



St. Andrew Lutheran Church



March 2015

Reverend Ed Filter, Pastor

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

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Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool

From *the Pastor's Desk*

Dear Friends and Members of St. Andrew,

The season of Lent has begun and it's certainly a season of repentance and forgiveness. We certainly want to be forgiven but often it's more difficult to forgive others. Robertson McQuiken says about not being able to forgive, "The sin of forgiveness is a cancer that destroys relationships, eats away at one's own psyche, and worst of all shuts us off from God's grace. It leave hurt, frustrated, angry and crippled to live a new life of hope and opportunity."

Scripture has a lot to say about this as well. First of all, Jesus himself, "and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us." (Matthew 6:12) Then there's Paul in two of his letters: "Instead be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you" (Ephesians 4:32) and "Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others" (Colossians 3:13).

It's hard to believe that we are already into our Lenten journey that will again lead us to a glorious celebration of the resurrection of King Jesus. This is a great time to think about the reality of our sin and the price Jesus paid to bring forgiveness into our lives and new opportunities for transformed lives.

Forgiveness. What a life changing concept. Hope. Forgiveness offered by Jesus to all who ask. Forgiveness that leads to freedom and new beginnings.

It is interesting to note human behavior. We are quick to receive the promise of forgiveness for our mistakes but struggle to offer the same gift to others in our lives. Have you ever stopped to think of the consequences we experience because we are unwilling to forgive those who make mistakes that affect our lives?

In his book "When God Whispers Your Name", Max Lucado shares some intriguing ideas that lead us to the importance of developing a heart of forgiveness.

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

Anger: The relentless invader of silence..."

"The louder it gets the more desperate we become..."

"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 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 humor 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."

Commit to forgive this Lenten season and set your spirit free. Let the anger go and breath the rest air of the hand of God in your lives. Learn to forgive and you will see life from a whole new perspective. Today would be a good day to allow God to give us His forgiveness as we forgive those who have hurt us. Join us on Wednesdays as we explore what it means to be penitent in the eyes of the Psalmists and on Sundays as well to hear again the assurance that because we are forgiving through the blood of Jesus we can be forgiving towards others as well.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Filter

March Schedules

Acolyte

- 1 Emma Wakley
- 4 Cam Roof -7pm/Wed.
- 8 Dawson Collins
- 11 Cam Roof -7pm/Wed.
- 15 Hannah Wakley
- 18 Dawson Collins -7 pm/Wed.
- 22 Charlotte Kleitch
- 25 Mya Collins -7 pm/Wed.
- 29 Sadie Veale

Altar Guild

Nita Massey
Marsha Battley

Elder

Tom Fryover

Fellowship

- 1 Tom Fryover
- 8 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 15 Frank & Mary Eisenhauer
- 22 Diane & Nathan Sprague
- 29 Sue Ruehs

Greeters

- 1 Pastor & Nancy Filter
- 4 Brooks Family -7pm/Wed.
- 8 Roof Family
- 11 Jack & Mary Sandborn -7pm/Wed
- 15 Brooks Family
- 18 Pastor & Nancy Filter 7 pm/Wed
- 22 Tracy Kleitch
- 25 Jack & Mary Sandborn -7pm/Wed
- 29 Brooks Family

Nursery

- 1 Hannah Wakley
- 8 Charlotte Kleitch
- 15 Karlie Sprague
- 22 Charlotte Kleitch
- 29 Karlie Sprague

Worship Readers

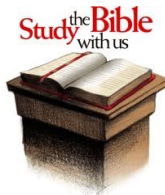
- 1 Jeanne Bauer
- 4 Nancy Filter 7 pm/Wed.
- 8 Tim & Michelle Perry
- 11 Mary Eisenhauer 7 pm/Wed.
- 15 Tom Fryover
- 18 Mark Haworth 7 pm/Wed.
- 22 Jeanne Bauer
- 25 Nancy Filter 7 pm/Wed.
- 29 Elena Brooks

Choir



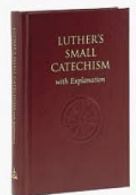
We have new music for Easter and would love to have new voices, too! If you enjoy singing, we would love to have you join our choir—no prior experience necessary, just a love of singing. Choir practice is every Wednesday in Lent, at 7:45p.m. after Lenten services. If you would like to join the choir or have any questions about the choir please talk to Choir Director Nancy Filter or Pastor.

Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study



Our Wednesday morning Adult Bible study continues to meet each week at 9 a.m. We are currently studying a topic entitled, "*Blessings in Disguise*" as we look at Jesus' sermon on the plain from Luke 6. It will last 3 more weeks and then we will be on to another topic. Think about joining us even if you haven't come before and help us pick the next topic of study.

Adult Inquirer's Class



Pastor Filter is beginning another offering of the Adult Inquirer's class, an opportunity to learn what it means to be a Lutheran follower of Christ. It is taking place on Sunday morning's at 9 a.m. during the Bible class hour. No homework, just some discussion and time for questions. We know for sure that we will have folks there but there is plenty of room for more so plan to join us and put it on your calendar. See Pastor if you have any questions.

Food Donations

The third Sunday of each month you are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to worship with you. We will dedicate these items to the Lord's use and then make sure they get to the local Food banks in Portland for distribution to those in need. The next date for the collection will be Sunday, March 15th.

Noisy Offerings

For over two years, we have been helping you put your loose change to good use through our Noisy offerings. On the second and fifth Sunday each month you have been placing your change (and bills) in the buckets to help us "Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord." See our treasurer, Dave Frick's article on page 6 in this newsletter to learn more. This month, we will have two noisy offerings, one on Sunday, March 15th to benefit our Preschool and one on Sunday, March 29th to benefit our Youth Group. Collect your change (and bills) to help us continue this special commitment to the Lord.



Ladies Group

The Ladies Group of St. Andrew exists to promote fellowship among the ladies of the church and to support the church in any way that it can. The Ladies Group meets on the third Sunday of each month in the Conference Room for regular meetings. All ladies are welcome and encouraged to attend. We are looking for more ladies to join our group. We love to plan activities and events for our church and could use your thoughts, ideas and help! Talk to Elena, Nancy or any of the ladies if you have questions, or simply joins us at our next meeting on March 15th!



Our **Cookie Decorating** event on February 8th was a great success! We had many preschool families along with St. Andrew members enjoy a bit of fellowship while participating in this fun and yummy activity. Watch for details on future events on “preschool-sing Sunday’s”!

Potluck

Our **Valentine Potluck** on February 15th in honor of Valentine’s Day and friendships was also a great success. Good food and great fellowship were enjoyed by all who attended.



On February 15th we revealed our **Secret Soul Sisters** for the past year—this is when we found out who our SSS was for the past year—the one who had been praying for us and providing us with notes and gifts throughout the year. After the big reveal, we drew names for SSS 2015...so be sure that you start praying for your new SSS and provide notes and gifts for her throughout the year. If at any time you find you are unable to continue supporting your SSS please talk to Elena.

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 February 25th we enjoyed a Baked Potato Bar thanks to Mary Sandborn. Upcoming meal dates are **Mar. 4, 11, 18 and 25**. We accept free will donations for the meals; donations collected go to the Ladies Group to help fund projects, events and scholarships. If you would like to sign up to provide a Lenten meal, please talk to Mary Sandborn.



Game Night: Our next Game Night will be **Saturday, March 28th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** We hope that you can join us, we always have a great time! Bring a snack to share if you’d like, beverages will be provided. 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. Morais. Our “book talk” will be on **March 7th** at 9:15 a.m. at the Looking Grand Café. Please visit our Book Talk website at 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 talk to Elena Brooks, Nita Massey or Pastor and we will get the scholarship to your youth—no application to complete. Camp Concordia brochures are available on the table in the narthex at St. Andrew. You can visit the Camp Concordia website at: www.campconcordia.org for more information and online registration.



March Birthdays



- 3/1 Emma Rutkowski
- 3/2 Parker Sprague
Mike Haworth
- 3/3 Jackie Hartner
- 3/4 Hannah Wakley
- 3/8 James Guidi
- 3/9 Nicholas Wright
- 3/10 Alexis Martin
- 3/11 Lynn Holdren
- 3/13 Thomas Felzke
- 3/15 Calvin Simpson
- 3/16 Nathan Sprague
- 3/17 Marian Ruehs
Terry Tahavonen
- 3/22 Ryan Bauer
- 3/24 Amber Perry
Minxia Turnquist
- 3/25 Jared Scheurer
- 3/26 Tim Ruehs
Sophia Novara
- 3/28 Sandy Peabody
- 3/29 Jeff Brooks
- 3/31 Kris Spitzley
Penny Jugovich
Cindy Jugovich

March Anniversaries



- 3/7 Pat & Sandy Peabody
- 3/11 Dave & Cathy Hoort

Stewardship Corner

Covetousness as Idolatry

Idolatry is defined in Webster's New World dictionary as "Excessive devotion or reverence for some person or thing." The Apostle Paul tells us that coveting money is idolatry. *"Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry"* (Colossians 3:5). Often it is not so easy to see the connection between coveting and idolatry. For example, we can be dominated by the love of money and not consciously reject God. A covetous person can remain a member of the church and, on the outside, appear to be an active member in good standing. However, the thing that rules his/her life is what he/she worships regardless of what is verbally said. If the important desire of a person's life is fixed on the accumulating of material possessions, it follows inevitably that a person's covetousness has become idolatry. The dominating desire of our lives will be our god. It is possible for the desire for wealth to so master us that this passion becomes the denial of the Lordship of Jesus. Jesus referred to this contradiction between trust in riches and trust in God. He told His followers that they could not have a divided loyalty. Jesus said, *"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money"* (Matthew 6:24).

Probably the most deadly idolatry in America today is to become so dominated by the desire for wealth and worldly possessions that we cannot yield ourselves to love and obedience to God in Christ. The temptation for riches acts as a trap. *"But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction"* (1 Timothy 6:9). Paul tells us that the covetous person who is an idolater cannot have any inheritance in the kingdom of God (Ephesians 5:5). According to Paul, the supreme tragedy of our earthly lives would be to be so absorbed with the material goods of this life that we fail to lay hold of the eternal inheritance which God has prepared for us in Jesus.

As a body of believers, we need to deal faithfully and fearlessly with people who have wrong attitudes toward the getting and spending of money. As God's people, we are to *"flee these things."* We are to flee the love of money and material things and *"pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love steadfastness, gentleness"* (1 Timothy 6:11). May God give us all steadfast faith as we fight the ongoing battle against the temptation to follow the shallow and superficial ways of the world.





Wee Grow Christian Preschool

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

Enrollment has started for the 2015 school year. Our Open House will be March 3rd, 2015 from 4:30-7 p.m. 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. Please call Sandy Peabody if you have questions or need more information.

During the month of February the preschool students learned about God's love for them and how to share it with others. We had Valentine Parties, learned about chocolate, made parent Valentines and heart crafts. We also worked on our Zoo-phonics, *Handwriting without Tears* and the letter "v".



Wee Grow Valentine Celebrations

Want to get rid of some of your treasures? Wee Grow Preschool will be hosting a MOM to MOM sale with a twist on March 21st from 8a.m. to 1p.m. at the K of C Hall in Portland! Tables are \$20 to rent. Set up will be Friday night from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 7 to 8 a.m. There will be a mom section, a man cave section, and a general household/clothing section. There will also be vendors, a bake sale, giveaways, child safety seat checks, Portland Police Department, plus more. Tables are going fast!! Contact Sandy Peabody if you would like a table.



The Preschool pasty/sub sale has concluded, and thanks to everyone's hard work and support it was successful! A special thank you to Thrivent Financial for supporting our fundraising efforts.



Mr. Peabody and Pastor Filter

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church Care and Ministry

David Frick, Treasurer

In 2014 expenses for the year were \$130,369. Of that amount \$91,180 was spent on personnel costs for pastor, the secretary, janitorial services, mileage, taxes, and benefits. This 70% of our expenses are for maintaining weekly services, administering all services of our church, directing meetings, providing Bible studies, providing counseling and comfort to the sick and grieving and overall health of the church. Another \$24,887 or 19% was spent on supplies, maintenance, utilities, telephone, and insurance.

This leaves \$14,302 or 11% for care and ministry. The budget stipulates that a 10% tithe of our general fund contributions is designated to:

Concordia University, Ann Arbor; \$750

Portland Area Ministerial Association (PAMA) for compassion ministries in Portland; \$250

The remainder of the 10% to be used for Michigan District; \$7,570 for all District services and mission ministries

A scholarship of \$500 was awarded from the scholarship fund.

Noisy offerings were collected in the amount \$774 and were given to:

Wee Grow preschool, SAYG (St. Andrew youth group), the Camp Concordia Scholarship fund, the Ladies Group, Vacation Bible School, Beacon of Hope, PAMA, Disaster Relief of Michigan, International Student Ministry, Wellspring Lutheran Service, and Heartlands Adopt a Family for Christmas.

In addition, special donations were designated for:

PAMA \$308 (above the \$250 from church tithe and noisy offerings),

Military Bible Sticks \$275

Gideon's \$35

Wee Grow \$3,840 (to maintain the preschool)

These are only the financial contributions from the church and do not include the gifts of food for the food bank, coats for the coat drive, gifts for the giving trees, and the many projects of the ladies group. St. Andrew Lutheran church is a community oriented church that cares for all people along with spreading the good news of our Lord and Savior.



Electronic Newsletter

If you have not provided the office with an e-mail address where you would like to have your St. Andrew newsletter sent, please do so before March 15th so that you will receive the April newsletter. We can send the newsletter to every member in your household if you'd like, simply provide the office with e-mail addresses for those wishing to receive it.

As you may recall, new this year, St. Andrew will be sending the newsletter in electronic format via e-mail on a monthly basis. The newsletter will also be posted on our website. Sending the newsletter electronically will help our budget by saving on the cost of paper, copying and postage and will allow you to receive it on a monthly basis and in a more timely manner.

If you do not have email, please speak with Pastor or Sue in the office and they will make arrangements for you to receive a paper copy in your mailbox at St. Andrew.

March

1 9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Worship Service 11 am Confirmation Class	2	3 9 am WINKEL Mtg @ St. Andrew 4:30pm Presch Open House	4 9 am Adult Bible Study 6 pm Lenten Meal 7 pm Lenten Service 7:30 Choir Practice	5	6	7 9:15 am Book Talk
8 Daylight Savings Time Begins 9 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10 am Worship Service Noisy Offering	9	10	11 9 am Adult Bible Study 6 pm Lenten Meal 7 pm Lenten Service 7:30 Choir Practice	12 12 pm PAMA Lunch	13	14
15 9 am Sunday School Ladies & Mens Group Mtgs 10 am Worship Service Food Pantry Donation 11 am Confirmation Class	16 No Preschool 6:30pm Prayer Growth Mtg	17	18 9 am Adult Bible Study 6 pm Lenten Meal 7 pm Lenten Service 7:30 Choir Practice	19	20	21 8 am Preschool Mom to Mom Rummage Sale
22 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service 11 am Youth Group Mtg.	23 6:30pm Council Meeting Preschool Conferences	24 8:30 am PAMA Meeting at Mt. Hope Preschool Conferences	25 9 am Adult Bible Study 6 pm Lenten Meal 7 pm Lenten Service 7:30 Choir Practice	26	27	28 6:30 pm Game Night
29 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service Noisy Offering-SAYG	30 6:30pm Preschool Bd Mtg	31	April 1 9 am Adult Bible Study	April 2 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service	April 3 Good Friday 12 pm Meditation Time 7 pm Tenebrae Service	April 4

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

Lent & Easter Events

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

