

The Fisherman's Network

St. Andrews United Methodist Church

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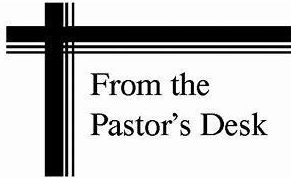
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Our Mission: "To Show, Share and Grow in God's Love, through Jesus Christ."

Our Vision: "Believe in God, Follow Jesus, and Serve Others."

December 2021 Newsletter



From the
Pastor's Desk

Jesus still calls us to be inclusive in all our relationships. God's love has the power to hold us together.

We all come from different backgrounds, faiths upbringing and race.

God's love that came on Christmas helps us experience the diversity in God's world. God's love will give us understanding and harmony.

Although we all may be different with our unique and precious characteristics, God's love keeps us in unity. Friends, we are interdependent people despite our differences.

We need compassion to run through all our relationships so we can peacefully work together.

May God's love bind us together to work and live together as the holy family of God.

This Christmas season may our inclusiveness be seen in how we support the community with donations for After School programs, meals ministries and the donations to Food Banks.

Let us be generous and loving.

Merry Christmas

Pastor Serufusa



St. Andrews Music Notes

"God likes music. Maybe that's one reason He created angels. Music and Christian worship have grown up together for over 2,000 years." (William J. Petersen) St. Andrews will journey back in time to hear about the origin of some of our favorite Christmas Carols on the last Sunday in Advent, Dec. 19th, at the regular 10:00 am worship service. Please join us as we sing carols and hear about the composers who wrote these great hymns. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow who wrote, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" in 1863, talked about no peace on earth due to the carnage of the Civil War at that time. But something about Christmas helped Longfellow see that the birth of Jesus brings hope and assures us that God is not dead, nor does he sleep. This is just a small example of some of the things you will hear pertaining to the origin of carols and the composers who wrote them.

Our candlelight Christmas Eve services at St. Andrews will begin at 3:00 pm AND 7:00 pm on December 24th. Please join us as we hear about Jesus' birth through the word and music.

May the Christmas season be a reminder to you of God's greatest gift to mankind through the birth of Jesus Christ. As Max Lucado so vividly writes, "More than two thousand years later, the miraculous circumstances of Christ's birth still astound us; yet everything from that night - the shepherds and the angels, the star and the wise men, the virgin birth in a stable - remains in the shadow of the Child Himself. In one incredible moment, God reunited Creator and created. His perfect plan appeared in the flesh, becoming the cornerstone of man's redemption."

Have a blessed Christmas!

Lisa Shives, Music Director



Staff Appreciation All Month

- 12/02 - 7:00 pm Trustees
- 12/05 - Second Sunday of Advent
- 12/12 - Third Sunday of Advent
- 12/19 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 12/24 - 3pm & 7pm Christmas Eve Services
- 12/25 - Christmas Day
- 12/26 - First Sunday after Christmas
- 12/31 - New Years' Eve
- 01/01 - New Year's Day



**Christmas Eve
Services
December 24
3:00 pm and
7:00 pm**



Worship

As we go into this Advent and Christmas season, the strangeness of this year is all around us. Our worship is certainly different in many ways, but God is not, and we always

remember his steadfast love and celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Savior.

We will celebrate Communion on December 5th, the second Sunday of Advent.

The results of an informal survey during worship on November 21st resulted in plans to have a 3:00 pm and a 7:00 pm service on Christmas Eve.

In celebrating this Christmas, however different from our usual traditions and celebrations, let us remember that "Jesus is the reason for the season" and keep our faith and love at the center of all we do. Blessings to all!

December is Staff Appreciation Month

As in the past, there will be a basket in the back of the church through December 26th. We are blessed with wonderful staff that help keep the church running. Please consider giving generously in appreciation for their efforts.



**Sign Up for 2022
Offering
Envelopes!**

A sign-up sheet for new envelope numbers is on the table in the Narthex. Please look for your name on the list and place a ✓ next to it to receive 2022 envelopes. There is room on the sheet for any corrections to your name as it is currently listed.

Please sign up as soon as possible EVEN IF YOU PLAN TO GIVE ELECTRONICALLY! We need an envelope number to record your giving in Church Windows.

If you are not able to attend church to sign up for new envelopes, please either email or call the church office at 301-739-7431 and leave a message.

2022 Envelopes will be distributed before the end of December to be used beginning January 1. If you are not able to attend services, we may ask you to stop by the office on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday before 1:00 to pick them up, or we will try to have them delivered to you.

Jesus is the reason for the season



Notes on Finances ...

Thoughts on Generosity...

Suppose that God allowed you to have one wish. Without limit, you could have anything you desire. You could have unlimited wealth. You could have perfect health and live 1,000 years — or more. You could — like Solomon — have great wisdom. Whatever you want, you may have it. But you only get one wish. What would you choose?

Sad to say, many people would choose great wealth and material possessions. Unfortunately, that would not be a good choice. Listen to the counsel of God as expressed in this contemporary translation of Proverbs 27:20 through Solomon, one of the richest people who ever lived — “The eyes of man are never satisfied.” The behavior and attitude which always wants more has a name: Greed, and it demonstrates itself in our lives as though we were at an auction. If we have \$5, we want \$10; if we have \$10, we want \$20; if we have \$20 we want \$30. Solomon went on to say in Ecclesiastes 5:10, “The lover of money will not be satisfied with money; nor the lover of wealth, with gain.”

A better choice would be to ask for God’s perspective on life and all that life entails. When we see life as God does, we realize that everything belongs to Him, that we are just managers and stewards, and that only what is done for Him will endure for eternity. When we have God’s perspective, we will be able to say with the Apostle Paul, “...I have learned to be content with whatever I have.”

When we have God’s perspective, we will accept with a spirit of peace and restfulness whatever He entrusts to us. And when we have God’s perspective, we will put into practice the truth of Hebrews 13:5 — “Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have;

for he has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake you.’”

You are encouraged to look up these verses to see how they relate to contentment.

Philippians 4:11-12

1 Thessalonians 5:18

1 Timothy 6:6-8

Hebrews 13:5

We are to be content with what we have.

“Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, ‘I will never leave you or forsake you’”
(Heb. 13:5).



Church World Service (CWS)

Thank you for providing blankets and essential items to people who have lost so much during hurricanes or becoming a refugee. Your gift of \$295.00 will provide hope for a better future for so many!

November- Food Month

Your generosity gave 24 boxes of cereal to St. Mark’s Food Bank, 29 items to The Rescue Mission’s Meal Program, and 25 boxes of snack packs to Bester Elementary kindergartners from October 15th to November 15th. All donations have been so appreciated by the community programs that support families and schools! Watch for an update in the next newsletter! Thank you for caring!

Salvation Army Christmas Stockings

The stockings are filling up with gifts for local children and will be delivered the week of December 5th to the Salvation Army. I wish we could see their faces when they receive their stockings. Thank you for being a part of this Christmas project providing JOY to others!

Red Bird Mission Mitten Tree

As cold weather arrives in Beverly, Kentucky lots of people are looking forward to the arrival of our mittens, gloves, hats and scarves. Let's cover our tree with cozy items and love again this Christmas Season! Please, also consider donating size 3-5 hat or pair of gloves for our local Head Start Children. A basket will be provided under the tree. Thank you for keeping hands and heads warm this winter!

Prayer Works



Do You Pray?

I love this interpretation of prayer.

What is a prayer? Prayer doesn't only happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God.

Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer.

When you hug a friend, that's a prayer.

When you cook something to nourish family and friends, that's a prayer.

When you send off our near and dear ones and say "drive safely" or "be safe", that's a prayer.

When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy, you are praying.

When you forgive someone that is a prayer.

Prayer is a vibration, a feeling, a thought. Prayer is a voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships. Prayer is an expression of our silent being.

Keep praying always...

Paul Bailey

WEATHER WATCH!



If the weather outside is blowing and you wonder if church services will be held, look for an email from the Pastor or listen to WJEJ, 1240 AM on your radio dial for a report of canceled worship services.

If Washington County schools are closed due to the weather, any meetings or choir practices scheduled at the church for that day or evening will be cancelled unless you are advised otherwise by the music director or meeting chairperson.