



St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Heartbeat

June 2020



ADVENTURES IN ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS

One of the reasons that we sometimes make poor decisions is because we don't have all the information we need, and more importantly, the right information. I think the main reason that happens is because we ask the wrong questions, and asking the wrong question results in getting the wrong answers.



For example, I'm often asked, "How big is your church?" Now that question makes an assumption that is not always true, and more importantly is not the information that the questioner might really want to know. "How big?" presumes that bigger is better. Certainly, bigger churches may have more programs than smaller ones, but I think big-ness also presumes success, and again, this is not necessarily true. It has been said that many megachurches are "a mile wide and an inch deep," meaning that they have lots of members, but they are not doing much to lead those people into discipleship—real discipleship, where faith is lived out daily rather than just something that is done for an hour on Sunday. So "how big?" isn't actually providing the information you truly want.

I think the better question to ask is not about size but about ministry: "What is God doing in your church and through your church?" The answer to this question will give you a lot more information and accurate information about what is really happening in a congregation. It will tell you about service and people and worship and vision and possibility, and isn't that what you really want to know?

In his book, Wait, What? And Life's Other Essential Questions, James E. Ryan offers what he believes are the five

- 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

most important questions we should ask to get good answers. The one that I find most intriguing and valuable is, “Can’t we at least agree that...?” This is a question that can bring people together. It finds common ground for work instead of focusing on the wide gap between disparate positions. Imagine what might happen if someone in Congress stood up and said, “Can’t we at least agree that...health care in America could be improved?” “Or that...gun violence is a problem?” “Or that...we continue to become more divided than united?” If everyone would agree on a shared beginning point, then comes the opportunity to go from there to ask another question, “What might it look like if...?”

A challenge in asking the right questions is to learn to look outward rather than inward. As we approach election seasons, I think questions are important. Often the questions that are raised are about me: “Has this elected official done what I wanted?” “Will this bill make my life better?” As Christians who are called to love our neighbors as ourselves, there’s a question that I believe better gets at the heart of what we need to know in choosing the candidates and deciding on the issues for whom and which we will decide: “Is my neighbor better off now than s/he was two years, or four years, or six years ago?” This is an outward-looking question that encourages us to consider the needs of others rather than just our own?

Jesus often asked questions as a way of helping people to look at their own lives in relationship to God. “Do you want to be healed?” (John 5:6) “Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?” (Matthew 6:25) “If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?” (Luke 16:11) “Who do you say that I am?” (Mark 8:29) It can be a valuable exercise to read the gospels and pause whenever you come to a question, especially if asked by Jesus. Then take a moment to consider the question if Jesus were asking you. Your answers to the questions of Jesus just might give you the information you are looking for.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Jeffrey

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



FAITHFUL GENEROSITY

Recently we received two documents that show the breadth of the faithful generosity of this congregation. This giving supports, not only the ongoing ministry of St. Andrew Lutheran Church. It also reveals a commitment to serving God by serving our friends, neighbors, communities, larger church, nation, and world. We want to share some of that information with you here.

First, in 2019, the people of St. Andrew in their giving provided the following contributions to ministries outside our congregation. A portion of what we receive is given to the synod, who in turn give a portion (51%) of what they receive from us and other congregations to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. And there are other ministries to which we have given as well.

Benevolence (Mission Support to the Synod)	\$8,389.51
ELCA World Hunger	\$1,881.50
ELCA Domestic Disaster in the US	\$1,438.68
ELCA International Disaster	\$690.00
Pacifica Synod Assembly Offering	<u>\$150.00</u>
Total	\$12,539.69

Bishop Andy Taylor writes, “Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your faith. Thank you for being the people of God. May God bless you in your ministry and equip you to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in order to bring hope to the world.”

Then, we received a second letter from Bishop Taylor with these words, “Thank you for your generous offering of Mission Support of \$618.00 received during the month of March. We are particularly grateful that during this time of financial anxiety during COVID-19, that you share with the Synod a portion of what God provided to you. I know this is an act of faith, as well as generosity, and on behalf of the ministries and rostered and lay leaders of the Pacifica Synod, I want to say, ‘Thank you.’”

“I keep you in my weekly prayers, praying that during this time that seems so abnormal, God will work powerfully in and through you. May you experience fully God’s presence and comfort, may you continue to preach the good news of Christ’s victory over death to one another and to your neighbors near and far, and my God use your ministry to bring help and hope to the most vulnerable in your community. God be with you as you do this important work.”

On behalf of the Church, locally, nationally, and globally, and in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, thank you!

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Jeffrey

Bible Study – Let's ZOOM

The Bible Study led by Pastor Jeffrey is up and running! There are two opportunities to join in. On Wednesdays at 11 am or at 6 pm.

It is easy to sign up – just email Betty Dagen (bettydagen@gmail.com) and let her know which class you would like to join. If you don't already have ZOOM on your phone, tablet or computer, make sure it is there. You will receive an email with the sign-in information the day before the class. If zoom is already set up, all you have to do is click on the link and you will be directed to the class.

Betty usually opens the meeting 15 – 20 minutes before the meeting. If you need help let her know.

See you in Bible Study!



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Connect with us online

Sermon videos are added on our YouTube channel on a weekly basis. If you are interested in receiving email updates, please call the church office or email us.

Website:

www.standrewlutheranchurch.org

Email:

office.standrewlutheranchurch@gmail.com

Phone:

(562) 944-1148



St. Andrew Lutheran Church has 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



Congratulations to the Class of 2020!!!

Congratulations to all those who are graduating this year and moving forward. Whether you are in middle school, high school, or college, we are proud of you! We look forward to seeing more of your accomplishments and achievements. Go class of 2020!

Prayers for June 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	Melinda Beardless
TJ Kajitani	Nicole Leatherwood	Jennifer Swanson	Peggy Putnam	

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.*



6/2 Harlow Hurley	6/23 Dwayne Schuck	6/28 Joanne Thompson
6/17 Jose Rodriguez	6/23 Daniel Klyde	6/29 Steve Bruhns
6/20 Michael Dickerson	6/25 Kyle Holmes	
6/20 Geneva De Buhr	6/26 Kristen Simar	



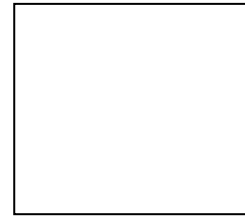
Jim and Leah Reed 6/21
Dana and Terry Reimer 6/22



June 2020

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

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
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June 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.