



MESSENGER

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Pastors
Rev. Brenda Henry, Rev. Sue Devine,
Rev. Alexander Sumo and Rev. John Gropp

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. (Matthew 14: 13-14)

The vocation of being a pastor comes with many opportunities for growth and beautiful moments of joy and witnessing the Holy Spirit at work. In this journey of being your pastor for almost 4 years (can you believe that?) I have certainly experienced those growth, joy, and Holy Spirit moments. However, over time, there is one thing I have encountered that I must admit makes me sad. It is the phrase "Pastor, I know you have a lot on your plate, or I know you are really busy" as the opening to a conversation. As your pastor, I want to be there with you and for you; especially in those moments when you are at a crossroads, experiencing a difficult time, as well as to share in your celebrations and joys. However, what makes me even sadder is to learn afterwards that someone chose not to reach out because of concern for "bothering" me. There is an old saying "what you don't know can't hurt you." I have come to realize that is not a true statement. Lack of information only prevents one from extending care and support at best and serves to create division and harm at worst.

As your pastoral team we recognize and acknowledge that caring for 10 congregations carries with it a lot of responsibility, the need to prioritize our tasks, and to have flexibility in our schedule to adjust to the unexpected. We are constantly learning the importance of balancing the care for our congregations, with care for our families and for ourselves. However, what we have learned and what remains true is we cannot be present for you if we are unaware there is a need or want.

In the gospel of Matthew chapter 14 we read the story of the beheading of John the Baptist, cousin of Jesus. Upon learning of the death of his cousin, Jesus naturally wanted to take a moment to grieve. However, the crowd followed Jesus. What was Jesus' response to the crowd? He had compassion on them. He stopped and he cared for them.

Being present to care for the crowd was an important part of the interaction between Jesus and the crowd. The crowd making known their concerns was also necessary. We as your pastors fully acknowledge that for us to be *better together* we must rely on each other...our shared partnership. Caring for our community is not an exact science. It is relational. And relationships are messy. Even the best efforts to care for one another will result in missing cues, misreading signs. The most helpful way to maintain healthy relationships is by transparent conversations. Sometimes those conversations are not easy and may not provide the desired outcome for everyone; however, we cannot learn what is needed without open dialog. This dialog helps us to faithfully respond to what we are commanded to do – love our neighbor.

The grace filled portion of the story however does not end at the compassion and caring. As we look further in the narrative of Matthew chapter 14, we see that this was the beginning. This narrative also contains the feeding of the 5000 by Jesus. So often we see this as a miraculous moment where Jesus multiplied five loaves and two fishes. However, it is more. This miracle is also the result of team effort. The disciples had to make known their concerns for the crowd to Jesus. They had to search for a means to feed the people. The loaves and fishes came from someone (a little boy we are told in the gospel of John 6:1-15). Could Jesus have done the miracle without the aid of the disciples and the little boy? I believe so. And yet, Jesus' actions remind us that God works through us and with us.

Let us continue to care for one another by being present for each another. The next time a concern comes up know that you may reach out to us – **we are not too busy to stop and care.** AND, trusting the presence of God to work in us and through us, we will be the family that God has called us to be.

In community together,
Pr. Brenda on behalf of PLUM Pastoral Team

September 2023



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Grandparents Day is Sunday, September 10th!
Wishing all Grandparents everywhere
a wonderful day!
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ST ANDREW NEWS



MOVING ON UP!

Sunday Worship Services will be moving back to the Sanctuary on **Sunday, September 10th**. We hope you will join us soon for Sunday service at 9:15am.

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CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURES

The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, September 4th** in observance of Labor Day! Have a safe and happy Holiday!



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SAL COUNCIL MEETING

St. Andrew's next Church Council Meeting will be on **Monday, September 11th at 5:00pm** via the ZOOM format. All Council members are encouraged to attend. Thank you, Council for all you do!

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A BIG THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who assisted in keeping the Church yards and gardens looking so beautiful this Summer. Kudos to Barb Ginsburg and Teresa Kuehl for their care and dedication to our gardens and to Caleb for keeping the grass in good shape. Caleb and his family have moved to Canonsburg and we wish them well. As always, thanks to Tim Rogers and Tom Hrabovsky for overseeing the Church property and keeping everything looking good and well repaired.

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ST. ANDREW FLEA MARKET

St. Andrew's 3rd annual Flea Market will be held on the church grounds on **Saturday, September 16th from 11am to 3pm**. A lot of help is needed. **Volunteers are needed to bring items from inside the Church on Friday, September 15th and store them in the garage. At 8:00am on Saturday, we will set up tables and put items on display. People will also be needed to sit at the tables. Then a crew will be needed for clean-up, starting at 3:00pm.**

FYI: WE WILL NEED BAGS OF ALL KINDS AND SIZES!

Donations to be sold at the Flea Market are also needed. **WE DON'T WANT BEDDING, CLOTHING OR SHOES. All donations must be at the Church by September 8th.** Bring them on Sundays or during office hours (9:30am to 12:30pm M-F).

There are sign-up sheets on the table in Fellowship Hall. You can also call the Church office (412-279-3615) or Marilyn (412-922-6699) so that we know who is able to help. Thank you so much.



MOTHER HUBBARD'S CUPBOARD



St. Andrew continues to provide our at-risk neighbors with food from Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. Our food bank takes place on the first and third Thursday of each month. Pick Up time is from 11:30am to 12:30pm. 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.



COFFEE HOUR

Coffee hour following worship will be held once a month beginning on **September 24th**. Please sign up to provide refreshments for this fellowship opportunity. Thank you



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9/1 DAKOTA SHAFER
- 9/11 STEVE KEBLISH
- 9/21 JOHN SPOTTI
- 9/26 AUDREY SCHROEDER
- 9/27 SALLY SAMS



(If we have missed your birthday, please let us know!)



LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:



Patrick Murphy, Dylan Baker, Dan Hoover, Teresa Kuehl, Marie Pastorius, Margaret Hrabovsky, Justin Gloor, Keith Malizio, Elaine Moore, Chris Biery, Jazz, Anita, Toni, Faith, Lisa, Bob Kraus, Janet Comber, Kit Stockman, Dave Keblish, Kpannah K. Sumo, Robert Seaton, Pastor John Gropp, Lenroy Bright, Teresa Stacy, Harry Bodnar Jr; Carol Redlawsk, Dan Rogers, Pastor Sue Devine, Pastor Paul Koch, 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.



WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR SEPTEMBER

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



SEPTEMBER 3:
Greeters: Bobbie Everly
Lector: Steve McGrogan

SEPTEMBER 10:
Greeters: Jess & Tom Hrabovsky
Lector: Barb Malizio

SEPTEMBER 17:
Greeters: Bobbie Everly
Lector: Steve McGrogan

SEPTEMBER 24:
Greeters: Marilyn & Tim Rogers
Lector: Marilyn Rogers



SAL BOOK CLUB

Our next book is **"Five Days Left"**, by Julie Lawson Timmer. The next meeting of the Book Club will be Friday, September 29th at 1pm. All are welcome.



GOD'S SPEED DEAR FRIEND

We want to wish Julie Shaw God's speed as she moves to Tionesta to be closer to family. Julie has been a dedicated member of St. Andrew and she will be greatly missed. Love and many blessing to Julie and her family. Her new address is **522 German Hill Road, Tionesta, PA 16353.**



READY...SET...BACK TO SCHOOL

St. Andrew's **Back-to-School Event** took place on **Saturday, August 12, 2023, from 2pm to 4pm.** About 60 neighbors attended and we gave out 32 back packs. Everyone in attendance enjoyed refreshments and participated in fun games. Kudos to Sharon Freed and Marilyn Rogers for their teaching expertise that kept the children quite entertained! Thank you to our leader Jess Hrabovsky, and to everyone who participated and helped to make this event so successful.



AUGUST 10, 2023 MESSAGE FROM PASTOR PAUL KOCH

Warm greetings to all the PLUM churches and their members: Many of you know of my recent. falls and hospitalization. I want you all to know that I am at home now - still recuperating. My wife Sharon has been a very faithful caregiver. Thank you all for your cards, your good wishes and, especially, your prayers. They all mean a lot to me and give me encouragement to carry on.

I also want to take this opportunity to make a recommendation to you. While I have been home, I have spent some time watching the TV series "The Chosen" on PRIME Network. Some of you undoubtedly have heard of it or seen it already. Generally, I think it provides a realistic presentation of Jesus' life and ministry. It excludes the exaggerations of films that are produced in Hollywood. And even though the script is not entirely Biblical, I think the added material is fair and helpful. Take a look at it if you haven't already.

And God bless you all, your families, and the PLUM churches.

+Pastor Paul





JOIN PLUM'S MISSION PROJECT OF "GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS" AT CHRIST LUTHERAN: We will be gathering at 405 Kennedy Avenue, Duquesne, PA 15110 on **Saturday, September 9, 2023, from 10am to 12:30pm.** For the **sixth** year in a row, PLUM (Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries) will be working with the faith-based organization **"RISE AGAINST HUNGER"** to host a **meal packaging event reinforcing "Gods Work, Our Hands."** We will coordinate an assembly-line packaging of highly nutritious dehydrated meals comprised of rice, soy, vegetables and 23 essential vitamins and minerals. Together we will package 13,000 meals that will be sent to school feeding programs around the world, medical clinics, child growth and development centers, elder care and crisis and disaster centers.

Please make the commitment to help on Saturday, September 9th. Please call, text, or email Mary Anne Novak (coordinator) at 412-979-8574 or novakbbb@aol.com by August 31st with your commitment to participate.

If you would like to **make a personal donation**, please make your check out to your congregation. Each PLUM congregation is asked to donate at least \$480 (This may be done through a special collection, a fundraiser, or whatever means your congregation chooses.) Congregations will then send a check to PLUM, indicating "Rise Against Hunger" on the memo line of the check.

Together the churches within PLUM can make a difference in combatting world hunger as our hands and mission unite to do God's work. Come join us for this spiritually inspiring event!



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023: BETHANY'S FALL VENDOR SHOW: It's holiday shopping time and Bethany, Dormont (3104 W. Liberty Ave, Dormont 15216) is having a Fall Vendor Show where you might just find some holiday gifts. Stop at Bethany on **Saturday, October 7th from 10am to 3pm** and visit the various vendors present. There will also be basket raffles, a 50/50 raffle and refreshments. Proceeds benefit Bethany's Community Cupboard outreach. See you there!



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023: PLUM JOINT REFORMATION SERVICE: The **PLUM Joint Reformation Service** will be held on **Sunday, October 29 at 3:00PM** - in Person at Lutheran Church of Our Saviour (Irwin) and via Zoom.



St. Andrew Lutheran Church

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 
3 WORSHIP 9:15AM ZOOM WORSHIP 3PM	4 OFFICE CLOSED LABOR DAY  LABOR DAY	5 	6 TAIZE WORSHIP SERVICE 7PM	7  MHC 11:30AM	8 	9 
10 RETURN TO THE SANCTUARY 9:15AM GRANDPARENTS DAY	11 SAL COUNCIL 5PM ON ZOOM 	12	13 WORSHIP MEETING 7PM ZOOM	14 BIBLE STUDY 7PM ON ZOOM	15 	16 SAL FLEA MARKET 11AM - 3PM ROSH HASHANAH
17 WORSHIP 9:15AM ZOOM WORSHIP 3PM	18 	19  SAL BIBLE STUDY 1PM	20 WHAT'S NEXT MEETING 7PM ON ZOOM	21  MHC 11:30AM BIBLE STUDY 7PM ON ZOOM	22 	23 AUTUMN BEGINS
24 WORSHIP 9:15AM COFFEE HOUR ZOOM WORSHIP 3PM	25 PLUM BOARD 7PM ZOOM YOM KIPPUR	26 	27	28 BIBLE STUDY 7PM ON ZOOM	29 BOOK CLUB 1PM AT SAL	30

