



**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 2022**

**PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

**Within My Heart**

Martin Luther composed several Christmas hymns, among them the hymn "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come." It is a favorite hymn, one which we today never tire of singing or hearing. We hum it or sing it probably many times during the Advent-Christmas season.

Luther wrote the hymn for his little son Hans and it was to be sung at the family Christmas celebration.

One verse is particularly impressive. It is the one which says,

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,  
 Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,  
 A quiet chamber set apart  
 For You to dwell within my heart.

The hymn verse says to us that the coming of the Christ Child isn't only for the manger in Bethlehem, but our hearts, as well. Our hearts are mangers, too. If we have Him in our hearts, the battles we face each day, the troubles we encounter, and the fears which threaten us will shrink in size and will not seem nearly as menacing.

In fact, as we stand at the door of a new year, we rejoice that Jesus is with us. He was present with us each day of 2022. And as He invites us to step into the new year of 2023, we need not be afraid, but Jesus will be there with us!

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 due to health-related concerns to bring God's Word and Jesus' body and blood in the sacrament to you. Please do not hesitate to give me a call.

Let's Connect!

Pastor Jon 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 7, and 14 at 7 p.m.  
 without Holy Communion  
 Soup Suppers at 6 p.m.

**Christmas Eve**

Saturday, December 24 at 3 p.m.  
 (No Holy Communion)

**Christmas Day**

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

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Please have **all** newsletter articles for January in by **Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>** to Cathy Grande at **standrewchurchwb@gmail.com**.

## **BOARD OF ELDERS**

We are in one of the most blessed seasons of the year—the time we celebrate the birth of God’s Son, Jesus. Advent services will be held on Wednesday nights (12/7 & 12/14) with soup supper starting at 6:00 to feed our bodies and the worship service starting at 7:00 to feed our souls. The Elders will be making the soups for the first soup supper and if you would like to bring desserts, cheese, crackers or drinks, please sign up on the bulletin board. If you would like to volunteer to bring soup for the second or third supper you can sign up on those sign-up sheets located on the bulletin board in the kitchen area.

We are trying something a bit different this year by combining the Sunday School Christmas Eve & our normal Christmas Eve services. We will have the service on Saturday (12/24) starting at 3:00 as our only Christmas Eve service so be sure to join us. We will also have our Christmas Day/Sunday service on Sunday (12/25) at the normal 9:00 am time. Please join us for as many services as you can during the Advent & Christmas season to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

It is getting to that time of the year when Board members will be going off their Boards and we need new members to fill in. Please decide which Board you would like to serve on and contact the Chairperson of that Board, or one of the members to let them know you would be interested, or if you have questions about what the Board’s responsibilities are. A list of Boards, and their members, is located on the bulletin board in the kitchen area

We are getting into the season of snow & cold temperatures. The Pastor and the Chairman of the Elders will make the decision if the church service needs to be cancelled no later than 2 hours before the start of the service and we will communicate the cancellation no later than 1.5 hours before the service. Please consult the following for the notification.

1—WTMJ 4

2—Fox 6 (also AM 920, FM 106.1, Oldies 95.7, Radio Now 97, and AM 1130 WISN)

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

4—St. Andrew Facebook page

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

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,  
Rick Bruss--Chairman & Youth/Confirmation  
(262-338-8149)  
Randy Sheffield—Secretary, Music/Reader  
(262-689-5405)  
Bob Buehler— In-Actives,  
Fundraiser/Personnel (262-334-4013)  
Thai Hua—Ushers (262-388-6434)  
Dan Berres—Sick/Shut-ins & Care Ministry  
(262-689-4584)

## **BOARD OF MINISTRIES**

The Advent and Christmas seasons bring us many opportunities to reach out to our neighbors and share with them about the

blessing of Christ born for us! Here are some things to watch for:

- **Kewaskum Christmas Parade:** St. Andrew will have a float in the Kewaskum Christmas Parade on Dec. 4! We always need people to walk in the parade (details about timing will be available in church that morning), or come cheer us on!
- **Candy Cane Hunt** (Dec. 9 from 6-8 p.m., Dec. 10 from 3-5 p.m.): Explore various stations on the church property to learn what the candy cane can teach us about Jesus! Cookies and cocoa will be available. We can always use volunteers-sign up on bulletin board or contact the church office to be added to the list. Otherwise, please come visit! This event is open to anyone in the community—invite friends and neighbors to attend!
- **Twelfth Night Dinner** (Jan. 8 from 5-7 p.m.): Come join us for a delicious dinner, church blessing, carol singing, and de-decorating the Christmas tree! If you are lucky, you may be crowned King of the day! More details and sign up will be available soon.
- **Food Drive for Friends in Need:** The Board of Ministries is planning a food drive and distribution for friends and neighbors in need. We plan to gather food through the month of January and deliver food close to Valentine's Day in February. This month we will collect names of eligible people/families so we can plan how much food to collect. Do you know a local friend or family in a difficult financial situation that could benefit from 2-3 meals-worth of food? Please contact the church office with their name, contact information, and how many family members are in their family, or fill out a nomination form (will be available this month in church). Names will be kept private and confidential. Please contact the Board of Ministries

([min\\_board@standrew-westbend.org](mailto:min_board@standrew-westbend.org)) with any questions!

May the peace of Christ be with you throughout this joyous season!

## EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPUS

What a wonderful time of year -- a time to decorate, bake, and share gifts with others. But more importantly, a time to remember that Jesus was the ultimate gift God blessed us with. It has been amazing to see how excited for Christmas the ECC children are already! It's such a joy to teach them the Christmas story and help them remember the real reason for the season. We can't wait to celebrate Jesus' birth! We will even be singing Happy Birthday to Jesus in our Christmas program (December 16th at 6:30 p.m.) Please feel free to join us if you'd like).

I wish you all a Blessed Christmas.

Lindsey

## SISTERS IN CHRIST

Thank you to all that filled an Operation Christmas Child shoebox. With the help of our ECC campus families we were able to send off a lot of shoeboxes filled with Christmas joy for boys and girls around the world.

**GIVING TREE** Due to the fewer number of residents at the Samaritan Home, they are not in need of Christmas gifts from our church. Our Giving Tree recipient this year will be Family Promise. Please take a tag off of the small tree in the narthex and purchase the item on the tag. Items do not have to be wrapped. Place your gift in the baskets labeled Family Promise by Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Christmas Party** You are cordially invited to the Sisters In Christ Christmas Party at Charcoal Grill on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 5:30pm (dinner at 6:00pm). Please join us for a fun filled evening to celebrate the birth of

Jesus! Dinner choices can be found on the bulletin board (you will pay separately at the venue). You are welcome to participate in our exciting gift exchange. Bring along two of your favorite things, each the same (not to exceed \$5 each) and wrap each one individually. Maybe it's chocolate, candy, soap, hand lotion, candles, tea or a book. Anything that is a favorite of yours! Please sign-up on the Bulletin Board no later than December 4<sup>th</sup>. Bring along a friend! We have the good news of Christmas to share!

We wish all our Sisters in Christ a very merry and joy filled Christmas.

Abundant Blessings Sisters!  
Sandy, Judi, and Kathy

### **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 Turenske at 262-689-2303 or the church office.

### **CHRISTMAS TREE CHRISMONS**

Chrismons, meaning "Christ monograms" were first developed in 1957 by Frances Spencer and the women of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA. They wanted to make their church's Christmas tree decorations more meaningful by displaying ornaments that signify Christ and His identity, His story, and the Holy Trinity. Chrismons are typically made in white and gold; white symbolizes the purity of Christ, the Son of man, and the gold symbolizes the majesty of Christ the Son of God. Many Sisters in Christ gathered to make our own Chrismons for our tree. Check out the meanings of each ornament displayed next to the tree.

**CHURCH SECRETARY NEEDED.** If you, or you know someone, who might be interested in the position of St. Andrew Church Secretary, please contact one of the Elders, Pastor or the church office.

### **SCRIP**

Christmas is coming up soon! Start stocking up on stocking stuffers or shop for friends and family using our St. Andrew SCRIP cards. We'll have \$5 and \$10 small denomination cards available for purchase every Sunday. You can also peruse the retailer list and order gift cards for your loved ones, friends, teachers, or anyone else you're gifting to.

Our final order will be December 11th so that you can have them in time for Christmas. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to see Carla Peterson, Laurie Pree, or Melissa Knox.

### **ADVENT DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

In *A Son Is Given*, we look at the promise of God to send His Messiah as fulfilled in Jesus. The Heavenly Father made good on His ancient pledge. In Jesus we have the love of God come to earth in the form of a Child, who is for us the Savior of the world.

The Advent devotions can be found at <https://www.lhm.org/advent/> or you can contact the office for a printed version (regular or large print versions available)

### **Reader Schedule**

**December 4**  
**Old Testament: Isaiah 11:1-10**  
**Epistle: Romans 15:4-13**  
**Bob Buehler**

**December 11**  
**Old Testament: Isaiah 35:1-10**  
**Epistle: James 5:7-11**  
**Mason Falk**

**December 18**  
**Old Testament: Isaiah 7:10-17**  
**Epistle: Romans 1:1-7**  
**Debbie Yenter**

**December 25**  
**Old Testament: Isaiah 52:7-10**  
**Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-6**  
**Michele Buehler**



**Lutherans For Life**  
*Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors  
to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life*

Christmas greetings and a thank you from LFL of WI, Ozaukee County Chapter!

We encourage you to share the LIFE message this Christmas with those you meet. We are **CREATED BY GOD** (Psalm 139: 13-16); we are **REDEEMED BY JESUS** (Isaiah 43:1); we are **CALLED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT** (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

“When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb.”

Luke 1:39-56

Wombs are supposed to be safe places. Soft, like the yarn of a meticulous knitting.

Snug, like the grasp of God’s own hands. But before your eighteen-day cardiac cells started palpitating, before your seven-week brain began to wave, creation’s decay already ate away at you. Your own sinful nature twisted you inward with a monstrous rot that wrought dysfunction, discomfort, disease, and disaster from the instant your DNA first replicated.

Jesus—our Emmanuel, God with us—entered this space too. He, though, dwelled in the womb and was without sin. In His Incarnation, Jesus composes of this precious time a song about forgiveness, embrace and exchange, substitution and atonement. Tiny Almighty choreographs in it a dance of grace and faith, promise and purpose.

“For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy” (Luke 1:44).

How precious His compassion has held you too since you first appeared in utero, that He has inhabited not only flesh but also cross and grave with you to comfort and deliver.

He who has brought life and immortality to light still loves nothing more than to shine in the darkness, and even the valley of the shadow of death has not overcome it. “If I say, ‘Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,’ even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made!” (Psalm 139:11-14).

- Rev. Michael Salemink

#### REGARDING MEDIA SURROUNDING LIFE ISSUES; THE FACTS

- Abortion is NOT healthcare, there is nothing medically necessary about it, not even to save the life of a mother. In that rare case, the baby would be delivered respectfully and given care.

- Abortion is NOT a right, there was never a Constitutional basis for it. They egregiously decided Roe was rightfully overturned, states will now decide the issue of abortion individually via the legislative process.

In the case of rape/incest (.5- 1% of unplanned pregnancies), we have to be bold and proclaim that an unborn child has worth! The mother needs support and love! Telling a fragile mother in crisis that her baby should be killed is not compassionate, it is a strategy of evil, the enemy. Exceptions do not work. Science tells us that life begins at conception, therefore that child is worthy of protection and love from the moment of conception. God is the author of life, every life is intentional.

Please join us for the next meeting of LFL of WI, Ozaukee County Chapter, Tuesday, February 21, 2023, 7:00 PM, at River of Life Lutheran Church in Saukville. Concordia Students for Life will share their experience at the

March for Life in Washington D.C. in January.  
For additional information and resources from  
Lutherans for Life, please  
see <https://lutheransforlife.org/>, resources tab.

## 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.

You can look at the following areas to find out if Sunday service has been cancelled:

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)

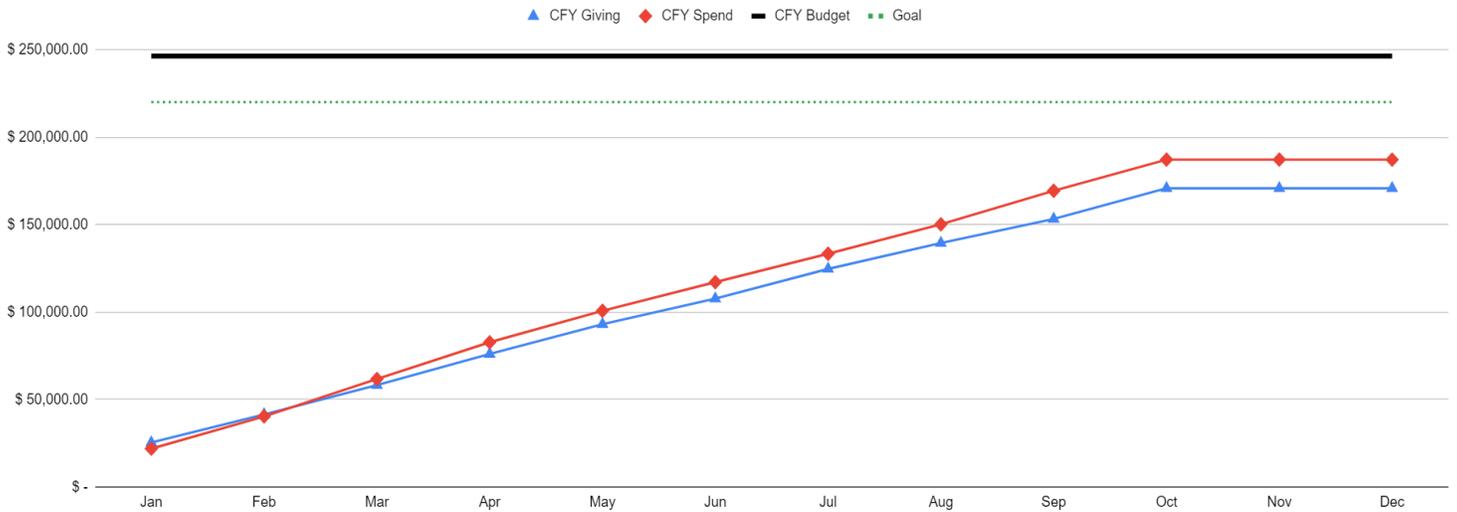
3-- St. Andrew website: [www.standrew-westbend.org](http://www.standrew-westbend.org).

4—St. Andrew Facebook page

5--Via email from church for those who have signed up

## FINANCIALS-AT-A-GLANCE

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Givings</b>	\$25,476.65	\$16,052.03	16,772.62	17,768.00	17,012.14	14,597.84	16,978.50	14,784.50	13,795.45	17,497.00		
<b>Spend</b>	\$21,973.51	\$18,440.06	21,359.67	20,995.79	17,980.69	16,359.70	16,220.33	16,804.53	19,187.62	17,794.41		
<b>CFY Giving</b>	\$25,476.65	\$41,528.68	58,301.30	76,069.30	93,081.44	107,679.28	124,657.78	139,442.28	153,237.73	170,734.73	170,734.73	170,734.73
<b>CFY Spend</b>	\$21,973.51	\$40,413.57	61,773.24	82,769.03	100,749.72	117,109.42	133,329.75	150,134.28	169,321.90	187,116.31	187,116.31	187,116.31
<b>CFY Budget</b>	246,232.00	246,232.00	246,232.00	246,232.00	246,232.00	246,232.00	246,232.00	246,232.00	246,232.00	246,232.00	246,232.00	246,232.00
<b>Goal</b>	220,000.00	220,000.00	220,000.00	220,000.00	220,000.00	220,000.00	220,000.00	220,000.00	220,000.00	220,000.00	220,000.00	220,000.00



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Sandy Ruback  
2 Kevin Falk  
5 Ryan Riedel  
6 Diane Nelson  
6 Harper Ratzel  
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



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  
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  
10 Sandy Ruback  
11 Landon Thill  
12 Jennifer Backhaus  
13 Katie Vierkant  
14 Deborah Osgood  
17 Carla Peterson  
18 Joan Schlich

