



St. Andrew's news

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.

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Dear Friends,

A friend I met in Germany several years ago recently sent me the following thoughts that someone else had sent to him and reminded him of the role his church plays in his life with God. I hope you'll also find it to be a helpful reminder of what it means to be part of the authentic, precious, grace-filled community we call the Body of Christ here at St. Andrew.

Church is hard. Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement. Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world. Church is hard for the person who looks like they have it all together but doesn't. Church is hard for the widow and widower who comes filled with grief. Church is hard for the leader with an estranged child. Church is hard for the choir member overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics in that song. Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate. Church is hard for the teenager ashamed of their mistakes or hiding their doubts. Church is hard for adulterers, liars, cheats, and slanderers. Church is hard for sinners. Church is hard for me.

But, here is the beauty of church—

Church is a body. Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints. Church is a community of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love. Church is a holy ground where we stand as equals before the Throne of Grace. Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors. Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation, where brokenness is confronted, and hearts are invited to seek restoration. Church is a lesson in faith and trust. Church is a bearer of burdens

Continued on page 2

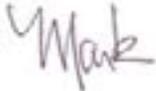


and a giver of hope. Church is a family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories. Church is a community in which God resides.

So even on the hard days at church — the days when I am at odds with a brother or sister in Christ ... when I fought with my spouse because of something that isn't even a big deal ... when I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face ... when I've stood justly accused ... when I've fought back tears as a song was sung ... when I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away — I'll remember that my church may not be perfect, especially if I'm part of it. But God will never fail to meet me there.

God bless you in month #2 of 2019! May our Lord meet you every time you come to worship, learn, fellowship, and serve here at St. Andrew. And may we be a beautiful church even in the hard times for the glory of Jesus and the hope of the world!

With love and gratitude,



Pastor Hricko



COMMON GROUND

Wednesdays, February 6 - 20

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Informal Praise & Prayer at 6:30 pm

Groups & Classes at 6:40 pm

Closing at 7:45 pm

February Offerings:

- ◆ Five "Why" Questions for God
- ◆ Acts of Faith
- ◆ World's Greatest Churches

Get details and register using the bulletin insert or online at mystandrew.org.



Church Staff

Mark A. Hricko, Pastor

Kenneth G. Carlson, Assistant Pastor

Jotham Johann, Director of Wellspring

Greg Twombly, Director of Ministries & Praise Team

Barbara Wahlbrink, Director of Communications

Riki Schoppert, Director of Student Ministries & Worship Arts

Lia Mai Puskar, Preschool Director & Children's Ministry Coordinator

Robyn Howland, Children's Ministry Assistant - Events

Andrea Gast, Children's Ministry Assistant - Wee Worship

Marianne Lohr, Children's Ministry Assistant - VBS

Marilee Tollefson, Faith Community Nurse

Ashley Gingrich, Children's Choir Director

Debbie Snyder, Director of Administration

Bruce Poese, Director of Media Ministry

Ruth Heilman, Minister of Music

Sarita Winter, Creative Services

Anne Harpster, Bookkeeper

Ange Lorenz, Bookkeeper

Karen Hughes, Administrative Assistant

Luis Escobar, Property Maintenance/Events

2019 Board of Directors

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St. Andrew's News

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Christmas Joy at Bethania Kids in India

IT ARRIVED! The shipping container St. Andrew members and friends worked all through the year to fill arrived three days before Christmas. Several hundred children and families at Bethania Kids were delighted with Christmas joy upon receipt of these gifts. Thanks to the generous donations of many, and to the awesome coordination efforts of Kay Caviness and Janet Burton, the Orphan Grain Train container was filled with musical instruments, sewing machines and fabric, bicycles, art and school supplies, clothing, sports equipment, beds, and much more. There were delays getting through customs but, even so, God's timing was perfect! Items were distributed to three orphanages - Shalom Home, Grace Home, and Dayavu Home, plus seven daycare and after-school centers, two special needs schools, and five women's programs.



Read on for thanks from our staff in India. I add my own heartfelt gratitude for your caring and support of this large endeavor. These children and families in great need were overjoyed! May God continue to bless this ministry and those served. **Larry Zimmerman, President - Bethania Kids**

Dear Friends,

The peace of Christ to you all! We, the Bethania Family members of Kodaikanal, send our heartfelt thanks to all friends who were involved in sending the items we received just before Christmas. We uplift those who were involved in this endeavor to the mighty throne of our Lord Jesus Christ in our prayers.

The musical instruments, bicycles, sewing machines, amplifiers, and projector screen will be used at school. Shalom girls have received bath sets and are very happy! Staff will also receive towels. Small children have worn the dresses that were sent. Newborn baby clothes have been given to happy parents. The flooring mats with world map, alphabet, and numbers are fabulous and the children love to sit on them for guided learning. School supplies allow them to do more coloring and activities. Children are beaming with laughter as they play with the new sports equipment. The puzzles are a good addition to our learning resources. More children and staff will be encouraged to learn a musical instrument. There is a good collection of books and the staff will be encouraged to read and tell stories to the children. Office supplies will also be of great use.

We send wishes and prayers for a blissful Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2019. With thanks on behalf of Kodaikanal Bethania Family.

Dency Michael



ST. ANDREW MEMBERSHIP

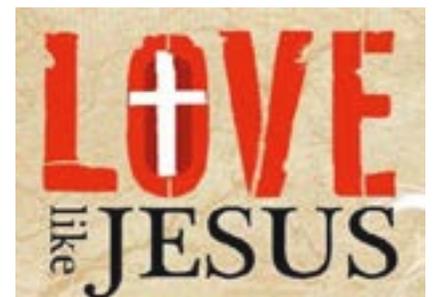
God called us to be part of His family for a reason – it's hard to grow alone! Our St. Andrew community will meet you where you are, and walk beside you to a closer relationship with God.

Wondering how to unite with St. Andrew?

Follow these easy steps...

- Worship with us regularly!
- Explore the ministry and participate in Faith Walk 101 Information & Membership Seminar. Led by our Pastors 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 a 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 or at mystandrew.org. We'll be happy to talk with you to find the answers you seek.



SOCIAL MINISTRY

How YOU Shared God's Love in 2018

Manna Food Drive Sunday, February 24

The mission of Manna Food is to end hunger in Montgomery County through education, advocacy and food distribution. Manna has grown from serving a few hundred annually in 1983 to serving over 40,000 last year. Most are under or unemployed neighbors who rely on this resource as a lifeline. Once again, YOU have the opportunity to help make Manna's mission a reality!

HOW YOU CAN HELP: During the month of February, pick up a grocery bag and attached list of needed foods from a table in the Commons. You can also find the needs list online at mannafood.org. Shop for the designated non-perishables and bring them on Sunday, February 24 to fill the Manna truck! Choose healthy options whenever possible. Monetary donations are also welcome. Drop your check payable to "Manna" in the offering plate any Sunday during February, or give online – specify "Manna" in the OTHER blank on our secure payment page. Helpers will be needed on the morning of 2/24 to load the truck. Contact Carol Petzold to volunteer.

Thanks for your help in fighting hunger in Montgomery County!

LMS "Thrift Shop"

Collections

February 24 & March 24

Bring gently used clothing and household goods on the 4th Sunday of the month and place in the Great Room, to the left of the entrance from the Commons. Get started on your spring cleaning and share your extras with others in need.

Social & Community Ministry Questions or Ideas?

Contact Carol Petzold
at 301-871-7413
or petzold37@gmail.com

Once again St. Andrew members and friends were very generous in sharing their abundance during 2018. Take a look at how, together, we helped bring God's love to so many in need!

◆ **EASTERN MONTGOMERY EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE NETWORK (EMEAN)** received over \$1,200 from the January door offering to help families avoid eviction or health crises with one-time rent, utility or prescription payments. Funds from the Social Ministry budget helped.

◆ **GROCERY DISTRIBUTION** happened monthly throughout the year at the C-4 Clothes Closet, thanks to The Lord's Truck bounty. Bags of groceries were also made available for individuals and families in need who are known to our community as well as some who stopped in the office for one-time help.

◆ **MANNA FOOD DRIVE** in February 2018 brought another generous outpouring from the congregation and Senior Fit participants of non-perishables to fill the MANNA truck with over 11,000 pounds of food for hungry neighbors. Significant cash contributions brought the total to almost 12,000 lbs.

◆ **THE LORD'S TRUCK MINISTRY** was busy in 2018! Eleven drivers and helpers delivered over 20 tons of groceries to food pantries, soup kitchens, the C-4 Clothes Closet and shelters, including the food pantry at St. Luke Lutheran Church. Clothing, household goods, medical supplies and equipment were transported from those with extra to those in need, coordinated by our Health and Wellness Ministry to C-4, LMS and other recipients. Orphan Grain Train also received medical supplies and more for shipment to developing countries where they are desperately needed.

◆ **SCHOOL SUPPLIES** were offered to many children in need through a

fund drive for C-4 in May (\$620) and a Linkages to Learning collection over the summer that provided backpacks, supplies and lunch boxes to almost 140 students at nearby elementary schools.

◆ **SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM** provided 30 bags of food bi-weekly during the summer months to families enrolled in Linkages to Learning programs at Kemp Mill Elementary School. This was the 4th summer of this successful program, started in 2015.

◆ **COMMUNITY BASED SHELTER WEEK** offered our faith family the opportunity to provide three meals per day plus non-perishable supplies to support 35 women in need. The value of giving reached well over \$5,000. St. Andrew volunteers prepared and served supper each evening during that week in October.

◆ **LSS THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION** for Refugee Families brought donations of household items, winter coats, hats, gloves and scarves as well as an abundance of food for families who are being assisted by Lutheran Social Services to make a better, safer life in the U.S.

◆ **THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE** for Lutheran Mission Society's Hyattsville Compassion Center brought an abundance of donations from members and friends, grateful for their own blessings and wanting to share.

◆ **SNOWMAN GIFT DRIVE** was once again a success, brightening the lives of over 100 children and young adults who received Christmas gifts selected just for them.

◆ **C-4 TOY DRIVE** brought donations from St. Andrew members and friends along with many others, to delight 925 children whose parents were able to select two gifts, along with a filled Christmas stocking, a book and a plush toy for each child.

◆ **CALENDARS, GREETING CARDS, NOTEPADS** donated by the hundreds were shared with C-4, a clinic serving the needy, and a literacy program.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

◆ **QUILTS** handmade with love by our Craft Ministry were once again delivered to LMS Compassion Centers. Last year the number reached 49!

◆ **MONTHLY "THRIFT SHOP" COLLECTIONS** for LMS brought countless donations of clothing and household goods from members and friends that were passed along to those in need.

Lutheran Social Services Refugee Resettlement Drive

During March, we will once again collect specific new or gently used household items for refugees being resettled in our area by LSS of the National Capital Area. Bed linens are particularly needed in all sizes except king. Alarm clocks, NEW bed pillows, blankets, dishes, flatware, mixing/serving bowls, towels, cookware and new (unopened) cleaning supplies are also needed. Gift cards and cash donations are also welcome. Start now to shop sales and gather your extras for this important effort. **PLEASE NOTE: Only the items specified above can be accepted by LSS.** Place your donations in the designated box in the Coat Room during March. Questions? Contact Sue Zimmerman or Carol Petzold.

Cards & Notepads Keep Them Coming!

Collection of calendars, note pads, and greeting cards continues. Christmas cards will be stored for next season. Leave donations in the Coat Room, and brighten someone's day with the "Free Cards" sorted by type in the basket on the small table in the Coat Room.

THE SOCIAL MINISTRY TEAM is always seeking ways to share God's love and care with the needy in our community. All ideas and helpers are welcome! Join our next meeting on President's Day, Monday, February 18 at 9:30 am in the Conference Room. Contact Faith Community Nurse Marilee Tollefson or Social Ministry Chair Carol Petzold to learn more and/or express interest.

The LWML Mite Box

And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. Mark 12:42

This scripture references the mite of "Mite Box" fame. The Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) use the symbol of this small, yet sacrificial gift as inspiration to raise money needed for various mission grants to fund projects that share God's love and bring the good news of Jesus to others locally, nationally and around the world. Projects funded by LWML grants range from assisting a food kitchen in Norfolk, VA to supporting a Christian eldercare home in Haiti, and so much more! Please "feed" the Mite Box at the Welcome Center in the Commons with coins or bills in your pocket or purse. Take a small mite box to fill at home. You'll be amazed how your loose change adds up. Every mite helps! For more information about LWML and Mite Box Ministry, contact Edi Collis at edithcollis@hotmail.com.



Senior Adult Fellowship Movie & Pizza

Tuesday, February 5



All are welcome to join the group for a screening of *I Can Only Imagine*, a film based on the life of Bart Millard, the leader singer-songwriter of the Christian band MercyMe. It is an inspiring true story of redemption, hope and forgiveness.

Meet in the Wellspring Center at 10:30 am for the movie and join the group afterward for Ledo pizza. Sign up at the Welcome Center by Sunday, February 3 and pay \$7 for pizza, drinks and dessert. Make checks payable to LCSA. Contact Marilee in the church office if you need a ride. **Questions?** Contact Jeanette Schuder at 301-879-5950.

In the case of inclement weather, please listen to WTOP radio (103.5FM) or visit wtopnews.com for info regarding the cancellation of worship.



CPR Training

February 17
12:30 - 3:30 pm



In an emergency, could you give CPR to someone in need? CPR is a basic skill that everyone should know. Recommended techniques have changed in recent years. Come for the first time or get a refresher. The cost of the course is only \$65, Enrollment is limited; no walk-ins allowed. To secure your space, submit a check to Marilee Tollefson in the office by Friday, February 15. Take a few hours to get this important training. You never know when it might help you save a life!

CHILDREN'S Ministry

PRESCHOOL news

Groundhog Day may give us an inkling about the weather, but we have a feeling that some frigid days ahead will mean mostly indoor fun for our preschoolers during February. No worries! We've got Valentine's Day festivities and an in-house "Field Trip" with Wildlife Adventures to keep the kids happy and occupied. Vision and hearing screening will also be offered. One way or another, the month of February will be filled (as usual) with love for our students and staff!

REGISTRATION IS OPEN!!

Registration has begun for the 2019-2020 school year. Get details, dates and forms at mystandrew.org/preschool. We are 100% enrolled for this current year, and we are praying the same for next year! Spread the word to neighbors and friends about our wonderful, affordable program. Don't delay, register today!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



After a holiday filled with gifts, let's ponder the greatest gift you can give the children in your life: learning about Jesus. Where can they receive that gift? At St. Andrew Kingdom Kids!

We are thankful for the great group of children attending Kingdom Kids regularly, but we want all St. Andrew kids to have this experience of love, learning and fun! Did you see the awesome "Christmas Special" Pageant in December? Participating in fun activities like that is another benefit of being a Kingdom Kid!

Bring your child any Sunday at 9:30 am to try out Kingdom Kids. Pre-K kids meet in room 122 from 9:30 until the end of the worship service. Kids in Kindergarten-6th grade meet in room 118 for opening/closing, with breakouts by age group in between. In February, the K-6th graders will focus on SERVICE in Jesus' name, while the Pre-K children will learn that Jesus is all that they need! What better lessons can we share with our kids than these?

Join Us!



Questions?

Contact LiaMai Puskar
Children's Ministry Coordinator
301-384-2660
lcsakids@yahoo.com



Dear St. Andrew Friends,
Thank you so much for the meal and welcome gifts for the new addition to our family. We have always felt so welcome at St. Andrew. Thank you again,

Mary Knigge & Brian Mano
Cooper and Jolene

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your donation of a power chair to Gabriel. It has without a doubt made his life a little easier. It is the generosity and kindness to one another that make this world a better place to live in.

Blessings,
Harriet Crawley & Gabriel Rogers

Dear Friends,
Thank you for helping us obtain equipment for my husband's spinal cord injury. It has given him much hope and confidence. Thank you for practicing the true gospel of Jesus Christ and being a great example for us to emulate.

God bless you all,
The Williams Family

St. Andrew Howard County Bible Study & Discussion "Growing Community" Tuesdays at 7 pm

Gather weekly for a time of Bible study, discussion, and fellowship as we continue to explore God's word and prayerfully consider how the St. Andrew community might expand to minister and grow in Howard County. Invite friends and join us anytime!

Meeting at:
Linden Hall, Dorsey Search Village Center
4765 Dorsey Hall Drive
Ellicott City, MD 20142

FEBRUARY 2019 SERVICE ASSISTANTS

	8:00	9:30	11:00	Monday 7:00	Feb 3/4	Feb 10/11	Feb 17/18	Feb 24/25
USHERS		*Grant Graeves, Bob Rathbun, Jane Bitner, Bruce Klingner, Dee Ann Klingner	*Bruce Nesslage, David Doermann, Paul Lobien, Klaus Strebel, Steve Croll, Thandi Bergfalk, Tim Andersen	*Shelley Hoffman, Moses Ammons, David Van Norstrand, Janet Burton	Ron Scherer	Linda & Doug Schaus	Mike Witmer, Conrad Schwalm	Paul Coverston, Mel Schnackenberg
	pre/post 9:30	Marie Jackson	Dorothy Fristoe, Shirley Guillette				Feb 17/18	Feb 24/25
	post 11	Lisa Tipton, Angela Green	Willie Farmer, Meenu Gupta					Greenaugh & Clement Thomas, Bonnie French
ALTAR PREPARATION	8:00	Janice Flug, Joan Garey	Keiley Delaney Shelly Harvell					Kay Caviness, Janet Burton
GREETERS	9:30	Al Doermann, Alma Hinton, John & Merilee Paran	George Harris					Carolyn Carlson, Ken Carlson
	11:00	Daisy Aniebonam, Sebie Mesgina, Hiwot Mesgina	Scott & Nancy Graeves, Neil & Judith Johnson					Vicky & Grace Aceto
	Monday 7:00	Karen Matthiesen	Laura & Steve Olson, Jamie Krauk, Janet Collins					Royce & Christine Watson, Cynthia Mbah, Chris Mbah
LECTORS	8:00	Ken & Lucie Austin	Linda & Doug Schaus					Michael & Tamara Arsenault, Millie Forrey, Ellen White
	9:30	Mark Zafonte, Martha Piedrasanta	Kimberly Gay-Armour, Cynthia Roberts					Marge Schnackenberg
	11:00	Karen Dawit	Angela Sullivan, Kathleen Strebel					George Harris, George Mannina
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	8:00	*Ken Austin, Roger Caldwell, George Pauli, Helena Jacobs, Kimberly Gay-Armour	Brian Shilling					Peggy Hayeslip, Paul Van Akkeren
	9:30	*Paul Lobien, Jim Solfronk, Jackie Lobien, Peggy Gorski, Claudia Jacobson, Karen Matthiesen, Deborah Shoup, Glen Harvell	Angela Sullivan, Kathleen Strebel					Kristi Chiarvallotti
	Pew	Dorothy Fristoe	Brian Shilling					*Bruce Emmel, Lyndi Lahl, George Mannina, Jennifer Lee, Kimberly Gay-Armour
STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY	11:00	*Marianne Lohr, David Van Norstrand, Stu Richards, Angela Green, Barbara Richards, Daisy Aniebonam	Angela Sullivan, Kathleen Strebel					*Trish Baker, Marilee Tollefson, Ken Carlson, Mark Zafonte, Nancy Mueller, Julie Peitsch, Connie Rehman, TBD
	Monday 7:00	*Angela Green, Mike Witmer, Karen Matthiesen	Brian Shilling					Leslie Hollowell
		Denis Lahl, Lyndi Lahl, Karl Jackson, Karen Hughes	Angela Sullivan, Kathleen Strebel					*Jeff Wahlbrink, Barbara Wahlbrink, Stan Friedman, Lynn Harty, Daisy Aniebonam, TBD
ACOLYTES	8:00	Sara Lazarchick, Samantha Moser	Angela Sullivan, Kathleen Strebel					*Marge Schnackenberg, Mel Schnackenberg, Mary Jo Schnackenberg
	11:00	Sofia Vaonakis, Jack Schantz	Angela Sullivan, Kathleen Strebel					Dennis Lahl, Lyndi Lahl, Ellen White, Steve Olson
ALTAR FLOWER DELIVERY		Sue Smith	Angela Sullivan, Kathleen Strebel					Francisco Hidalgo, Dinsio Okafor
			Angela Sullivan, Kathleen Strebel					Regan Hyder, Joshua Groce
			Angela Sullivan, Kathleen Strebel					Steve Berry

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

