



**ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**And**  
**Early Childhood Campus**

7750 State. Hwy. 144 N  
www.standrew-westbend.org  
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. & 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 2020**

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

**For YOU**

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. – Isaiah 9:2*

Imagine for a moment that it is late at night and you hear a knock at your door. You put on your robe and slowly open the door and, not seeing anyone around, you glance down to the floor and notice something sitting at your feet...a little basket with a blanket over it. What could it be? Cautiously, you lift the blanket, and what do you see? You see a beautiful baby boy with a note attached to his basket! The note says: "Merry Christmas. This baby boy is for you." How would you respond? "Just what I've always wanted!" Or maybe you would wonder why of all people you were chosen. You'd probably say things like, "I'm too old," or "I don't have time," or "I just don't have room."

Well, 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." You see, there is an important ingredient to the celebration of Christmas...one that the devil tries very hard to get us to overlook: Christ wasn't merely born, He was born FOR US. The Gospel of Luke highlights this point when the angels on high announced the birth of the Savior to the shepherds. They didn't merely say: "The Savior is born." But instead they

said, "*There is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*"

The baby in Mary's arms is your baby. He is God's gift to you to address your greatest need: that being salvation and the forgiveness of sins. And today God opens the door to your hearts and makes room in your hearts for Him as we hear God speak to us through the prophet Isaiah describing this child who was born FOR US, including who He is and what He would set out to accomplish for you and for me.

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 especially love to visit homebound and others who may be staying home because of concerns over COVID 19 and bring God's Word and Jesus' body and blood in the sacrament to you. Please do not hesitate to give me a call or e-mail me.

**Let's Connect!**

Your Brother in Christ,  
Pr. Jonathan Vierkant

**ADDITIONAL WORSHIP**  
**OPPORTUNITIES**

So that you might thank and praise God in this season, we have added a number of additional worship opportunities.

Wednesday Evening Advent Services  
December 2, 9, and 16 at 7 p.m.  
without Holy Communion  
Soup Suppers at 6 p.m.

### **Christmas Eve**

Thursday, December 24 at 4 p.m. and 6 p.m.  
(No Holy Communion)

### **Christmas Day**

Tuesday, December 25 at 9:00 a.m.  
with Holy Communion

## **NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Please have all newsletter articles for January in by **Tuesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>** to Cathy Grande at **standrewchurchwb@gmail.com**. **Confirmations** will be sent for articles sent via e-mail. Thanks.

## **SOUP SUPPERS**

On December 2, 9, &16, 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.

## **BOARD OF ELDERS**

As we move into December, there are a lot of things going on at St. Andrew. Confirmation class is in full swing, Sunday School and Adult Bible classes following 8:00 service, Advent services (list below)... We also have some temporary changes we want to implement regarding our Covid-19 response. Effective November 22<sup>nd</sup> we are making the following temporary changes.

- 8:00am service to be mask mandatory
- 10:30am service mask (highly) recommended w/exception for health/medical needs
- All Advent Wednesday night services to be mask (highly) recommended w/health/medical needs exception
- Christmas Eve 4:00pm mask mandatory (No Communion)
- Christmas Eve 6:00pm mask (highly) recommended (No Communion)

- Christmas Day 9:00am mask (highly) recommended (With Communion)
- Please wear a mask as you walk around the narthex or in close proximity with others.

We will be live streaming these services as well as streaming on FM 103.9 in the parking lot. Again, please understand these are temporary, we know how controversial this is but we ask for your patience and understanding. Thank you...

The elders will sponsor a soup supper on Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will have an elder serving food with mask and gloves on. Future soup suppers will depend on attendance at the 1<sup>st</sup> one and volunteers signing up.

One future date to keep in mind is February 26, 2021 Youth Lock-in from 7:00pm to midnight.

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

## Church Service Cancellation Policy

In case of inclement weather or emergency situations

St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Bend, recognizes the need to cancel services and events due to inclement weather and for the protection/well-being of our congregation members. If Sunday morning service is not cancelled, but we have inclement weather, please use your best judgement for your personal situation.

Meetings or other events, with the exception of Sunday morning Confirmation class, worship service, and Sunday School/Bible Classes, will be cancelled at the discretion of the leader in charge of that event or meeting. The leader will notify those participating in the event(s) or group meetings.

Sunday morning Confirmation class, worship service, and Sunday School/Bible class will be cancelled at the determination of the Pastor and the Chairman of the Elders. The decision will take place as early as possible and will be made no later than 7:00 am the morning of the cancelled Sunday events. It will be communicated to the congregation as soon as possible. Please consult any of the following after 7:30 am on Sundays:

1—WTMJ 4

2—FOX 6 (also AM 920, FM 106.1, OLDIES 95.7, Radio Now 97.3, AM 1130 WISN & V100.7 JAMS)

3—St. Andrew website: [www.standrew-westbend.org](http://www.standrew-westbend.org)

4—Via email from church for those who have signed up (if you have not signed up for emails and would like to, please contact the church office with your email address.

- Confirmation students will receive an email from the Elders about the cancellation of class by 7:15 am.

### EDUCATION

As we move into December and the season of Advent, we prepare for Christ's coming at Christmas. The birth of Jesus is the best gift we could ever receive. His presence in our lives gives us hope, peace and joy! Keep your focus on the Christ child and you will find hope. Study God's word and His message will give you peace! May we remember that Jesus was born to save us from our sins.

The Board of Education would like to encourage you to continue in your journey of faith. We wish you a Christmas filled with hope, peace and joy!

God's blessings and Merry Christmas!  
Rory Hetzel, Joanne Miller, Judi Riedel and Debbie Yenter

### EVANGELISM

Ah, Christmastime. The time of year filled with beautiful décor, messages of love and peace, memorable music, and endless sweet treats. Sweet treats like cookies, breads,

cakes, and candy help make the experience of the Christmas season memorable, but what if one of those sweet treats can help us to remember the reason for the season? Ever since I was a child, I remember hearing about the legend of the candy cane from my pastor, and I do think of it every time I see a candy cane. Supposedly, years ago, a candy maker created a candy to help keep kids quiet in church, and he crafted it to teach a lesson:

1. The J-shape of the candy cane reminds us of Jesus, who was born at Christmas time.
2. Flip over the candy cane and it is in the shape of a shepherd's crook, which reminds us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
3. The red stripes of the candy cane remind us that Jesus shed his blood and died for us.
4. The white background of the candy cane remind us of Jesus' purity and innocence—he did not deserve to die.
5. The sweetness of the candy cane reminds us of how sweet God's love is. Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, he forgives us and will bring us to heaven to live with Him.

This year has been a difficult year for everyone, and judging by how many of my

neighbors had Christmas lights lit up by early November, people are desperate for some light and joy this year. St. Andrew hopes to provide a little light and joy to our neighbors this season by hosting an Outdoor Candy Cane Hunt on December 11 running continuously from 6-8 p.m. Stations will be set up along the trails near the bonfire pit on the south side of the church property. At each station, a volunteer will briefly teach about the candy cane and invite children to search through that station to find a box with candy canes hidden in it (we will have live sheep at one station!). The final station will be our "Sweet Shop" in the garage, where we will provide pre-packaged cookies and cocoa and live music thanks to the West Bend Christmas Brass. The Early Childhood Campus will have a brief live nativity program on the softball field at 6 p.m., and wagon rides will be offered in the front of the church weather-permitting. Because the event is outdoors, social distancing should be easy to observe. So far, the Candy Cane Hunt has been advertised in the West Bend Christmas parade and on the Washington County Insider, and several other media outlets have been contacted. Social media will also be a helpful tool for spreading the word about the event! This can be a powerful opportunity to teach others about Jesus and reach out to the community. We need helpers to make it successful, though!

Here is how you can help:

1. Donate a package or two of store-bought cookies or plastic sandwich bags (need to have them by Wed. Dec. 9).
2. Donate or loan any out-door appropriate candy cane décor, extra Christmas lights, silk flowers, tiki torches, or camping lanterns (please label them if you would like them returned after the event). We would need to have these by Wed. Dec. 9.
3. Help advertise! Share info about the event on social media (watch for the event post from the St. Andrew Facebook page or from the Washington County Insider). Invite friends and family

- to come! Encourage attendees to dress for the weather and bring a flashlight.
4. Help pre-bag the cookies. We will meet on **Wed. Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.** in the church kitchen. Social distancing can easily be observed. Gloves will be provided.
5. Help with setup—probably on **Thurs. Dec. 10 and on Fri. Dec. 11** during the daytime.
6. Help out the night of the event: we will need helpers to pass out maps as people arrive, as well as people to help at each station (there will be a script for you to read from). We will also need help with clean up.

Sign up sheets are on the bulletin board at church, or you can contact the church office or Katie Vierkant ([kevierkant@yahoo.com](mailto:kevierkant@yahoo.com), 217-720-2862) for more information.

May God bless each of you as you share the joy we have in Christ this season!

## **EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPUS**

***Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.  
Luke 2:11***

Babies bring families hope for the future. Will this child be smart, athletic, quiet and shy, or will this child be a leader. Parents dream of what their child will become. Christian parents pray their child will walk in the Light of the Lord all their lives and serve God with a grateful heart. But the baby born in Bethlehem, our Savior, is the only baby that ever brought such a promise as He did. The promise of eternal life! The promise that our sins are forgiven. The promise that God loves us. Did Mary and Joseph look at their newborn and realize all He would become? We are blessed because the Bible, God's own word, shows us who this baby is. Jesus our Savior has been born and this Christmas may you remember the promise that baby was wrapped in.

Due to the mandates and precautions COVID 19 has brought us, our ECC Christmas program will not take place indoors this year. This year join us as the Children put on a Living Nativity on Friday, December 11th at 6:00pm. This will begin the start of the Candy Cane Hunt. Our ECC children will be in costumes and enter the stable as Pastor Jon tells the Christmas story. I am praying for good weather!

We have been blessed once again! By now you may have heard that the carpeting in our gym/fellowship hall is in desperate need of replacement. I applied for the Child Care Counts funding part one in September and was awarded \$1,100 that can be put into maintaining or enhancing high-quality child-care centers. I also applied for part two in November and was awarded \$9,330 which will go to the new flooring and waxing our much in need tile classroom floors. Anyone wishing to contribute to the purchasing of new flooring throughout the gym and kitchen area, please place your gift in an envelope and mark it for flooring. God is so good!

Thank you for sharing God's love for children around the world through Operation Christmas Child. This year I was able to deliver 50 shoeboxes to the drop off point. I pray that the children receiving them will feel the love of God and fellow man. Little hearts will be joyful, that we can be sure of!

Merry Christmas, and may blessing be bestowed on each of you,  
Sandy Ruback

## **GREETING CARDS**

As we approach the Christmas season, check out the selection of religious Christmas cards and other religious cards on the card rack next to the mailboxes in the fellowship hall.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Turenke at 262-689-2303 or the church office.

## **Reader Schedule**

**December 6**

**Old Testament: Micah 5:2-5**  
**Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**  
**8:00 Debbie Yenter**

**December 13**

**Old Testament: Zephaniah 3:14-20**  
**Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7**  
**8:00 Karen Gnatzig**

**December 20**

**Old Testament: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11**  
**Epistle: 1 John 4:7-12**  
**8:00 Carla Peterson**

**December 27**

**Old Testament: Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3**  
**Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7**  
**8:00 Jodie Falk**

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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



18 Joan Schlicht  
21 Michele Buehler  
21 Sue Harrison  
28 Pat McWilliams  
28 Leo Ruback  
30 Kara Ruback  
31 Will Hale

## DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

7 Gary & Debbie Puestow  
17 Chris & Alisa Eichhorn  
20 Pete & Donna Hesprich  
27 Lee & Sharon Oelke



## DECEMBER BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

2 Sydney Brehmer  
2 Zachary Brehmer  
4 Xander McKee  
5 Emily Shebanek  
6 Olivia Dieringer  
6 Lucille Woods  
7 Matthew Neumann  
9 Sandra Holladay  
10 Sandy Ruback  
11 Landon Thill  
12 Jennifer Backhaus  
12 Steve Williams  
13 Paige Kirchner  
13 Katie Vierkant  
14 Deborah Osgood  
17 Carla Peterson

