

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

News Notes for the Week of September 22, 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



WORSHIP THIS SUNDAY!
SEPTEMBER 22, 2024, 9:30 A.M.
THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gather around Word and Table this Sunday rejoicing
in the life giving and eye-opening graces of God.

As the disciples squabble over who is the greatest,

Jesus awakens them to the godly truth

that the way to be great is to serve.

Lead and empower us in this way O God!

As you prepare for worship this Sunday, thoughtfully and prayerfully
read the texts we will hear together:

Jeremiah 11.18-20; Psalm 54; James 3.13-4.3, 7-8a; Mark 9.30-37.

Look around you this Sunday!

Greet and welcome someone you have not yet met.

Share a cup of coffee and lively conversation with them after worship.

Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, September 22, 2024; 18th 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 a.m. Coffee Hour

Monday, September 23, 2024

4:00 p.m. Kids Choir

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

6:30 p.m. Faith Lutheran Parish Life Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

6:45 p.m. Hand Bell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, September 25, 2024

7:00 p.m. Bible Study

Thursday, September 26, 2024

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

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

Saturday, September 28, 2024

2:00 p.m. Faith Lutheran Men's & Women's Group

Sunday, September 29, 2024 19th Sunday after Pentecost

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

11:00 a.m. Congregational Meeting to Vote on Legal Documents for Closure of St. Andrew and Legal Incorporation of Faith Lutheran Church, Approval of Constitution, Approval of Distribution of Legacy Gifts.

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. This meeting marks the final steps toward becoming a part of an exciting new venture in ministry!

The meeting's key purpose is to vote on a series of documents regarding the legal closure of St. Andrew Church and 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, have now been emailed to all voting members of the congregation. Due to the large amount of paper involved, a very limited amount of hard copies are available in the church office. Call if you would like to stop by and pick up copies or you need someone to drop the copies off to your house.

All three congregations in the new partnership — Zion, Grace and St. Andrew — will be voting on these

and similar proposals on the 29th. May God empower us all to act wisely and boldly!

SHARE YOUR FAVORITE STORIES, MEMORIES FROM ST. ANDREW'S HISTORY!

There is a wonderful Hasidic story told by Elie Wiesel that ends with the line: "God created people because God loves stories."

The church itself is a storehouse of stories. Each one of us is a beloved living story. And we each have our splendid stories to tell. And God loves our stories!

Now as we reach the days when we will conclude the nearly 40-year story of St. Andrew Lutheran Church and celebrate the birth of the new Faith Lutheran Church, I want to invite you to share in writing your own favorite stories of your life with St. Andrew Church — fond memories of your experiences, of special people who have inspired and befriended you, of special moments that will remain with you.

We would like to gather your stories into small booklet that will be available to everyone on October 20 when we celebrate our final worship service together as St. Andrew Church and anticipate the new beginnings of Faith Church the following Sunday.

Please submit your stories to the church office by October 7 so we will have time enough to compile them. Make sure you include your name on the document!

If you do not have access to a computer to compose your story, feel free to submit it in your best handwriting and we will do our best to type it so it is included in the booklet.

Send via email to: churchoffice@standrewct.org. Or send via mail or drop off a printed copy to the church office: 1125 Stafford Ave., Bristol, CT 06010.

With gratitude for your rich stories that are woven together in such a rich tapestry at St. Andrew Church!

ANTICIPATING OCTOBER 20 ... CELEBRATING THE MINISTRY OF ST. ANDREW CHURCH!

As we near the final service of this congregation's ministry as St. Andrew Church and celebrate nearly 40 years of life together on October 20, we invite you to forward the names and addresses/contact information of former members or friends of St. Andrew that you are still in contact with so we can send invitations to them to join the celebration. We have a letter ready to be sent so please forward their names and addresses to the church office (via land mail or email — see above for addresses) and we will send them a welcome to join the worshipping congregation that day. We look forward to having a joyful day of reunion and thanksgiving on October 20. Thanks!

UPDATING OUR MEMBERSHIP RECORDS...PLEASE HELP

If you weren't able to fill out the forms to update our church records the last couple of Sundays after worship, you will soon be receiving a cover letter and the form in the land mail soon (if you have not already received it). We are doing this update as we approach the formation of the new Faith Lutheran Church and merge together the current membership records of St. Andrew, Grace and Zion Churches.

Please make use of the self-addressed, stamped envelope in your letter and return it to church as soon as possible! Thanks much!

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!

Faith Lutheran Church – Forming Women's and Men's Groups

If you are interested in being a part of Faith Lutheran's Women's Group or Men's Group, please attend an important initial meeting on Saturday, September 28 at 2:00 p.m. at St. Andrew Church. This meeting is for all men and women of the future Faith Lutheran Church. The goal of this meeting is to plan what these groups will be and what members would like to get from these groups. Please come with your ideas and suggestions!

Behold the Sparkle of these Handbells!



This is the story of how the St Andrew Handbells spent the summer. After 25 years of continuous use, the 66 tired bells were transported back to the Malmark Factory in Bucks County, PA (courtesy of Bob and Vera Herold) to be refurbished.

To refurbish the handbells means: to completely disassemble and inspect the handbells.

While apart, the technicians at the Malmark factory clean, adjust and replace handles, springs and clapper heads where necessary. Bells are polished twice, first by machine inside and out and for the last time, by hand. The members of the bell choir are thrilled that their bells are now sounding just as beautiful as they look! Just as they did when new 25 years ago.

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!

Faith Lutheran's Stewardship campaign is 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.

The Pumpkins are Coming! The Pumpkins are Coming!!

To assist with the expense of changing the building signage from St. Andrew to Faith Lutheran Church, a pumpkin patch fundraiser will be held at St. Andrew/Faith Lutheran Church, 1125 Stafford Avenue, Bristol.

You are invited to **Join Us** on Friday, October 11 at 3:30 PM for Pizza and to help unload the truck.



Sales will begin on Saturday, October 12 at 11:30 AM daily until Halloween (or until all the pumpkins are sold).

To celebrate Sock-tober, along with selling pumpkins we'll be collecting socks for St. Vincent De Paul in Bristol and The Friendship Center in New Britain as well as non-perishable food items for Gloria Dei and Meals for Neighbors.

Volunteers are needed for set-up and unloading the truck.

Join us for Pizza and Pumpkins to support Faith Lutheran Church.

Contact Jon at jfitzgerald01@att.net to volunteer or for more information.

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

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, 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, Todd Wish.

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 there is a need for pastoral care while Pastor Swenson is away, please call the church office (860.853.5809). If necessary, leave a message. Pastors Ed Duffy and Chris Dion will be available. If there is an emergency, please call Bob Herold, Congregation President (860.302.5979).



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 McMahon
17 Donald Scherling	30 Tricia Galvin

The September 22, 2024 bulletin can be found here:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/19q_hf8-jkSGjGvoAE0SY-Zuuzg6f8bs/view?usp=sharing