

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH, BRISTOL, CT
1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT

News Notes for the Week of June 16, 2024

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Church Phone: 860.583.5809

The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor
Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music
Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator

St. Andrew Church's "Why" Statement...

To come together as a worshipping community, nourished by God's love so that we may reflect God's love to others.

Adopted April 2023



THIS SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2024
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

This Sunday we gather around Word and Table to rejoice in God's life-giving presence as we hear Jesus tell the parable of the mustard seed, "the smallest of all seeds," that becomes something far greater than we can ever imagine.

Consider this:

The mustard seed becomes a great shrub that shelters the birds, recalling ancient images of the tree of life. We'd expect a cedar or a sequoia, but Jesus finds the power of God better imaged in a tiny, no-account seed. It's not the way we expect divine activity to look. Yet the tree of life is here, in the cross around which we gather, the tree into which we are grafted through baptism, the true vine that nourishes us with its fruit in the cup we share. It may not appear all that impressive, but while nobody's looking it grows with a power beyond our understanding.

(From Sundays and Seasons)

Prepare for worship this Sunday with prayers of expectation and by reflecting on the readings to be heard: Ezekiel 17.22-24; Psalm 92.1-4,12-15; 2 Corinthians 5.6-10, 14-17; Mark 4.26-34.

Look around you this Sunday. Greet someone you have not yet met. Share conversation with them at coffee hour.

Build community in Christ with friends familiar and new!

In our prayers on Sunday and the days ahead...

Emanuel Nine, martyrs, 2015

On June 17, 2015, Clementa C. Pinckney, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Lee Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, and Myra Thompson were murdered by a self-professed white supremacist while they were gathered for Bible study and prayer at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (often referred to as Mother Emanuel) in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastors Pinckney and Simmons were both graduates of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. A resolution to commemorate June 17 as a day of repentance for the martyrdom of the Emanuel Nine was adopted by the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on August 8, 2019.

We give you thanks, Holy God, for the faithful life and witness of Clementa, Cynthia, Daniel, DePayne, Ethel, Myra, Sharonda, Susie, and Tywanza, the Emanuel Nine. May their faith and witness to your forgiving love in Jesus Christ inspire all people to pursue paths of justice, courage, and self-giving love.

Amen

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, June 16, 2024; 4th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion

(Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

Facebook and YouTube:

[https://www.facebook.com/Standrewct/;](https://www.facebook.com/Standrewct/)

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSSna5Ti_WSwRJ_ySbMA3Q.](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSSna5Ti_WSwRJ_ySbMA3Q)

10:30 Coffee Hour

Wednesday, June 19, 2024

6:30 p.m. Summer Bells

6:30 p.m. New Church Steering Committee at Grace Lutheran Church

Thursday, June 20, 2024

7:00 p.m. AA (Fellowship Hall)

7:00 p.m. Al Anon (Youth Room)

Sunday, June 23, 2024 5th Sunday after Pentecost

9:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion (Sanctuary, You Tube, Facebook)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour/Informal Congregational Meeting Regarding The Formation of New Congregation

NOTE THESE IMPORTANT SUNDAY DATES...

Opportunities to Lean into the Days Ahead

June 23, Updates on the New Church...

After worship, join together during the coffee hour to hear updates from the New Church Steering Committee as they continue to make progress in giving shape to the consolidation of three congregations (Grace, Plainville; Zion and St. Andrew, Bristol). St Andrew Church's three elected members of the Committee are:

Karen Biernat, Bill Golden, and Bob Herold.

Pastor Swenson is also serving on the Committee.

June 30, Naming Day...

Our three congregations will gather to worship together at St. Andrew Church. The Rev. Steven Wilco, Associate to the Bishop of the New England Synod, who has been walking with us from the beginning of our discussions and development of the new church, will be our preacher.

Immediately following worship will we turn our attention to the naming of the new church. What will our name say to the community around us about who we are and what we are about? Will it be an inviting name that others are drawn to? The five names currently being considered are: Hope Lutheran Church, New Hope Lutheran Church, Living Hope Lutheran Church, Faith Lutheran Church, United in Faith Lutheran Church.

A special Coffee Hour and Ice Cream Social Hour will follow in the Hall. (Yes, ice cream before lunch! Yea!)

July 16...What Will Change for Us in a New Church?

We will welcome the Rev. Maria Hammons, Associate to the Bishop of the New England Synod, whose role is to help congregations walk gracefully through change, closure and new days. She will preach during worship and the lead us in discussion during coffee hour about the challenges, opportunities, and responsibilities that lie ahead for us as three congregations become one.

NEW BISHOP ELECTED AT SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Rev. Nathan Piphon was elected on the fifth and final ballot to serve as the new Bishop of the New England Synod at the Synod's annual Assembly that ran from June 6-8. He currently serves as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Worcester, MA, and will begin his new role as Bishop on August 1.

Those in attendance also celebrated the ministry of the Rev. Jim Hazelwood who has served as Bishop for the last 12 years. (Bishops in the ELCA are elected to six-year terms.). Bishop Hazelwood presided over the sessions of the Assembly in which elections for a variety of positions were held, a budget was passed, and updates were heard from various synodical and national church ministries. The Assembly, held at the DCU Center in Worcester, was attended by over 500 delegates, visitors and special guests.

Our thanks to those who ably represented St. Andrew Church at the Assembly: Connor Pratt, Britt Lynch, and Arlene Creswell. Pastor Swenson also attended, as well as Kristen Pratt and Bob Herold who attended as visitors.

You are encouraged to embrace our Bishop-elect in your prayers as he prepared to assume his new call to serve the church.



ATTENTION AMAZON SHOPPERS!!!

VBS 2024 needs you! We are in need of supplies for our decorating team to transform our building into a rainforest for VBS July 8-12

We've created an [Amazon Wishlist](#).....go to your Amazon account and search:

VBS Rainforest Explorers



There will be several items for decorating that are needed. The list will be updated regularly, and when you place an order, it will be shipped directly to Dawn Stitham

Please place your order today!!!!

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2CY5YA8E0XNMZ?ref=cm_sw_em_r_un_un_CtxJdRqNOMRR6

ST. ANDREW CRAFT GROUP

GOT ANY LEFTOVER BIG COFFEE CANS ?CARDBOARD TUBES FROM PAPER TOWELS ? The Craft group can use them in creating a RAIN FOREST for our up-coming VBS. Just drop them off in the Parish life room or outside the church office. (Thanks !!)

We can always use a few more volunteers to add to our very friendly group of crafters . If you can glue stuff together including leaves on trees made of cardboard tubes, or turn an old bathtub box into "Sid the Sloths" house, complete with a roof covered with huge leaves, we'd love to have you join us! It is a whole lot of fun!

Please contact Robin [_RNRLAND@comcast.net](mailto:RNRLAND@comcast.net) if you are interested.



2024 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Sponsored by the following Lutheran Churches
Gloria Dei, Grace, St. Andrew and Zion

DATE: JULY 8 – July 12, 2024
TIME: 5:30 – 8 PM
LOCATION: St Andrew Lutheran
1125 Stafford Avenue
Bristol, CT 06010
Ages: Pre-K through 6th grade

Free for all – dinner included

To register, go to www.standrewct.org and click on VBS. Registration opens April 1st.



NEW ENGLAND SYNOD SCHOOL OF LAY MINISTRY BEGINS NEW SESSION IN THE FALL

"Curious? Maybe interested? see Arlene Creswell,
School of Lay Ministry (SLM) Class of 2010.
Remote learning, flexible schedule, fits into your life - it's great!

The New England Synod offers a two-year educational program for laypersons through its School of Lay Ministry. It is an innovative program designed to give adult students an opportunity to grow in their faith for the purpose of personal spiritual development, biblical enrichment and life-long learning. The School embodies the belief in the "priesthood of all believers," empowering its students to greater service to God and their congregations.

Enrollment is open to anyone over 18 years of age interested in learning more about the history and development of Christianity, the Bible, Lutheranism and more. No educational prerequisite or expectation of prior biblical or theological knowledge is required.



SUMMER STEWARDSHIP

Summer is coming soon (hopefully) and our thoughts turn to BBQs, vacations, sitting on the deck/patio and taking a deep breath. A time of restorative peace, perhaps. Vacations, beach days, yardwork! God wants us to rest, renew, revive.... physically and spiritually too.

Part of our spiritual discipline is giving. The Bible teaches us to be generous in our care for others, and we ask for your generosity this summer:

- to continue support of our community in Mission funds
- to continue the support of people in need in the region, country and the world
- to continue the care of our facility and staff
- to facilitate needed repairs and updates in preparation of a new ministry

Thank you for your generosity

ST. PAULY SHED

WARDROBE CHANGE TIME!!!!!!

As you flip your wardrobe from fall/winter to spring/summer, remember to bring any unwanted clothes and shoes for our St. Pauly shed.

Haven't worn that in a year? It goes!

Now that shirt is a little tight/loose? It goes!

Thank you for supporting this ministry!

GROCERY CART

HUNGER DOESN'T GO ON VACATION

When shopping, please pick up some extra items like boxed pasta salads, canned beans, cereal, powdered milk, pudding/fruit cups,

Items always needed are pasta sauce, canned meats and fruits, diapers of any size and baby wipes.

Watch for sales and feed your neighbor!

PRAYERS

We offer prayers of thanksgiving and supplication for:

- those known to us in need of healing: Freda Ahl, Lori Boisvert, Nancy Carpenter, Charlie Caston, Patricia Castro, Nancy Denehy, Lee Hardin, Denise Holyst, Larry Holyst, Bob Lagasse, Joan Lagasse, Ann Maher, Pamela Murphy, Bill Murtha, Donna Ouellette, Marge Pearson, Vincent Provenzano, Callum Rescsanski, Paul Rescsanski, Charles Schissler, Steven Siecienski, Tracey Simpson, Johanna Tessman, Carole Wedler, John Werner, Todd Wish, Anna Zurell, Roy Zurell.

We strive to keep the prayer lists updated both during worship and in our weekly announcements. If you have people or concerns that you would like to add to our communal prayer, please email churchoffice@standrewct.org, or leave a comment on our Sunday worship live feed. We will keep any requests made on for a month and then remove them.

*If you have pastoral needs or concerns, please feel free to call our transition pastor.
The Rev. Les Swenson can be reached at 860.857.9362.*



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

3	Arlene Creswell	14	Luis Cardenas Jr.
4	Brian Tessman	15	Renae Smith
6	Heidi DellaBianca	15	Caden Tampellini
8	Carlina Mazarella	17	Irene Nelson
9	Roger Narvesen	19	Robert Boisvert
9	Skylar Neumann	21	Thomas Golden
10	Robert Cunningham	21	Ralph Landrette
10	Joyce Killiany	22	Margaret Beauregard
13	William Golden	22	Leslieann Koonz
13	Sharon Modeen	25	Kathleen Winter
13	Nikolas Shackford	26	David Sonstrom

The June 16, 2024 bulletin can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xw9J8DGCXK7AFSAgQjdoQEH5jxRFhtgY/view?usp=sharing>