

# The Fisherman's Network

## St. Andrews United Methodist Church

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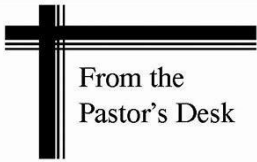
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**Our Mission:** "To Show, Share and Grow in God's Love, through Jesus Christ."

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

## December 2022 Newsletter



From the  
Pastor's Desk

### What Child is This?

*Therefore, the Lord himself shall give you a sign;  
Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and  
shall call his name Immanuel.* Isaiah 7:14

The Christmas story outlines the teaching of Christianity.

**God with us:** God is everywhere.

**Immanuel:** Humans have been made right with God.

Jesus is our Immanuel. God coming to earth to live with us. He takes away our sins and gives us the father's love.

In Jesus: God and sinners are now reunited. We are now friends and children of God. God's peace reigns in our lives. Jesus is the prince of peace. Now God's peace can be shared and spread around the world.

This Christmas, let us rededicate to the Prince of Peace.

## Merry Christmas

Pastor Serufusa



### St. Andrews Music Notes

"The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that he might offer up his life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas." (Billy Graham)

Rev. Graham's quote reminds me of one of our choir anthems titled, "Born to Save". Some of the lyrics are: "Born to take the chains of sin and leave them broken in the grave. Born to live, born to die, born to save. God had a beautiful plan for us when he sent His son, born in a stable, so many years ago to save us from our sins. Merry Christmas to my church family!"

I would like to thank you so much to those who participated in our musical play, "In Bethlehem Inn." Thanks also to our choir who spent extra time rehearsing and learning some new songs that we shared during the play. Thanks to our Bell Choir who enhance our worship services with their musical selections. Also, thanks to those who worked many hours on the props and scenery for our play.

The musical group "Second Chances" will be sharing their Christmas program on December 11<sup>th</sup> at the 10:00 a.m. service. This will be a very special time of worship through music and the word. There will be two opportunities to celebrate our Christmas Eve service this year, at 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Finally, what a wonderful way to spend Christmas by attending our 10:00 a.m. worship service on Christmas morning.

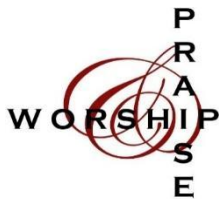
Blessings to you and your family this Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.

Lisa Shives, Music Director



**Staff Appreciation All Month**

- 12/01 - 7:00 pm Trustees
- 12/04 - Second Sunday of Advent
- 12/11 - Third Sunday of Advent
- 12/11 - "Second Chances" Praise Service
- 12/18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 12/21 - 11:30 am Emmanuel Senior's Lunch
- 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



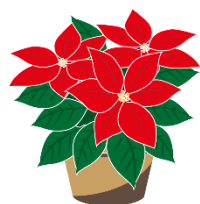
**"Second Chances" shares the message through word and music Sunday, December 11th at 10:00 am service**

On Sunday, December 11, the musical group "Second Chances" will be singing at our church during the regular worship time. They are a very talented group of individuals who bring the message of salvation through music.

Please try to join us in person as this will be a very inspirational Christmas Praise service.



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



**Poinsettia Orders**

Poinsettias which were ordered November 27 will be delivered on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, in time to enjoy them for the holidays.

You can pick up the flower(s) you ordered after the Christmas Eve Service on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup> or Sunday the 25<sup>th</sup>.



**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 4th, the second Sunday of Advent.

The results of an informal poll of members resulted in plans to have a 3:00 pm and a 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service again this year.

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 25<sup>th</sup>. We are blessed with wonderful staff that help keep the church running. Please consider giving generously in appreciation for their efforts.

**2023 Church Officer and Committee List**

The list of 2023 Church Officers and Committee Members is attached to this newsletter. Please take a minute to review it and reach out to any Committee Chair if you would like to serve. Volunteers are always needed to sustain the life of the church.



## 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).

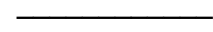


### Sign Up for 2023 Offering Envelopes!

A sign-up sheet for new envelopes or numbers is on the table in the Narthex. Please look for your name on the list. Place a ✓ in the column if you want to receive 2023 envelopes OR place a ✓ in the next column if you want an envelope # only.

**If you are not able to attend church to sign up please either email or call the church office at 301-739-7431 and leave a message with your choice to receive envelopes or a # only.**

2023 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.





**Mission Report** **Church World Service (CWS)**  
We sent a check to CWS for \$113.00 this year. Thank you for caring with your blanket donations. At this time in our world your love for others means a lot!

### **November- Food Month**

In the last month we donated over 200 items to Bester, St. Mark's Food Bank, Rescue Mission, and the Salvation Army. We appreciate all donations from our congregation as well as a local business that participated in our food drive! All items were delivered before Thanksgiving.

### **Salvation Army Christmas Stockings**

The stockings have been filled with so many gifts for our local children! What a joy it will be to deliver them to the Salvation Army. Thank you for sharing your love!

### **Red Bird Mission Mitten Tree**

Please decorate our tree with mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves for the Red Bird Mission in Beverly, Kentucky. Each year we send boxes of winter items to families in need in the Appalachian area. The winters are cold and often families need our support. Thank you for keeping others warm with your love!

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### **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.

## **The Extra Electric Train – A Christmas Memory**

by Dr. Ralph F. Wilson

Though money didn't flow as freely as the rain that winter, my parents worked with joyful anticipation to give my brother and me a Christmas present we would never forget. They scrimped for months and then spent more than they could probably afford for a Marx electric train.

Then the day before Christmas, a cousin stationed at a nearby military base pulled into the driveway. Opening the trunk of his car he lifted out a large heavy box. My brother and I could hardly wait to see what it was. On Christmas morning we opened it first. Eagerly we unwrapped an expensive new electric train set. Wow! You had to pull us down off the ceiling. A Lionel train, too! Then we opened the presents from our parents--another electric train. Ho hum. And not nearly as extravagant as the one from our cousin. Guess whose gift we played with most?

Mom and Dad were hurt. The outlay for an unmarried Air Force lieutenant was nothing compared to the sacrifice my parents had made. But all we saw was the glamour of an expensive train. We counted our parents' gift as merely a nice accessory.

Our heavenly Father spends many a disappointing Christmas. Amidst the glittering ornaments and flashing Christmas lights, the hurry and hustle of shopping and wrapping and family get-togethers, parties and presents, trees and turkeys--who really cares about His gift? What gets more attention from us: our Father's gift of life in Jesus Christ or the quickly-wrapped department store gifts from our cousins?

Thank you, Father, for Jesus. Thank you for the abundant life that we, His disciples, can enjoy now. Thank you for sending us a most expensive gift--your own life. Thank you!

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Jesus  
is the reason  
for the season