

MESSENGER

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH
218 ALTER STREET, EAST CARNEGIE, PA 15106-1116
412-279-3615 standrew3@aol.com

Pastors

Rev. Brenda Henry, Rev. Sue Devine,

Rev. Alexander Sumo and Rev. John Gropp

DECEMBER/JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2023/2024

CHRISTMAS IS THE SEASON OF GIVING - WHAT GIFT WILL YOU SHARE?

"Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin." Romans 3:24-25 (The Message)

The greatest gift you've ever been given wasn't bought in a store. No cash exchanged hands. It wasn't even wrapped. Yet it cost the Giver everything.

The Bible says God sent his Son to Earth to give you the greatest gift ever. He came to Earth to die—so that you could be made right with God. Romans 3:24-25 says, "Out of sheer generosity he put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we're in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin." (The Message)

So why did Jesus have to die? Let's go back to the basics of peoples' problem and God's solution.

- Nobody's perfect. I've never met a single person who has claimed to be perfect. I don't
 measure up to my own expectations, much less God's perfect standard. Neither do you or
 anyone else. We've all blown it. The Bible says, "All of us have sinned and fallen short of God's
 alory" (Romans 3:23 CEV).
- **God is just.** God wants to be fair. When somebody breaks a law, there must be a penalty for it. When you break humanity's laws, you pay humanity's penalty. When you break God's laws, you pay God's penalty. The Bible says, *"The wages of sin is death"* (Romans 6:23 NIV).
- **Jesus paid the price for our sin.** The Bible says, "God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!" (2 Corinthians 5:21 TLB). Jesus took on my sin and your sin and all the sin that has ever been committed. That's the Good News, the Gospel. Jesus paid the price we could never pay for ourselves.
- You must decide whether to accept God's free gift. God gave you a free gift of salvation when Jesus took your sin upon himself. But it's a gift you must receive. The Bible says, "Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12 NIV).

Will you accept God's gift of salvation? Have you accepted God's free gift yet? Have you been baptized yet? It's one thing to understand the basics of how to have a relationship with Jesus. It's another to accept the gift. God's free gift – Jesus Christ, is the greatest gift to humanity. He is our redemption and salvation. As THE GREATEST to us, we are also given the privilege to share Christ with our families, friends, neighbors and strangers. Will you share Christ with your family and friends this Christmas? Will you give your family and friends God's redemptive gift this Christmas? Here's the promise of this marvelous gift:

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29 (ESV)

Redemption is when somebody pays for your sins so that you can be forgiven and walk away justified. They do your time. They pay your penalty. All the things you've done wrong are paid for by somebody else. That's what God did for humanity in His gift given to us in Christ Jesus on Christmas day. Jesus didn't just come to Earth at Christmas. He also lived a perfect life so that his sacrifice was enough to satisfy God's judgment. All of our sins were paid for on the cross. And that is the reason for this season! Christmas comes with the best news ever—and a choice: What are you going to do with Jesus this Christmas?

My challenge for all PLUM families this Christmas is for us to share Christ with our families and friends. Pass on this GOOD NEWS of God's redemption and salvation to the world. Be the giver of the greatest gift and change lives forever.

Pastor Alexander Y. Sumo on behalf of the PLUM Pastoral Team

ST ANDREW NEWS

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 12-13 Nicholas Keifner
- 12-13 Sue Whitfield
- 12-16 Pastor Brenda Henry
- 12-21 Beau Drain
- 12-22 Ken Gloor
- 12-25 Barbara Malizio
- 12-27 Mitchell Malizio



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1-8 Amara Hitt
- 1-9 Janet Comber
- 1-28 Jodi Keifner



ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY





CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Church Office will be closed for the holidays from Friday, December 22nd through Monday, January 1st. Karen will be checking emails and completing tasks daily from home. If you need to get in touch with her, feel free to email at standrew3@aol.com or call 412-600-3901. The Church Office will return to normal hours on Tuesday, January 2nd. Have a blessed Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year!

SAL COUNCIL MEETING

St. Andrew's December Council Meeting will be on Monday, December 11th at 5:00pm via ZOOM format. The January Meeting will be on Monday, January 8th at 5:00pm, once again on ZOOM.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

St. Andrew's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 21, 2024, immediately following worship. This meeting is important, as the 2024 Church Budget will need to be voted on, so look out for more information on the meeting to be shared after the New Year. Please have all annual reports to the Church office by January 15th. Thank you.

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, Lenroy Bright, Teresa Stacy, Harry Bodnar Jr; Carol Redlawsk, Dan Rogers, Pastor Paul Koch ,Pastor Brenda Henry, Pastor Liz Mayforth, 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.

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2024 CHURCH OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2024 Church offering envelopes will be available in the narthex of the church beginning Sunday, December 10th. Envelopes will be available to active members of St Andrew who regularly attend worship. Those who don't regularly attend, but who still donate, will receive an identifying number for their donations. We thank you all for your continued support of St Andrew and its mission.

SAL'S BOOK CLUB

Sal's next Book Club meeting will be **Friday**, **December 15th at 11am**. Our book is "The Art of Racing in the Rain", by Garth Stein. Join us for good reading and fellowship.

2024 SANCTUARY LAMP CALENDAR

The 2024 Sanctuary Lamp Calendar will be available on Sunday, December 10th. You will find it on the Narthex table. If you would like to reserve a candle as a memorial or honorarium, please fill in the space by the date you prefer. Spots go quickly, so sign up as soon as possible. If you can't make it to Church, contact the Church office and Karen will add your information to the list. If you want a specific Sunday, call early to secure your date. The cost of the candle is still only \$5.00, and your fees can be placed in the offering plate along with your weekly donations. Please mark as Sanctuary Candle fee.

REMEMBER THOSE WHO CAN'T BE WITH US

As you are finishing up your Christmas cards or even if you've decided to curtail your Christmas card list this year, consider sending greetings to our sisters in Christ who aren't able to worship with us, and may not be able to access ZOOM worship. The holidays are a difficult time for many. Being remembered by brothers and sisters in the faith, means a lot!

Ms. Katherine Hrabovsky 1700 Grandview Avenue #1002 Pittsburgh, PA 15211-1000

Ms. Marie Pastorius 3040 Allendale Street Pittsburgh, PA 15204-1702

Ms. Mona Nolte 834 12th Street McKees Rocks, PA 15136-2132 **Ms. Margaret Hrabovsky** 1300 Bower Hill Road #1222 Pittsburgh, PA 15243-1391

Ms. Diane Resch 3139 Ashlyn Street Pittsburgh, PA 15204-1705

Ms. Toni Ward 915 Idlewood Avenue East Carnegie, PA 15106-1211

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS EVE

Join St. Andrew as we celebrate the birth of our Savior at our Christmas Eve Worship on Sunday, December 24th at 4pm. There will be no morning worship on December 24th or any on-site worship on Christmas Day (12/25/2023). You may also join your fellow PLUM members for Christmas Eve worship service on ZOOM. The time is 9:15am and 4pm. Blessings for a joyous Christmas!

3RD ANNUAL REASON FOR THE SEASON EVENT

St. Andrew Lutheran Church invites you to join us for the 3rd Annual Reason for the Season, a Celebration of Christmas! The event will take place on Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 2pm to 4pm at the Church. There will be activities, refreshments and gifts for children. All are welcome and children must be accompanied by an adult. Join us as we celebrate our new born King!



May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR DECEMBER

USHER: Anyone Available

TREASURER'S ASSISTANTS: Anyone Available

ALTAR GUILD: Lynn Gloor

STAIR GLIDE: Anyone Available

DECEMBER 3: DECEMBER 10:

Greeters: Bobbie Everly Greeters: Jess & Tom Hrabovsky Lector:

Barb Malizio Steve McGrogan Lector:

DECEMBER 17: DECEMBER 24:

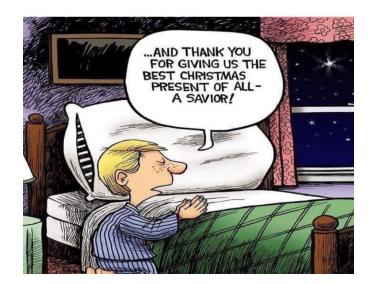
Greeter: Marilyn & Tim Rogers Greeters: Bobbie Everly Marilyn Rogers Lector: Lector: Steve McGrogan

DECEMBER 31:

Greeter: Jess & Tom Hrabovsky

Lector: Various Readers will be needed





WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

USHER: Anyone Available

TREASURER'S ASSISTANTS: Anyone Available

ALTAR GUILD: Bobbie Everly STAIR GLIDE: Anyone Available

JANUARY 7:

Greeters: Marilyn & Tim Rogers

Lector: Marilyn Rogers

JANUARY 21:

Greeters: Jess & Tom Hrabovsky

Lector: Steve McGrogan

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JANUARY 14:

Greeters: Bobbie Everly Lector: Barb Malizio

JANUARY 28:

Greeters: Marilyn & Tim Rogers

Lector: Marilyn Rogers

PLUM NEWS

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Join your fellow PLUM members for an Advent Bible Study: WHERE AND HOW IS GOD AT WORK?

Using the 2023 Advent Study created by ELCA World Hunger, we will study scripture and explore how we encounter the living God today.

Four Thursdays: November 30, December 7, 14, & 21

All sessions will be held on Zoom and begin at 7:00pm. Join us. https://zoom.us/j/401596541

PLUM WORSHIP AND MEETINGS VIA ZOOM: How wonderful is it that not only can we gather for in-person worship each Sunday, we can also gather for Worship, meetings, bible studies and fellowship by connecting 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**

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday**, **January 10**, **2024 at 7pm** via ZOOM. Join us then, as we discuss and plan our ZOOM worship services.

AT HOME TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023 AND WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2024, 7:00 PM, VIA ZOOM: Prayer is a great source of Comfort during trying times. Please join us in Taizé Prayer from the safety of your homes.

MONDAY, JANUARY 29: PLUM BOARD MEETING: The bi-monthly PLUM Board meeting will be held on Monday, January 29th at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom.



St. Andrew Lutheran Church December 2023

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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3	4	5	6	7 MHC 11:30AM	8	9
9:15AM WORSHIP 3PM ZOOM WORSHIP			TAIZE WORSHIP 7PM ZOOM	ADVENT PRAYER STUDY 7PM ZOOM HANUKKAH		ST. LUCIA DAY AT IMMANUEL 5PM
10	church council	12	13	14	15	16
9:15AM WORSHIP 3PM ZOOM WORSHIP	SAL COUNCIL 5PM ZOOM			ADVENT PRAYER STUDY 7PM ZOOM	SAL BOOK CLUB 11AM	REASON FOR THE SEASON 2PM - 4PM
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:15AM WORSHIP 3PM ZOOM WORSHIP				WINTER BEGINS MHC 11:30AM ADVENT PRAYER STUDY 7PM ZOOM	OFFICE CLOSED	
24	25 🧘	26	27	28	29	30
4PM WORSHIP	MERRY CHRISTMAS					
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31		D	201	23 5	D	9
9:15AM WORSHIP 3PM ZOOM WORSHIP NEW YEAR'S	P. S.	DE	CE	M	Be	K
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St. Andrew Lutheran Church January 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	OFFICE CLOSED	2	TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE 7PM ZOOM	4 MHC 11:30AM	5	6
9:15AM WORSHIP 3PM ZOOM WORSHIP	SAL COUNCIL 5PM ZOOM	9	WORSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING 7PM ZOOM	11	12	13
9:15AM worship 3PM ZOOM worship	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	16	17	18 MHC 11:30AM	19	20
9:15AM WORSHIP CONGREGATION MEETING 3PM ZOOM WORSHIP	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:15AM WORSHIP 3PM ZOOM WORSHIP	29 PLUM BOARD MEETING 7PM ZOOM	30	31			