



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 2025

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Hebrews: "Something Better"

The book of Hebrews addresses Christians in Rome undergoing persecution sometime close to 64AD when Christians began dying for their faith under Nero. The book is a clarion call to not return to Judaism, which was a legal religion while Christianity had become an illegal religion.

The author urges people to remain faithful to their Christian confession (Heb 3:1; 4:14; 10:23), warns against drifting away and neglecting salvation (Heb 2:1, 3), points out the danger of losing confidence in God's promises (Heb 3:6) and falling away from the faith (Heb 3:12). People were tempted to become rebellious and unbelieving like the Israelites who fell in the wilderness (Heb 3:16–19) for they had not progressed into Christian adulthood (Heb 5:11–6:2). They had experienced God's saving gifts in Christ but may end up rejecting him (Heb 6:4–6; 10:29; 12:25). Sluggishness (Heb 6:12) could lead to something far worse—apostasy (Heb 10:26). Thus, repeatedly the author reminds people that in Christ, they have something better. The title for the midweek Advent series is Something Better. Hebrews repeatedly explains the gifts God gives Israel through Moses and then promises that we have something much better!

"God has planned something better for us!"
 (Hebrews 11:40)

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. You can reach me at pastor@standrew-westbend.org. Let's connect!

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all newsletter articles in by **Tuesday, December 23rd** to Ginger Carerros at **standrewchurchwb@gmail.com**.

BOARD OF ELDERS

The season of Advent is here and it's time to look towards the birth of our Savior. St. Andrew will have three Wednesday night services on the 3rd, 10th and 17th of December. We will also have soup suppers starting at 6:00 hosted by the boards prior to worship at 7pm. The elders will be hosting the first soup supper on the 3rd. Come and feed your belly at 6 before feeding your soul at 7.

St. Andrew will also have worship on Christmas Eve on the 24th and a Christmas Day service on the 25th . Lots of opportunities to worship and have fellowship at St. Andrew in December. All of the Bible studies are back meeting together. Below you will find a list of some of the current studies. Don't worry about having to start when a new study starts, just show up and start where it's currently at. If you would like help joining a group, talk to Pastor Jon or an elder and we will get you plugged in.

- Sunday morning after church (10:30 am).
 Currently studying the Augsburg Confession.

- 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, Joy by Deb Burma.
- Saturday morning (8:30am) Men's Breakfast Group led by Dan Berres meets at church- Currently studying the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. The coffee is hot, fellowship and conversation are engaging, and the fellas will be rotating serving breakfast. Come and feed on breakfast and the Word.
- Monday evening (6:00pm) Men's Group led by Bob Buehler is currently studying the book of Judges.

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

Monthly Mission: For the month of December, please donate new or lightly used winterwear (coats, hats, gloves, sweatshirts, socks, long underwear, boots, etc.) Donations will be given to Able Light in Horicon.

Prayer Sunday: 1st Sunday of every month where you can bring your prayers to God.

Foraging Class: St. Andrew Weeders and Seeders meet the 1st Tuesday of every month.

Christmas Fun Night: Saturday, December 13th, from 3-6pm we will celebrate the Advent season and the coming of Christ with the church family. Activities will include a Christmas sweater contest, gingerbread decorating contest, and themed games. Pizza will be served.

Twelfth Night Celebration: Sunday, January 4th at 4:30pm, ring out the Christmas season with one last round of Christmas carols and a church blessing. Texas Roadhouse supper will be served.

Tuition Assistance Committee: Plans to meet again on Thursday, January 8th, at 6pm to further discuss potential changes to the current Tuition Assistance program:

Elections: Board member elections are coming up in the next few months, please consider joining the Board of Ministries. If you have any questions, or recommendations for the board, please talk with one of the board members.

God's blessings,

Sandy Berres, Sarah Peterson, Sue Hetzel,
Taylor Sandidge, Jessica Janz

SISTER'S IN CHRIST

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:14

Oh, to have been on that mountain when the angels sang their song of praise and prophecy to the shepherds. Jesus' birth would bring glory to God and peace on earth to a world in need of it. We live in that world today. Hungry for peace, longing for Christ to return, and joyful for all that our Savior did for us so that we may live eternally in heaven with God. Merry Christmas Sisters in Christ! Rejoice for our Savior has been born. Peace be with you as we walk in His Light and follow His will.

I was able to deliver 58 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes last week to the drop off site. Thank you to each one of you that filled a shoebox and helped share God's love with children around the world.

A special thank you goes out to our Script program. Script donated \$500.00 to the shipping cost! What a beautiful way to see how Script is at work, and how purchasing gift cards throughout the year can make a big difference in the lives of others. What a true blessing Script is for St. Andrew.

Giving Tree

Sunday, December 7th will be the last Sunday to purchase a gift card for Seed of Hope. We will then be filling small stockings with some chocolates and the gift cards and donating them to Seed of Hope where they will pass them out to their clients. Help us spread some Christmas joy to those struggling this Christmas season. May God be with Seed of Hope as they continue to provide care, support, and hope for women in our community.

Bingo Christmas Party

Join us Tuesday, December 9th at 6:00 pm for a fun night of Bingo here at church. Please bring a wrapped \$5.00 gift which we will use for prizes. Snacks will be provided. Sign up on the bulletin board and bring a friend!

Reminders: Visit our Mission Store located across from our member mailboxes. Many new items will be set out for you to take home. Any donations given goes to our Sisters in Christ mission work and activities.

Prayer shawls and blankets are available in the narthex for you to give to someone you know in need of care, support, and compassion. Wrap some of God's warmth and love around them. Please sign the notebook by the basket so we know who needs our extra prayers.

A Blessed and Merry Christmas to All,

Sandy R., Judi B., and Kathy M.

HOLIDAY SCRIP CARDS

The holidays are upon us and SCRIP has \$5 and \$10 denomination cards available for stocking stuffers. We will have some in stock, but if there's something you're looking for, please visit us. We can order from the list of 100's of retailers. SCRIP cards make wonderful stocking stuffers or gifts for those family and friends who are hard to buy for. December 14th will be the last day to order any cards to have in hand by Christmas so start planning now! If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. We're open every Sunday after church. You can also reach out to Melissa Knox (414-581-6500) if you miss us at church.

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, please reference the Church Directory for the phone number. 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!

Randy Sheffield

EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPUS

Dear St. Andrew Congregation,

**"And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."
*Ephesians 5:20.***

On our last day of school before Thanksgiving, we did a great Thanksgiving devotion in 4K, where we learned to live lives full of thankfulness. We had a class balloon, where every time we said something aloud that we were thankful for (ie: family, friends, God etc.) I added a puff of air into the balloon. Once everyone had a turn saying what they were thankful for and our balloon was full, I said, "I was thankful for being sick." Then I asked, "should I add a puff of air to our balloon?" I added, "When good things happen, we're all full of praise--like our very air-filled balloon. But

when bad things happen, it's more like this"...I let the balloon go and it deflated. I also added, "Why don't we thank God when bad things happen? It's easy to thank God for the good things. But we can remember to thank God for the hard things because often He can use those bad things for good. When I was sick, my husband was super kind and took very good care of me. My friend Mrs. Ruback was so wonderful and came to school to be with you guys, so I could rest at home. So even though I was sick, God still blessed me with so many amazing people in my life to help me." Lastly, we closed with prayer, thanking God for all the blessings of good things and even hard and challenging things in our lives.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families,
Lindsey



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Gregory Riederer
- 1 Sandy Ruback
- 2 Kevin Falk
- 4 Steven Steinpreis
- 5 Ryan Riedel
- 6 Diane Nelson
- 6 Harper Ratzel
- 6 Dan Struebing
- 10 Michele Buehler
- 12 Debbie Benz
- 14 Jennae Beaupre'
- 15 Tonia Keaton
- 16 Nicole Heinecke
- 16 Clint Wiesmueller
- 17 Sarah Peterson
- 17 Tracy Rochwite
- 17 Judy Wiesmueller
- 21 Judi Riedel
- 21 Bradley Sommer
- 21 Christopher Struebing
- 22 Alason Koenig
- 25 Brittany Osgood
- 27 Matthew Ratzel
- 31 Nancy Legate
- 31 Karen Unruh



DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 20 Pete & Donna Hesprich
- 27 Lee & Sharon Oelke
- 30 Randall & Colleen Mueller



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
- 17 Judy Wiesmueller
- 18 Joan Schlicht
- 20 Gregory Riederer
- 21 Michele Buehler
- 21 Sue Harrison
- 28 Pat McWilliams
- 28 Leo Ruback
- 30 Kara Ruback
- 30 Steven Steinpreis
- 31 Will Hale

