



## St. Andrew Lutheran Church



April 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,

April is coming and with it another celebration of the greatest day in the history of the world, Christ's resurrection on the first Easter. It has been said of that day, "the resurrection changed the course of history by changing the lives of people one person at a time". And how true that is! In the words of angels as recorded in Luke 24:6, "He is not here. He has risen...".

The first words out of the angel's mouth as Mary Magdalene and Mary came to the tomb were "Do not be afraid". His words describe the reality of the Resurrection. Joy not fear. Hope not despair. Victory not defeat. Life not death. Forgiveness not guilt. Freedom not bondage. The empty tomb would change their lives forever. Conviction not timidity.

When they left the tomb to tell others about Jesus being raised from the dead, Jesus was the first person they saw. His words to them were amazing: "Greetings. Do not be afraid." I am alive. I have come back to change your life forever. I will walk with you as we change the world.

Is there anything in your life you fear? Health issues, relationship troubles, job loss, financial setbacks, everyday challenges that never seem to get resolved, problems that seem too big to battle...?

Do not be afraid. Live for Him and you will experience the power of God in your life. Trust in Him and Satan will have no power over your life.

The angel's words and Jesus' words served to comfort and encourage the women as the glorious story of the Resurrection unfolded. They serve to comfort and encourage us too, wherever we find ourselves along the journey. The supreme power of Jesus is unleashed in the Resurrection and it can be unleashed in our lives too. Place your fears in the empty tomb and leave them behind as you seize the undeniable power proven in the Resurrection. Make Easter the center of your daily life and walk with Him into eternity.

Do not be afraid. He is not there. He is risen! And now it is time to change the world. Join us during Holy week as we remember the first time Christ gave us His supper on Maundy Thursday, and then come back on Good Friday evening to witness once again what Christ suffered for us and then you will be ready for the Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Praying that our pews will be filled each and every service!

In Christ's Service,  
Pastor Filter

## April Schedules

### Acolyte

- 2 Cam Roof –  
*Maundy Thursday 7pm*
- 3 Dawson Collins  
*Good Friday—7 pm*
- 5 Cam Roof—*Easter—7 a.m.*  
Mya Collins—*Easter—10a.m.*
- 12 Charlotte Kleitch
- 19 Dawson Collins
- 26 Jacob Veale

### Altar Guild

Jeanne Bauer  
Ruth Helmreich

### Elder

Tom Fryover

### Fellowship

- 5 Easter Sunday
- 12 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 19 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 26 Nita Massey

### Greeters

- 2 Roof Family  
*Maundy Thursday 7pm*
- 3 Brooks Family  
*Good Friday—7 pm*
- 5 Brooks Family *Easter—7 a.m.*  
Tracy Kleitch *Easter—10 a.m.*
- 12 Tom Fryover
- 19 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 26 Pastor & Nancy Filter

### Nursery

- 5 Charlotte Kleitch  
*Easter 10 a.m.*
- 12 Karlie Sprague
- 19 Charlotte Kleitch
- 26 Hannah Wakley

### Worship Readers

- 2 Mary Eisenhauer  
*Maundy Thursday 7pm*
- 3 Mark Haworth  
*Good Friday—7 pm*
- 5 Elena Brooks *Easter—7 a.m.*  
Mary Sandborn *Easter—10 a.m.*
- 12 Tim & Michelle Perry
- 19 Nita Massey
- 26 Tom Fryover

## Confirmation



Please keep our Confirmation students in your prayers as they continue to work toward Confirmation in May. This year's Confirmation students are: Dawson Collins, Charlotte Kleitch, Dree Novara, and Jacob Veale.

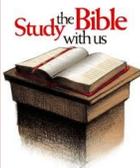
## Beacon of Hope Golf Outing



On Tuesday, April 28th, Pastor Filter will again travel to Saugatuck to help raise funds for the Beacon of Hope Counseling ministry by participating in their annual golf outing. Pastor Filter along with his caddy, Tom Fryover, along with the other participants will again attempt to golf 100 holes that day. You can donate towards Pastor's goal of \$1000 for the ministry in one of two ways. You can either donate a fixed amount by filling out the

form and sending it with a check to the address on the form or leaving it in the envelope in the Narthex or you may pledge an amount per hole and you will receive a notification of the amount you need to send in after the outing based on the amount of holes completed. The Beacon of Hope counseling ministry provides free master's level Christian counseling to all who request it in the Portland area. Please consider giving generously to this important cause and supporting Pastor Filter and Tom.

## Wednesday Morning Adult Bible Study



The Wednesday Morning Adult Bible study continues to meet each week at 9 a.m. The current topic is God-Esteem, how are we valued by God? We will take a break on Wednesday, April 8th due to Spring Break and begin a new topic on Wednesday, April 15th. See Pastor if you have a topic to suggest.

## SAYG

SAYG is our St. Andrew Youth Group and it is currently scheduled to meet the 4th Sunday of each month immediately after church. Laura Roof is our current SAYG leader. To find out what's going on, contact Laura. 6th through 12th graders, we need you!



## Wee Grow Christian Preschool

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

Enrollment continues for the 2015-16 school year. 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, need more information, or wish to enroll your child in Wee Grow.

## Ladies Group

**Easter Egg Hunt:** Our Easter Egg Hunt will be on **Easter Sunday (April 5)** at 9:15 a.m. The egg hunt is scheduled for outdoors, but we will move it indoors, if need be, due to the weather. No need to register for the egg hunt, just gather up all of the youngsters you can and meet us at church. “Stuffing” (candy) for the eggs will be purchased using funds raised from our Lenten meal donations. If you have any question talk to Elena Brooks or Pastor.



**Book Talk:** Our current book is *Between Heaven and Texas* by Marie Bostwick. Our “book talk” will be on **April 18th** at 9:15 a.m. at a location to be determined. You can visit our website at [www.standrewbooktalk.weebly.com](http://www.standrewbooktalk.weebly.com) for more information on the book. Talk to Elena Brooks, Ruth Helmreich or Nancy Filter with any questions you may have or to confirm the location.



Around the Block quilt shop in Portland will be host to author Marie Bostwick on **April 15th**. Marie will be promoting her new book *The Second Sister*. You can reserve a book to be signed by pre-ordering. Each pre-order will get you a free fat quarter. There will be a \$5 charge to attend the authors presentation, for which you will receive a voucher toward any purchase. You can also purchase *Between Heaven and Texas*, Marie’s book that Book Talk is currently reading, at the quilt shop as well. Stop in or call Around the Block at (517)647.5430 to get your name on the attendance list or for more information about this event.

**Next Ladies Group Meeting:** Our next meeting will be on Sunday, **April 19th** at 9 a.m. in the conference room. The Group is open to all ladies who would like to help support our church. If you have any questions, talk to Elena Brooks, Nancy Filter or Mary Eisenhauer, or simply plan to attend our next meeting!

**Game Night:** Our next Game Night will be **Saturday, April 25th 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. Invite family, friends and neighbors to join us. If you have any questions about Game Night please talk to Tracy Kleitch or Pastor.



**Ladies Spring Fling Luncheon:** Mark your calendars for this ladies-only event. This fun luncheon will take place on **April 25th** at noon in the fellowship hall. Ladies may sign up to host a table. Each table hostess will be able to invite friends and family to fill her table (6 seats at each table). Hostesses will also provide a salad and a dessert to share. The ladies group will provide beverages, plates, utensils and possibly a bit of entertainment! If you would like to attend the luncheon, but are not interested in hosting a table, talk to Mary Sandborn and she will reserve a seat for you! To be a table hostess please contact Mary Sandborn to reserve your table. To reserve a seat or host a table, please contact Mary Sandborn by April 11th. We are hoping to have a great turn-out for this fun luncheon, where we all will take a short time away from our busy lives to enjoy a bit of fellowship with our “sisters”.



**Preschool-Sing Sunday:** On **April 26th** we will have a craft project for preschoolers and youth after worship service. This fun project will be simple enough for preschoolers, yet enjoyable for youth as well. Toddlers may require a bit of assistance from an adult. Simply head to the fellowship hall after worship service, we’ll provide all of the supplies and handle the clean-up; youngsters will take home a neat craft. We hope you can join us!

**Camp Scholarships:** We still have scholarships available to our youth to attend Camp Concordia. Once your youth is registered for Camp Concordia, simply talk to Elena Brooks, Nita Massey or Pastor and we will get the \$50 scholarship to your youth—no application to complete. It’s that simple! See page 6 for details on Camp Concordia.



## April Birthdays



- 4/3 LuAnn Cook
- 4/4 Michelle Arbour
- 4/5 Sadie Veale
- 4/6 Rachael Dole
- 4/7 Bryanna Jones
- 4/10 Nathaniel Lader-Pierce
- 4/11 Marilyn Baldwin
- 4/13 Mark Holdren
- 4/14 Jordon Hoort  
Madison Lefke  
Tim Perry
- 4/15 Jennifer Chapin  
Jacquie Platte
- 4/17 Coltin Ruehs
- 4/23 John Marcum
- 4/25 Jorie Rutkowski
- 4/26 Tom Cooke  
Tyler Sporer  
David Peters, Jr.
- 4/28 Brian Massey
- 4/30 Krysta Perry

## April Anniversaries



- 4/17 Tim & Michelle Perry
- 4/19 Kurt & Penny Sandborn
- 4/27 Ed & Jan Moffatt

I pray that your love for each other will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in your knowledge and understanding.  
—Phillippians 1:9

## Stewardship Corner

### The Rest of the Story

For many people, one of the best and most entertaining spots on the radio years ago was Paul Harvey's "The Rest of the Story." During these three or four minute broadcasts, Mr. Harvey would tell his audience a story or share some interesting information that was followed by his saying, "Stay tuned for the rest of the story." Following a commercial break, his story would be embellished by some previously unknown information or facts that brought new meaning, significance, or relevance to the story.

It is very likely that Paul Harvey never used the Bible to find his stories, but we can see how he could have used Joseph of Arimathea. In Matthew 27:57-60 we read, "*When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb which he had cut in the rock.*" In Scripture there are many examples of people who give generously to the Lord from their hearts, and this is one of those wonderful accounts. Whether Joseph had carved the burial tomb himself or had contracted someone else to do it, the grave would have come at great expense. However, as a follower of Jesus, he saw the wonderful opportunity to serve the Lord by offering his burial tomb so Jesus' body could be properly buried. This great act of love, faith, and generosity placed Joseph's life in danger, because the Jews not only wanted Jesus dead, they wanted to eliminate all of Jesus' disciples. Joseph, being a Jew and a member of the Sanhedrin, was possible at greater risk than other followers of Jesus.

If he had considered the account of Joseph of Arimathea, Paul Harvey would have had a great rest of the story. He could have told his listeners how Joseph, with great courage, gave an outrageous gift by offering his own personal burial place to Jesus. Yet another story within this story is how God gives and keeps on giving through the generous hearts of His people. As people of faith, we understand that we can never out give God. God continually blesses us spiritually and, at times, even materially. In Luke 6:38, Jesus promises that if we "*give...it will be given to [us].*" Our primary motive for giving is not to be blessed; nevertheless, God promises blessings to those who give faithfully and generously. Paul Harvey's rest of the story would have been that, within three days, Jesus returned Joseph of Arimathea's burial plot! After Jesus' resurrection, he had no need for a tomb. Joseph not only received the joy of knowing his Savior had used his personal tomb, he was blessed with joy knowing he had acted faithfully. That joy was all surely Joseph needed and wanted, but now, when his life ended, his body would be placed in the tomb once occupied by his Savior.

God blesses each of us with many gifts, talents, and blessing we can use to further God's kingdom and to help others. May God grant us the same faith He gave to Joseph of Arimathea, so we can serve and give faithfully and generously.



## Some Financial Considerations

How important is it that we give to the church based on the Sunday's in the church year rather than the Sunday's we attend? That is a question that probably doesn't get asked often enough. Let's ask a couple of other questions that might shed some light on the first one. Does God stop giving to us on the Sunday's we don't attend or even for the entire week we missed? Of course not! God is love and in love he constantly gives to us all that need, from the forgiveness Jesus earned for us on the cross to the next meal we eat, the bed that we lay down on each night, the vehicles we use to get around and much more that we take for granted. So if we want to give back in the way that God gives to us, we are wise to set aside an amount each week when we aren't there and then add that to what we are planning to give on the Sunday's we are there and that way we remember each week how God is constantly loving us and giving to us. Notice, we don't say that the light bill needs to get paid when we aren't there and the Pastor's salary must be taken care of, and the heat kept on and the printing paid for and on and on. Those are important but they shouldn't be the reason we give to the church or any other of God's ministries. We give because he gave to us.

One other question that has come up lately is this: If God gives us more than we expected, in the form of a bonus or overtime pay or maybe even an inheritance, should we keep it all for ourselves? Again, who gave it to you, either directly or indirectly? God, of course. So, doesn't it make sense to give some of it back, as a way of saying thanks. Some folks around St. Andrew are rightly concerned that our roof has a limited life expectancy and that life expectancy will soon reach its end. If God gives you more than you expected, consider giving back some of it, over and above your regular offerings (again set aside each Sunday), and mark that gift for the Building Fund on your envelopes. That way it will help us be ready for replacing the roof when necessary. We will remind you of the Roof/Building fund every so often, but think about it when you get a little bit extra that you didn't expect. God is so good to us, let us always remember that, and give back regularly to him!

## April Weekend

### **A WEEKEND OF DISCOVERY—A LIFETIME OF LOVE.**

Lutheran Marriage Encounter is a weekend experience that teaches couples how to communicate more effectively and build closeness and intimacy within the marriage relationship. Led by other couples who found the Weekend a blessing to their marriage, participants will learn from their life experiences in a setting which is very private and free from outside distractions.

### **“I WISH WE COULD JUST SIT DOWN AND TALK!”**

Have you ever said that to your spouse? Do you wish you could take your “talk” to a deeper level of listening and understanding. A Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend can help you do just that.

### **IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL THE WORRIES AND STRESSES OF OUR LIVES TODAY...**

Couples often become so involved in the day-to-day concerns of their lives-home, job, financial pressures, children, etc., that they can lose touch with each other and their married relationship. Lutheran Marriage Encounter offers a weekend that can help a couple discover each other and what is really important in life again.

A Weekend is scheduled in Battle Creek on April 17-19 and a tentative Weekend is planned for the Saginaw area in October. Apply early-a place on the Weekend cannot be guaranteed after four weeks prior to the Weekend. For additional information and brochures contact Larry & Liz Grupe (586-566-1525), Brian & Donna Zelner (269-226-4703), or Pete & Chris Wilkins (269-381-6324). You can also log on to [www.GodLovesMarriage.org](http://www.GodLovesMarriage.org).



**Camp Scholarships Available from the St. Andrew Ladies Group**  
See page 3 for details



## **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 Youth Scholarships available from the Ladies Group of St. Andrew**  
See page 3 for details

# April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Preschool Enrollment For 2015-16 Continues			<b>1</b> 9 am Adult Bible Study	<b>2</b> 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service  <b>Maundy Thursday</b>	<b>3</b> 12 pm Meditation Time 7 pm Tenebrae Service  <b>Good Friday</b>	<b>4</b> 12 pm PAMA Easter Egg Hunt
<b>5</b> 7 am Sunrise Easter Service 8:15 am Easter Breakfast 9:15 am Easter Egg Hunt 10 am Easter Service	<b>6</b> Preschool Spring Break	<b>7</b> 8:30 am WINKEL Mtg Preschool Spring Break Pastor on Vacation	<b>8</b> Preschool Spring Break Pastor on Vacation	<b>9</b> Preschool Spring Break Pastor on Vacation	<b>10</b> Preschool Spring Break	<b>11</b> RSVP for Ladies Spring Fling Luncheon due to Mary Sandborn
<b>12</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service Noisy Offering Ladies Group	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 9 am Adult Bible Study Author Marie Bostwick/ Around The Block event	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 9:15 am Book Talk - <i>Between Heaven and Texas</i> Location to be determined
<b>19</b> 9 am Sunday School and Ladies & Mens Group Mtgs 10 am Worship Service 11 am Confirmation Class	<b>20</b> 6:30pm Prayer Growth Mtg	<b>21</b> 8:30 am PAMA Breakfast 3 yr old Preschool Field Trip	<b>22</b> 9 am Adult Bible Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4 yr old Preschool Field Trip	<b>25</b> 12 pm Ladies Spring Fling Luncheon —Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm Game Night
<b>26</b> 9 am Sunday School 10 am Worship Service Preschool Sing Sunday 11 am Craft Project 11 am Youth Group Mtg	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8 am -6 pm Beacon of Hope Golf Outing Pastor Out Of Office All Day	<b>29</b> 9 am Adult Bible Study	<b>30</b>		

# ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool  
8867 Kent Street  
Portland, MI 48875



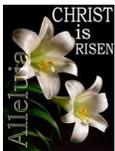
## Holy Week Schedule



**April 2—Maundy Thursday**  
7 p.m. Worship Service with Communion

### April 3—Good Friday

12—2 p.m. Drop-in Prayer & Meditation Time  
(For those who can't make our evening service.)  
7 p.m. Tenebrae Service  
(We will leave the service in darkness.)



**April 5—Easter Sunday**  
7 a.m. Sunrise Communion Service  
8:15 a.m. Easter Breakfast  
9:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt for the children  
10 a.m. Festival Communion Service

*Copies of this schedule are available in the Church narthex for you to share with a friend or family member.*

## Adult Inquirer's Class

Pastor continues to meet with about 10 people on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. for the latest edition of his Adult Inquirer's class. This class is meant to help folks figure out what it means to be Lutheran and can lead to church membership. The class meets at 9 a.m. each Sunday and it's not too late to join us if the topic interests you or your friends. See Pastor if you have questions.

## Easter Breakfast

The men will again sponsor the Easter Breakfast at 8:15 a.m., on Easter morning, April 5th. Tim Perry will head up this worthwhile endeavor. Talk to Tim to volunteer and to find out what time you will be needed in the kitchen. Normally, it has been about 6:45 a.m., shortly before the sunrise service begins.

The Men's group continues to meet for breakfast on the third Sunday of the month at either 8:30 or 9 a.m., depending on whether the VFW sponsors a breakfast that day or not. If they do, we will meet there at 8:30 a.m. on April 19th. If not, we will meet at Burger King at 9 a.m. Join us for a time of fellowship and encouragement. See Pastor after Easter to find which scenario will work.

## Prayer Growth

Our Prayer Growth meets monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. to pray for the church, it's members, our community, and to pray for ways out to those who don't yet know how important Jesus Christ is for their earthly and heavenly well-being. Plan to join us on Monday, April 21st. All are welcome, even if you haven't attended before.