



# ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

And

## Early Childhood Campus

7750 State. Hwy. 144 N  
www.standrew-westbend.org  
Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

West Bend, WI 53090  
standrewchurchwb@gmail.com

(262) 335-4200  
St.AndrewECC@gmail.com  
Sunday School and Bible Class 10:15 a.m.

### JANUARY 2025

#### PASTOR'S MESSAGE

##### *The Christmas Villain*

Who is your favorite Christmas villain? When I think of Christmas villains, a few notables come to mind. For example, there is the greedy Mr. Potter in "It's a Wonderful Life." There is the cruel and insecure Mr. Sawyer in "Miracle on 34th Street." And finally, there are the wet bandits, Harry and Marv, in "Home Alone."

Yet, when I think of Christmas villains, none tops that of King Herod the Great. Herod was a cruel and power-hungry ruler who had ordered all the male children in Bethlehem and its vicinity that were two years of age and under be killed. Why did he do this? Because he was told that a king had been born in Bethlehem. And he had no intention of giving up his throne!

What made Herod the way that he was? It was SIN. And, in a manner of speaking, we are all like Herod, because we all have a SIN problem. We are a people who become easily paranoid, fearful, and all too prone to lash out. And we look to unseat Jesus from the throne of our hearts!

Yet, here's the difference. God opens your eyes by His Word to show you your sin so that you might repent, and then He show you your Savior so that you may be forgiven. And that forgiveness interrupts your villainy and resets your heart each and every time so that you do not become like Herod.

Know that power is available for you to move ahead into the new year. For God has given you, His Spirit. And Jesus promises you: "I am

with you always, to the end of the age."

**As always, dear brothers and sisters, please contact me if you or a loved one is in the hospital, celebrating a milestone, or would just like a visit.**

Let's connect!

#### NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Please have all newsletter articles in by **Tuesday, January 28** to Ginger Careros at [standrewchurchwb@gmail.com](mailto:standrewchurchwb@gmail.com).

#### BOARD OF ELDERS

Did you make any New Year's Resolutions to start off 2025? I don't make them because I always fail with keeping them. However, an easy new year resolution to keep is connecting with our God. You just need to find a Bible study that fits into your schedule and to find a little time every day to ready and study God's Word. The Saturday morning Men's Group and Monday night Men's Group are starting back up the first week in January after taking a short break for the holidays. Saturday mornings at 8:30am and Monday nights at 6pm, both meet in the fellowship hall at church. See below for all of the Bible studies at St. Andrew.

What a blessing it was to share a meal with our church family before worshipping on the three Wednesday nights during advent. Thanks to all of the members and the groups that brought a food item to share at the soup suppers.

There are quite a few options to study the Bible at St. Andrew.

- Sunday morning after church (10:15am).  
Currently studying the book of Hebrews.
- Tuesday morning (9:30am) Women's Group @ Sandy Berres' house.
- Week night (various nights depending on schedules) Women's Group. Meets at homes and church- Currently studying the book, The Women of Christmas by Liz Curtis Higgs.
- Saturday morning (8:30am) Men's Group led by Dan Berres meets at church- Starting a new to be determined study on January 4th ..
- Monday evening (6:00pm) Men's Group led by Bob Buehler -Currently studying the book of Hebrews.

Talk to Pastor Vierkant or one of the elders and we will help get you plugged into God's word at St. Andrew.

Please contact Pastor, an Elder, or the church office if you are going in for surgery, having a hospital stay or have anything else you think we should know about. We are concerned for our members but if you do not tell us what is going on, we will not know to contact you to see if you would like a visit or would like to be included in our prayers.

This is your church home and we are your church family so we are very interested in what your concerns are. Please contact one of the Elders and let us know if you have any concerns, questions, need help or just want to talk. We are here to help you in any way we can. Below is the list of Elders and which area of responsibilities they are heading. You can talk to any Elder about any concerns or questions and we will bring it up to the full board and most importantly, please keep us in your prayers.

In God's service,

Randy Sheffield—Chairman, Sick/Shut-Ins & Care Ministry  
Thai Hua—Secretary, Ushers  
Mark Oehme— In-Actives

Jeff Grande – Youth/Confirmation  
Rory Hetzel—Lay Readers  
George Muth—Fund Raisers/Personnel

## **BOARD OF MINISTRIES**

The New Year means new opportunities! If you are prayerfully considering how, you can do more for our church, the Board of Ministries is in great need for new members. Our main focuses on the board are education and outreach/evangelism. Education includes providing tuition assistance for Christian education, as of late this is done through fundraisers. In addition, we try to provide classes such as Everyone His Witness and also provide educational materials for Sunday School and Youth Group. Some ways we have tried to reach out into our community the past few years have been through parades, Candy Cane Hunt and other events to try to bring people to our church, whether for just a social event or for a service like Friendship Sunday. Some of our goals for this year specifically is to be better at reaching out to visitors, welcoming them and inviting them to join us again in the future; another goal is to provide more mission/service opportunities and help those in our community. We are in need and open to new board members and ideas on how to accomplish these goals.

Events we have planned so far for the new year is the Epiphany Dinner coming up on January 5th. Enjoy the 12th day of Christmas with us! Come at 4:30, we will have Texas Roadhouse catered dinner at 5pm with church blessing and Christmas carol singing afterward.

For our Monthly Mission Collection in January, we will be collecting breakfast foods for the Kewaskum Food Pantry.

Friendship Sunday will be February 16th. Start thinking of which co-worker, neighbor, friend, stranger you may be able to invite to join us at church and for a lunch after the service!

We are in need of a new Brat Fry coordinator/s if anyone is interested in helping with this specific event, please let any one of us know!

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10

May God bless your New Year!

Sandy Berres, Sarah Peterson, Sue Hetzel,  
Joanne Miller

### CARE MINISTRY

God's blessings to all of you! I wanted to remind you of our "Care Ministry" opportunity here at St. Andrew. This ministry can be used by any of you that may be going through a difficult time. It may be for only a short time like coming home from the hospital and would like someone to come and share a prayer or two and a brief devotional with you. Or something more long lasting like finding out you are not able to drive any more or health related trials perhaps dealing with the struggles with aging. Divorce or marriage difficulties.

There are many reasons to take advantage of this ministry. It may be a feeling of loneliness and just need to talk and need a listening ear to listen. You may be struggling with your faith, let us know! You may have received serious diagnoses from the doctors! Family difficulties! Life change decisions! Depression! Perhaps just asking "why am I always sad!" Do you have a family member in a nursing home? We will walk through the muck and brokenness of this world with you.

This ministry is for all of us from time to time, and no need to feel embarrassed or reluctant to ask. Please reach out to Pastor or myself. Don't hesitate to let us know. We are trained to be care ministries; all is kept private and is our privilege and blessing to serve God and His people in this way. You are a blessing to us and we don't want you to ever think you are alone because you are "never alone" Please, please,

please," let us be a friend and have a meaningful relationship with you!

Dan Berres

### EARLY CHILDHOOD CAMPUS

*"Glory to God in the Highest" Luke 2:14*

These were the Bible words that we were learning in the beginning of December. As we were reading the different variations of the Nativity story it was so amazing to see the kids learning and understanding GROW. They were making real life connections to the birth of Jesus. "I am the special star", "I am the Inn keeper...I tell Tucker to use my stable", "I am the special angel, I give baby Jesus to Josephina" etc. Besides, making these awesome connections to the Nativity story, they were also learning and memorizing our Bible words..."Glory to God in the Highest". Every time I read those words at the end of a Nativity story; the children were so excited to let me know..."THOSE ARE OUR BIBLE WORDS MRS. MOSER!!!!". I am so thankful and blessed to be a part of this special preschool!

Merry Christmas and a very Happy and Healthy New Year to you and yours!!!

Lindsey



## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Brittany Neumann
- 6 Kenneth Falk
- 9 Blake Sommer
- 12 Dean Dieringer
- 13 Lyndsey Mutz
- 19 Lois Dumann
- 19 Daisy Knoz
- 20 Gregory Knox
- 21 Sophia Justman
- 23 Christie Dieringer
- 23 Henry Grande
- 23 Esther Oehme
- 24 Bruce Koenig
- 24 Simone Manns
- 27 Jonathan Vierkant
- 28 Raelynn Jantz
- 31 Kiara Osgood



## JANUARY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 James Keaton
- 1 Tracy Neatherlin
- 3 Lisa Baertlein
- 7 Alason Koenig
- 8 Samantha Gnatzig
- 11 Molly Knox
- 14 Sarah Peterson
- 15 Diane Nelson
- 15 Blake Sommer
- 16 Timothy Struebing
- 18 Jennae Beaupre'
- 19 Judi Riedel
- 20 Gregory Knox
- 20 Tina Ratzel
- 25 Curt Gnatzig
- 31 Debbie Benz



## JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 7 Mark & Debra Oehme
- 10 Bob & Michele Buehler
- 14 Jonathan & Katherine Vierkant

