



## St. Andrew Lutheran Church



February 2015

**Reverend Ed Filter, Pastor**

**Worship Service Sunday 10 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Bible Study Sunday 9 a.m.**

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Website: www.portlandstandrew.com

**Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool**

### From *the Pastor's* Desk

Dear Friends and Members of St. Andrew,

Saw a quote this week that I thought was really important for folks who go to church together. It is from Robertson McQuikin and goes like this: "The sin of unforgiveness is a cancer that destroys relationships, eats away at one's own spirit, and worst of all- shuts us off from God's mercy, love and grace. It leaves us hurt, frustrated, angry, and crippled to live a new life of hope and opportunity."

Wow! Jesus knew what he was talking about when he taught us to pray in the Lord's prayer, "and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us." And Paul knew too when he wrote to the Ephesians, "Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just God through Christ has forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:32, NIV).

Anger, it comes in so many forms and for many reasons. We can justify our anger, we can explain our anger, and we can keep our anger. The only problem is that our anger will never lead us to a place of peace, hope, and excitement.

In his book, "When God Whispers Your Name," Max Lucado notes several things,

"Anger: It's easy to define: the noise of the soul. Anger: The unseen irritant of the heart. Anger: the relentless invader of silence...."

"Some of you are thinking.... you don't have any idea how hard my life has been. And you're right, I don't. But I have a very clear idea how miserable your future will be unless you deal with your anger."

"X-ray the world of the vengeful and behold the tumor of bitterness: black, menacing, malignant.... Its fatal fibers creep around the edge of the heart and ravage it. Yesterday you can't alter, but your reaction to yesterday you can. The past you cannot change, but your response to your past you can."

Today, as we start the month of "love" as some call February with Valentine's in the middle of it, would be a good day to allow God to give you His forgiveness as you learn to forgive those who have hurt you.... bugged you... haven't done things the way you thing they should be done. Say the words, "I forgive...." and your journey to freedom begins.

As we are led by the Holy Spirit to take our eyes off the past and focus on King Jesus we will be free to be a part of God's plans to build a great tomorrow. Wow! A great tomorrow! A new! How awesome is that?

During the month of February you can a bunch of great days with King Jesus as He gets you ready to be a part of a new tomorrow . It all begins at the cross. God's richest blessings on your journey to freedom through the doorway of forgiveness. See you Sunday!

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Filter

## February Schedules

### Acolyte

- 2/1 Jacob Veale  
2/8 Cam Roof  
2/15 Sadie Veale  
2/18 Dawson Collins  
7 pm Ash Wednesday  
2/22 Charlotte Kleitch  
2/25 Mya Collins  
7 pm Wed. Lent Service

### Altar Guild

Nancy Filter  
Brandee Novara

### Elder

Tom Fryover

### Fellowship

- 2/1 Jack & Mary Sandborn  
2/8 Pastor & Nancy Filter  
2/15 Nita Massey  
2/22 Chris & Laura Roof

### Greeters

- 2/1 Jack & Mary Sandborn  
2/8 Roof Family  
2/15 Tom Fryover  
2/18 Pastor & Nancy Filter  
7 pm Ash Wednesday  
2/22 Tracy Kleitch  
2/25 Tom Fryover  
7 pm Wed. Lent Service

### Nursery

- 2/1 Hannah Wakley  
2/8 Charlotte Kleitch  
2/15 Hannah Wakley  
2/22 Karlie Sprague

### Worship Readers

- 2/1 Mark Haworth  
2/8 Tim & Michelle Perry  
2/15 Elena Brooks  
2/18 Mark Haworth  
7 pm Ash Wednesday  
2/22 Nancy Filter  
2/25 Mary Sandborn  
7 pm Lent Service

## Newsletter



New in 2015, St. Andrew will begin publishing it's newsletter in electronic format on a monthly basis. Sending the newsletter via email and making it available on our church website will help our budget by saving on the cost of paper, copying and postage, and should allow you to receive it in a more timely manner.

Please contact Pastor or Sue in the office or sign up on the sheet in the narthex **before February 15th** to provide the email address(es) where you would like your newsletter sent. We can send a copy of the newsletter to every member in your family if you'd like, simply provide the name and an email address for those wishing to receive the newsletter.

You don't have email or a computer, or you feel like you are tech challenged? No worries. Please contact Pastor or Sue in the office or sign up on the sheet in the narthex **before February 15th** to let us know that you would like to receive a paper copy of the newsletter. We will print paper copies for those without email.

## Choir



Do you enjoy singing? We are looking for new voices to add to our choir. Choir practice will begin for Holy Week and Easter on Wednesday, February 25th after Lenten services at 7:45p.m. and will take place each Wednesday in Lent after that. We would love to have you join us. No prior choir experience is necessary, just a love of singing. Please talk to Choir Director Nancy Filter or Pastor if you have any questions about our choir or would like to join.

## Communion Services

With the beginning of the new year, we have a new communion schedule at St. Andrew. Communion will now be offered at every weekly service. This is at the request of many members, with approval from the Elders and Council. Should you have any questions about this change, please talk to Pastor.

## Men's Group

*New Date!*

The Men's Group meets once a month, now on the **third Sunday** of the month. The Men meet at church and then head out to a local restaurant for breakfast, where they enjoy a bite of breakfast and a bit of fellowship before heading back for worship service. The next Men's Group meeting date is **February 15th**. If you have questions or would like to get the location of the next breakfast, please contact Pastor.

## Community Blood Drive

Please consider giving the "Gift of Life" by donating blood at the Blood Drive on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. at the Portland Knights of Columbus, 690 Maynard Rd.. It is best to call for an appointment at 1-800-733-2767, but walk-ins are welcome.

## Ladies Group

*New Date!*

**Meetings:** The Ladies Group meets once a month and beginning in February, they will meet on the **third Sunday of the month** in the Conference Room. These meetings are very casual where the ladies work together to make plans for all types of events. If you are interested in joining the Ladies Group or have questions please talk to Elena Brooks, Nancy Filter, Mary Eisenhauer, Ruth Helmreich or Tracy Kleitch — they welcome your questions and would love to have you join the group! The next meeting is **February 15th**.

**Cookie Decorating:** We will have cookie decorating for preschoolers, youth and those young at heart after worship services on **February 8th** in the fellowship hall. We will provide the cookies, frosting and sprinkles! Simply join us for yummy cookies and great fellowship!



**Valentine Potluck:** On **February 15th** we will hold a potluck for the congregation in honor of Valentine's Day and friendships. Bring a salad, side dish or dessert to pass. We will provide the rest! Join us and enjoy good food and a bit of fellowship with your church friends.

**Secret Soul Sister:** On **February 15th** we will reveal our Secret Soul Sisters for the past year. Ladies that participated should plan to bring a "thank you" gift for the person who has been your Secret Soul Sister, the person who has been praying for you and giving you notes and gifts throughout the year. After the reveal, we will draw names for the 2015 Secret Soul Sister program. We encourage all ladies to join our Secret Soul Sister program, it is for all ladies that wish to participate. Sign up forms are available in the narthex. Completed sign up forms can be put in Elena's mail box or brought with you to the drawing. Once we draw names and you receive your SSS, keep your SSS in your prayers and simply let them know that you are thinking of them with either a card or small gifts throughout the year.

**Lent Meals:** We will be providing meals during Lent and are hoping that you will be able to join us. Meals will be at 6 pm before Lenten services on **Feb. 25, Mar. 4, 11, 18 and 25** in the Fellowship Hall. Mary Sandborn will let us know what the meal will be for each date prior to the meal. We accept free will donations for the meals; donations collected go to the Ladies Group to help fund projects, events and scholarships.

**Game Night:** Bring a game or play one of ours, but plan to join us for our next Game Night! We always have lots of fun, plenty of games, great fellowship, lots of fun, yummy snacks, and oh, did we mention lots of fun!!! Bring a snack to share if you'd like, beverages are provided by the Ladies Group. Bring the family, friends and neighbors. Our next Game Night will be **Saturday, February 28th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** If you have any questions about Game Night please talk to Tracy Kleitch or Pastor.



**Book Talk:** Our current book is *The Hundred-Foot Journey* by Richard C. Morai. Our "book talk" will be on **March 7th** at 9:15 a.m. at the Looking Grand Café. Please visit our website at [www.standrewbooktalk.weebly.com](http://www.standrewbooktalk.weebly.com) for more details on the book. There is also a list of all of the books that the book club has read.



**Camp Scholarships:** We are pleased, once again, to offer scholarships to Camp Concordia to our youth. Scholarships of up to \$50 per youth are available for youth of St. Andrew that attend Camp Concordia. Once your youth is registered for camp, simply speak to Elena Brooks, Nita Massey or Pastor and we will get the scholarship to your youth. You will find Camp Concordia information on page 6 of this newsletter. If you have questions about Camp Concordia speak with Pastor.

## February Birthdays



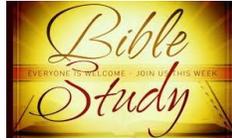
- 2/1 Kathy Peters
- 2/3 Kenadee Lefke (18)
- 2/4 Cassandra Cummins (10)  
Chris Roof
- 2/5 Dawson Collins (14)  
Jennifer Larimer
- 2/6 Isabella Roof (3)
- 2/7 Brenda Simpson
- 2/8 Jack Sandborn
- 2/11 Zachary Cooke (18)
- 2/13 John Bauer
- 2/14 Abigail Frost (14)
- 2/16 Emily Filter  
Jordyn Spitzley (17)  
Kevin Veale
- 2/17 Ann Dennis
- 2/21 Dillion Chapman (15)
- 2/22 John Gustafson  
Lauren Marcum
- 2/23 Nick Lefke  
Mandy Tahvonen
- 2/24 Kathy Kenyon
- 2/25 Jeff Massey

## February Anniversaries



- 2/1 Deane & Marsha Battley  
51 Years
- 2/13 John & Susan Martin
- 2/14 Rob & Shelley Heindel

## Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study

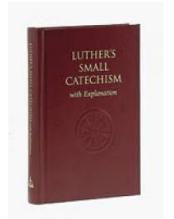


Our Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study continues to meet each week at 9 a.m. However, we will take a break the first week in February while Pastor is gone to a two-day conference.

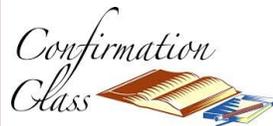
We will begin again on Wednesday, February 11th with a new topic: *Blessings in Disguise*, a four week session dealing with Jesus' Sermon on the Plain from Luke 6. Plan now to join us. No homework. Just come and participate!

## Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

Our Sunday morning Adult Bible Study meets at 9:10 a.m. each Sunday in the Conference Room. Beginning the second Sunday in February, February 8th, Pastor will be offering another session of his Adult Inquirer's class to help folks learn more about what it means to be Lutheran. No homework and plenty of chances to ask questions. It can lead to Baptism or membership at St. Andrew but it is also a good chance to review your Lutheran faith. See Pastor if you have questions.



## Confirmation Class



Confirmation class resumed in January after taking a brief recess over the Christmas and New Year holiday's. Classes in February are scheduled for February 1 and 15. On February 1 we will discuss class on the 15th and the Valentine potluck; we are hoping to make both events work for everyone. If you are not able to attend a class please contact Pastor so that he is aware.

## Prayer Growth

Our Prayer Growth meetings continue to meet monthly on the third Monday to pray for our Pastor, ministries and special request as well as looking at ways to reach out to folks who don't have a church. The next meeting will be February 16th at 6:30 p.m.



## Altar Flowers

If you would like to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or other special occasion and help us adorn the altar with flowers, please sign up on the calendar in the narthex near the entry doors. As we have had to trim our church budget, if no one signs up for altar flowers, there will be no flowers on the altar for those days. Cost is \$24, simply sign up on the calendar.



## Stewardship Corner

### Giving Expresses Our Gratitude

An old legend tells of a man visiting Africa who was amazed to find boys playing marbles with diamonds. The boys, however, found nothing unusual in this; this was the only kind of stones they knew.

There is a danger that the familiar can lose its value. What wonderful truths we hear each Sunday from our pulpit! What gracious gifts we regularly receive through the Sacraments! What a treasure is the Word of God which we own and can read whenever we wish! What value do we place on these things of God? How long can God trust us as stewards of His Gospel if we treat it so lightly and neglect the opportunities to spread His Word?

In the New Testament, hardly any facet of the Christian life is discussed more often than that of giving. The Bible teaches that it is the obligation of all, the rich and the poor, to give regularly, proportionately, and in the name of and for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible teaches that giving is an act of faith, of thanksgiving, and of gratitude for our God and for what has done for us. Scripture tells us that "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7) and that He wants us to excel in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7). Thankfully, God tells us that He will make it possible for us to give, when He tells us "And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, He may abound in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

Let us pray, then, that we would once again comprehend the sacrifice that has won our eternal salvation. Let us tell others of the wonderful hope and love that can be found in Jesus. Let us place our gifts in the offering plates as though they were the nail-scarred hands of Jesus.



## Wee Grow Christian Preschool

Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director  
phone: 517-526-4147



There is still time to order for the annual preschool Pasty & Sub Fundraiser. We are selling four different kinds of pasties: Chicken, Beef with Rutabaga, Veggie and Beef without Rutabaga. Pasties are \$4.50 each and will be made by Viki's Pasty Shop in Saranac. We will also be selling four different kinds of subs, all on a 6" white bun for \$3.50. We have Pizza Sub (ham, pepperoni and mozzarella cheese), Roast Beef/Provolone, Ham/Swiss or Turkey/Provolone. Please let Sandy Peabody know as soon as possible if you are interested in placing an order. Thank you if you already ordered!!!



Our Open House will be March 3rd, 2015 from 4:30-7 p.m. to enroll for the fall of 2015. The registration fee is \$50, which is non-refundable. The three year old class will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45 to 11:15 a.m. and the tuition will be \$85. The four year old class will be held Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:45-11:45 a.m. and the tuition will be \$110. Enrollment for members of St. Andrew begins on February 1st. Please call Sandy Peabody for more information.

The preschool will also be organizing an indoor garage sale or a mom-to-mom sale which will be held on March 21st at the Knights of Columbus Hall. We are still in the planning stage. Set up will be Friday night. If you would like to rent a table contact Sandy Peabody.

Camp  
Scholarships  
Available  
See page 3



## Camp Concordia Summer Camp Adventures

Just north of Grand Rapids forty minutes, west of Detroit about two hours, camp staff are finalizing preparations of incredible summer camp experiences for your kids, your grandkids, your neighbor's kids.

Brochures are available on the table in the narthex at St. Andrew or by contacting [office@campconcordia.org](mailto:office@campconcordia.org). You can also gather all your information at [www.campconcordia.org](http://www.campconcordia.org) and use the online registration.



Imagine canoeing the chain of lakes with you cabin mates, shooting arrows, cooking out and swimming your heart out. Or imagine a special camp that includes building and launching model rockets, riding horses, hitting the trails with your bike and more. Camp sessions range in age from 3-5 year olds with a parent to Children's Camp (Grades 1-5), to youth Camps (Grades 6-8) and High School camp. Also look for Family Camp opportunities at Camp Concordia.

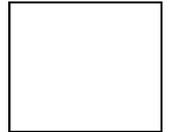


**\*\* Camp Concordia Scholarships available from the Ladies Group of St. Andrew \*\***  
See page 3 for details





**ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool  
8867 Kent Street  
Portland, MI 48875



## Lent & Easter Events

### **February 18 (Wednesday)**

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service  
“*What it is to be Penitent*” Psalm 5

### **February 22 (Sunday)**

10 a.m. Worship Service, First Sunday in Lent

### **February 25 (Wednesday)**

6 p.m. Lenten Meal in Fellowship Hall  
7 p.m. Lent Worship Service  
“*Blessed are the Penitent*” Psalm 32

### **March 1 (Sunday)**

10 a.m. Worship Service, Second Sunday in Lent

### **March 4 (Wednesday)**

6 p.m. Lenten Meal in Fellowship Hall  
7 p.m. Lent Worship Service  
“*The Disposition of the Penitent*” Psalm 38

### **March 8 (Sunday)**

10 a.m. Worship Service, Third Sunday in Lent

### **March 11 (Wednesday)**

6 p.m. Lenten Meal in Fellowship Hall  
7 p.m. Lent Worship Service  
“*The Penitent Pray for a Penitent Heart*” Psalm 51

### **March 15 (Sunday)**

10 a.m. Worship Service, Fourth Sunday in Lent

### **March 18 (Wednesday)**

6 p.m. Lenten Meal in Fellowship Hall  
7 p.m. Lent Worship Service  
“*The Afflicted Penitent Hopes in the Eternal Lord*” Psalm 102

### **March 22 (Sunday)**

10 a.m. Worship Service, Fifth Sunday in Lent

### **March 25 (Wednesday)**

6 p.m. Lenten Meal in Fellowship Hall  
7 p.m. Lent Service  
“*The Penitent Waits Patiently on the Lord*” Psalm 130

### **March 29 (Sunday)**

10 a.m. Worship Service Palm Sunday

### **April 2 (Thursday)**

7 p.m. Worship Service Maundy Thursday

### **April 3 (Friday)**

7 p.m. Worship Service Good Friday

### **April 5 (Sunday)**

7 a.m. Worship Service Easter-Sunrise  
9 a.m. Breakfast  
9:15 a.m. Egg Hunt  
10 a.m. Worship Service Easter