



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.

April 2020

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

God is in the Center of This

“If there is famine in the land, if there is pestilence or blight or mildew or locust or caterpillar, if their enemies besiege them in the land at their gates, whatever plague, whatever sickness there is, whatever prayer, whatever plea is made by any man or by all your people Israel, each knowing his own affliction and his own sorrow and stretching out his hands toward this house, then hear from heaven your dwelling place and forgive and render to each whose heart you know, according to all his ways, for you, you only, know the hearts of the children of mankind, that they may fear you and walk in your ways all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our fathers.” – **2 Chronicles 6:28-31**

There are a couple of things during the time of this pandemic that we can know for sure: 1) God is in the center of it (Habakkuk 3:5), and that 2) God is both just and merciful. I think back to the ten plagues from the book of Exodus. The first three plagues (blood, frogs, gnats) struck both Egyptians and Israelites alike. However, it wasn't until AFTER the third plague that God prevented further plagues from hitting Goshen, the place where the Israelites lived. Why is that? Maybe God wanted the Israelites to realize through suffering that they needed Moses as their advocate and protector. In the same way, perhaps through suffering, God wants us (and others) to realize our greater need for Jesus as our advocate and protector.

Once again, I am convinced that God is in the center of this pandemic. And I would encourage everyone during this time of social

distancing to spend it in the Word and prayer. I've been especially thankful that God has given us the creative minds we need to carry on with public worship services during this little season – albeit in a different format. Each week we will send you updates via e-mail and the church website. It is my plan to continue these as long as needed. I encourage you also to fill up on hope. God will see us through this!

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! I would love to get to know you better and pray with you. Also, please see me if you are interested in becoming a member of St. Andrew or would just like to receive a refresher as to what it is we believe. I am currently offering a four-week class to anyone interested.

Let's Connect!
 (while staying six feet apart)

Pastor Jon Vierkant

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all newsletter articles in by **Tuesday, April 21st** to Cathy Grande at **standrewchurchwb@gmail.com**. **Confirmations** will be sent for articles sent via e-mail. Thanks.

BOARD OF ELDERS

As I sit down to write this letter, it occurred to me how fragile life really is. Covid-19 has literally changed the way we live our lives in almost every aspect. Health, finance, the way we work, shop and yes, even the way we worship. You have been pounded with

information on this for a few weeks now so I won't get into the normal stuff we deal with everyday except to encourage you to read your bibles daily, call members of your family to see how they are doing, call friends, stay in touch with people. By all means follow CDC guidelines as far as washing your hands, social distancing etc. Most importantly, stay positive and pray, pray, pray

As part of the government mandate of Safer at Home, we are doing our part at St. Andrew to practice responsible social distancing and still give you an opportunity to worship and take Communion. We tried a "parking lot" service on 3/22. By all accounts it went very well. We had a great turnout. Some minor things to work out and we have discussed some improvements.

Please join us if you can. Basically, you drive in and an usher will give you a bulletin and communion card. (please bring a pen or pencil with you). Another usher will help you park. Pastor will broadcast over FM radio. (station will be in bulletin). Communion is at end of service so ushers will guide you, single file in cars to get communion. At that time, they will collect tithes and communion cards. You will place cups in baskets on your way out.

All Wednesday night Lenten soup suppers and services have been cancelled. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will still take place. Easter Sunday will still be two services at 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 am. There will be no breakfast this year.

Obviously, this can change almost daily and we will do our best to keep this going unless our government mandates something different. If so, we will come up with a new plan. Please check our website as any changes will be noted there.

We are trying to complete confirmation classes as these are small groups that meet the requirements of 10 people or less. We are doubling up on lessons so we can minimize the amount of times meeting.

Our search for a permanent organist continues. We do not have any good leads at this time. However, Josh Hua, Shannon and Caleb Krueger and Charlie Hess will continue to help us out.

I want to thank Curt Gnatzig and Paul Heinz for 4 great years of service to St. Andrew and our board. We will miss your knowledge, your ability to lead and tenacity to get things done. Hopefully we will see you back in a year or 2.

I would also like to thank Bob Buehler and Rick Bruss for joining our board this year. Thank you for bringing your experience, time and talents to our board and St. Andrew.

Just a reminder that we have some important dates for you in April. Please see below.

Some dates to keep in mind.

Sunday, Apr 5th—Palm Sunday at 9:00 service
Thursday, Apr 9th---Maundy Thursday at 6:00
Friday, Apr 10th---Good Friday at 6:00
Sunday, Apr 12th---Easter Sunday at 7:00 and 9:00 service—Service only, no breakfast.

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 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,
Ken Betz (Chairman & Fund Raisers/Personnel)
Joseph Gutschmidt (Sick/Shut-Ins)
Bob Buehler (Ushers/Sick/Shut-Ins)

Rick Bruss (Sick/Shut-Ins)
Craig Falk (Youth & Confirmation)
Dave Brehmer (In-actives & Fund
Raisers/Personnel)
Randy Sheffield (Secretary & Music/Readers)

EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPUS

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.
Proverbs 3:5

The following paragraph is taken from a wonderful devotion book called, "Jesus Calling- Enjoying Peace in His Presence" by Sarah Young

I am taking care of you. Trust Me at all times. Trust Me in all circumstances. Trust Me with all your heart. When you are weary and everything seems to be going wrong, you can still utter these four words: "I trust You, Jesus." By doing so, you release matters into My control, and you fall back into the security of My everlasting arms.

Such comforting words. Times are not easy right now, secluding oneself from the world is difficult. It can be lonely, or it can be utter chaos, depending how many are living in your household. But one thing is certain, COVID19 can remind us to trust. For God knows our troubles, and He is holding us in His mighty and loving grip. He won't let go, so you don't let go either.

Our ECC doors are still closed. This week I put together activity/homework packs for our students. It took 3.5 hours but I got them all delivered to each students home. Placing them on the front door was certainly a strange feeling. Seeing my kiddos smiling and waving through the windows brightened my day. One of our 3K students even left me a dozen farm fresh eggs with a note thanking me for his activity pack. Another left me a pretty heart she created with a I miss you note. Blessing in amongst the hard times.

It continues to be very difficult for me to know that my staff is not receiving a salary. If anyone has an idea of how our church can show our three teachers how much they mean to us, reach out to me. I have some ideas myself but would really like it if our congregation reached out along with me.

May you, dear friends, stay healthy and strong,
Sandy

EDUCATION

Even though we are not meeting for the Education Hour and Sunday School classes during this Covid 19 outbreak doesn't mean we should abandon studying God's Word. As Christians we have been "exposed" to Gods Word and we need to continue to read our Bible, devotions, and looking at ways to spend time with God. By praying and not panicing we will find peace that only God can give. Lent and Holy Week we reflect on our faith and remember what God has done for us by taking our sins upon himself and dyeing on the cross. As Christians who have been "exposed" to His Word we know this is not the end of the story. Easter brings new life in Christ for those who believe! We look forward with faith and confidence because our hope is in the Lord. A Happy Easter to everyone! Stay healthy and God bless you!

We are looking forward to May 17th for the Board of Education's Spring Flower sale. It will benefit the Christian Education Tuition Assistance Program. See you there!

Rory Hetzel, Joanne Miller, Judi Riedel and Debbie Yenter

EDUCATION HOUR

Normal lessons have been put on hold until we are able to gather again at church. However Pastor Jon and I are working on some ideas to provide some educational material while we are all stuck at home. Please contact the office or pastor if you would be interested in an interactive bible study. Also keep an eye on the

website for information and resources that can be used for home study.

STEWARDSHIP

What does it mean to be God's steward? This is the sixth article in an eight month series. We'll continue to look into different principles of being God's stewards based on His revealed will. Our lives are lived to make a contribution to others in Christ's name.

Each month we will review one of the principles with a brief article, scripture to pray on, and a few questions to encourage growth.

1. God's stewards are God's stewards
2. God's stewards are managers, not owners
3. God's stewards are saints and sinners
4. God's stewards are uniquely singular, yet profoundly plural
5. God's stewards are in the world, but not of the world
6. **God's stewards are loved and loving**
7. God's stewards are served and serving
8. God's stewards live with an awareness of the present and the future, of time and eternity

God's Stewards Are Loved and Loving

This is a recognition that God loved us first and this empowers us to love others around us with acts of Christ-like love.

Christ's life on earth is the pinnacle of God's divine love for mankind. He became man to obey and love the way we are expected to. Then after living a perfect life, He was crucified to pay for all of our sins. He took on the punishment for our shortcomings. Would you take the place of a murderer in prison, so they could walk free? Could we do that even knowing they will continue to make mistakes?

All of God's commands can fall into two statements: Love God, and Love Your Neighbor. It sounds easy, but it's work. Love isn't the feeling you get in your chest or the

butterflies in your stomach. Love is a verb, it's giving a drink of water, providing food for the hungry, forgiving the one who has hurt you, caring for the environment, helping the homeless, working for just laws, visiting the prisoner, befriending the poor, strengthening the family. All are ways of doing love. God loved us first, which empowers us to love the world.

Review and pray over the following verses: *1 John 4:19, Matt 26:36-39, John 13:34-35.*

A great way to encourage self growth and reflection is to ask 3 simple questions.

- What should I start doing?
- What should I keep doing?
- What should I stop doing?

EVANGELISM

July 18th - we will be having another rummage sale. As you clean during this period at home, set aside items that you would like to donate. We will start collecting items at the beginning of June.

We are still gathering food & items for the food pantry each month and this month we will be collecting canned fruit. As always, we will gladly accept any another food items as well. The food pantry is seeing an influx of families as many are unemployed right now. They could use our donations!

Board Email Addresses

If you need to reach all members of a board, the tech committee has created an email address for each board that will reach all members.

Finance: fin_board@standrew-westbend.org
Elders: elder_board@standrew-westbend.org
Evangelism: evang_board@standrew-westbend.org
Education: ed_board@standrew-westbend.org
Trustees: trust_board@standrew-westbend.org
ECC: ecc_board@standrew-westbend.org

WISH LIST

Approved by Church Council 5/23/2019

Organ

White tables
(type that we have in the fellowship hall)

Replacement chairs for the fellowship hall

Carpet cleaner
(contact a Trustee for specifications)

HandBell Maintenance
(approx.. \$2,000)

Sign for the Front Yard

****If you wish to purchase one of the above items be aware that St. Andrew is a tax-exempt organization. That means we do not have to pay tax on such purchases. Please ask us for a tax-exempt form so tax does not have to be paid.*

We would also be glad to give you a 'donation statement' for your tax purposes.

April 2020 Usher Schedule

April 5

Palm Sunday

9 AM Team #6

Bob Buehler

Norman Rettammel

Randy Sheffield

April 12

Easter

7 AM Team #1

Dan Yenter

Miles Yenter

Carla Peterson

Greg Knox

9 AM Team #2

Ken Betz

Rick Bruss

Blake Sommer

Josh Miller

April 19

9 AM Team #3

Mark Ruback

Myron Kraft

Jeff Schmidt

Dave Brehmer

April 26

9 AM Team #4

Thai Hua

Margie Hua

Josh Hua

Craig Falk

Brady Falk

If you cannot make the Sunday you are scheduled to usher, please find a replacement. Thank you.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Caleb Falk
3 Cathy Grande
3 Pete Hesprich
4 Larry Schilling
5 Jonah Gutschmidt
5 Violet Justman
5 Lee Sommerfeld
6 Darryl Pree
6 Ardene Lettau
8 Kathy Jeske
9 Joshua Hua
11 Deanna Kiel
12 Corbin Becker
13 Bob Buehler
13 Nancy Waechter
15 Joseph Gutschmidt
16 Alex Betz
17 Paul Heinz
17 Debbie Puestow
18 Nancy Kawczynski
21 Michelle Sommerfeld
22 Sue Hetzel
23 Ken Betz
24 Pat Nysse
24 Miles Yenter
27 Rick Bruss
28 Michaela Grande
28 Tom Schilling
29 Jodie Falk
30 Brooke Dieringer
30 Lani Niese



APRIL BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

1 Craig Falk
1 Cliff Hetzel
1 Peggy Kriefall
1 Lori Turenske
2 Larry Hammen
6 Garrett Buth
6 Nathan Eichhorn
8 Kathy Jeske
13 Sharon Oelke
13 Paige Ruback
14 Harper Kirchner
14 Grace Thill
16 Alisa Eichhorn
17 Tracy Rochwite
17 Bryan Woods
21 Mary Bandler
22 Emma Betz
23 Linda Konzal
23 Caleb Sommer
25 Joshua Hua
25 Sophia Justman
27 Emma Sommerfeld
28 Ardene Lettau
30 Nancy Waechter



APRIL WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5 Marty & Karen Gnatzig
10 Dan & Melissa Arps
16 Paul & Kathy Buth

