



Andrew said, "We have found the Messiah." John 1:41

**Our mission is to demonstrate God's love
by caring for all people and helping them
to know and follow Jesus.**



This is just one of over 200 unique and beautiful nativity displays that will be available for viewing December 9-11 at St. Andrew's 2nd Annual Holy Nativity Display. See event details inside, invite friends and volunteer to help!

In This Issue ...

- ❖ Advent & Christmas Worship Opportunities
- ❖ 2nd Annual Holy Nativity Display & Festivities – Dec 9-11
- ❖ Firm Foundations Gift Program – Give a Gift that Lasts!!
- ❖ *One Starry Night*: A Christmas Event for Families – Dec 17
- ❖ Welcome Our New Members!

Plus much, much more!

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, November 13, the Congregational Phase of the Firm Foundations Capital Campaign began with a Commitment Sunday Celebration of Ministry, which included five baptisms and the reception of 30 new members. What a day it was! We could have certainly used our new parking lot.

Prior to Commitment Sunday, more than \$625,000 had been pledged by 39 "advance givers." On it, another 100+ pledges of all sizes put the number just over the \$1 million mark. Praise God for all that is being offered for His glory!

If this was the end of our shared commitment, our vision for a Creative Arts Center, Youth Lounge, and expanded places for kids, confirmands, and adults to grow in their faith would need some rather dramatic adjustments. But it isn't the end. It is a God-honoring beginning for which I give thanks to our Lord and to our givers. As I look at the long list of St. Andrew members who have yet to step forward and say yes to the mission of Christ in this way, I am holding on to the vision I believe He's given us and am trusting in the rest of our church family to respond. Just imagine. 140 members honored God with pledges of more than \$1 million. What will the next 400 do?!

So, if you haven't made your commitment to Firm Foundations, our leadership team and I ask you to prayerfully do so as soon as possible, so that the planning we are doing with our architect and builder might reflect the best possible stewardship of our collective response.

As we give thanks for all of God's blessings in these days and spiritually prepare to celebrate the greatest gift of all in the coming of the world's Redeemer, let us honor the One who gave Himself to us by giving our lives to Him.

Thank you for the beginning you have made! Our family is honored to be part of it. May the Spirit move through all our hearts and hands as we move together through the Congregational Phase of Firm Foundations and on to a new year of building the kingdom of God.

The Lord be with you+

Your servant in the ministry of Christ,

Pastor Hricko

Welcome Our Newest Members!

We were blessed to welcome the following new members to our St. Andrew family on Sunday, November 13! Stop by the "Coming Attractions" wall near the mailboxes in the Commons to check out their photos ... then keep your eye out and make an effort to welcome them to the family!

Steve Berry
Shirley Brown
Ken & Carolyn Carlson
Massaquoi Galakpai & Viola Clinton,
Moko & Cliff Massaquoi, & Stephen Kwity
Roger Hartmuller
Fred & Jacqueline Kruhm
David Kruhm
Jake & Erin Nelson, & Ava
Konrad & Nancy Noben-Trauth
Robert & Suzanne Redman,
Sam, Max, Jake, Luke
William Reupke
May-Britt Sten, Karina & Sofia
Tsion Tesfayohannes, & Christine Daniel



CELEBRATE ADVENT!
WEDNESDAYS AT ST. ANDREW!

**Traditional Evening
Prayer Worship**
Wed., Nov. 30



Wed., Dec 7, 14 & 21

6:15 DINNER 7:00 WORSHIP

**Take a break from the holiday rush
to find your center in Christ!**

Church Staff

Mark A. Hricko, Pastor
Robert L. Mordhorst, Assistant Pastor
Jotham Johann Jhang, Missionary Pastor
Kenneth G. Carlson, Visitation Pastor
Greg Twombly, Director of Ministries
Barbara Wahlbrink, Minister of Outreach & Discipleship
Riki Schoppert, Minister of Youth
Lia Mai Puskar, Preschool Director
Wendy Linstrom, Director of Children's Ministries
Marilee Tollefson, Faith Community Nurse
Rosemary Wasser, Director of Music & Bell Choir
Kathy Gomez, Youth Choir Director
Greg Twombly, Praise Team Leader
Riki Schoppert, Praise Team
Jennifer Twombly, Praise Team
Marilyn Candler, Worship Musician
Wendy Linstrom, Office Manager
Kathy Brungardt, Creative Services
Anne Harpster, Bookkeeper
Bruce Poese, Media Ministry
Debbie Snyder, Office Assistant
Paul Rognlie, Property Maintenance
Luis Escobar, Property Maintenance
Khiem Hua, Childcare
Phuong Chau, Childcare

2011 Board of Directors

Deb Poese, Chair, 301-946-4709
Sandy Nee Jackson, Vice Chair, 301-249-5906
Michael Arsenault, 301-445-6858
Kimberly Gay Armour, 301-570-5335
Stacey Grove, 301-460-2242
Karen Matthiesen, 301-774-5899
Tad Meyer, 301-776-7894
Dan Shaltanis, 301-806-8375
Cecilia Taramona, 301-570-5086

Auxiliary Organizations

Sunday School Superintendent:
Debbie Stowe, 301-933-8032
LWML President:
Nancy Kichak, 301-384-1933

St. Andrew's News

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Christmas at St. Andrew!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

Saturday, December 24
4, 6, 8 & 10 pm

4, 8 & 10pm: Festival Worship
with Bells & Choir

6pm: Christmas Carols &
Contemporary Praise

Children's Message at 4 & 6pm

Holy Communion at 10pm

Sunday, December 25 at 10am

Christmas Day Worship

with Holy Communion

Saturday, December 31 at 7pm

New Year's Eve Worship

with Holy Communion

Sunday, January 1 at 10am

New Year's Day Worship

with Holy Communion

Midweek Advent Worship

Wed, Nov 30, Dec 7, 14 & 21 at 7pm

Details on page 2

Children's Christmas Pageant

Sun, Dec 11 at 11am

Bethlehem:

Nothing Ever Happens Here!

Details on page 6

Preschool Christmas Pageant

Fri, Dec 16 at 11am

Details on page 10

Family Christmas Event:

"One Starry Night"

Sat, Dec 17 from 1-3pm

*Journey back to old Bethlehem for
Christmas crafts, sights & fun!*

Details on page 6

Friday-Sunday, December 9-11

2nd Annual St. Andrew

Holy Nativity Display

Fri, Dec 9: 10-3 & 7-9

Sat, Dec 10: 1-8

Sun, Dec 11: 9-5

*Enjoy over 200 beautiful and unique
nativity scenes from around the
world ... plus holiday music, light
refreshments & warm fellowship!*

FREE ADMISSION!

Photos in Nativity Setting

LIVE Manger Animals!

Fri: 7-9 Sat: 1-4/6-8 Sun: 9-1

Details on page 4

Christmas Music for Flute & Piano

Sat, Dec 17 at 4pm

Performed by flutist Tim Friedlander and pianist
Natasha Dukan, from their 2010 release
Christmas at Mill Creek. Free Admission!

SALSA'S Annual Christmas Party & Gift Exchange

Sat, Dec 3, 7-9pm

Details on page 6

**Toy Collections
for local needy children!**

Details on page 7

2nd Annual

Holy Nativity Display

at The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew

Friday-Sunday, December 9-11

Fri: 10-3 / 7-9 ✦ Sat: 1-8 ✦ Sun: 9-5



Featuring over 200 beautiful and unique nativity scenes from around the world!

Joyful music, live nativity animals, nativity scene photo opportunity, and heartwarming fellowship!

Get into the Spirit of Christmas!

**Many hands are needed
to make this event a success ...**

★ **We need You for Set-Up, Greeting and Security.** ★

★ **Loan or donate artificial Christmas trees, garland and white Christmas lights.** ★

Contact Patty Hricko at thehrickos@verizon.net
or 301-490-7083.

***And you will have joy and gladness,
and many will rejoice at His birth.***

Luke 1:14

Christmas Card Tree



In 1976 the Lutheran Women's Missionary League asked members of St. Andrew to donate to our Christmas Card Tree in lieu of sending Christmas cards to one another in the congregation. Although the custom of sending Christmas cards is not as popular as it once was, the tradition has remained. Thousands of dollars have been raised to support local and foreign missionaries.

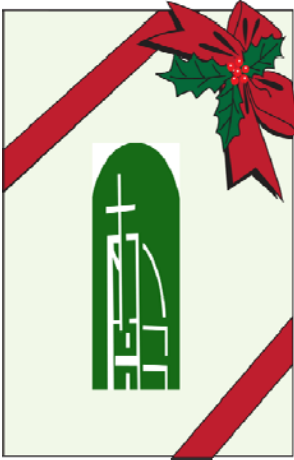
This year Christmas Card Tree donations will be divided between the Chinese Ministry at Messiah Lutheran Church and the Budimir Family, Croatian missionaries.

The Chinese Ministry is led by Pastor Tich Luu at Messiah Lutheran Church in Germantown, MD. Pastor Luu is a "favorite son" of St. Andrew. He was sponsored by St. Andrew in 1979 as a Vietnamese refugee and subsequently ordained as a Lutheran pastor in 1995 also at St. Andrew. His journey to become a Lutheran pastor bringing Jesus Christ to the Chinese people is a fascinating story. He has served as pastor at True Light Lutheran Church in New York City, Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carbondale, Illinois, and Church of the Cross in Rockville. His wife, Michelle, is a teacher and has been very helpful in the ministry. The Chinese Ministry relocated to Messiah this year and needs financial support to meet all of its obligations.

Our second recipient this year will be the Budimirs, a young family working with the people of Croatia. Jill Budimir is the daughter of Ron and Sandy Aasen, former members of St. Andrew. She and her husband, Hrvoje, were married at St. Andrew by Pastor Hricko. They have two young children Ema (4) and Noah (2). For two years they have been part of a team that established a new church in Split and another ministry in Castel Stari. The church has been growing and now has a Croatian pastor. They have conducted English language and computer training classes to attract people to their ministry. Jill was doing counseling with some of the women in the community. However, the family has had to return to the U.S. because Ema is having speech problems (stuttering and language confusion between English and Croatian). They knew the availability of speech therapists in Croatia was limited. The family is presently in Southern California but the transition back to the States has not been easy. They are looking for jobs in many areas and have lived in three different locations where they could find housing for missionaries. They are in dire need of financial support going many months without a paycheck. They plan to return to Croatia as they really enjoyed the country and the culture and were just beginning to see the spiritual fruits of their ministry.

Both recipients could really use your prayers and donations. Please stop by the Christmas Card Tree in the Commons and make a donation. Your name will be placed on the tree for all to see. Good News – Thrivent will match our donations up to \$1400! Please make your checks out to Thrivent. For more information: contact Fran Gutknecht or Karen Matthiesen.

Firm Foundations Gift Program *Give A Gift That Lasts!*



Are you wondering what Christmas gifts you can give to loved ones and friends who seem to have everything? Are you longing to receive less “stuff” yourself this holiday? The Firm Foundations Gift program will allow you to honor someone special or be honored by your loved ones with a special gift that will benefit God’s mission to future generations.

Tax deductible gifts of any amount may be given to Firm Foundations through this program. A greeting card with the giver’s message of love will be sent to the gift recipient, and the giver will receive a letter of acknowledgement for tax purposes.

To give online, visit us at www.mystandrew.org and click the Firm Foundations link on the right to complete the form with information about donation and recipient, then click again as directed to enter our secure payment website and process your transaction. You may also bring or send your check to the St. Andrew office with a message for your loved one enclosed in an envelope marked “Firm Foundations Gift Program.” Please be sure to include complete address information for the recipient and yourself so greeting card and acknowledgement can be sent in a timely manner (forms are available at the Welcome Center).

Please direct friends and loved ones to www.mystandrew.org for more information and gifting instructions, too!

Thanks for sharing your holiday to God’s glory with a gift of love that will last!



Merry Christmas

The Droege Report



Many of you think I am pretty much responsible for all of the positive things happening at St. Andrew and for the most part you would be correct. However, there are a number of people out there whose work is vitally important in how St. Andrew runs and how it looks. While I don’t have time to mention everyone, I will spotlight one person today as an example.

OK, I have a little homework for you to do the next time you come to church. When you come through the front door and into the narthex (or the Commons as some of the new groovy Lutherans call this area), stop and look around. Obviously the space itself was well thought out and designed by the architect, but do you ever stop and wonder about the other objects or what we call in the business the finishes? Who picked out the paint colors, light fixtures, furniture, etc. that makes that space so inviting? Trust me it was not a couple of guys on the building committee with an IKEA catalog. If that were the case the place would have paneling, shag carpet, a wide screen TV and a humidior. No, it was spearheaded by Susan Mannina and Nancy Graeves who did a terrific job. The person doing that work for the lower level project is St. Andrew member and professional designer, Jen Kadi, and from all reports that part of the project is going along spectacularly. So when the lower level opens up and you are sitting in a comfortable, but fashionable, chair in a room that is not painted cherry red and burnt umber, please remember to drop a note of thanks in Jen’s mailbox.

As for some news, I checked in with Paul Lobien hoping for some sort of a scandal but was disappointed. As of November 11, 2011, all things look to be on target. Architect Josh Felix met with the building team and all is going according to plan. Final details of the floor plan are solidified. Start date for work is February 2012, as planned. There are still some loose ends having to do with the audio visual equipment and communication abilities, but these too should be knocked out before this newsletter goes to press.

Now all we need is \$800,000 more to be given/pledged and we’ll be all set.

Merry Christmas,
Phil Droege



One Starry Night

A CHURCHWIDE CHRISTMAS
EVENT FOR FAMILIES

Saturday, December 17, 1-3pm

Ready to take your family back in time?
Want to make family memories you'll treasure forever?
And would you like to have a blast as you do it?

Then reserve **Saturday, December 17, 1-3pm**, for *One Starry Night* where you will travel back to ancient Bethlehem to taste, see, and smell what daily life was like when Jesus was born.

- ✦ **Bring the entire family!** Activities for kids of all ages!
- ✦ **Doors open at 1:00pm.**
- ✦ **Spend about 45 minutes** experiencing the stations and sights!
- ✦ **Family crafts** at each station.
- ✦ **Bethlehem Bakery** items will be for sale (about \$1 each).
- ✦ **Family pictures** will be taken at the City Gate!
- ✦ **Bring your friends!** At *One Starry Night*, the more the merrier!
- ✦ **Pre-registration is necessary.** Pick up a form in the Commons, online at www.mystandrew.org, or contact the church office (301-384-4394 or my.standrew@verizon.net).
- ✦ **A suggested donation of \$5/person** is encouraged to help defray program material costs.

Volunteer opportunities available!

- ✦ Station Leaders/Helpers
- ✦ Photographers
- ✦ Set-up and Clean-up Assistants

Donations Needed!

- ✦ Baked Goods for the Bethlehem Bakery
- ✦ Middle-Eastern Decorations
- ✦ Easy-up Canopies

See you in Bethlehem!

Bethlehem:

Nothing Ever Happens Here!
Children's Christmas Pageant
December 11 at 11:00am



Christmas Pageant

12noon in the church Sanctuary.

This year's Children's Christmas Pageant will lead us back to the town of Bethlehem on the night Christ was born. The pageant will include performances by our Spiritus and Exalt! choirs. Rehearsals continue to be held on Sunday mornings during our KidCentral hour. There is a dress rehearsal scheduled for Saturday, December 10, 10am-12noon in the church Sanctuary.

We are asking parents to encourage their children to be part of our pageant. Weekly attendance is also encouraged so that our pageant may run as smoothly as possible. We hope you will join us as we journey back to (not so!) quiet little Bethlehem and let us show you what wonder we have found!

SALSA Christmas Party & Gift Exchange



St. Andrew Lutheran Social Adults (*SALSA*: a group of socially active adults in their 20s, 30s, 40s... 90s!) will hold their **Annual Christmas Party and Gift Exchange** in the Family Room at church on **Saturday, December 3 from 7 to 9 pm**. We are asking everyone to bring a small dessert or snack item to share and an inexpensive gift item for our gift exchange. Beverages will be provided. Please sign up in the Commons if you plan to attend.



Christmas Toy Collections



Wrapped gifts for the Linkages to Learning Snowmen Toy Drive are **due on Sunday, December 11**. For more information or if you have questions, contact Revonda Mosher at 301-434-2672 or rbmosher@comcast.net.

Another opportunity to support needy children is a toy or monetary contribution to the **C-4 (Colesville Community Council of Congregations) Toy Drive**. Please bring new, **unwrapped** toys by **Sunday, December 11** (donation box is located in the coat closet). Cash donations are also welcome – please make checks payable to The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew with a notation of “C-4 Toy Drive” on the memo line. Suggested gifts include:

- Baby Dolls & Barbies
- Arts & Crafts
- Electronic & Board Games
- Musical Instruments
- Dress-Up & Nail Painting Kits
- Sports Equipment, Balls & Games
- Cars & Trucks
- Preschool Toys & Books

Toys should be new, but gently used books are also welcome!



Board of Directors Nominations

**One New Member and Two to be Re-Elected
Vote on BOD & 2012 Budget on December 11!**



The St. Andrew Board of Directors has three openings for next term, with an uncontested slate of candidates proposed after prayer and discernment by the Board’s Nominating Committee. The candidates are Ken Austin, who will be new to the BOD, and Michael Arsenault and Deb Poese, who are incumbents eligible for re-election. Please take a few moments to “read all about” the candidates below. They will be available to “meet and greet” on Sundays, November 27 and December 4 from 9- 9:30 or 10:30-11:00 in the Commons.

KEN AUSTIN

Ken was born in Minot, North Dakota and was living in Bismarck, ND at the time he graduated from High School. He completed his undergraduate studies at Bismarck Jr. College and North Dakota State University, Fargo. He and his wife, Lucie moved to this area in 1996 after having spent their first 8 years of marriage in ND. Ken is employed by the Department of the Navy as a Security Manager for a Navy activity in Arlington, VA. He has one child, Benjamin (20) who is a senior at Boston University. He leads the 9:30 A.M. Sunday adult Bible study and volunteers as lector, communion assistant and usher. He is looking forward to serving on the Board.

MICHAEL ARSENAULT

Michael is currently on our Board of Directors and has agreed to accept a second term of service. He was born and raised in Rochester, NY along with his four sisters. He went to undergraduate school at the University of Buffalo and then came to DC to attend grad school at George Washington University. His introduction to St. Andrew came through Tamara, his wife of 20 years. They were married here and have been blessed with two lovely daughters, Stephanie (15) and Marisa (12). Michael is currently employed by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services as the deputy director of a large software development project. Michael has been a teacher with the St. Andrew Confirmation Program and now supports the Youth Group. When not working he spends time biking, hiking, backpacking, and bird-watching!

DEB POESE

Deb has served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the last two years and has agreed to accept a second term of service. Deb hails from Freistatt, Missouri and came to the area 30 years ago with husband Bruce. The Poeses are proud parents of Scott, 23, a recent graduate of the University of Maryland, and Bethany, 20, a part-time college student who lives in Frederick, Maryland. For the past 26 years, Deb has been employed by Montgomery College in a variety of positions, both faculty and administrative; she has been Director of the School of Education since 2007. Deb was elected President of the Chesapeake District Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (mission and service organization) in 2010. She has been active in the ministry of St. Andrew for over 20 years and currently she sings with the Contemporary Praise Choir.

Vote on Sunday, December 11!!

All members will have the opportunity vote on our new slate of BOD candidates, as well as the 2012 Mission & Ministry Budget on that day!

Thanks Upon Thanks!

Dear Friends in Christ,

I wish to thank you all for your prayers and cards during my days of rehab. I am doing well. During days like these, I always ask the Lord to give me the strength to handle what I myself cannot change. God is good. May the Lord bless Pastor Hricko and friends of St. Andrew as you all work in the Lord's Vineyard.

Ruth Caldwell

Mother of Roger Caldwell



Many thanks to all the congregation members who so generously provided baked goods, cheese, crackers, fruit and hard work for our New Member Welcoming and Commitment Sunday reception on November 13. I am so grateful and touched by everyone who positively responded so quickly to requests for food and hands. Our Lord continues to remind me that we have a wonderful family of talents here, and I appreciate everyone sharing them.

Love and blessings,

Kimberly Gay-Armour



21st Annual Craft Fair Thanks

For the 21st year, Marie Jackson has overseen the annual Craft Fair. She co-chairs Craft Ministry with Joann Aulick. It is those two talented women who coordinate all of the wonderful volunteers that make this event the success it was. Please thank them and let them know that their ministry is appreciated.



They, in turn, wish to relay **A BIG THANKS** to all who helped this year – sewers, jam makers, bakers, movers of tables and merchandise, sales personnel, cashiers, decorators, cooks, servers, Santa's helpers, gift wrappers – and the list goes on. Your willingness to lend your talents and time is recognized and appreciated **ABUNDANTLY!**

January Newsletter Deadline Sunday, December 4



Please email your articles to my.standrew@verizon.net.

Please note that next month's newsletter deadline has been moved up by one week due to the holidays. Thank you!

Our Daily Bread Devotionals



The popular devotional *Our Daily Bread* (December-February issue) is now available in limited supply at the Welcome Center. You may order home delivery of this FREE publication by calling 616-974-2210 or visiting www.odb.org. For those who prefer *Portals of Prayer*, a subscription can be ordered at a cost of \$11/year by calling 800-325-4050 or visiting www.cph.org. Both publications offer a daily email option as well; sign up information is on the web.

How to Join St. Andrew

God called us to be part of His family for a reason – it's hard to grow alone! Our St. Andrew community will meet you where you are, and walk beside you to a closer relationship with God.



Wondering how to unite with our St. Andrew family? Follow these easy steps

...

- † **Worship** with us regularly!
- † Explore the ministry and fellowship opportunities we offer. Don't be shy – ask questions, join us at special events, small groups and meetings. **Look for a comfortable place to "plug-in."**
- † Participate in **Faith Walk 101 Information & Membership Seminar**. Led by our Pastor and other ministry leaders, these sessions offer the opportunity to explore the Lutheran faith, learn more about our St. Andrew community, and get to know others who are on the same path.
- † If you wish to **transfer** your membership from another faith community, contact the church office. We will be pleased to assist by writing for your transfer.
- † If you are a new Christian, speak with Pastor about receiving the **Sacrament of Holy Baptism**.

If you are searching for answers about God, your faith, or our St. Andrew community, contact the church office at 301-384-4394 – we'll be happy to talk with you to find the answers you seek.



Ministry Highlight

Learn more about a St. Andrew ministry and prayerfully consider how you can support it and encourage others to do the same!

Rogate Circle

Rogate Circle meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 pm in the Conference Room at church. All women are invited and encouraged to join us. Rogate Circle is part of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League also known as Lutheran Women in Mission, which is the official women's organization of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. Through the LWML, thousands of volunteers daily dedicate their lives to making a difference in this world. They prepare for this through prayer, encouraging Bible studies, and service projects. The LWML helps women of the church find avenues to use their God-

ROGATE



given talents as they joyfully share the Good News of Jesus Christ with people far and near. One of the LWML's primary means for carrying this out is through mite offerings donated by each member. These mite box offerings have funded tens of millions of dollars in mission grants since the organization's inception in 1942.

The members of Rogate Circle alternate their monthly meetings between Bible Study and service projects. The Circle makes Chrismons (Christmas ornaments) for the Sunday School children, Easter and Christmas favors for the hospitalized and shut-in members of St. Andrew, and other projects that we are asked to assist with. You do not have to be "crafty" to do the service projects. We also organize fundraisers like the Christmas Card Tree and Bakeless Bake Sales to raise funds for local and foreign missions. Once a year women of the congregation who are not "active" in the Circle are given the opportunity to donate money to support LWML projects.

Age is no barrier to membership – we welcome the young and old! This is a great way to get to know other women of the congregation, refresh your spirit, and work together for others. The motto of the LWML is "Serve the Lord with Gladness." For more information, please contact: Karen Matthiesen, (301) 774-5899 or e-mail karenmatthiesen@verizon.net

Confirmation Class News

The confirmation classes continue meeting every Friday night and Sunday morning.

Confirmation Class



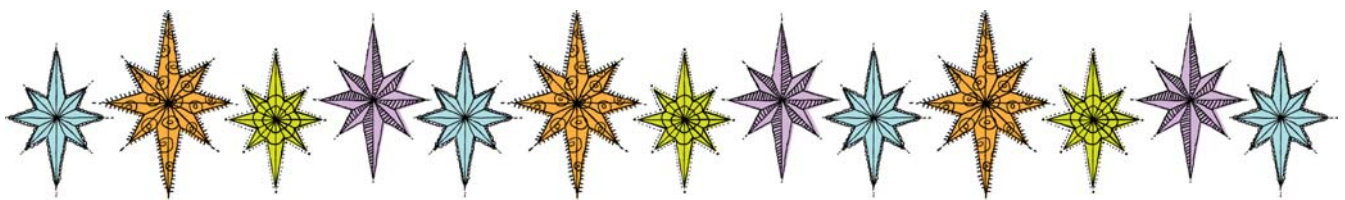
The first-year class is studying the Old Testament on Sunday mornings. Students have finished the Study of Abraham and Sarah. The last two weeks in November were spent studying Jacob and Esau. In December, the class will see a video to study Joseph and his many colored coat. Then will come the enslavement of the Israelites and the Exodus from Egypt led by Moses. These are

not only fascinating stories, but in them God show us who He is, His plan for our salvation, His love for us, that He keeps His promises, and that He knows better than we do about what we need. In addition, we can also see how bad decisions by sinful people lead to bad consequences and good decisions lead to good results.

In the second-year class on Sunday morning, students are studying the book of Acts with a view to exploring how the early church grew and what it means for us today as we seek to help the church grow. On Friday, the class is studying prayer and wrestling with the questions of if and how prayers are answered. We will soon join that study with a study of the Lord's Prayer, exploring each of the petitions and asking what they mean for us today. For example, the discussion includes when we pray "Thy will be done," what are we praying for, what is God's will, and how do we find the answer. This is a challenging discussion for anyone and the class discussions so far have been terrific.

The social activities in November included a movie night, playing Apples to Apples, and a visit to Dave & Buster's. In December, the students will go roller skating, make pizzas and have a Christmas party. The kids are having a good time continuing to build relationships with each other and growing friendships, as well as faith.

If you have questions about enrolling your child (grades 7 and 8) next year, please contact George Mannina at 301-871-1270.



KidCentral News



December is such an exciting time in the KidCentral classes. Of course, the preparation for and celebration of Christmas is the brightest part of our time together.

On December 11, we will hold the Christmas Pageant. All children will participate in this program, which includes costumes, songs and the telling of the story of the birth of Jesus (see page 6 for details). After the Pageant, please join us for a Birthday Party for Jesus!

The December lessons are:

- December 4 – The Ten Commandments
- December 11 – An Angel Visits Mary and Joseph
- December 18 – The Birth of Jesus

There will be no KidCentral on Christmas, December 25 or on New Year's Day, January 1 – Please take this time to worship as a family at church!

Bare Essentials

Helping kids feel good all “under!”

During the past few months the families in KidCentral have been busily collecting new socks and undies to donate to **Neediest Kids**, a Washington, D.C. based organization that partners with Montgomery County schools in building a “bridge to success” by giving low-income students the basic essentials they need to get the education they deserve.

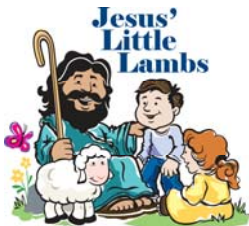


We have more than twice filled a large hamper with our donations and were able to collect 226 pairs of socks and 241 packages of undies. We will be delivering these most needed essentials this month. Thanks to everyone who assisted us in this collection!

Our Children NEED You!

Teen and Adult helpers are (*very much!*) needed to assist in our ever-growing Children's Church program that meets weekly during the 11:00am service in Room 120 led by Wendy Linstrom.

- Help by serving **once every month or so** with crafts/activities/clean-up!
- Teens can earn Community Service Hours!
- Parent volunteers are rewarded by a sense of purpose!
- Get your *feet wet* in Children's Ministry and see where it leads you!
- You will be rewarded by *giggles, hugs, and many SMILES!*
- Sign up in Room 120 or by contacting the church office!



Preschool News



The season of thankfulness continues as we prepare for the most wonderful time of the year!

The month will be chock-full of wonderful Christmas celebrations to help gear up for the ultimate birthday party....Christmas Day, and the birth of our Savior Jesus.

The children will be celebrating Advent, along with a visit from St. Nicholas, on Monday, December 5. Hopefully St. Nicholas will leave the children some golden, chocolate filled coins!

On Friday, December 9, the children will visit the Great Room to enjoy seeing all of the Nativity Sets on display.

On Monday, December 12, the Preschoolers will enjoy a Christmas Puppet Show by Kay-Dee Puppets, beginning at 11 am, in the Youth Lounge. Church members are welcome to join us with their young children or grandchildren for this special in-house field trip.

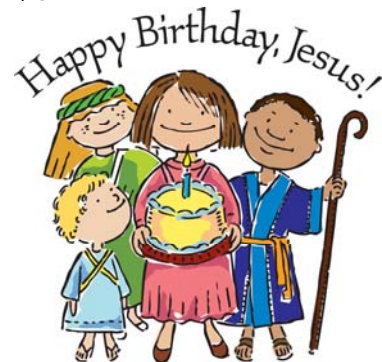
The children are already busily rehearsing for the Christmas Pageant on Friday, December 16, at 11 am. Christmas songs are particularly sweet when sung by such young, innocent children....come and share the joy!

We invite you to come and visit the halls of the Preschool, where our Christmas spirit will be in full display during the entire month.

From all of the students and staff at the Preschool, a very blessed Christmas season to all, and blessings and health for the New Year!

As Tiny Tim said in *A Christmas Carol*, “God bless us, everyone!”

Lia Mai Puskar
Preschool Director



Global Mission Team News

Exciting things are happening with the St. Andrew Global Mission Team.



Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Hot Cocoa and Chocolates will be available for sale in the Commons on Sundays, December 4 and 11. Your purchase of these high quality items helps small farmers overseas earn a fair price for their products. This is a

project sponsored by Lutheran World Relief and each purchase you make allows small-scale farmers to not only earn a fair price, but also improve their communities, access affordable credit and protect their environment. These delicious items will make perfect Christmas gifts and will be helping others at the same time. Supplies are limited so please don't wait to purchase your coffee, tea, hot cocoa and chocolate!

LCSA's First Adult Mission Trip will be for a week in early to mid-June of next year. We are planning to send 10-15 LCSA members to Guatemala to be a part of the Mi Refugio School and ministry. This ministry provides education, food, clothing, and medical assistance to children living in and around the Guatemala City garbage dump and nearby villages. Members will share God's love with these children through teaching, medical outreach, and construction projects. If you have any interest in being a part of this mission trip, please contact David LaCour (davidlacour@verizon.net) or Betsy Jackson (ejackson@gmail.com) for more information.

Global Mission Dinner on February 19! Mario Taramona will be our chef for a Peruvian Chicken dinner that will lead into a night of celebration and education about our efforts to bring Christ's love and word to people around the world. We will have speakers and information on various efforts. We will also have a silent auction to raise funds to further support St. Andrew's efforts to spread God's love. If you have items that you can donate to the silent auction or for more information, please contact Stan Jackson (sjackson3309@gmail.com).



The Global Mission Team meets on the second Tuesday of each month at St. Andrew. We are always happy to have new members help us search out and develop new ways of sharing the word and love of Christ throughout the world. For more information contact Stan Jackson (sjackson3309@gmail.com).

Health & Wellness

"Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?" Matthew 6:26



We're grateful to those of you who have shared in the ministry of health and wellness the past months, as we offer opportunities to keep you well and whole in body, mind and spirit! We administered 42 flu immunizations at Medstar's flu vaccine clinic and hope

the rest of you obtain them from another health care source! Ten people received Memory Screening from our colleagues at Senior Helpers, giving them reassurance and resources for the future. Adult Children of Aging Parents support group sponsored a seminar on being *Safe At Home*, which featured wonderful advice about aging in place. If you need more information on any of these topics, contact Marilee Tollefson, Faith Community Nurse, in the church office.

Though we try to make Christ the reason for the Season, people often feel overwhelmed by the demands of the holidays. If you need help dealing with this issue, or know someone who does, attend the program entitled **'Tis the Season to be Stress Free!** at the Holiday Park Senior Center, 3950 Ferrara Drive, Wheaton, presented by a well known nurse educator from Suburban Hospital on **Tuesday, December 6 at 1:15 pm.** Call 240-777-4999 for more information and directions.

The holidays can be a warm and exciting time spent with family, but they can also be a time when we recognize that aging loved ones are in need of our attention. The American Society on Aging, Senior Helpers and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America have partnered to present a webinar, **"Dementia and Caregiving: Focusing on the Person while Understanding the Progression,"** on **Monday, December 19** at 2pm, bringing relevant and meaningful resources, techniques and ideas to immediately implement with people who might be living with Alzheimer's and dementia. For information and to pre-register, visit www.asaging.org.

SAMOA

St. Andrew Ministry to & for Older Adults

Recently the *Washington Post* provided some helpful information about a program that assists seniors in finding the most useful



Medicare drug insurance plan for their individual needs. Funded by the federal Older Americans Act and local jurisdictions, the Senior Health Insurance Assistance

Program (SHIP) sorts through the available plans to find the best choice for the specific medications that are needed. To help find the best buy, SHIP's counselors use the online "plan finder" at the top of Medicare's website, www.medicare.gov. Users enter their zip code and the medications that they are taking. The website then produces a list of appropriate plans from which to choose. In Maryland, SHIP may be contacted at 800-243-3425 or www.aging.Maryland.gov.

Social Ministry News

Opportunities to Volunteer & Help Needy Children In Our Community

Thank you, thank you, thank you for your generosity in bringing gifts for many needy children in the Kennedy Cluster of the Montgomery County School System's Linkages to



Learning program and a few others we know have needs.

We have another opportunity to help

children in our neighborhood through the C-4 program (Colesville Community Council of Churches). One of C-4's major projects is a toy drive to help the 700-800 children they serve. We hope the members and friends of St. Andrew can reach out in love and help these families. Consider donating toys to C-4! (See details on page 7.) The toys should be new and **unwrapped** and placed in the coat room by December 11. Cash donations are also gladly accepted. Contact Revonda Mosher at 301-434-2672 or rbmosher@comcast.net if you have questions.

If you can spend hands-on time, C-4 needs **volunteers** to help with the toy drive on Sunday, December 11, 11:30am-1pm to receive toys that are dropped off; Friday, December 16, 6-8pm to set up toys; and/or Saturday, December 17, 8am-2pm to help parents select toys. All of these activities will be at the C-4 building, 14015 New Hampshire Ave, Silver Spring, MD. (the former Cloverly Elementary School). If you can volunteer, please sign up at the welcome center or contact Carol Petzold at 301-871-7413 or carolpetzold@boo.net.

Emergency Help Makes a Big Difference

The Lutheran Church of St. Andrew helps provide emergency aid to families in crisis through the Eastern Montgomery Emergency Assistance Network (EMEAN). Last year EMEAN provided one-time-assistance to 356 families. 79 evictions were prevented. 179 families were given help to stop a utility cut-off and 98 families were given prescription assistance. We will have a door collection in January to fund our contribution to this organization so it can continue to support our neighbors in need. Watch for details coming soon!

Shelter Week

Many thanks to all the folks who cooked, made lunches, served, delivered or contributed other pantry needs and toiletries to make our week at the Community Based Shelter. It was a positive witness of God's love for all. Using funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, we were able to provide new furniture for their day room, towels, laundry bags and gift cards for emergency needs. While serving there, we admired the outdoor furniture that we provided last year with Thrivent funds. It is being well used! Special thanks to Sandra Nee Jackson and Evelyn Doermann for recruiting and coordinating our efforts.

Warm Clothing Success

In October, the Social Action Ministry Team learned of a family, recently arrived from Kenya, who lacked warm clothing for fall and winter. With just a brief appeal in the bulletin and KidCentral, the saints at St. Andrew responded generously with clothing and blankets for the widowed mother and her seven young children. The mother called to say, *"Thank you for the bedding, clothing, and all the prayers and for keeping us warm in the cold weather. We see the hand of God and are forever grateful."* The family experienced its first-ever snowfall, but now the children are wearing appropriate clothing and jackets to school, and sleeping warmly at night. We thank God for all of His good gifts, including the ability to share with those in need. Thanks to all those who brought warm clothing and blankets!

LMS Collection

There will be **NO** collection of Thrift Shop items in December. **The next collection is Sunday, January 22.** Warm clothing (coats, sweaters, blankets, etc.) is a special need as well as small kitchen appliances, and lamps.

Neediest Kids

KidCentral collected new socks and underwear for "neediest kids." Thanks to all the kids as well as the adults who added to the small mountain of new "essentials." A special thanks to the individual who contributed funds for a shopping trip that resulted in 237 items for this outpouring of care for children in need.

A Chance for Young Men

Aunt Hattie's Place, a long-term, stable environment to help boys achieve success in school and develop life skills to live on their own eventually, is located at 17738 Norwood Road in Sandy Spring. Prior to living at Aunt Hattie's the boys were in unsatisfactory, short-term foster home placements. Volunteers are needed to provide clerical help, write grants, and help sustain the facility. You are invited to an **Open House on Saturday, December 17, 10am-2pm or Sunday, December 18, 3-5pm.** Learn more about this home which is literally saving boys from a life on the streets! Volunteering at Aunt Hattie's might also be a niche for you. RSVP to 410-367-2472 or 301-570-2472. You will be impressed by what you see!

Thanks!

And more thanks for blankets for the flood victims in Owego, NY. They were delivered to the Orphan Grain Train organization's storage at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Annapolis for transport to Owego. Know that those folks who have lost so much will be encircled with your love and concern for them as they snuggle up with the warmth of your blankets.



Help for Those in Need

December 2011 Service Assistants Calendar

	8:00	*Eddie James, Bob Atwell, Bruce Emmel, Carol Petzold
USHERS	9:30	*Bob Kichak, Mary Brundage, Lina Rashid, Jim Solfronk, Lynn Wright, Jay Jacobsen
	11:00	*Jim Farmer, Don Berkheimer, Craig Johnson, Beth Victor, Barbara LaCour
Christmas Day	10:00	*Trish & Jimmy Baker, Carol Petzold, Eddie James, Bill & Anne Harpster, Mary Brundage

		December 4	December 11	December 18	December 25
WELCOME CENTER	pre/post 9:30	Karen Matthiesen	Dorothy Fristoe	Marie Jackson	
	post 11	Jim & Willie Farmer	Lisa Tipton	Judy Downey	
ALTAR PREPARATION		Carol Baker	Carol Baker	Trudy Wehking, Karen Hale	Trudy Wehking, Karen Hale
GREETERS	8:00	Rodney & Karen Bohlmann	Rodney & Karen Bohlmann	Mary Ann Rydland	One Service Only at 10am Walt Petzold, Marie Jackson
	9:30	Vicky & Grace Aceto - F	Jimmy & Trish Baker - F	Paul & Arlene Buck - F	
		Dave & Carol Doermann - S	Vicky & Grace Aceto - S	Joan Garey - S	
	11:00	Sonia Sarreals	Sonia Sarreals	Steve & Laura Olson	
LECTORS	8:00	Dan & Jennifer Shaltanis	Bob Rathbun, William Wooden	Walt & Carol Petzold	
	9:30	Don Becker, Mary Brundage	Ken & Carolyn Carlson	Lynn Hollenbach, Kathleen Strebel	
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	8:00	*Deb & Ed Stowe, Roger Caldow, Walt Petzold, Helena Jacobs	*Robie Hillhouse, Brian Nockleby, Walter Petzold, Leslie Hollowell, Evelyn Blaes	*Leslie Hollowell, Ken & Lucie Austin, Bill Wyeth, Tricia King	One Service Only at 10am *Deb & Ed Stowe, Gary Fields, Nancy Choudhry, Mark Hricko, Trish Baker, Walt Petzold, Marty Herrin, TBD
	9:30	*Paul Lobien, Phil Droege, Marianne Solfronk, Irma Cuellar, Peggy Gorski, Claudia Jacobson, Karen Matthiesen, Deborah Shoup	*Kathleen & Klaus Strebel, Carol Ames, Bill & Margot Golding, Tom Polansky, Lois Blodgett, Trish Baker	*Marty Herrin, Lois Blodgett, Dorothy & Bill Fristoe, Peggy Hayeslip, Don Becker, Eldra Simmons, Jeanette Schuder	
	Pew	Dorothy Fristoe	Leslie Hollowell	Marilee Tollefson	
	11:00	*Marianne Lohr, Nancy Choudhry, Barbara Richards, Angela Green, Duane Taylor, David Van Norstrand	No Communion - Christmas Pageant	*Amanda Wingo, Jennifer Backus, Willie Farmer, Jeff Lohr, Jackie Lobien, Gloria Reyes	
STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY		*Shelley Mitek, Lucie Austin, Bob Helms, Jeff Wahlbrink	*Laurie Levin, Janet Burton, Pat Herrin, Jack Reinhart	*Luther Tollefson, Linda Newcomer, Diane McCoy, Jeff Wahlbrink	*Janice Flug, Sandy Jackson, Kirk & Mary Ann Rydland
ACOLYTES	8:00	Aakir Spivey, Arlee Taylor	Marisa Arsenault, Beret Bruwelheide	Benjamin Bowering, Zachary King	One Service Only at 10am
	11:00	Stephen Tipton, Megan Koch	Jake Howland, Sydney Alexander	Raul Ayala, Carolyn Bowering	Nelson Chiaravallotti, Jeanette Moser
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY		Trudy Wehking	Trudy Wehking	Karen Matthiesen	
AUDIO/VISUAL		Janet Burton	Bruce Poese	Bruce Poese	Bruce Poese

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please try to find a substitute - contact the church office for info. Please call the church by Wednesday prior to scheduled date in order for names to be changed in bulletins.