



## GOOD NEWS – February 2019

### Pastor's Letter

#### Epiphany

- 3a(1)** : a usually sudden manifestation or perception of the [essential](#) nature or meaning of something  
**(2)** : an intuitive grasp of reality through something (such as an event) usually simple and striking  
**(3)** : an illuminating discovery, realization, or disclosure[1]

You probably noticed the “3.” This is the third definition in Merriam Webster for Epiphany. The first is the day of Epiphany, the celebration of the arrival of the three magi. The second is about a manifestation of the divine, which correlates, but is not the best meaning for where we are now as we move into our second month of Epiphany. This third definition resembles us the most for where we are now in our church calendar and common worship life.

This third definition seems to wrestle with the ways we begin to grasp what or who someone is, through things that happen, in ways that brighten us or enlighten us. This is most certainly true as we wrestle with who this Jesus is and what it means for us. In this season we hear about Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding of Cana, about Jesus preaching his first sermon (choosing a text that identifies him as the one sent by God to love and save the world, the anticipated Messiah), about grown men giving up their jobs, the family business to follow him, about Jesus beginning to bless exactly those to whom God promised to bring good news - the poor, the oppressed, the hurting, the mourning, the prisoner.

On the third Sunday after Epiphany from Luke 4, we heard Jesus announce his mission and his identity. He spoke words from Isaiah saying that filled with the spirit to bring good news to the poor, release to the captive, give sight to the blind, free the oppressed and proclaim the jubilee (the year all debts are forgiven to renew economic equilibrium). There’s the mission. We know that because Jesus says “TODAY, this scripture has been fulfilled (*and continues to be filled*) in your hearing.” Then he goes on to do those things throughout his ministry.

Epiphany not only shows us who Jesus is. It shows us who we are when we are confronted with person and mission of God in our midst. Do we want Jesus out of our face like the hometown crowd hearing him in Nazareth? (unwilling to see God in our neighbor if it means we have to do something differently) Will we try to remove from our place of worship this Jesus who asks things of us (like interest free loans, or debt forgiveness or giving up our place of privilege)? Are we skeptical like the disciples? (unsure about branching out and trying something new and unknown) Will we be

overwhelmed in the ways God creates new possibilities and transforms our lives compelling us to follow? Are we eagerly sitting at the feet of Jesus to listen and learn, hoping to be fed and healed like the people gathered for the Sermon on the Mount? Will we find ourselves blessed in our hurt places and brought to new ways of living and being?

Come and discover who this Jesus is.  
Come and know who and whose we are.  
Come see Jesus shine with all the possibilities of God.  
Come be filled with the light and life of Christ.  
Get shiny and let your light shine.  
If you are unsure what that looks like, what that means, ask me!

Peace+  
Pr. Stephanie

[1] Merriam-webster online dictionary

## Council Corner

From the President

Another annual meeting is history. Thanks to all who attended - your attendance and participation was much appreciated. I will try to briefly summarize the information that was shared and the actions that were taken. We started with some positive thoughts about the past year....

1. The success of our WoW program.
2. Our packing of over 200 bag lunches for the less fortunate folks in Bristol.
3. The fact that we raised over \$ 1,180.00 for ELCA World Hunger – in just one night at “A Taste of Bristol – Lutheran Edition”
4. The St. Andrew response to Lutheran Disaster totaled \$ 155.00

We talked some disappointments....

1. The fact that our attendance is down.
2. The fact that we experienced the death of several of our long-time members.
3. The fact that several families have moved out of the area.
4. The fact that contributions were unable to keep up with the oil and snowplowing bills that kept coming so frequently last year.
5. The fact that we were unable to support the New England Synod and other mission projects at the level we have in the past.

Those assembled elected two new members to the Parish Council. Leslie Koonz has agreed to serve in the Parish Life position and Daniel Ropp has agreed to serve as our youth representative. We welcome them both and look forward to their contributions. We also said thanks to Kelly Simpson for her two years of council service as the youth representative. Kelly turns 18 next month, so even though she is the youngest one on the council ... by constitutional rules she is “aged out”. Two of our newest members, Kathy Dahlberg and Jill Little, have been elected to serve as St. Andrew’s voting members at the New England Synod Assembly in June. We thank them in advance for their willingness to serve.

A budget of \$237,525.00 was passed for 2019. To say that this number is challenging would be an understatement for sure. With God's help, and the help of each St. Andrew member –we can do it! If you have any ideas to help meet this budget, please speak to any council member.

I will close on a more pleasant note... Just today, we (the people of St. Andrew) received a Thank-you note from Pastor Stephanie. It reads, in part, .... "Thank you for your generous Christmas gift...this year you have assisted in giving me the gift of sight as I work toward paying off cataract surgery. I am blessed...in your gracious giving". I will post the card on the bulletin board where you my read it in full.

Stay warm – March and Spring are just a few weeks away! Bob

**Worship with us weekly**  
**Saturdays at 4 p.m.**  
**Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

We continue in the season of Epiphany, exploring the ways we begin to see Jesus as more than a man, but as the one sent by God to love and save the world. Epiphany also reveals our reaction to God as our neighbor in Jesus, which is not always so great. We are not always excited to follow Jesus to leave the life and ways we are comfortable in, to our enemies, to welcome strangers. These are good weeks to come, look, and listen for God in lives.

**BAPTISMS: *welcoming new members through water and Word!*** We welcome the newest members to St. Andrew through the Rite of Holy Baptism and Affirmation of Baptism at the 9:30 a.m. service on Sundays, February 10 and 17. On February 10, we welcome Cameron Ballash, as he is baptized, and his mother Megan, as she joins St. Andrew through Affirmation of Baptism. On February 17, we celebrate and pray for our newest brother Calvin Cruz, as he is baptized. Let your lights shine!

**Palms!** We begin Lent by burning our Palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday to use as our ash for Ash Wednesday. If you saved your palms in your home, please bring them in by **Sunday, March 3**. A basket for collection will be available in the Lobby beginning **Saturday, February 24**. The palms will be burned at our Shrove Tuesday Fabulous Pancake Flipping Fest, Tuesday, March 5 at 5:40 p.m. All are welcome to join us (see WoW for more information).

**Blessing of the Church Council. The seventh Sunday after Epiphany, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m.** We offer our prayers and support for those serving on this year's Council, new and returning, and for the ministry we share. We are grateful for those who have agreed to serve as our leaders: Robert Herold, President, Carol Emond, Vice President, Stephen Adam, Treasurer, Ellie Miller, Secretary, Karen Biernat, Liaison for Faith Formation, Arlene Creswell, Liaison for Outreach and Mission, Leslie Koonz, Parish Life, Daniel Ropp, youth at-large, Joelle Stair, young adult at-large, and Donald Zurell, Liaison for Stewardship.

**Transfiguration of our Lord** Sunday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m., we close the season of Epiphany with Transfiguration of our Lord, ringing out our alleluias strong, before we put them away for Lent. The children of the parish help transition us from “Thanks be to God!”(Alleluia) to “Lord have mercy” (Hashem Yerachem) by processing in and out with Alleluia banners, and burying the banners at the end of service. Our Alleluias will fly again on Easter day.

**Ash Wednesday**, March 6, 7:00 p.m. Today we are reminded that we are dust. God created us from the dust of the earth, breathing life into us with God’s own holy breath, and our bodies will return to dust upon our death. Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, which invites us, or calls us, to examine ourselves and draw near to God. We do this examining and drawing near by engaging in Lenten disciplines: prayer and fasting, self-examination and repentance, and sacrificial giving and works of love.

**Lasting Hope: Devotions for Lent 2019.** This beautiful, full-color Lenten devotional explores the Psalms texts for Lent for this year with 40 entries, one for each day in Lent. Each reading is accompanied by a photo, a quote to ponder, a reflection, and a prayer. Many have this a meaningful way to engage in a Lenten discipline and deepen their journey. A donation of \$3 is requested to cover the cost.

**The Installation of Rev. Edward Duffy:** On **Sunday, February 10** at 4 p.m., our near neighbors Zion Lutheran Church in Bristol are making it official, as they install the Rev. Edward Duffy. We rejoice with our brothers and sisters in Christ as they install their new pastor. As partners in Bristol and in the Central Connecticut Conference, we look forward to working together, God’s hands in this community we share.



If you haven’t checked out WoW yet, we invite you to come and see what it’s all about. We are having a great time singing and praying, playing and making, sharing and blessing. We begin with Pizza and salad and dessert. Then we move into our session with an opening circle that helps us get to know one another, sets us singing, and introduces our story and theme for the night. Digging into the Word of the Week can involve costumes, trash, flashlights, water, stories and more.

**TUESDAY EVENINGS**

- 5 – 5:40 p.m. Youth Choir
- 5:40 p.m. PIZZA dinner
- 6 – 7 p.m. WoW

God invites us to *walk the way*, to live courageous, generous lives, to honor and serve one another, to love and care for the world and all that God made. Each week we’ll explore this ongoing invitation to walk with God.

- |             |                              |
|-------------|------------------------------|
| February 5  | Justice and Mercy with Micah |
| February 12 | Beatitudes (Walking blessed) |
| February 19 | OFF (no school)              |
| February 26 | Calling Disciples            |

## WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY:

Join us Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. as we read, discuss, explore God's Word given to us in scripture. Written by an array of accomplished theologians, this series provides terrific insights into scripture through questions, prayer, suggested memorization, and daily readings. Each session explores the meaning of the text for the original writer and audience, and for today.

February 6	Jacob Receives Isaac's Blessing
February 13	Amazing Grace and Jacob's Fumble
February 20	God Blesses Jacob and Rachel (and Leah)
February 27	TBD (we are looking at doing a new series)

## Book Club

**Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again** by Rachel Held Evans is our next Book Club adventure. Excerpted from Amazon, "If the Bible isn't a science book or an instruction manual, then what is it? What do people mean when they say the Bible is *inspired*? Rachel Held Evans began a quest to better understand what the Bible is and how it is meant to be read. What she discovered changed her--and it will change you too. The Bible, she discovers, is not a static work but is a living, breathing, captivating, and confounding book that is able to equip us to join God's loving and redemptive work in the world." Order your copy, and start reading now and watch for the gathering/discussing date.

## Shrove Tuesday Fabulous Pancake Flipping Fest!

Everyone has traditions around the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, the Tuesday before Lent (and Lenten disciplines) begin. Whether it's Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Fastnacht, whether you are eating pancakes, donuts (fastnachts), beignets, or paczkis, the thought is the same – use up the rich, heavy foods that we will not be eating during lent. WoW invites you to join them **Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** at 5:40 p.m. for some pancake flipping fun. Learn about Shrove Tuesday and Lent, make a mask or bead your own necklace, get your face or hand painted, participate in the traditional pancake flipping race, EAT PANCAKES, and join in prayers as we burn our Palms from last year's palm Sunday to make our Ash for Ash Wednesday. All you need to do to participate is sign up and bring your favorite pancake topping (NO Bananas please – we have a severe allergy). There will be a sign up mid February.

## Applications for 2019-20 Young Adults in Global Mission now open.

Do you or someone you know have an interest in being a servant leader, living and serving alongside one of the ELCA's global companions? ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) is a one-year international service-learning and faith-formation opportunity for young adults, ages 21 to 29. Young adults serve alongside Lutheran companion church bodies and organizations in one of 11 country programs, being shaped by the witness of our global neighbors in a cross-cultural journey of faith.

Service opportunities currently exist in Argentina, Uruguay, Australia, Serbia, Cambodia, Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Rwanda, Senegal and Tanzania. Areas of service include, but are not limited to, health and development, congregational ministry, human rights, education, homelessness, addiction recovery, women's issues, and children and youth. All site placements provide opportunities for young adults to confront issues of wealth and poverty, racial privilege, economic disparity and globalization through the lens of faith. **Applications are open now through Feb. 15, 2019; [learn more and apply today](http://elca.org/YAGM), elca.org/YAGM.**

## COMING THIS SUMMER!

Mark your calendars for **July 22-26, 2019** for **VBS 2019**

**Watch for Details.....**

Opportunities for VBS team members available:  
teacher assistants, decorating, food service, crafts & games and more.

See Arlene Creswell to volunteer. Or maybe crowd-control....we had over 50 kids last year!! :)

## Super Bowl Subs!

Thanks to all the Pats (and Rams) fans who ordered grinders from the youth group to help get them to Camp Calumet. Don't forget to pick up your freshly made grinders **Sunday, February 3** after church. With your help and an assist from Thrivent Financial (through an action grant), we raised \$575 dollars

**Youth Volunteers for Super Bowl Subs.** Here's the plan. **Saturday, February 2**, come to church at 4 p.m. (unless you are the acolyte for Sunday service). Stay after service and help prep for sandwich making the next day. We need you for about an hour, say until 6 p.m. **Sunday, February 3**, come at 9 a.m. and assemble sandwiches and hand them out. We need your assistance until 11:30 a.m.

**MEALS TO GO (again):** Thanks to all who have brought in food for our next food packing event. In order to be a part of our packing, make sure your donations are here for **February 10**. We are planning to assemble prepacked, ready-to-go bagged lunches that can be distributed on weekends through Brian's Angels, and The Agape House homeless ministries here in Bristol. These bagged lunches would contain ready to go, ready to eat, dental-friendly food, no preparation required - think pop-top cans, pouches, and non-perishable. Please consider donating the following towards this project: individual cans of ready-to-eat proteins with pop-tops like beans, Beefaroni, tuna in a pouch, chicken salad in a can, canned ham/ham spread, packs of crackers, like peanut butter or cheese crackers, individual size bags of goldfish, cheese-its, wheat thins etc, individual boxes of raisins, cranberries, fruit rollups, soft granola bars or protein bars, packs of bottled water, packages of lunchbags, \$5 McDonalds gift cards, etc

**\*Youth gather Sunday, February 10** after church to sort and assemble the food we have collected.\*

## **Confirmands Volunteer Hours at the Pines:**

Donna Ropp works as the Activity Coordinator at the Pines, and would be open to Confirmands earning some Community Service hours by engaging with the residents there in some games on a Saturday morning. If you're interested, speak to Donna.

## **WOMEN'S GUILD**

The "winter recess" will continue for another month. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> @ 1:30 PM...weather permitting!** Please check the newsletters, bulletins and our bulletin board for any notices regarding upcoming meetings, speakers/programs or other events.

We again extend our thanks for all the help we sought and received during the past year for our special projects. As the saying goes...we couldn't do it without **YOU!**

***"Success is not what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others."***

*Joan Strecker*

## **Weather Delays, and Cancellations.**

We are always hoping to not need this, but should the weather be uncooperative and you are wondering whether we are worshipping, or having WoW, Confirmation, choir, etc, here's how to find out. First, we follow Bristol Schools. So if school has been cancelled or dismissed early, then our afternoon, evening programs would be as well. We will post delays or cancellations on Storm Center 3 WFSB, News Channel 8 WTNH, and Channel 30 NBC.

## **February Grocery Cart Challenge:**

Bristol's homeless still are without weekend meals . St. Andrew has now had 2 groups (WoW and Youth Group) that have packed bagged lunches. The need continues..... who knows when and if some organization can take on offering weekend meals. Until then, it's up to us to help.

We will continue the dental-friendly, easy open, no-cooking-necessary food items that you have so generously been giving. **We, and many, are blessed by your generosity.**

**Coming Soon.....**

**Simply Giving** sign-up weekend .....**March 9 &10** after worship.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAYS

**02/01: Holden Karp**

**02/02: Parker Dayton**

**02/03: Chris Ackerley**

**02/03: Lucien Griffin**

**02/03: Connor Pratt**

**02/05: Grace Alling**

**02/05: Joan Lagasse**

**02/06: Janice Labbe**

**02/06: Don Zurell**

**02/08: Michael Beaudoin**

**02/08: Louis Usala, Jr.**

**02/09: Cole Case**

**02/10: Mona Rindfleisch**

**02/11: Ursula Kaminsky**

**02/11: Adeline Nevulis**

**02/11: Rachel Rindfleisch**

**02/12: Marlies Kolhosser**

**02/14: Kasey Simpson**

**02/14: Daniel Stitham**

**02/15: Ryan Putaski**

**02/17: Vera Herold**

**02/17: Amanda Hintz**

**02/18: Marjorie Humphrey**

**02/18: Timothy Treacy**

**02/20: Keith Hintz**

**02/21: Linda Prior**

**02/22: Julie LaClaire**

**02/22: Eleanor Miller**

**02/23: Kathleen Butler**

**02/27: Rick Koonz**

**02/27: Emilye Pelow**

**02/28: Robin Hein**

**02/28: Lori Keane**



# February Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 <b>4:00 PM</b> Worship Service (Chapel)  <b>4:45 PM</b> Youth Super Bowl Sub Prep.
3 <b>8:00 AM</b> Youth Super Bowl Sub Prep.  <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service  <b>10:45 AM</b> Coffee Hour & Super Bowl Sub Pick Up	4 <b>6:00 PM</b> Confirmation Class  <b>6:45 PM</b> Bristol Choral Society  <b>7:00 PM</b> Stewardship Meeting	5 <b>10:00 AM</b> Bristol Cares  <b>12:30 PM</b> Pastors Meet @ St Andrew  <b>5:00 PM</b> Youth Choir <b>5:40 PM</b> Dinner <b>6:00 PM</b> WoW <b>6:45 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Voice Choir	6 <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study	7 <b>6:30 PM</b> Council  <b>7:00 PM</b> AA (Fellowship Hall)  <b>7:00 PM</b> ALANON (Youth Room)	8	9 <b>4:00 PM</b> Worship Service (Chapel)
10 <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service  <b>10:45 AM</b> Coffee Hour  <b>11:00 AM</b> Youth Food Packing  <b>4:00 PM</b> Installation of Rev. Duffy @ Zion	11 <b>6:00 PM</b> Confirmation Class  <b>6:45 PM</b> Bristol Choral Society	12 <b>NO</b> Choir  <b>5:40 PM</b> Dinner <b>6:00 PM</b> WoW	13 <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study	14 <b>7:00 PM</b> AA (Fellowship Hall)  <b>7:00 PM</b> ALANON (Youth Room)	15	16 <b>4:00 PM</b> Worship Service (Chapel)
17 <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service  <b>10:45 AM</b> Coffee Hour	18 <b>NO</b> Confirmation Class  <b>6:45 PM</b> Bristol Choral Society	19 <b>NO</b> WoW  <b>6:00PM</b> Wow Leaders Meet  <b>5:00 PM</b> Youth Choir <b>6:45 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Voice Choir	20 <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study	21 <b>4:00 PM</b> Best for Bristol  <b>7:00 PM</b> VBS Meeting @ Gloria Dei  <b>7:00 PM</b> AA (Fellowship Hall)  <b>7:00 PM</b> ALANON (Youth Room)	22	23 <b>4:00 PM</b> Worship Service (Chapel)
24 <b>9:30 AM</b> Worship Service  <b>10:45 AM</b> Coffee Hour	25 <b>6:00 PM</b> Confirmation Class  <b>6:45 PM</b> Bristol Choral Society	26 <b>5:00 PM</b> Youth Choir <b>5:40 PM</b> Dinner <b>6:00 PM</b> WoW <b>6:45 PM</b> Handbell Choir <b>7:30 PM</b> Voice Choir	27 <b>10:00 AM</b> Mulberry Gardens  <b>7:00 PM</b> Bible Study	28 <b>7:00 PM</b> AA (Fellowship Hall)  <b>7:00 PM</b> ALANON (Youth Room)	1	2

## February Serving Schedule

	3-Feb-19	10-Feb-19	17-Feb-19	24-Feb-19
Assisting Minister	Bob Herold	Terry Gustafson	Mike Beaudoin	Kelly Simpson
Lector	Arlene Creswell	Nancy Denehy	Jan Jackson	Nancy Siecienski
Communion Assistant	Sue Phaneuf	Joelle Stairs	Keith Hintz	Peggy Hoyt
Greeters	Gary & Brenda Dubnansky Nancy Denehy & Carol Brunelle	Donna Ropp & Family Steve & Nancy Siecienski	Chuck & Noreen Simmons David & Jon Nelson	Maci & Rene Smith John & Tricia Galvin
Coffee Hour	Nancy Denehy & Ursula Kaminski	John & Tricia Galvin	Kathy Cutter Roy Ouellette	OPEN
Altar Guild	Sue & Ashley Provenzano	Same	Same	Same
Acolytes	Luke Adam	Weller Simmons Nate Simmons	James Hein Robin Hein	Noah Galvin Kyle Galvin
Ushers	Brian Tessman Confirmation Class	Same	Same	Same
Counters	David Nelson Laurie & Ray Ellsworth	David Nelson Jerry & Tina Beaudoin	David Nelson Laurie & Ray Ellsworth	David Nelson Jerry & Tina Beaudoin
Bulletin Helper	Peggy Hoyt	Same	Same	Same

**Those in need of healing:** Tom Bull, Michelle Calf, Herman Dickau, John Gacek, Dawn Hart, Doris Strecker Haselrick, Bill Murtha, Ted Neumann, Jim Prior, Callum Rescsanski, Paul Rescsanski, Arlene & Charles Schissler, Dolores Spaulding, Carole Talmadge, Arnold Tonn, Herb Wedler, Anna Zurell.

**Those in nursing homes and the homebound:** Dorothy Forrest, Dermott & Virginia Luckner, 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](mailto: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:**
- Deaths/Funerals: January 25 - Funeral for Barry K. Wentland

## About St. Andrew



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

**President:** Robert Herold

**Vice President:** Carol Emond

**Secretary:** Ellie Miller

**Treasurer:** Stephen Adam

**Faith Formation Liaison:** Karen Biernat

**Mission and Outreach Liaison:** Arlene Creswell

**Parish Life Liaison:** Leslie Koonz

**Stewardship Liaison:** Don Zurell

**Youth Council-at-large:** Daniel Ropp

**Young Adult Council-at-large:** Joelle Stairs

**St. Andrew Evangelical Lutheran Church | (860) 583-5809 |**

**churchoffice@standrewct.org | www.standrewct.org**