

# St. Andrew Lutheran Church

## Heartbeat

May 2020



### WHERE WE ARE

Since so much has been going on for our world and our church, I thought it would be helpful to simply give an update on where we are as a congregation. You will also glean some of this information elsewhere in The Heartbeat and may have heard things in other places, but there may be some worthwhile information here. I hope this is both of interest and value to you as we await the time when we can be together in person again.



First of importance is that our congregation as a whole seems to be doing well. I am not aware of anyone from St. Andrew who has contracted Covid-19. Some of our members know others who have tested positive but so far, our congregation has been directly untouched. Praise God!

Second, I want to say thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in your support for St. Andrew. We were able to pay all our bills last month even without the rent from the Little Learners Exploration Academy, as they are struggling at this time. (They remain open with about fifteen students and four staff members working half-time.) We were able to secure funds through the Payroll Protection Program, a part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) of the federal government that will help to offset the payroll of all of our full-time and part-time employees. Giving from our membership and from others, including some new contributors provided just about exactly what we needed. Praise God!

If you have watched our online worship service, you are aware of the tremendous work being done by our staff and volunteers. Randy Guiaya and Matthew James Sivertson have done an excellent job of putting together the musical offerings of our talented musicians for worship. This requires extensive time and effort editing the various pieces that need to be collected and mixed.

Then Julie Gonzalez puts all the parts into one offering that is put on YouTube so that we can provide a worship experience each week. We are truly blessed to have these gifted people serving our congregation. Praise God!

**Rev. Jeffrey Nelson**  
*Pastor*

**Elissa Mitzen**  
*Director of Youth & Family Ministries*

**Randy Guiaya**  
*Organist/Choir Director*

**Matthew James**  
*Praise Team Director*

**Kathy Mitzen**  
*President*

**Chris Allen**  
*Vice President*

**Barbara Revueltas**  
*Council Secretary*

**Betty Dagen**  
*Treasurer*

**Marie Jorgenson**  
*Stewardship*

**Suzanne Thompson**  
*Mission and Service*

**Isla Holmes**  
*Hospitality*

**Vicki Linta**  
*Worship and music*

**Len Bobier**  
*Evangelism Leader*

**Jennifer Oertel**  
*Congregational Care*

**Art Revueltas**  
*Property*

**Daniell Crocker**  
**Gillian Simmons**  
*Youth and Family*

The leadership of St. Andrew has been working diligently to insure the ongoing work of our church. We have updated our Prayer Chain and Prayer Tree so that we can contact each other as needed. Additionally, check-ins and calls are being made to ensure people are doing well during this time. There have been some few who have had special needs arise and we have done our best to contact and assist them as we are able. The ongoing love and concern for each other demonstrated by the people of St. Andrew is certainly inspirational. Praise God!

We are also looking to the future. We are considering what steps we will need to take once we reach the time to come together. Worship will certainly look different as we anticipate having to maintain physical distance and probably wear masks. Activities that may increase the threat of exposure to the virus are being measured so that we can keep each other safe. That day will come and we will be together again, but we will do so with appropriate caution and care. Praise God!

Finally, I am grateful for God's provision and protection for us during this time. I miss all of you deeply but am willing to trade time with you for the more important protection of each of you. God is present, both now and in the future, and God's promises triumph over anything we may face today. Be safe and know that God holds you in God's hand. Praise God!

God is good, all the time.  
All the time, God is good.

In Christ's love,  
Pastor Jeffrey

### Connect with us online

Visit our website for weekly sermon videos and updates. You may also sign up for weekly emails and special messages from the Pastor by calling the church office or emailing us.

**Website: [www.standrewlutheranchurch.org](http://www.standrewlutheranchurch.org)**  
**Email: [office.standrewlutheranchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.standrewlutheranchurch@gmail.com)**  
**Phone: (562) 944-1148**

Our YouTube channel is: St. Andrew Lutheran Church. We upload our sermon videos weekly on here. You may also subscribe to our channel. Please share these videos with family and friends. See you on the web!



## St. Andrew Lutheran Church Financial Status

As we navigate these strange and unsettling times, we would like to keep you informed about the financial status of St. Andrew. We appreciate your continuing donations to St. Andrew and encourage you to continue. You may also consider giving a portion of the government relief check to the church. As of the end of February we were ahead of budget with our actual income about \$1,200 greater than the expenses for the first 2 months of the year.

We continue to pay our employees full salaries at this time. Most are working from home but still contributing to our ministries. We thank the music teams for their great work in providing music for the Sunday messages. Thanks to Pastor for his daily messages and the Sunday worship. Julie is still in the office much of the time. Thanks for all you do, Julie. Thanks to Elissa for keeping in touch with our youth.

We also have ongoing expenses for utilities that don't go away. At this time we are still receiving rent from the Little Learner Pre School, although their census has substantially decreased.

If you are experiencing a financial hardship and need a little help, we have dollars available in the Good Samaritan fund. Please let Pastor Jeffrey know if you have a critical need.

### Note from the Evangelism Team

We have new license plate frames available for \$3.00 that say the following-  
top line---WE'RE  
GRATEFUL  
bottom line-ST. ANDREW  
LUTHERAN

The license plate is dark blue with yellow writing. If you would like these installed on your car please call Len Bobier. If you want to install them yourself please call and they will be delivered to your home.

562-947-4919

Len Bobier  
*Evangelism Team Leader*



**How are you today?  
I am grateful!**



We've all heard stories of how people in our community are helping those in need during this crisis, and many of you may be involved in these efforts. In addition to staying home and practicing social distancing, people are delivering food to elderly neighbors, sewing masks for health care workers, and supporting restaurants by ordering takeout or delivery. I'm sure you can add some activities of your own.

Those who are blessed financially at this time are also asking how they can support those in need in our community and beyond on a monetary basis. We thought it would be helpful to share some of St. Andrew's current efforts.

Betty Dagen, our Treasurer, recently reviewed what monies in our budget are not being used and could have the greatest impact locally and globally during the current situation. One such opportunity is our "Food for Peru" dedicated account. As you may recall, that account was funded by member contributions to the prior Peru feeding program that ceased operations last year. At that time, and with the blessings of the contributors, we donated a portion of the fund to the ELCA World Hunger program.

More than \$3,000 still remained in the Peru food account. With agreement from Pastor Jeffrey and the Church Council, we have decided to donate \$1,000 each from that account to the following organizations that could use the money right now:

- St. Matthias Soup Hour – Normally a hot lunch program for Whittier's homeless, the Soup Hour is currently handing out sack lunches Monday-Friday.
- Orange County Food Bank – The Food Bank continues to distribute food boxes to 250-plus local seniors on our campus every month, in addition to many others.
- ELCA World Hunger program – This organization provides immediate relief to those who are hungry, as well as connects people with the resources they need to produce food and gain access to clean water, education, health care and sources of income.

We have transferred the remaining balance of the Peru Food fund to our Social Concerns account, where we will use it to increase our fresh produce donations to the seniors every other month.

Please note that most of our dedicated accounts are restricted to the use that they were originally intended and cannot be used to pay other expenses. While the Peru food dedicated fund was intended for the feeding ministry, we feel that these other important food programs reflect the spirit of the original intent.

In doing so, St. Andrew is being a good steward with these precious resources rather than having them sit idle and benefitting no one.

We have two remaining dedicated accounts that relate to Peru and that are a result of your past donations – for Peru projects and our Peru team. We are currently researching opportunities for involvement in Peru and will let you know as soon as we have ideas and recommendations to share.

In addition to this effort, we continue to contribute to the Interfaith Food Center every quarter, and will be sending them their next check for \$1,000 later this month.

If you would like to contribute to any of these organizations beyond your regular offering, please make your check out to St. Andrew and write the name of the organization in the memo/comment section. Your donations will be disbursed accordingly. You can also contribute to St. Andrew's Good Samaritan Fund which provides monetary donations to our members in need. Or you may give to other organizations of your choice, which is also a blessing.

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to the day when we can all worship together again in the pews. God bless you and keep you safe.

Suzanne Thompson  
*Mission and Service Chairperson*

### **Stewardship**

During these times there are so many ways to be faithful stewards of God's gifts even if we are staying home. St. Andrew has put out two articles about opportunities to share our time, talents and treasures. If you are like me and following stay at home rules as much as possible, here are a few ideas:

1. Call to check on someone you might not usually call but are concerned about and remind them that you and God love them.
2. Send cards of encouragement in God's love.
3. If you have internet access, reach out to others to share God's love.
4. Continue to give to the ministry of St. Andrew
5. Give to a charity that is helping to support health care workers, first responders, food banks, etc..
6. If you sew, consider sewing masks.
7. Be creative with your ideas.
8. Best of all, stay home to care for yourself and others.

Marie Jorgensen  
*Stewardship Chairperson*



## Treasurer's Report

Blessings and gratitude fill my heart. With the announcement of the pandemic restrictions in mid-March, I was concerned about how the giving would be. Would we have enough to keep our staff going and pay the bills? You faithful people not only paid your pledges but more. The month of March saw a substantial increase in giving – and April continues the trend. We did suffer a loss in our Thrivent account of more than \$3,000 but once things settle down in the stock market, I would hope that we will recover that.

Little Learners has suffered as severe drop in students but is maintaining the staff by using job sharing. They are open to caring for children of essential workers, too. Their rent was paid in March, but we are working with them for the next period of time until they get more money – or more students.

I was able to get in on the Paycheck Protection Program so we have a cushion to cover 3 months of salaries. We have received \$44,000 as a forgivable loan at an interest rate of 1%. It is in a separate account from which I will transfer funds as we pay our employees, and the associated expenses (taxes, benefits, etc.)

Here are the first quarter number:

YTD Income	YTD Budget Income	YTD Expenses	YTD Budget Expenses	Actual Income- Actual expenses
\$90,049	\$89,664	\$83,685	\$91,930	\$ 6,364

Our YTD Budget projected a loss of \$2,266. So – we are doing quite well, thanks to your generosity in giving. Let's continue in this positive manner as we get through this Pandemic, and the summer.

Thanks and blessings,  
Betty Dagen, Treasurer



## Prayers for May 2020

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." Philippians 4:6*

### Members of St. Andrew

Kenton Chong	Justin Linta	Vicki Linta	Lorel Morgan	Valerie Olguin
Christopher Nickel	Christine Perez			

### Members of St. Andrew (Long Term)

Leslie Barr	Shirley Kellison	Sally Sauer	Lorraine Tunburg	
John Biddle	Doris Johnson	Krystal Martin	Jasmine Simmons	Sandy Wicker
Barbara DuBois	Lois Kalla	Mickey Rosario	Jan Wolverton	

### Family & Friends

Beth Blackburn	Hazel Aslakson	Laci Massaro	Mario Moreno	Cyndi Lindgren
Shelly Garrison	Betty Fowler	Alex Palencia	Angela	

### Family & Friends (Long Term)

Jeralyn Ehlers	Chiari Eliazarras	Grant Eyles	Don Spurr
Christine Fantz	Marcus Glidden	Shirley Loveless	David Uken
Judy McNeill	Matthew Muldown	Osvelia Revueltas	Eric, Kurt, and Bill

**Note:** While we continue to lift up everyone on our prayer list to God's love and care, we want to stay as up-to-date and current as possible. Please remember you can add anyone to our prayer list at any time, or call the church office or the pastor with updates about how to pray for them. Prayers of praise for answered prayers are joyfully welcomed. Thank you for your faithful prayers. We will keep each person on the list for 3 months, unless you request otherwise. Long term requests will be kept until there is a request to remove them.



## BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

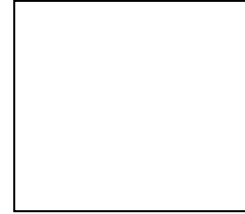
5/1 Mae Barrett	5/11 Jim Reed	5/26 Michelle Schuck
5/2 Suzanne Thompson	5/12 Jan Wolverton	5/27 Madeline Thomas
5/3 Sue Grana	5/14 Betty Dagen	5/28 Pastor Jeffrey Nelson
5/4 Dana Reimer	5/15 Erin Murphy	5/31 Frank Crocker
5/5 Dennis Herbold	5/16 Marsha Ehlers	
5/9 Evelyn Dickerson	5/17 Sharon Pollard	
5/9 Valerie Olguin	5/21 Elyse Reed	
5/10 Nicholas Reed	5/22 Mary MacDonough	



Mark and Liz Murphy 5/21  
Dana and Terry Reimer 5/22



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**May 2020 Issue**



## **Sunday Worship Hours**

8:30 a.m. Liturgical Service with Organ

9:30 a.m. Education Hour all ages

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service with Rejoice Band

**Ministers: Every Member and Our Staff**

*Pastor: Jeffrey Nelson*

*Director of Youth & Family Ministry: Elissa Mitzen*

*Organist/Choir Director: Randy Guiaya*

*Praise Team Director: Matthew James*

*Adult Education: Marsha Ehlers*

## ***Our Mission Is Local and Global***

Local ministries include supporting:

The Interfaith Food Center (562-903-1478),

Cold Weather Shelter ministry with the homeless and Lutheran Social Services.

Global ministries include WAM Quilters, KIVA, and Bread for the World.