



St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Heartbeat

July 2020



PEOPLE MATTER

Dr. Dale A. Matthews in his book, *The Faith Factor*, writes that “if you want to be as healthy as possible, it is important to maximize your social-support network. People who are isolated and lonely have poorer health than those who enjoy a network of caring people.” I know that’s challenging today and I’m very concerned about so many from St. Andrew who live alone and, because of the coronavirus, are cut off from a lot of their normal interaction with others. Our social networks provide practical help, emotional support, and spiritual encouragement in time of need. Those who attend church regularly often do so in part because of that social network of people who stand with them in both good times and bad. Yet there are many who have very few people to whom they can turn, especially when things are difficult.



In John 4, Jesus stops at a well and begins a conversation with a woman who comes there to draw water. A key point in this story is that this woman comes in the heat of the day when no one else would be there. Clearly her circumstances are such that she avoids the people of her village. Culturally, this is someone Jesus would have done well to ignore. Yet Jesus takes the time to talk with her and ask her about her life and her beliefs. Then He shares with her the good news of who He is. His time and His message move her back into relationship with her community where she shares this good news with others. No longer is she isolated. Because Jesus takes time to give her a sense of worth, she is drawn out of her loneliness.

People need to feel necessary—that they have value and purpose in life. Yet life experiences and the judgment of society can sometimes communicate the opposite and push people into isolation. Sadly, some of those kinds of messages have come from members of the Christian Church who evaluate people on the basis of things they have done rather than on God’s unconditional love for them. These are places where Jesus is calling us to step in and provide a different message—a message of mercy and grace.

The church can and should be place where people are regularly told that they are loved and accepted for who they are. It can and should be a safe place for people to share their gifts and abilities in partnership with others in the congregation, no matter what their past may be. Young and old alike have much to offer and the church should be a place where they can do that and feel good about their role. Often, though, before they will take such risk, they need to know that they have value in the eyes of others who make the effort to get to know them.

- Rev. Jeffrey Nelson**
Pastor
- Elissa Mitzen**
Director of Youth & Family Ministries
- Randy Guiaya**
Organist/Choir Director
- Matthew James**
Praise Team Director
- Art Revueltas**
President
- Chris Allen**
Vice President
- Barbara Revueltas**
Council Secretary
- Betty Dagen**
Treasurer
- Damon DiRuscio**
Stewardship
- Suzanne Thompson**
Mission and Service
- Isla Holmes**
Hospitality
- Vicki Linta**
Worship and Music
- Len Bobier**
Evangelism Leader
- Marie Jorgensen**
Congregational Care
- Jon Woody**
Property
- Kathy Mitzen**
Adult
- Daniell Crocker**
Youth and Family

There is a story about the final exam given by a professor in a school of nursing. When the students turned over their final, they found only one question on it: “What is the name of the custodian who cleans this building?” Many students could not answer that question and were upset, feeling that the question was unfair—that they hadn’t been told that knowing this would be a requirement for their class. Some even said that who the custodian was didn’t matter to them. The professor explained that nothing was as important in their future as nurses as the people for whom they would care. No person was so insignificant as to not matter.

People mattered to Jesus. Take the time to notice people around you and to risk talking with them (though right now that needs to be by phone, internet, or from a safe distance). Do it for no other purpose than to learn about them (though don’t be too nosy!). Offer encouragement and support when appropriate. Provide guidance and direction in caring ways. Demonstrate that you care about them. One of the best ways we can let people know that they matter is by letting them know that they matter to you!

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Jeffrey

Covid-19 Task Force Formed!

A subcommittee of the Music & Worship Commission has formed to prepare for our eventual physical gathering. The committee consists of Emily Bruhns, Diane Fort-Woody, Mardie Heller, Vicki Linta, Elissa Linta Mitzen, Pastor Nelson, Rhonda Peri, Art Revueletas, and Jon Woody. The 3 main goals of the task force are to explore and plan for safely gathering for outdoor worship this summer, to plan and implement needed changes for the eventual reopening of the Sanctuary and/or Fellowship Hall, and to plan for worship contingencies that may arise, such as the County stepping back a phase, inclement weather during our outdoor worship phase, or other unforeseen challenges.

At this time, the team is planning for informal outdoor gatherings to start taking place this summer, using the upper campus lawn under the trees. While details are still being worked out, we do already know some details that must be followed to provide a safe environment. Anyone who wishes to attend will need to:

Wear a cloth face covering

Maintain a physical distance of 6 feet between family groups who do not live in the same household

Bring a lawn/beach chair or blanket to sit on

Bring your own Bible if you wish to use one

The worship opportunity would feel more like a Family Campout Sunday Service at 9:30 on Sunday mornings, be approximately 30-45 minutes long, and would not have participant singing at this time; however, we do plan to have some music and are also looking into contact-free Communion options.

We would not offer a fellowship time; coffee and snacks would not be provided. That being said, you could always bring your own coffee in a travel mug!

St. Andrew would continue to provide online digital services for those who need or want to continue staying at home to be safest. We are also looking into recording the outdoor gathering to post online later for others to enjoy. The outdoor physical gathering is just one option for worship that we would like to offer as Phase Three Covid Reopening proceeds in Los Angeles County, and only those who feel comfortable being with others wearing masks and distancing should consider participating.

As details are finalized, further information will come to you via email. Obviously, these plans must be flexible and are contingent upon some outside influences, such as state and county orders. If you have ideas or concerns, please feel free to contact Emily Bruhns at ebruchns38@gmail.com.

Update on Interfaith Food Center donations

Thanks to everyone who has faithfully donated to our ongoing food collection for the Interfaith Food Center (IFC).

Hunger Offering



Due to current Public Health Department guidelines, IFC is unable to accept donations of food at this time. If you'd still like to support this worthy cause, please feel free to consider a financial donation instead. To donate directly, visit the IFC website at:

<http://www.interfaithfoodcenter.org/donate/> for donation guidance. Alternatively, you can send a separate check to St. Andrew and include "IFC" in the memo line, and we will send the donation on your behalf.

If you are saving egg cartons and/or pill bottles for the IFC, please keep them at your home until we know when the IFC is once again accepting those items, as well.

Blessings,

Suzanne Thompson
Mission and Service

St. Andrew donates \$800 to fresh produce program for seniors

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have been unable to distribute fresh produce to the seniors over the past few months. We wanted to direct our resources toward those who could use the help now, yet still preserve our original intent of providing fresh produce to seniors in our community.

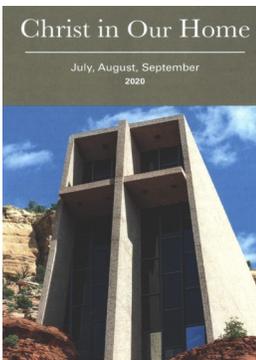
With that goal in mind, St. Andrew recently made a \$800 donation to the Orange County Food Bank's "Farm to Family" program, which augments the senior food boxes with fresh produce from the FDA that is either donated or purchased through donations.

The money came from the Matthew 25 Fund that we received for our senior produce distribution program, and unused monies from the Peru Food account.

We hope to start our senior produce distribution back up again in 2021, and have already designated money to fund the program for the entire year.



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



Devotional booklets are available!

Christ in Our Home Devotional booklets for July, August, and September are available. Please contact the church office if you are interested in picking up a copy.

(562) 944-1148

Message from the Church Council President

I would like to start by thanking Kathy Mitzen, as well as the church council, who were met with great challenges. They were part of the team that was responsible for bringing in the Pre-school, repurposing our entire upper campus, going through the call process, hiring a new pastor, hiring a new administrative assistant, and two music directors.

Change is a constant. Now we face dealing with a pandemic. The question is: How has it changed us and how will it continue to change us? We are coming back but it will not be the same.

This year's church council will deal with three things:

1. Budget/giving
2. Maintaining our connection with our members and community during the pandemic
3. When and how we will return to in-person services and activities

With the help of our Lord, Jesus Christ, we will persevere. To quote from Pastor Jeffrey's communication to all of us: "It might be worthwhile to take a few moments to ask God to "disturb us" in ways that "push us into the future" trusting that, no matter what happens in the world, in our country, or in our lives, the "horizon of our hopes" is our Lord Jesus Christ."

God bless,

Art Revueltas

St. Andrew Lutheran Church Council 2020 - 2021

If you are interested in being a part of a certain commission, please contact the office so that we can get you in touch with the appropriate chairperson. We pray for everyone's leadership during this coming year.

Pastor: Jeffrey Nelson

Dir. of Youth & Family: Elissa Mitzen

President: Art Revueltas

Vice President: Chris Allen

Secretary: Barb Revueltas

Treasurer: Betty Dagen

Stewardship: Damon DiRuscio

Property: Jon Woody

Mission & Service: Suzanne Thompson

Youth: Danniell Crocker

Hospitality: Isla Holmes

Worship & Music: Vicki Linta

Evangelism: Len Bobier

Congregational Care: Marie Jorgensen

Adult: Kathy Mitzen



Introducing our New Adult Commission

This new commission was approved at the Congregation meeting on June 14th. The Adult Commission is responsible for encouraging the spiritual development and fellowship of adults in the congregation through education and social activities. The commission will develop, plan, promote, support and implement classes, programs, groups and special events. Kathy Mitzen was elected to serve as commission chair.

The commission will be supporting our existing educational classes and groups such as our Bible studies, women's circles, and the men's group. We hope to encourage our members and our community to take advantage of these and other new opportunities for growth here at St. Andrew.

Kathy is looking for volunteers to assist in developing new classes and special events to serve adults in the congregation and our community. If you are interested in participating or you have a idea of how we could host new events, please call Kathy at 562 760-5548 or email at kmitzen@aol.com.

Blessings,

Kathy Mitzen

Let's Go Digital!

With the onset of the Covid19 Pandemic, and the inability to worship in our sanctuary, St. Andrew has been providing a 'virtual' service on YouTube every week. Our music team, Pastor and Julie have made it happen.

We would like to upgrade the equipment we are using (iPhones) and prepare to be able to live-stream our services on the web once we are able to worship in the sanctuary. This will involve some new equipment, which we plan to do in phases.

Phase 1 – Purchase a PTZ (pan-tilt-zoom) 30x optical camera. This camera would be used to make videos as we currently do for now. Then it would be mounted to the rear wall of the sanctuary and connected to a computer. This would allow a wide shot of the front of the sanctuary, as well as the ability to zoom in on a specific area (Pastor, Reader, Choir, Rejoice team, etc). A new computer is required for this as well. This will allow us to upload the video in either real-time or post-service to YouTube, Facebook or other service.

Cost of Phase 1 - \$3000

Phase 2 – Purchase an additional camera to be mounted to the side wall to allow capture of various video angles – as well as the balcony. This step requires a dedicated controller for both camera and a switcher to add more auxiliary cameras in the future.

Cost of Phase 2 - \$7000

Total Cost - \$10,000

St. Andrew has received a check for \$1,000 from the synod. This is a good start, but we need your help to make this happen. If you wish to donate any amount, please designate for the "Video Equipment" project. We will keep you informed of the progress. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



[This Photo](#) by Unknown

Get Your New License Frames

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



Prayers for July 2020

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

Members of St.. Andrew

Jeanie Anderson Christopher Nickel Peggy Putnam

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

Family & Friends

Hazel Aslakson Melinda Beardslee Maricel Ricaforte Dosdos Sally VanArsdale
Pam

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.



7/2 Lorel Morgan 7/7 Ginger Johnson
7/3 Joshua Simar 7/8 Jeffrey Mann
7/3 Janeece Mann 7/11 Steven Reimer
7/6 Marie Jorgensen 7/26 Kathy Mitzen
7/6 Diana Hoover



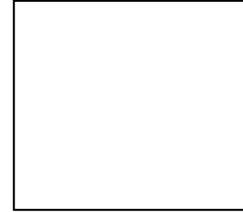
7/1 Michael and Diana Dickerson 7/20 Kevin and Isla Holmes
7/2 Steven and Margaret Bruhns 7/31 Ken and Grace Christiansen
7/20 Damon and MaryJo Di Ruscio

July



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Zoom Bible Study 11AM and 6PM	2	3	4 
5 Zoom Adult Education 10AM	6	7	8 Zoom Bible Study 11AM and 6PM	9	10	11
12 Zoom Adult Education 10AM	13	14	15 Zoom Bible Study 11AM and 6PM	16	17	18
19 Zoom Adult Education 10AM	20	21	22 Zoom Bible Study 11AM and 6PM	23	24	25
26 Zoom Adult Education 10AM	27	28	29 Zoom Bible Study 11AM and 6PM	30	31	

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
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Whittier, CA 90604
(562) 944-1148 Fax (562) 944-2313
Website: www.standrewlutheranchurch.org
email: office.standrewlutheranchurch@gmail.com



July 2020 Issue



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.