



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.

JANUARY 2026

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Star of Hope

A new year begins (2026!), and some of you may have stayed up on New Year's Eve to watch the ball drop at Times Square in NYC. The ball at Times Square has been called "The Star of Hope," because each year is a time for hope, and a time for new opportunities.

That being said... we should be careful to avoid the kind of attitude that says, "I have all my resolutions lined up!" "I have all the information I need!" "No problems will befall me this year!" For we arrive in this new year with the same sin, the same temptations, and the same sort of problems as we did the year before.

However, the good news is that none of all of this can undo the fact that Jesus Christ was born for us. He did all that was needed to do to save us by His own cross, burial, and resurrection. And Christ who has ascended into heaven, will come again on the Last Day to take His Church away.

As Scripture tells you: *Nothing can ever separate us from God's love. (Indeed,) nothing in all of creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:38, 39).*

Brothers and sisters, true wisdom has come down to you from above. The Star of Bethlehem (the real star of hope) points you Him. Today, by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us press on in following Christ! Let us daily repent of sin and trust in Jesus our Savior from sin and death!

And before "pushing" on God with our prayers, let us "pull open" our Bibles, that we may know God better and His will for us. May God bless and keep you in this new year!

**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!***

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have **all** newsletter articles in by **Tuesday, January 27th** to Ginger Careros at standrewchurchwb@gmail.com.

BOARD OF ELDERS

The season of Advent is over. What an exciting time of year. We had a month of mid-week services anticipating and waiting for the birth of our Savior, and then it was finally here. The day to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Finally, God's plan to save all people from their sin was real and happening. Take a little time to thank God for His salvation plan and think about how this miracle of Jesus' birth has had on your life today and will have for eternity.

God has brought a new Organist/Pianist to St. Andrew. Steve Groth will start on Sunday, 1/25/26. Take a minute to introduce yourself to Steve, and welcome him to St. Andrew.

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

May God bless us and keep us in this New Year

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new is come.

A reminder to start new in Christ. We all have sin/guilt we live with but God reminds us to let go of the past, to start new each day/year, focus on our Lord and Savior and know that his blood on the cross is the only way we are saved. Spread the love of Jesus in the new year.

Monthly Missions: January – We decided to collect winter cloths, sweaters, boots, socks, gloves, mittens, hats, coats (New or like new clean condition)

We will donate them to Able light in Horicon along with December donations.

12th Night Party: Sunday January 14th 4:30 p.m. eat at 5:00 o'clock Kings Cake, Christmas carols, decorating church, Texas Road house will be donating the meal again this year, desserts and donations appreciated.

Prayer Sunday: First Sunday of every month.
Weeders and Seeders: 1st Tuesday of every month. They will be holding a canning class on

January 25th at 12:30 PM, anyone interested is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Blessings, Love and Joy from the Ministry board to our beloved church family in this New Year.

SISTER'S IN CHRIST

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! 2 Corinthians 5:17

We are a new creation in Christ. That is great news! Our old self is gone, and now we can live a life guided by God, a life filled with forgiveness, purpose, and peace. Now that is something to celebrate in this New Year!

I am so very pleased to announce that our Giving Tree mission project was able to bless Seed of Hope with 50 Christmas stockings. Each stocking was filled with two \$10.00 gift cards to area businesses and some chocolates. We also put in a flyer about our church home and our ECC. Thank you, to everyone that gave so generously to Seed of Hope!

Thank you, to all that attended our Bingo Christmas Party on a snowy night. We had a great time of fun and fellowship!

Bible Study

Our Tuesday morning Bible study will begin again on Tuesday, January 13th at 9:30.

Location: Sandy Berres' home.

Please join us as we study, *Becoming a Woman of Prayer* by Cynthia Heald. If you would like a book, please let me know. (Sandy Ruback)

Prayer Blankets

As of this writing, we have not set a date for our next work night. I will announce that information soon. We were able to donate 7 beautiful and warm blankets to the Washington County Foster Care Closet right before Christmas. They were so grateful!

Spring Activity

Now is the time to be thinking about a spring activity. Please see me, Judi, or Kathy with any ideas/thoughts you may have concerning this.

Mission Store

Thanks to Sue M. and the hard work she did to keep our Mission Store shelves filled with many wonderful Christmas items. To all those that shopped and left a donation, we appreciate it! I was able to buy more fleece for our Prayer Blankets. Keep Shopping!

May all our Sisters in Christ have a healthy, happy, and blessed New Year!
Sandy R., Judi B., and 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 use 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

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Luke 2: 6-7

December has been so busy as we have been learning the story of Jesus' birth in our classrooms. We were also busy learning all the songs and words for our wonderful Christmas program. There is nothing better than hearing our 3K and 4K students telling the story of Jesus' birth to their family and friends with their little voices.

Our Christmas program makes such an important impression on these beautiful children. I am so blessed to be a part of their Christian education. What an important ministry we have here at St. Andrew Early Childhood Campus...to share God's love and celebrate the precious gift of our Savior's birth with all the students who enter our doors, but also their families and friends.

Blessings always,
Lindsey

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Brittany Neumann
- 6 Kenneth Falk
- 9 Blake Sommer
- 12 Dean Dieringer
- 13 Lyndsey Mutz
- 19 Lois Dummann

- 19 Daisy Knox
- 20 Gregory Knox
- 21 Sophia Justman
- 23 Christie Dieringer
- 23 Henry Grande
- 23 Esther Oehme
- 24 Bruce Koenig
- 24 Simone Manns
- 25 Eric Starr
- 27 Jonathan Vierkant
- 28 Raelynn Jantz
- 31 Kiara Osgood



JANUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 James Keaton
- 1 Tracy Neatherlin
- 3 Lisa Baertlein
- 7 Alason Koenig
- 8 Samantha Gnatzig
- 11 Molly Knox
- 13 Hunter Starr
- 15 Diane Nelson
- 15 Blake Sommer
- 16 Timothy Struebing
- 18 Jennae Beaupre'
- 19 Judi Riedel
- 19 Clint Wiesmueller
- 20 Gregory Knox
- 20 Tina Ratzel
- 25 Curt Gnatzig
- 31 Debbie Benz



JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Mark & Debra Oehme
- 10 Bob & Michele Buehler
- 14 Jonathan & Katherine Vierkant

