4:30 PM, with dinner at 5 PM. We are fortunate that Texas Roadhouse will again provide most of the food.

Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board soon.

Friendship/New Member Sunday

Mark your calendar for February 16, 2025. The dinner is in the planning stages, with more details to follow!

Blessings –
Sandy Berres
Sue Hetzel
Joanne Miller
Sarah Peterson
Kris Sheffield

SISTER'S IN CHRIST

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy". Matthew 2:10

St. Andrew has been given several opportunities this Christmas season to spread joy to others. As you give of yourself this Christmas, your time, your talents, your generous gifts, joy will fill your hearts. Just like the joy the shepherds felt when they came with haste to see the gift of a Savior, or the abundant joy the Wisemen felt after they sought long and hard to find the newborn King. No greater joy is there than to serve our amazing God!

Thank you and God's blessings to those who gave so generously to Operation Christmas Child. We filled 63 shoeboxes and gave \$200.00 to help ship the boxes to children around the world. I would love to see the faces of the children as they open their shoeboxes, and see the joy on their faces knowing Jesus cares for them and so do others.

Our Giving Tree recipient for this year is our community "Cupboard". This outdoor cupboard is located on St. James' property on 8th Avenue in West Bend. Please help feed those in need by donating non-perishable food, paper products, hygiene, and laundry items. Baskets are marked and located in the fellowship hall. Our giving's will be forwarded to St. James the week of December 15th. Thank you for caring for those in need!

Sisters in Christ Mission Store will soon be filled with Christmas gift items! Please shop and take what delights you or shop for a friend or family member. All items are free but as always, donations are appreciated!

Give someone in need of compassion, prayers, hugs, and love a Prayer Shawl. Our Prayer Shawls are located in a basket in the narthex. Just another way to spread God's love and bring joy to those in need.

*May your Christmas too, be filled with joy,
peace, and God's love,*

Sandy R, Judi B, Kathy M.

CARE MINISTRY

God's blessings to all of you! I wanted to remind you of our "Care Ministry" opportunity here at St. Andrew. This ministry can be used by any of you that may be going through a difficult time. It may be for only a short time like coming home from the hospital and would like someone to come and share a prayer or two and a brief devotional with you. Or something more long lasting like finding out you are not able to drive any more or health related trials perhaps dealing with the struggles with aging. Divorce or marriage difficulties.

There are many reasons to take advantage of this ministry. It may be a feeling of loneliness and just need to talk and need a listening ear to listen. You may be struggling with your faith, let us know! You may have received serious diagnoses from the doctors! Family difficulties! Life change decisions! Depression! Perhaps just asking "why am I always sad!" Do you have a family member in a nursing home? We will walk through the muck and brokenness of this world with you.

This ministry is for all of us from time to time, and no need to feel embarrassed or reluctant to ask. Please reach out to Pastor or myself. Don't hesitate to let us know. We are trained to be care ministries; all is kept private and is our privilege and blessing to serve God and His people in this way. You are a blessing to us and

we don't want you to ever think you are alone because you are "never alone." Please, please, please, let us be a friend and have a meaningful relationship with you!

Dan Berres

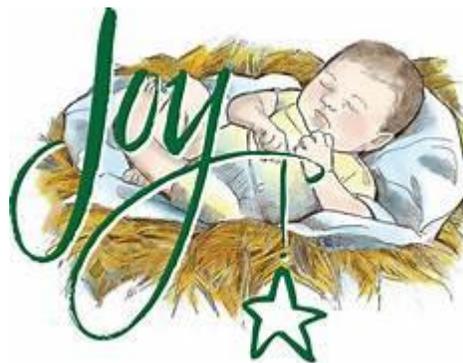
EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPUS

Dear St. Andrew Congregation,

As I am cutting out handprints for our December bulletin board, of our wonderful 3K and 4K students, I am amazed to see how big and small they are at the very same time. It is mind boggling to think where we started just a few precious months ago, to where we are today. Their handprints have not changed much in those few months, but their hearts and minds have! It is truly a blessing to see their love for Jesus and their faith grow here in our St. Andrew Early Childhood Campus.

I am so thankful for this special preschool filled with sweet and amazing children, our loving teachers, Pastor Jon--who guides us with his wisdom, and all of you! I am so thankful for you...who leave Play-Doh on my desk, donate formula to a family in need, show up with popsicle sticks for our craft projects, pray for our campus ministry, and so much more. Thank you for your help, love and continued support.

Blessings to you always,
Lindsey



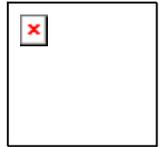
DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sandy Ruback
- 2 Kevin Falk
- 4 Steven Steinpreis
- 5 Ryan Riedel
- 6 Diane Nelson
- 6 Harper Ratzel
- 9 Trent Ellis
- 10 Michele Buehler
- 12 Debbie Benz
- 12 Steven Mutz
- 14 Jennae Beaupre'
- 15 Tonia Keaton
- 17 Sarah Peterson
- 17 Tracy Rochwite
- 21 Judi Riedel
- 21 Bradley Sommer
- 21 Christopher Struebing
- 22 Alason Koenig
- 25 Britany Osgood
- 27 Matthew Ratzel
- 31 Nancy Legate
- 31 Karen Unruh



DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 Pete & Donna Hesprich.
- 27 Lee & Sharon Oelke



DECEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Sydney Brehmer
- 2 Zachary Brehmer
- 4 Xander McKee
- 6 Olivia Dieringer
- 10 Sandy Ruback
- 12 Jennifer Backhaus
- 13 Katherine 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
- 30 Steven Steinpreis
- 31 Will Hale

