



JULY 2024



*Worship Service—Sundays 10 a.m. Sunday School—Sundays 9 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study 11:30 a.m. Adult Bible Study—Thursdays 10 a.m.*

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Rev. Roger Straub, Intentional Interim Pastor

Pastor's Phone: 517-230-3872

Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrew:

As Christians, witnessing to Christ with words and actions is something like sowing or planting seed.

In Mark, chapter 4, Jesus tells three parables about sowing seed.

In the first parable, a sower scatters seed widely and with abandon; on a path, on rocky ground, among thorns and in good soil. With the exception of the hard packed path where the seed was devoured by birds, the seed takes root and grows, for a brief time at least, in the rocky ground until it withers away, and among the thorns until it is choked out. The seed sown in good soil sprouts, grows, matures, and brings forth an abundant harvest of grain. The point of the parable is that the seed is good.

In the second parable, a man similarly scatters seed. The seed sprouts and grows and matures into a bountiful harvest of grain. The point of the parable is that people sow the seed; God gives the growth and harvest.

In the third parable, a tiny mustard seed is sown and ends up a large shrub, so large, birds build their nests in its branches. The point of the parable is small beginnings have big endings.

There is a partnership in these parables between God and people. People sow. God gives the growth. So it is in our daily witness as Christians. As we speak and act in good courage, as we speak of Christ with our words and share his love in our acts of love, care and kindness, God works in the hearts and lives of people, to establish his reign and rule as king. It's our job to sow seed. It's God's job to make the seed grow.

In Isaiah, chapter 55, God promises: *"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and return not thither but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I propose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it"* (10-11).

Sowing seed is the easy part. That's up to us. That's our part. God has the hard part. It's up to God to make the seed grow. That's God's promise! And, God is up to it!

In Christ,

The Rev. Roger K. Straub,
Vacancy Pastor

JULY SCHEDULES

Acolyte

- 7 Bella Roof
- 14 Zach Roof
- 21 William Roof
- 28 Bella Roof



Fellowship

- 7 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 14 The Roof Family
- 21 Judy Nobis
- 28 Jeff & Elena Brooks

Greeters

- 7 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 14 Dave & Marty Frick
- 21 Tracy Wineland
- 28 The Roof Family

Worship Readers

- 7 Chris Roof
- 14 Jeanne Bauer
- 21 Mark Haworth
- 28 Jeff Brooks

Music

Judy Nobis

Altar Guild

Jeanne Bauer & Tracy Wineland

Elders

Jeff Brooks & Chris Roof



ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Sunday morning (11:30 a.m.) & Thursday morning (10 a.m.) Bible Study groups are continuing their study of Luther's Small Catechism.

Reflecting on the Holy Spirit's work in the early church is insightful for a congregation like St. Andrew in transition. Come out and join in!



NOISY OFFERINGS

On Sunday, July 14th, the Noisy Offering will go to LCMS—Armed Forces Ministry. Save your change (and bills) and bring them to church and drop them in the buckets to help us “Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord.”



FOOD DONATIONS FOR JULY

July 21st is our regular 3rd Sunday Food collection day and will benefit the Portland area Food Banks.



WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND PORTLAND?

- **Independence Celebration—6/28/2023** @ Bouge Flats from Dusk thru a 20 minute spectacular show.
- **4th of July Parade—7/4/2023** Starts at 10 a.m. Runs from Riverside Dr, North on Kent, West on Grand River, North on Water St, and ends at Bouge Flats.
- **Walk about Wednesday's**—Along with retailers and eateries, we'll present a Makers Market on Maple & Kent from 4-7 each Wednesday - look for their pop-up tents.
- **Sounds of Summer Concert Series—7/10, 7/17, 7/24, 7/31** @ Two Rivers Park (Bandshell), 201 Divine Hwy, each Wednesday from 7—8:30 p.m.

For more information about the above or future events, please visit the below website.

<https://www.miportland.org/events>



WALK about WEDNESDAYS! Portland Market MAPLE & KENT 4-7 pm	sip & SHOP SHOP & nibble BY THE RIVERS PORTLAND SOUNDS OF SUMMER grab a bite & a bev picnic with music! AnyTime!	TWO RIVERS PARK @BANDSHELL SOUNDS OF Summer concert series 7-8:30pm
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JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Brookelynn Meyers
- 8 Sue Scheurer
- 10 Charlotte Kleitch
- 12 June Simon
- 14 William Roof
- 20 Darlene Bekins
- Diane Sprague
- 21 Cathy Haworth
- 22 Penny Sandborn
- 27 Bryce Fullet
- Steve Ward
- 31 Briana Straub



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

NONE

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Who Gives the Most?

I would like to pose three scenarios: The first one is this: In today's offering, you place a check for \$50.00. Second: a 9th grader sitting close to you tosses in a dollar. Third: the person right in front of you puts in a check for \$300.00. The question is this: Who gave the most?

Now let us go back in time and observe a Pharisee who walks through the inner court of the temple and tosses into the temple treasury a bag of gold. Then shift your focus to a widow who slips in almost unnoticed and places two small copper coins into the same temple treasury. Who gave the most?

The answer is found in Jesus' Words: *"I tell you the truth," He said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on"* (Luke 21:4).

You see, God does not measure our gifts by the size of the gifts, but according to the condition of our hearts. God knows when giving is given out of faith, love, and gratitude for His countless blessings that He gives to us. Not only does He know the priorities of our hearts, but He also knows the giving capabilities that we have. When we give our offerings, He knows what we are keeping for ourselves, and He knows if we are giving sacrificially of what we have. Only as our relationship with Jesus grows will we be able to give greater proportions of what we receive.

Proportionate giving is fair to the rich and the poor. A person who earns \$10,000 and gives \$1,000 is giving the same proportion as a person who earns \$100,000 and gives \$10,000.

Going back to our original scenarios, wouldn't we agree that the person who gave \$300.00 gave the most? Certainly \$300 is greater than the dollar given by the 9th grader. However, from God's perspective, the 9th grader with the one dollar may have given a more meaningful gift than the person who gave \$300. If the dollar is given from a loving and grateful heart and if it represents a generous proportion of the youngster's income, the gift will please God. A gift of \$300 could sadden the Lord if it is given without faith and if it represents only a token amount of one's income. Jesus said, *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked"* (Luke 12:48).

May God grant us the same faith as He did the widow so we, too, can give proportionately, generously, and perhaps even sacrificially.

FROM THE TREASURER

Church envelopes are available upon request. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex. Envelopes are available for anyone who requests them and can be used by members and non-members alike. Contribution statements are provided for tax purposes for cash and check contributions received in church envelopes and for all contributions received by check, even if not placed in a church envelope.

Church Finances – May 2024

For the month, expenses exceeded income by \$1,601.44. The May checkbook balance is \$7,318.05. The discretionary fund balance is \$110,242.10. The Temple Scholarship fund balance is \$22,307.69.

LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group will not meet in July, as they are on summer break. Although the ladies will not meet in July, they are still active and are working to support our summer VBS program, *Jesus Luau*. Watch future communications for ways that you too, can help support VBS!

BOOK TALK

Our next book is *Chasing Shadows*, by Lynn Austin. Our Book Talk will be on Friday, July 26th at 9:15 a.m. at Fabiano's in Portland.

You can visit the Book Talk website at <https://standrewbooktalk.weebly.com/> to learn a little about the book and the author. Our club is very casual and welcoming. Please plan to join us whether you read the book or not. We do discuss the book, but it's also about fellowship. The more the merrier!



LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION

The LWML Michigan District Convention will be held Friday, June 28 - Sunday, June 30th, at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. The theme is "Taste and See that the Lord is Good", based on Psalm 34:8. Over 12 delegates from the Lansing area Capital zone will be in attendance. We will be enriched through Bible Studies, Mission speakers, worship activities, and servant event projects. New business will include voting on Mission Grants for the next biennium, electing new officers, and by-law changes.

The Mission Goal of \$386,000 for the last biennium was reached and 14 mission grants were fully funded! "To God be the Glory."

The National Mission Grant focus this month is Grant #16 - Care for Street Children of Western Kenya - Capstone Ministries - \$50,000.

Capstone Ministries works in Western Kenya and helps enrich the lives of former street boys and girls who have been reconciled with their families. This grant will provide educational scholarships for day and boarding school as well as vocational training for 52 children. It will also provide 100 Bibles and catechisms, translated into Swahili, for 17 bible study groups. It will also support Capstone Camp which focuses on spiritual development, provides group counseling, scouting activities, and mentorship of primary school boys by secondary school boys. They invite 25-35 boys to participate in these one-week camps held during the school break.

*"Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To him be glory both now and forever! Amen."*



WEE GROW CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director

Phone: 517-526-4147



2024/25 REGISTRATION

Wee Grow is still accepting registration for the 2024-25 school year. We offer separate classes for 3's and 4's. The 4-year-old class meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:45-11:45. The 3-year-old class is held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45-11:15.

School will begin September 9th or 10th, depending on which class your child is in. There is a \$50 registration and tuition is \$150 a month for the 4's class and \$120 a month for the 3's class (includes \$10 snack fee). Please contact Sandy Peabody at 517-526-4147 or at skepeabody@gmail.com for more information.

Staff of Wee Grow

LWML QUILTING GROUP

Thanks again to the ladies for donation of materials and assembling the quilts which will be sent to Lutheran World Relief in the fall. We will begin again in August - watch for information and dates to get together.



JULY EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>30</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & Bible Study 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altar Guild: Jeanne & Elders: Jeff B & Chris R 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OFFICE CLOSED 10am - July 4 Parade 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & Bible Study 	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>
<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Noisy Offering - 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & Bible Study 	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Collection Day Newsletter Deadline 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & Bible Study 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:15am - Book Talk 	<p>27</p>
<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & Bible Study 	<p>29</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm - VBS 6-8PM 	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altar Guild: Elena & Ruth Elders: Jeff B & Chris R 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5:30pm - LCMS Lugnuts 	<p>3</p>

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

VBS

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Aloha!

Jesus Luau

July 29 through August 1, 2024

6 to 8 p.m.

Bible Stories ~ Crafts ~ Music ~ Snacks
Ages 3 through 5th grade



St. Andrew Lutheran Church
8867 Kent St. ~ Portland, MI
517-647-4473

 Portland St. Andrew

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

TUESDAY
JULY 4th
2024



****PARADE July 4th @ 10a.m.****