

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

**News Notes for the Week of September 1, 2024**

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

**Church Phone: 860.583.5809**

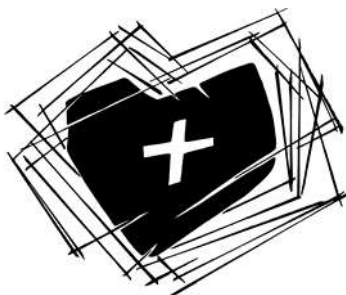
**The Rev. Les Swenson, Transition Pastor**  
**Gwynne Hopko, Deacon, Minister of Music**  
**Nicole Gergler, Church Administrator**

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

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**WORSHIP WITH ONE VOICE THIS SUNDAY!**

**September 1, 2024, 9:30 a.m.**

**The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

Gather around Word and Table this Sunday as we step into the early days of autumn and anticipate the excitement of a season of new beginnings. After a five-week foray into hearing St. John's proclaiming Jesus as the Bread of Life, we return to the Gospel of St. Mark, the Gospel for this liturgical year, and hear Jesus debate with his questioners about what lies at the very heart of a genuine life of faith. Come sing and pray, listen and know the love of Jesus!

In preparation for worship the Sunday, you are invited to read the Scripture lessons we all hear during worship: Deuteronomy 4.1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15; James 1.17-27; Mark 7.1-8, 14-15, 21-23.

Look around you this Sunday! Greet and chat with someone you have not yet met. Continue your conversation at coffee hour.  
*"Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you!"*

## **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

### **Sunday, September 1, 2024; 15<sup>th</sup> 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.youtube.com/channel/UCLSSna5Ti\\_WSwRJ\\_ySbMA3Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLSSna5Ti_WSwRJ_ySbMA3Q).

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour/Informal Congregational Meeting

### **Tuesday, September 3, 2024**

6:45 p.m. Hand Bell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

### **Thursday, September 5, 2024**

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

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

### **Saturday, September 7, 2024**

9:00 a.m. Tag Sale at Grace Lutheran

6:00 p.m. Summer Bell Concert

### **Sunday, September 8, 2024 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

## **INFORMAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING THIS SUNDAY... UPDATES ON NEW CHURCH FORMATION**

A brief informal congregational meeting will be held in the hall after worship to share the latest efforts of the new Faith Lutheran Church Steering Committee which met on Monday evening of this week. Much work is being done as we move toward the first worship service of the new congregation on Reformation Sunday, October 27. Some of it is evident as recent worshippers have seen the first stages of the renovation work in the chancel/altar area. But there is so much more going on! Stay informed! Join the conversation this Sunday!

### **Brief Summary of Faith Church Steering Committee**

The New Church Steering Committee met for a jam-packed, lively meeting on Monday evening, August 26, at St. Andrew Church. Faith Lutheran Church is truly a work in progress! Here is a brief summary meeting highlights:

- Heard that the Zion Church triplex on Judd St. will be going on the market very soon. The Grace Church, Plainville, building and property have been on the market since mid-July and they are currently negotiating a very promising bid.
- The budget for the new church (which will be prepared for the last two months of 2024 and the calendar year 2025) is in early stages of development. The Finance Committee is also considering an investment counselor to help with the income received from the sale of the properties and other special funds the former congregations will bring to Faith Church.
- A large number of applications for the position of Administrative Assistant have been received. Initial interviews with selected candidates are being scheduled.
- The Committee reviewed the first phase of renovation of the worship space and narthex. If you been at worship the last couple weeks you've seen some of the work being done. The "altar landing" has been removed so now there are two steps up to the entire chancel area, the carpet has now been

removed awaiting new flooring, the placement of Grace Church's beautiful stained windows is being considered, and work will begin on removing the pulpit. The goal is to provide a new image for the new church in this central place. Also, some renovation will be done in the narthex to make it a space for small children when parents want to give them a space to let off steam. The doors from narthex into nave will be refurbished with all glass, as well as the windows along the dividing wall. A contractor recommended by our architect will be doing some of the major work in the chancel and narthex. A painting company is being hired to do the painting in the entrance way from the parking lot, the adjoining hallways, and the upper walls above the rows of windows in the nave.

- The Worship Team is beginning to plan the first worship service of the new congregation on October 27, Reformation Sunday, as well as the shape of worship in the first weeks of new life together. The new church choir will be rehearsing soon to sing together on October 27.
- The new Board of Directors for the Meals for Neighbors, housed at the former Zion Church, will be meeting in person for first time this week.
- The Faith Formation team is also meeting this week to begin planning for adult learning ministries, confirmation ministry as well as children's ministries. Pastor Ed Duffy is coordinating this team.
- The team working on introducing the congregation to the Reconciling in Christ ministry is also getting into gear. They are planning a launch for November.
- The Call Committee has received a candidate to serve as pastor of the new church. An initial interview is being scheduled.

### **WATCH FOR SPECIAL LETTER FOR INFORMATION GATHERING COMING SOON!**

As we near the birth of Faith Lutheran Church all three of our joining congregations will be requesting their current members to update their contact information for a new directory for the new church. The response form that will come with the letter will also invite people to indicate their openness to participate in the life of Faith Church.

In order to save mailing costs, the letter will first be made available for people to fill out on Sunday mornings, September 1 and 8. After the 8th the letter will be mailed to those who have not yet responded. To encourage your response a self-addressed, stamped envelope will be included in the mailing. Thanks for your response!

### **SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CALLED FOR SEPTEMBER 29... FORMAL STEPS TOWARD FORMATION OF FAITH CHURCH**

A special Congregational Meeting for the members of St. Andrew Lutheran Church has been called by the Congregation Council for Sunday, September 29, following worship.

The meeting be to vote on the legal closure of St. Andrew Church and to approve the legal incorporation of the new Faith Lutheran Church. Approval of the Constitution of the new congregation will also be voted on. A fourth matter will be to approve the proposed distribution of our Legacy Gifts. The Congregation Council, after careful conversation at its August 25 meeting, has proposed \$2,500 gifts to the Camp Calumet Lutheran Campership Fund, the ELCA Fund for Leaders (supporting students preparing for the ordained ministry), Agape House, Bristol, and St. Vincent DePaul Center, Bristol.

Copies of the legal documents for the church closure and new church incorporation, as well as the Constitution for Faith Church, will be made available online in early September. Due to the large amount of paper involved, a very limited amount of hard copies will be made available in the church office.

## **Faith Lutheran Church Parish Life Committee wants to hear from you!**

The Faith Lutheran Church Parish Life Committee has met a couple times to discuss activities and events for once we officially become one parish.

Right now, we have a very small Committee comprised with some members from each of the 3 parishes. We are seeking to have more members join the Committee to help out with the things we want to plan.

If you want to have a part in planning events, please join us. Our next meeting is September 23 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Andrew Church.

Even if you don't want to officially join the Parish Life Committee, we want to hear from you with suggestions of events/activities that you would like to see us do. Please see or contact Jill Little, Matt Stojanov, Dawn Stitham or Robin Landrette and we will bring the suggestions to the Committee.

Finally, one of our first events as a new parish is a Celebratory Potluck after our first service as Faith Lutheran Church on October 27. More details about signing up will be coming soon!

## **STEWARDSHIP**

Your giving matters! As we near our close as the people of St Andrew, there are many, many things to "take care of", your generosity is appreciated!

Watch for Faith Lutheran's Stewardship campaign coming soon!



**YES!! There will be a FALL Tag Sale.** It is scheduled for Saturday, October 12th from 8 to 2pm. Items can be left in the Parish Life Room (Clean and in good working condition.)

**No large items and no clothing please** . Donations will be accepted thru the month of September.

Volunteers are needed for the cookie sale and for set up on Friday October 11th. See signup sheet in the hall.

Questions???? contact Robin at 860-582-7807 or [rnrland@comcast.net](mailto:rnrland@comcast.net).

## ST. PAULY SHED



St Pauly Shed is here to stay!

Faith Lutheran will continue to utilize the shed, helping clothe people around the world, our neighbors, and bringing income to the church.

IT'S ALMOST TIME TO CHANGE OUT THOSE WARDROBES TO FALL .....

Tired of those old summer clothes? PUT IT IN THE SHED

Tired of last year's flannel shirt? PUT IT IN THE SHED

Those corduroys don't quite fit the same? PUT IT IN THE SHED

## GO-BAGS FOR NEIGHBORS

Many of our neighbors experience homelessness, bringing with it many related problems. People suffer from hunger, thirst, a lack of clean clothing, illness, alienation from others, and constant fear and worry about how they will make it through the day. We can help by sharing what we can. Please consider getting a reusable bag (lunchbox, backpack, or similar bag) and filling it with the following items and/or anything else that can be helpful. It doesn't need to be perfect in order to be helpful!

Bags can be taken from the shopping cart in the narthex and filled at home. Then, when you see someone in need, you can give it to them.

- Clothing (Socks and underwear (all sizes), gloves, hats, scarves, and long johns (the weather is getting warmer, but nights are cold), hand warmers)
- Toiletries (Toothbrush and toothpaste, soap and shampoo, feminine hygiene products, hand sanitizer, lip balm, sunblock)
- Notebook and pen, something to read (happier and easier books are best)
- Gift cards to local coffee places, restaurants, and grocery stores (\$5 denominations, but we can put multiple cards in each bag)
- Nonperishable snacks
- Backpacks
- First aid kits (ointments, anti-Fungal cream, hydrocortisone cream, bandages)
- Waterproof bags, reusable water bottle

## GROCERY CART/MEALS FOR NEIGHBORS



Watch for details in the next 90 days for ways that we can continue to support the food insecure in Bristol. Meals for Neighbors (MFN) will be needing volunteers and support, Gloria Dei will still be handing out over 200 bags of groceries twice a month..... etc. etc.

Whether you buy food to donate, cook for MFN, volunteer at a food drive, YOU are important to your neighbors!

Keep watch for details!

## PRAYERS

### **We offer prayers of thanksgiving and supplication for:**

- those known to us in need of healing: Freda Ahl, Sandy Bidwell, Lori Boisvert, Nancy Carpenter, Charlie Caston, Susan Caston, Patricia Castro, Rusty Cunningham, Nancy Denehy, Jean Gustafson, Terry Gustafson, Lee Hardin, Denise Holyst, Larry Holyst, Patti Kelley, Bob Lagasse, Joan Lagasse, Ann Maher, Pamela Murphy, Bill Murtha, Marge Murtha, Donna Ouellette, Marge Pearson, Callum Rescsanski, Krista Rescsanski, Paul Rescsanski, Charles Schissler, Steven Siecienski, Tracey Simpson, Johanna Tessman, Carole Wedler, John Werner, Todd Wish.

Our prayers embrace the family and friends of Bill Short, who died on Sunday, August 25. Bill was the brother of Barbara Soden. *"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."* Memorial gifts in honor of Bill may be given to St. Andrew Church.

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](mailto: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.*



### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1 Ashley Motta	19 Andrew Adam
2 Nancy Denehy	19 Jacob Adam
2 Jean Gustafson	20 Andrea Glidden
4 Linda Mackey	20 Kaylee Hall
5 Nathaniel Simmons	21 Kyle Galvin
7 Kyle Cruz	21 Ethan Hoyt
7 Kevin Kalat	21 Amanda Kalat
8 Cindy Tessman	23 Alan Fournier
12 Douglas Beaudoin	24 Anna Vertefeuille
12 Sandra Werner	25 Kari Karp
15 Timothy Hein	26 Rachel Hahn
15 Roy Tessman	27 Victoria Dube
16 Raymond Glidden	27 Lisa McMahan
17 Donald Scherling	30 Tricia Galvin

**The September 1, 2024 bulletin can be found here:**

**<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17mGuDcxeXEpwtbKPoyVO-yK8-9zBwtuG/view?usp=sharing>**