

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

News Notes for the Week of September 8, 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 8, 2024, 9:30 A.M.
THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In the book of Acts we hear Peter, in a nearly stunned voice, exclaiming, "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality...!" This Sunday in the Gospel reading from St. Mark we experience another stunning story of the truth of Peter's exclamation ... the story of Jesus healing the daughter of a Gentile woman from Syria Phoenicia. Together we rejoice in God's boundless love revealed in Jesus, and sing with the Psalmist: "I will sing praises to my God all my life long."

Prepare for worship this Sunday by reading thoughtfully and prayerfully the texts we will hear together: Isaiah 35.4-7a; Psalm 146; James 2.1-17; Mark 7.24-27.

Look around you this Sunday. Greet someone you have not yet met. Share coffee and conversation with them after worship.

Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday, September 8, 2024; 16th 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.

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Monday, September 9, 2024

6:00 p.m. Bristol Chorale

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

6:45 p.m. Hand Bell Choir

7:30 p.m. Voice Choir

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

6:30 p.m. Summer Bells

Thursday, September 12, 2024

6:30 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church Steering Committee at St. Andrew

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

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

Sunday, September 15, 2024 17th Sunday after Pentecost

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

10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour

Children's Bible Story Time Returns on September 8!

Children ages 2-12 are invited to join adult leaders in our Sunday School room from the first lesson through the sermon to learn about the day's lessons and gospel and enjoy related activities and song. Children will become immersed in Bible stories while following along in the lectionary. In lieu of CBST on the fourth Sundays of the month, children will remain in the sanctuary and hear a Children's Message from the pastor.

Please contact Britt Elise Lynch if you have questions, wish to participate as a helper or leader, or would like more information.

Dear Friends,

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 a 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!

*Les Swenson,
Transition Pastor*

P.S. If there are folks who have moved away or who still live nearby who you think would like to be invited to share in our Celebration Sunday, October 20, please send their names and addresses to the church office (see above) and we will send them a welcome to join the worshipping congregation that day. Thanks.

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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 after worship this Sunday, September 8. (Thanks to all who filled out their forms this past Sunday!). After Sunday 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 will 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 mid-September. Due to the large amount of paper involved, a very limited amount of hard copies will be made available in the church office.

Adult Helper Requested for Children's Bible Story Time for 2 Sundays

Would you commit to two Sundays this fall to help out during Children's Bible Story Time (CBST)? On Sundays September 29 and October 3, lend a hand during the church service at CBST - from the first lesson through the sermon. Britt will lead the lessons. Must be Safe Church trained in advance (watch a video online, consent to a background check).

BIBLE STUDY BEGINS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18TH

As we begin our new life together, let's dive into the Bible. A suggested topic of study is St. John's Gospel or the Book of Acts. Other ideas are welcome. Ideas can be forwarded to Matt at Matthew.a.stojanov@gmail.com or Terry Gustafson at newctgus@gmail.com. Bible Study will begin meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 1125 Stafford Avenue, Bristol starting September 18th.

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!

SECOND SUNDAY MUSICIANS



The little "Combo in the Corner", also known as Britt Lynch and Mike Beaudoin, should be returning after a summer hiatus to enliven our worship service this Second Sunday service of September. We welcome the joy they bring as we sing the familiar and the new!

Connecticut Handbell Musicians

Present a


FREE CONCERT




Saturday September 7th @ 6pm

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church
1125 Stafford Ave
Bristol, CT 06010



Chime In!
Music With a Mission

Sponsored by:
Chime In! Music with a Mission and
Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

Free will offering will be accepted



ST. ANDREW
Evangelical Lutheran Church



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.

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 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

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.

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).

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 8, 2024 bulletin can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MjuZDobncSHOWTNNyLMH1P7f9vTvqzWE/view?usp=sharing>