



# MESSENGER

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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## Pastors

Rev. John Gropp, Rev. Brenda Henry, Rev. Susan Devine  
and Rev. Alexander Sumo

## MAY NEWSLETTER 2022



Greetings Friends,

I am writing this message on earth day. Earth day started 52 years ago as an encouragement for us to take care of the planet. The *Daily Bread* devotion for today reminded me that the act of caring for the earth is much older. The Genesis story of creation tells us how God lovingly formed the earth in six days. And in Genesis 1:15 “The Lord God took man [humanity] and put him [them] in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.” What a marvelous reminder that God always intended for us to be stewards of the earth and all that is in it!

It is also springtime. Though the weather is constantly changing we can see the beauty all around us in this season of rebirth and renewal. The flowers are blooming. The birds are chirping. The outdoors are once again inviting us to sit on our porches, go for walks, and frolic on the playgrounds. How fitting given that we are in the season of Easter! We experienced the greatest renewal – humanity’s redemption! We have been made new. And we are invited to continue this renewal through love and care of each other.

PLUM is entering its season of renewal as we welcome Pastor Alexander Sumo and his family to our community. We are looking forward to the ways that the Holy Spirit through Pastor Alex is inviting us to grow. One beautiful moment that we can anticipate is getting together for his installation on Saturday, July 30th. So put that on your calendar now and look for more details in the weeks to come.

May is also a time to celebrate mothers or as I have come to think of it – the gift of mothering. Mothering is to kindly and protectively care for another (person, animal, nature). Sometimes we are saddened when we think of the mothers that are no longer here or we grieve the absence of children. I encourage you to take a moment to reflect and thank the mothers in your life. And pause to notice the many opportunities to receive and extend the gift of mothering. It is one of the ways we honor God’s gift of renewal.

In this season of renewal, I have much to be thankful for. My granddaughter Zahra is discovering her world with looks of puzzlement and cooing sounds of joy with expressions of discontent thrown in 😊. Both of my children, Jamila and Jaseem, will receive their Master's in Business degrees this month. I will begin my doctoral studies at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in June. And I continue to be enriched with your love and care as we journey together in this ministry God has placed us in.

Whatever the ways God is inviting you into renewal this month, my prayer is that the gift of renewal, hope, and new life granted to us through Jesus' death and resurrection continues to bring you joy.

He is risen! Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

*Pastor Brenda*



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## PLUM Welcomes Rev. Alexander Sumo

Alexander Yarmie Sumo is a lifelong Lutheran. Born and raised in Liberia, West Africa, he completed his secondary education at the William V.S. Tubman High School in Monrovia and obtained his undergraduate degree (Bachelor of Arts - BA) in sociology and



public administration from the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) University in Liberia. He completed seminary and ministry training in August 2000 with a Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) degree from the United Methodist University - Gbarnga School of Theology. Alexander was ordained in 2003 as Pastor of Word and Sacrament in the Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL). Between 2000 and 2008 Pastor Sumo served as pastor for several parishes in the Lutheran Church in Liberia (St.

Paul – LTI, St. Andrew - Gorlu Parish, St. Matthew Parish – Paynesville, David A. Day – Harrisburg Parish, and Lutheran Memorial – Millsburg Parish).

Alexander and family relocated to the United States in 2008 and he was admitted to the pastoral roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in 2011. Immediately following his admission to the ELCA roster, Pastor Sumo was called by the Southern Ohio Synod (SOS) to serve as Pastor/Developer for its mission congregation (The African International Lutheran Mission - AILM) in Columbus, Ohio. He served the AILM as a Lead Pastor for 14 years and the St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church in Newark, Ohio for a little over 2 years.

Alexander completed graduate work at Capital University – Trinity Seminary in Columbus, Ohio where he earned the Master of Arts (MA) in gender, youth and family studies (MAYFM) and the post graduate Master of Sacred Theology (STM) degree in leadership and pastoral practice. Pastor Alexander Sumo completed his doctoral studies in 2019 and earned the Doctor of Leadership for Transformational Change from Capital University and the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). Dr. Alexander Yarmie Sumo and Ms.

Deddeh Matee Kpukuyou, an accountant and a nursing professional are blessed with three (3) beautiful children: Alexander Yarmie Jnr., Alaric Leela, and charming Ms. Alexandria Jackie. The family has lived in Columbus, Ohio for over 14 years. A move to Pittsburgh, PA to serve Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries (PLUM) is an exciting new journey and we cannot wait to start it. To God be the glory.



## ST. ANDREW NEWS



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

2nd Jessica Hrabovsky	9th Patty Spotti	13th Agnes Gazda
14th Pastor John	16th Andrew Hertzler	20th Pastor Beth
24th Julie Shaw	29th Pastor Paul	

### ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY



### LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:

*Please contact the Church Office with persons you would like to have included on our Prayer List. The Prayer List is included in the Messenger and the weekly Bulletin.*

Patrick Murphy, Teresa Kuehl, Teresa Stacy, Margaret Hrabovsky, Justin Gloor, Keith Malizio, John Spotti, Kathy Treemarchi, Elaine Moore, Liam Collins, Karen Porter, Jazz, Jaxon, Anita, Toni, Faith, Lisa, Phyllis Connelly, Bob Kraus, Janet Comber, Kit Stockman, Dan Hoover, Leslie Trosky, Susan Jordan, All those who are suffering from disease, Covid-19, violence or distress; All frontline health care workers; All those who protect and serve our country and community; All those who have suffered the loss of a family member or a friend; The Churches of PLUM and their Pastors and Staff; The Community of East Carnegie and the Congregation of St. Andrew.



### MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, May 30<sup>th</sup>** in observance of Memorial Day. Have a safe Holiday!



### ELECTION DAY

**Election Day is Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.** St. Andrew will once again be a polling place for the neighborhood. Fellowship Hall will be in use that day, as well as Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> for set up.



### SAL COUNCIL MEETING

St. Andrew's next Church Council Meeting will be on **Monday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm on the ZOOM format.** All Council members are asked to attend. Thank you.



### SAVE YOUR EMPTY PERSCRIPTION BOTTLES

We are collecting empty prescription bottles. Please remove the RX information and deposit the bottles in the basket in the rear of the Church.



**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MAY**



**USHER:** Anyone Available  
**TREASURER'S ASSISTANTS:** Anyone Available  
**ALTAR GUILD:** Bobbie Everly  
**STAIR GLIDE:** Anyone Available

**MAY 1:**  
**Greeter:** Bobbie Everly  
**Lector:** Barb Malizio

**MAY 8: MOTHER'S DAY**  
**Greeters:** Marilyn & Tim Rogers  
**Lector:** Marilyn Rogers

**MAY 15:**  
**Greeters:** Jess & Tom Hrabovsky  
**Lector:** Steve McGrogan

**MAY 22:**  
**Greeter:** TBD  
**Lector:** Barb Malizio

**MAY 29: MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND**  
**Greeters:** Marilyn & Tim Rogers  
**Lector:** Marilyn Rogers

*(Schedule subject to change)*



**MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD**

Our food bank will take place on May 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am. It will return to the first and third Thursday of the month in June. If you would like to donate to the food bank, please make sure that the food has not expired. Food can be dropped off at the church between 9:30 -12:30 Monday through Friday, just call before coming. **We have availability for more participants. If you know of anyone who would benefit from our food bank, please have them call the Church Office, so that we can provide them with assistance.** Thank you.



**ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH WALK FOR WATER**

After a two-year hiatus, St. Stephen Lutheran Church is excited to be able to once again hold their Walk for Water! This event will take place at the Church on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, starting at 12pm. Walk for Water benefits the Water Mission ([www.watermission.org](http://www.watermission.org)), which designs, builds and implements safe water, sanitation and hygiene solutions around the world. You can participate by creating a team and registering it for the event

([HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/DDKD5SL](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DDKD5SL)).

Or if you can't attend the event, you can make a donation through (<https://gofund.me/eb0fd899>).

For more information, visit St. Stephen's website at ([ststephenpittsburgh.org](http://ststephenpittsburgh.org)). Lend a hand, together we can make a difference!



 *Mother's Day*

*Happy Mother's Day to all Moms and to all the women  
who have been a motherly influence in our lives! 5/8/2021*

# PLUM NEWS

## **PLUM WORSHIP AND MEETINGS VIA ZOOM**

We continue to provide a means to gather as a combined congregation through PLUM's ZOOM site. Sunday Worship, meetings, bible studies and fellowship are all available on the ZOOM format. Just use the information below and you can be a part of all we are currently doing.

**Zoom online:** <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>

**Zoom by phone:** (646) 876-9923 **Meeting ID:** 401 596 541



## **2022 SYNOD ASSEMBLY**

The Southwestern PA Synod Assembly will be held on **Thursday, June 16th thru Saturday, June 18th, 2022**. The Assembly will take place via ZOOM. St. Andrew needs one more Delegate. Online registration is now available. Please sign up soon so you can attend the Caucus on May 24th at 7pm via ZOOM.



## **PLUM WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

The PLUM worship Committee will meet on **Wednesday, June 8, 2022 at 7pm** via ZOOM. Join us as we discuss and plan our ZOOM worship services.



## **PLUM BOARD MEETING**

The next PLUM Board meeting will be held on **Monday, May 23, 2022 at 7pm**. All Board members are asked to join us via ZOOM.



## **EAST CARNEGIE COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

There will be a drive through food distribution at the East Carnegie Volunteer Fire Department on Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30am to 11am. No pre-registration or ID is required. Event will end at 11am or when all food is distributed. For more info call 412-460-3663 x655.





# St. Andrew Lutheran Church

# May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>  <b>May Day</b> WORSHIP 9:15 ZOOM 3PM	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b> 	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 	<b>6</b> TAIZE SERVICE 7PM ZOOM 	<b>7</b> 
<b>8</b>  <b>Mothers Day</b> WORSHIP 9:15 ZOOM 3PM	<b>9</b>  CHURCH COUNCIL SAL COUNCIL 5PM ZOOM	<b>10</b> BIBLE STUDY 1PM 	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>  MHC 11:30AM	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> E. CARNEGIE FOOD DSITRIBUTION 9:30-11AM @ E. CARNEGIE FIRE DEPT.
<b>15</b>  WORSHIP 9:15 ZOOM 3PM WALK FOR WATER 12PM @ST STEPHENS	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b>  ELECTION DAY FELLOWSHIP HALL IN USE	<b>18</b> 	<b>19</b>  MHC 11:30AM	<b>20</b> FELLOWSHIP HALL IN USE	<b>21</b>  Armed Forces Day
<b>22</b>  WORSHIP 9:15 ZOOM 3PM	<b>23</b> PLUM BOARD MEETING 7PM ZOOM	<b>24</b> BIBLE STUDY 1PM 	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 
<b>29</b>  WORSHIP 9:15 ZOOM 3PM	<b>30</b>  MEMORIAL DAY	<b>31</b> BIBLE STUDY 1PM 				

