



GOOD NEWS – May 2017

The scope of life.

Sometimes we look at life through a microscope. We get up close and personal and look at the tiny pieces that make up our being, our faith, our family, our day. We pull things apart and see where the strengths and weaknesses are.

Sometimes we look at life through a telescope, trying to see the big picture, the far off and barely discernable. We try to figure out how we fit into the larger scheme. We try to see what is coming at us from a distance that we need to prepare for or to avoid.

And sometimes we look at life through a kaleidoscope. We see the various parts of our life and experience collide to create a new picture, a new image, or a new understanding.

This week has been a kaleidoscope kind of week. Easter resurrection joy and stories collided with Confirmation retreat and talking about communion collided with funerals, three, two of people unknown to me (or St. Andrew) and one a good friend, a college roommate. In this view, through the kaleidoscope, I am drawn to the beauty of the communion of saints, and our role in understanding death and resurrection.

The communion of saints created among Jesus and his disciples and the meals he shares with them in his resurrection appearances on the road to Emmaus, in Jerusalem, on the beach. The appearances are strange. Jesus appears as they walk, in the room, by the beach suddenly, but not, as if he were there all along, and then he disappears, again not as in a poof-where-did-he-go kind of moment, but in a he-was-just-there-and-now-he's-not kind of moment. As the disciples talked about Jesus, as they gave thanks, broke bread and ate it, as they did the things Jesus did with them, Jesus is there in their midst, and we are a part of that communion of saints, the ones who gather around the breaking of the bread, talk about Jesus, and do things Jesus did while he was on earth.

We hold Jesus for one another. We are the body of Christ together.

The communion of saints created at Calumet among Confirmands from six New England churches, and their chaperons, and all of our home parishes worshiping together and remembering one another creating bonds across the miles, across our parishes. Our confirmands were talking about communion, and who makes up their communion of saints, the people they worship with, the people they know only from church, the people they love who have died, the people they met at camp... We are what we eat, the body of Christ, made whole in our gathering together and remembering Jesus, and eating (with) Jesus, and doing things Jesus did like welcoming one another, lifting one another up, praying for one another, telling stories about God.

The communion of saints built up our whole lives long, beginning with the church where we were baptized, and building as we joined other communities, across town, across the country, for a summer, for years. My dear friend Betsy, my college roommate who died this past week, now joins the unseeable side of the table. She was Lutheran, though we never worshiped together, odd as she was a youth director for a bit after college as well. My roommates and I are spread across the country from Connecticut to Oregon, and though we cannot make it for the funeral, we gather at the banquet that stretches across geography and time and space, that spans life and death, and we feast with all the saints in the communion of saints. Thanks be to God for that taste of forever, for that connection, for that communion, that strengthens me (us), now and into forever.

The peace of the risen Christ be with you!

Pastor Stephanie

Council Corner

From the President....

Thanks to all who worked so hard to make our Holy Week and Easter services so meaningful. The music, the flowers, the children, the acolytes, the posters, the flying sheep and butterflies, the choirs and of course Pastor all outdid themselves. More than one person told me this Lent and Easter season touched them more than in years past. I wonder if it is the situations they find themselves in, is it the state of our world, is it just plain old age? Whatever it is thank God that it is and that we can live life in the light of the resurrection all year long!

I hope you have noticed a new section in our newsletter the last couple of months. We now have a "team" approach to help accomplish many of the tasks that come with being an active congregation. Over and over we have heard that people are not willing to head a committee, to attend monthly meetings, and to have responsibility for a large area of ministry. Therefore, we are asking that you join a team or two, get those tasks finished, take a break, and then join another team or two. Team "Easter Baskets" and "Easter Eggstravaganza" were our pilot programs. Both teams were winners —their efforts were enjoyed by many. Team VBS is busy planning this year's Vacation Bible School — sure to be a home run. Many other teams will be formed. If you are passionate about a project, talk to

any council member and we will work on getting a team started for that project. One team that needs your help is coming up very soon —Team "Spring Clean-up" will be held Saturday, May 6 from 9AM to 2PM — Lunch will be served. Coach Don Zurell will have a list of inside and outside chores that need to be done.

I have signed a contract for the replacement of the floors in the Fellowship Hall and the portico entryway. As discussed, at the meeting, we will be looking at various ways to fund this project. One of the ways that has worked well in the past is interest free loans from our members. In casual conversations I have heard that we already have about \$ 10,000. promised in loans. While we don't need the funds just yet, it would be helpful to know exactly how much we can count on from the congregation. Speak to Jon FitzGerald or me if you are in a position to help out. If you have any fund raising ideas, or if you would like to be a team "coach", speak to anyone on council.

While we continue to search for a new administrative assistant, we thank Ellie Miller for filling in. I hope once she starts serious gardening she will continue to have time for some office work.

We welcome back our confirmands and their chaperones who spent last weekend at Camp Calumet. They explored their faith under the theme "Communion of Saints". Check out the banner they prepared!

It was great to see the church "fuller" than usual during Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Could you help make this happen more often?

See you in Church,

Bob

Worship

Worship with us 50 Days of Easter!

Holy Communion. Saturdays at 4 p.m., Sundays at 9 p.m., we gather for worship weekly. These 50 days of Easter we hear stories of the new life the resurrected Christ offers us, where Jesus meets us in our journey and how we recognize that meeting, the ways Jesus gathers us in when we have wandered away. Here we center our week in the gifts of God given to us in word and in sacrament.

Welcome Brody! We are delighted to officially welcome a new member through the Rite of Baptism. Brody Fabrizio will be baptized on Sunday, May 21 at the 9 a.m. service. We welcome Brody and his family, and pray for them as they prepare for this day. Come and celebrate with us!

Mulberry Gardens Worship: Love to worship? Good with people? Once a month we lead worship at Mulberry Gardens and would love company – read a lesson, lead song, greet people, share the peace, assist with communion, add your presence and voice. Mulberry Gardens is just over the border into Southington (Plantsville). We gather with them on the fourth Wednesday of the month, May 24 for 10 a.m. service. We meet at St. Andrew at 9 a.m. to car pool over. If you are interested, talk to Pastor Stephanie.

Prayer Tapestry. Our prayer tapestry is taking shape. Having begun in Advent some 5 months ago, we are almost half way. In this Easter season, our prayers are shaped in thinking about how we are offered new opportunities and possibilities, new paths and choices in our lives, and the ways we praise God for the blessing they are. You will find a table with strips of cloth and fabric markers in the Social Hall. Write a word, a thought, a sentence, a complete prayer... Peggy Hoyt coordinates the project if you have questions.

National Day of Prayer. May 4th is recognized in our country as a National Day of Prayer. A day when people of all faiths come together to offer their prayers for our communities, our leaders, and peoples. Thomas Jefferson, while praying for our nation over 200 years ago, asked God to, "Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people, the multitude brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues." We gather in Bristol at Noon at City Hall with other faith leaders to lead our prayers for our community and our country.

Education

Faith on the Go! Scars and Steps. In these 50 days of Easter, we hear stories of how the resurrected Jesus appears and disappears among the disciples in the oddest ways and places. Let's talk about some of the strange places we have found ourselves in our journey and how God has met us there. Come the first Monday of the month May 1 at 7 p.m. at FreshWorx (650 Farmington Ave, Bristol CT) for friendly, faithful, casual conversation.

Bible Study: Romans. Paul's letter to the Romans is very different than any of his other letters. Paul addresses many of the important questions that arise when one considers the relationship between God and creation, as well as topics such as salvation and grace. We will look at selected passages from the book of Romans, together. Those who wish can work their way through the entire book. Join us Wednesdays at 7 p.m. in the youth room, or Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. in the Social Hall beginning Wednesday, May 3 or Sunday May 7.

This six week course looks like:

1. What must I do to be saved? (Romans 3:9-31)
2. Saved by grace . . . isn't that too good to be true? (Romans 5:1-11)
3. If what I do doesn't save me, does it matter how I live? (Romans 6:1-23)
4. Where is God when we suffer? (Romans 8:18-39)
5. How can I keep from singing? (Romans 10:1-21)
6. What does God want from us? (Romans 12:1-21)

Youth Lock In. Pull out your sleeping bags and pillows and get ready for a fabulous evening with friends. Friday, May 19 we meet at 6 p.m. and start off our evening right with a back yard barbeque and games. Bring your favorite picnic extra to enhance the burgers, dogs we are grilling, and the mac and cheese Leslie is making. We are going to be packing disaster kits for Lutheran World Relief to aid them in their work in providing help to people around the world who suffer in natural disasters. Encourage your friends and family to donate towards our collection the items listed below. In order to participate, you need to RSVP to Roger Narvesen, bring in a permission form, an item for our Lutheran World Relief project, a picnic extra, and your overnight gear (sleeping bag, pillow, bed roll, pajamas, change of clothes etc).

COLLECTING DONATIONS LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR) The youth are collecting items for Personal Care Kits for LWR to assist people who lose everything in a natural disaster. There is a box in the parish hall next week for donations of any of the following:

- Lightweight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" and 52" x 27"), dark color recommended
- Bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping
- Adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging
- Sturdy comb
- Metal nail clippers (attached file optional)

All donations are due by May 14.

Sunday School

The Sunday School Children will be reciting prayers during Service on June 11.

Save the date: VBS will be held at St. Andrew July 17-21. Registration forms will be available soon. If you are interested in helping during VBS you may contact Arlene Creswell.

Important dates for Sunday-School:

May 14: Mother's Day-No Class

June 11: Last day of Sunday-School & Ice Cream Social during Fellowship time

The lessons the children will be learning for the month of May:

- May 7: The Lord is My Shepherd-Psalm23
May 14: **No class-** Living Stones, Chosen People-1Peter 2:2-10
May 21: The Spirit of Truth-John 14:15-21
May 28: Jesus Ascends-Acts 1:6-14

Outreach & Events

TEAM: Spring Clean-up

When: Saturday, May 6th from 9 am - 2 pm

(come for an hour or come for the day)

What: sprucing up the church and grounds.

Indoor and outdoor projects like cleaning/landscaping with lunch provided.

Contact: Don Zurell (dzurell@snet.net)

TEAM: Cozy Cover Crafters

Mother's Day is May 14. It will be a very special day since our 20th Cozy Cover Display with prayers of Thanksgiving and Blessings will take place during the 9 AM service in the church. Crafters are reminded to try to finish projects by this time...you're welcome to bring your piece that morning and add it over a front pew. Items are gifted to our members and friends in need of comfort. New crafters interested in being part of this outreach effort are asked to call Trudi @ 860-583-0554.

Extra thanks is given to the person wishing to remain anonymous for crafting and donating 12 yarn-on-mesh crosses. A cross is attached to every cozy cover gift. Extra thanks to current crafters: Peggy Hoyt, Linda Mackey, Chris Mitchell, Nancy Siecienski, Barbara Soden, Sharon White, and those wishing to remain anonymous.

Attn: VBS volunteers: if you are wanting to volunteer to help with VBS, please pick up a VBS Volunteer Registration form in the rack by the side door. The completed forms can be put in the bin on the office door. Due to our requirement that all volunteers that work with children receive Safe Church Training, forms must be returned by June 1st.

Women's Guild

Members had a special treat on April 12th when Sharon Leonard, the "egg lady," returned. She demonstrated and led a class in the making of Ukrainian Easter eggs. She makes it look simple to those just watching.....but we know it's not an easy job. The participants certainly had some beautiful results!

Following the program and refreshments, a very brief business meeting was held. The next meeting is scheduled for **TUESDAY, MAY 9TH @ 1:30 PM**. Hostesses will be Sue Provenzano, Pam Murphy and Nancy Shaw. The weather is much nicer now. We would like to have more members and friends attend. Add this date and time to your calendar NOW! Come with your ideas. Where would you like to dine in September? Do we continue our summer/fall project to clothe and provide supplies for children for the first day of school? Do you have suggestions for Sue for future programs? At the time this info is going to the office for the newsletter, there is no special speaker for May. However, Sue assures us there WILL be a program. Come and have fun as you visit with your neighbors!!

Joan Strecker

Officers for 2017 are:

President: Joan Strecker

Vice President: Sue Provenzano

Secretary: NEEDED

Treasurer: Joan Lagasse

Stewardship

Many thanks to Team: Easter Basket Assembly and Team: Easter Eggs-travaganza members for making Easter great for all ages!

Cooks, get ready! A Taste of St. Andrew is coming in September. We need you! Watch for details

Welcome Spring! As we look back on the past winter and look forward to the beauty of spring, it's an opportunity for us to look back at our 2017 financial commitments to the church and look forward to continuing that support of God's work. Thank you for all that you do in support of the church, the community and the world.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: PARISH ADMINISTRATOR.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church (1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol CT) is seeking a part-time Parish Administrator, Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 1p.m. It is our policy, for the good of our life together, that this person not be a member of St. Andrew. The right candidate is dependable, people-friendly, compassionate, and well-organized. They need to have excellent language and computer skills (working with Word 2016 and a church specific database), as well as the capacity for strict confidentiality. If you know someone who fits this description, please have them call or email Pastor Stephanie Pope at 860.583.5809 PastorStephanie@StAndrewCT.org for more information.

May Birthdays

May 1	Kathleen Roth	May 17	Kyle Caron
May 2	Jon FitzGerald	May 18	Michael Glidden
May 2	Daniel Rios	May 19	Tina Beaudoin
May 3	Wesley Hoyt	May 19	Lisa Fournier
May 3	Tyler McMahan	May 20	Owen VanBrocklin
May 4	Andrew Trudel	May 20	David Hemingway
May 8	Charles Schissler	May 21	Ruth Dinda
May 8	Natasha Peabody	May 21	Amy Gdovin
May 11	Mark Sonstrom	May 22	Lindsey Matulis
May 12	Alexandra Peabody	May 23	Kimberly Kendall
May 12	Abigail Griffin	May 23	Quinn Vontell
May 13	Erin Avolt	May 24	Zachary Fournier
May 13	Levi Avolt	May 25	Donald Milbrandt
May 14	Dawn Stitham	May 25	Kaitlyn Koeppen
May 14	Lauren Heyl	May 26	Melissa Hoyt
May 15	Kenneth Soden	May 27	Keith duBay
May 15	Erica Matulis	May 27	Karen Biernat
May 15	Olivia Beaudoin	May 28	David Hoyt
May 15	Parker Case	May 28	Robin Caron
May 17	Kenneth Griffin	May 30	Cathy Demers
May 17	Jared Siecienski	May 31	Brian Murphy

Please Remember in Your Prayers... Those in need of healing:

Bill, Pr. Nancy Beckwith, Keith duBay,
John Gacek, Wade Hibbard,
Robert Kucker, Phil Koboski,
Hector Marrero, Cullen Murphy,
Bill Murtha, Leo Pare, Patti Pare,
Lois St. Pierre, Ron St. Pierre,
Jim Prior, Paul Rescsanski,
Arlene and Charles Schissler,
Perk Talmadge, Marcia Theer,
Sal Vaccaro, Mark Voight.

Those in nursing homes and the homebound:

Astrid Bekstrom,
Lydia Dallmann, Barbara Davis,
Dorothy Forrest, Adeline Nevulis,
Marie Ouellette.

We re-set the prayer list monthly. If you wish to add someone to the list, please fill out a prayer request or contact the office at (860) 583-5809 or via email

churchoffice@standrewct.org

Purpose Statement

We are committed to seeking out people for membership in Christ's family, studying God's Word together that we may grow in his grace, strengthening our lives with regular worship and fellowship and sharing our time, talents, and treasure that Jesus will be known to all people through our words and deeds.

Pastoral Care

Pastor Pope is frequently in the office Monday through Thursday. Please call (860) 583-5809 for an appointment. Help us to provide good pastoral care by keeping the church up-to-date with what's going on in our lives as part of God's family. Please call the church office and let Pastor know if:

You are in need of prayer;
You are ill or hospitalized;
You wish to be anointed for healing;
A baby is born in your family;
A family member dies;
You wish to be married;
You wish to be baptized or have a child baptized;
You wish to receive communion;
You are moving, or have changed your contact information, or;
You would like to join St. Andrew

Pastoral Acts:

Funeral:

Henry M. Gruner

Leonard C. Rosenbach

Alvin Opolinsky

About St. Andrew

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

President: Robert Herold

Vice President: Stephen Adam

Secretary: Ellie Miller

Treasurer: Jon FitzGerald

Faith Formation Liaison: Karen Biernat

Mission and Outreach Liaison: Arlene Creswell

Parish Life Liaison: (open)

Stewardship Liaison: Don Zurell

Youth Council-at-large: Kelly Simpson

Young Adult Council-at-large: (open)