



St. Andrew Connections

WORSHIPING, GROWING, SERVING TOGETHER

March 2024 (Vol. 24, No. 3)



The Pastor's Page

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

The season of Lent, *is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of the Easter season. It is a time of self-examination and reflection.*

One person told me they grew up in a church that did not highlight liturgical seasons but now, as an adult, they have discovered the season of Lent, which they admit, makes them think more soberly (clearly) about their daily life.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday reminding us of this little detail: *we don't have all the time in the world.*

"Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return." That is the phrase spoken when ashes are imposed in the sign of the cross on your forehead. No, we don't have all the time in the world so Lent calls us to focus on the basics.

1. We are children of our loving God who stand in need of God's forgiveness each day.
2. We can look to all kinds of things to save us, but it is the cross through which we see and experience the love and grace of God ... that is where our salvation is signified.
3. Our repentance ... prayer, fasting, and almsgiving ... is not intended to make us better, but more aware of our need for God.

By the way, don't get stressed out if you choose to give up something for Lent and it doesn't go so well. That's the whole point. We rely on God's strength, not our own.

*With prayers for a healing Lent,
Pastor Phil*

Mission Statement ...

St. Andrew Lutheran Church is called to create opportunities for all people to become devoted followers of Christ. We do this by welcoming all to our ministry; by serving our members, the community, and the world; and by encouraging people to continue their growth in faith.

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ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship
8:30 & 10:00AM

Livestream on YouTube at
10:00AM

Office Hours
8:00AM to 12:00PM
Monday through Thursday




A Congregation of the
Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America


Grand Canyon Synod
God's work.

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

8901 Del Webb Boulevard

Las Vegas, NV 89134

 www.standrewlv.org

 (702) 255-1990

 churchoffice@standrewlv.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:30 & 10:00AM

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

8:00AM to Noon

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Phillip J. Shuart, Pastor

 prphil@standrewlv.org

Rev. Dr. Mari Larson, Assoc. Pastor

 prmari@standrewlv.org

Finance Ministry

Angela Danzik

 angelad@standrewlv.org

Office

Bob Grant

 bobg@standrewlv.org

Sextons

Antonio & Evangelina de Zambrano

Pianist

Amy Kaplan

Audio Visual

Colleen Lozano

CHURCH COUNCIL

Stuart Moen, President

Dale Reagor, Vice President

Linda Fraass, Secretary

Cloydine Thomas, Treasurer

Colleen Lorenzo, Congregational Life

Lan Simpson, Building & Grounds

Doreen Drinan, Outreach

Kathy Hoyt, Education

John Lozano, Worship

Being Good Neighbors

As I have been reading *The Science of the Good Samaritan* for the Thursday book group, I've been thinking about what it means to be a good neighbor. Our donations are a great start. Thank you not only for the Souperbowl of Caring donations, but also for the regular food and clothing donations you give in addition to your regular offerings! But there's more to being a good neighbor than just donating.

Some of you have heard me tell the story of a community gifting a houseless man a bicycle and a pair of boots. He hadn't asked for either and, to be blunt, he didn't really want either gift (to him they were simply stuff that he needed to manage), but someone took a picture and it was put in the local newspaper as a "feel good" story. After that, behind the scenes, a member of the community used his connections to find the man's son, who had lost touch with him many years earlier. There was soon a great reunion (not pictured in the newspaper). Soon afterwards, the man moved out of the community and into his son's home.

Being a good neighbor often means taking the time to listen to the needs of others because they are not always the same. In other words, put yourself in the place of your neighbor. Some people need bicycles and boots, some people need food and clothing, some people need help completing complicated forms, some people need vocational training, some people need a friend.

Thank you, good neighbors!

Pr. Mari

Treasurer's Report



(This information is through
January 31) **Cloydine Thomas**

	Income	Expense
January 2024		
General Revenue / Expenses	\$ 26,929	\$ 39,149
Other Revenue / Expenses	\$ 162	\$ 1,042
Year to Date		
General Revenue / Expenses	\$ 26,929	\$ 39,149
Other Revenue / Expenses	\$ 162	\$ 1,042
General Fund Balance	\$60,922.42	

Help Our Offering Counters, Please!

We have an amazing group of volunteers who count your offerings each week. It takes them about two hours to complete the effort.

One thing you can do to help them is to completely fill out the front of your offering envelopes. Otherwise, they must open it up and then annotate the amounts for General Operations, Other, World Hunger, and the Total. They also often must fill in your Name.

Your check or cash provide the total, but the offering and the envelope are then kept separate so funds can be deposited at the bank and data from the envelope can be entered into the computer in the church office.

It is also a help if you put your offering envelope number on your check. These small but very important steps are super helpful!

Ron Fraass, Chair Finance Committee

Music Notes

The choir rehearses with Amy on Wednesday evenings, at 5:30PM, in the church.

We have started preparing for Easter and welcome you to join us.



As we continue to make mats for the houseless, we are using the bags we had, and we will again take your plastic bags. Please put them in the box next to the newspapers in the education area.

We are in need of volunteers to cut the bags into loops (it's easy to do this while watching TV). The staff will train you.

Convenient Giving

In addition to the basket for our weekly offerings, and the Vanco payment link on the home page of our website at standrewlv.org, we now have a QR code. Just scan the QR code using your cell phone or iPad camera and tap the link to easier giving.



Theology 101

Recently a class met for two consecutive Mondays to discuss some basic concepts of Theology and here are some reflections...

1. To even *think* about “studying” God is something that must be approached with the humblest of hearts.
2. There have been many attempts by church thinkers to *prove* that God exists. Some are more persuasive than others. (If interested, Google “Proofs of God”.)
3. God reveals God’s self to the world *generally* as through nature. The Psalmist writes, “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of God’s hands”. In the beauty of creation you can see God at work..
4. God reveals God’s self in a *special* way. God comes to God’s people in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and it is the Holy Spirit that enables us to believe.

From the Council President

I look at the upcoming month of March, here are some important dates to remember:

March 8 - International Women’s Day.

Originally proclaimed by member states of the United Nations General Assembly in 1977, this date since is an official UN holiday for women’s rights and world peace. Each year centers on a particular theme or issue within women’s rights, with 2024’s theme as Inspire Inclusion.

March 10 - Daylight Savings Time begins. Be sure to turn your clocks forward before going to bed on Saturday, March 9.

March 17 - St. Patrick’s Day. Make sure you wear something green to avoid getting pinched!

March 19 - This is the first day of spring!

March 24 - Palm Sunday. We will wave our palms at 8:30 and 10:00am (and at 1:30pm at Las Ventanas).

March 28 - Maundy Thursday. Worship is at Noon.

March 29 - Good Friday. Worship is at Noon.

March 31 - Easter Sunday! We celebrate the risen Christ at 6:30, 8:30, and 10:00am worship.

May each of you and your families enjoy the upcoming month!

Stuart Moen



Soup Suppers continue on March 6, 13, & 20 at 6:00pm

If you can help with set up, clean up, or donating soup or bread, sign up on the music stand by the church office.
(Holden Evening Prayer Worship follows at 6:30pm)

Prayer Requests

St. Andrew has two ways to request prayer from the congregation: first is this prayer list, which will change monthly (for continuing needs, call the church office or one of the pastors to request that prayers continue) and the other is our Prayer Circle (see below). Because of privacy concerns (it is published on our website), last names are omitted:

Marvin B, Ruth F, Art P, Jean A, Dawn, Edna W, June W, Don D, Barb B, Noah, Anne F, Michael L, Virginia K, Betsy, Linda, Ronnie McG, Lynn, Ron N, Peggy Anna M, Shirley B, Diane K, June L, Grace V, Pat Se, Brett & Angela, Cody, Susan Z, Norma H, Jan F, Lynn L, Shammin, John M, Helen De, Joni T, Jean M, Reiny B, Johan, Jim E, Jim C, John C, Mark P

The St. Andrew Prayer Circle is a group of special people standing ready to pray for all who are in need. It doesn't matter if the need is yours or for someone in your family or a friend. Whether prayers are needed for illness, surgery, death or a difficult situation, we are here for you. Please let us know when you, or a loved one needs our prayers and then let us know when those prayers are answered so we can thank and praise our Lord.

Each prayer request and updates are sent to the Prayer Circle members via e-mail. If you have a prayer request, or would like to join our Prayer Circle, please send an e-mail to Linda Fraass at Lfraass@aol.com or to the church office at angelad@standrewlv.org. You may also call Linda at (702) 485-4892 or the church office at (702) 255-1990.

Also In Our Prayers

In the column above is a list of people for whom we are praying.

We also pray for situations, here and across the globe:

We pray for peace in the Holy Land, in Ukraine, and in other countries, communities, neighborhoods, and homes.

We pray for First Responders and those who serve in the military.

We pray for victims of hatred and anger.

March Birthdays

2	Kole We
4	James Sc
4	Donald Uh
5	Julian Wa
7	Ted Bi
8	Elizabeth Ga
9	William Du
10	Anastasia Cr
11	John Me
11	Bob Mo
12	Roger An
12	Sharon Ca
12	Kathy Sc
13	Ronald Fr
14	Beverly Ka
14	Ruuda Pe
17	Bonnie Mo
18	Chip Ra
18	Michiko St
21	Linda An
23	Susan Ne
26	Erin Jo
26	R. Earle Ke
26	Linda Ri
26	Kayla So
29	Mary Jo Je
30	Anne Fo
30	Ed Jo

March Anniversaries

14	John & Marilyn Ha
14	Alan & Carol Ye
21	Curtis & Carolle Le
30	R. Earle & Ann Ke
30	Dave & Cloydine Th

If your birthday or anniversary are missing from these lists, please let us know. Our database and its users are imperfect but are able to do better with your help.

Lectio Divina

Lectio Divina is an ancient practice of meditation on a short passage of Scripture.

Each week, we offer two groups that pursue this practice. New members are always welcome:

- ♦ **Mondays** at 6:00PM on Zoom with Pastor Mari (contact Pastor Mari for the Zoom link).
- ♦ **Tuesdays** at 10:00AM in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Phil.

Zoom Bible Study

Zoom Bible Study is based on the readings for the next Sunday and meets on Wednesdays at 9:00AM. Contact Pastor Phil for Zoom link.

Thursday Book Group

We are reading *The Science of the Good Samaritan: Thinking Bigger About Loving Our Neighbors* by Emily Smith. If you would like to participate in person or via Zoom, please contact Pr. Mari for more information.

Souperbowl of Caring

Thank you for your donations of food and money. Two vehicles were filled with food donations for Lutheran Social Services of Nevada food pantries.

Here are the bucket totals:

Taylor Swift = \$35 + food
The SF 49ers = \$213.13
The referees = \$265.89
The KC Chiefs = \$417.13



(The Thrivent grant is included in the total below. It was used to buy eggs, meat, and frozen items, as requested by LSSN.)

THANK YOU!

St Andrew Lutheran Church's 2024 Collection

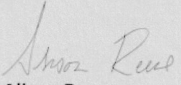
raised:

\$1,175 and 838 food items

Thanks to your efforts this year, more dollars have been raised, more lives have been changed, and the nation has seen the impact of people working together to help those in need. Thank you for working to transform the time around the Super Bowl into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.



February 11, 2024


Alison Reese
Executive Director
Tackle Hunger: Home of the
Souper Bowl of Caring

Opportunities Project

It is not too late! We continue to receive your completed opportunities inventories. If you can't find your form, please pick up one in the church office.

As you complete them, please include what you are already doing and what you might be interested in doing. And don't forget to include ideas you have for new programs and ministries.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this inventory! We have several new members (and new staff members), and this helps everyone!

Thank you for your Used Calendar Donations!

Your response has been awesome! We will continue to accept calendars with lots of pictures that would be fun and suitable for elementary schools who use them for artwork projects in the classroom. *So, you can still drop them off here at the church. We thank you in advance.*



Thank you to ...

thrivent[®]

Thank you to Thrivent members who designated \$1,231 in Thrivent Choice dollars to St. Andrew in 2023! This is in addition to the \$250 from Thrivent for Souperbowl of Caring.

Newspapers Needed

Newspapers are an ongoing need for animal shelters. If you are interested in helping out our four-legged friends, please bring your newspapers to the Children's Ministry area so they can be donated. Thank you for the great response and your continued support. Please keep those newspapers coming!



Soda (Pop) Tabs

We are continuing to collect soda (or, for our Midwesterners, pop) tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Any and all aluminum tabs are welcome. Above the veterans donation bin, there is a jar for the soda tabs. The Ronald McDonald House recycles the tabs and uses the funds to help families with costs like travel, clothing, or the death of a child.

We are pleased to announce that at the current time we have weighed in at 12 pounds of tabs. We appreciate your continued support.



Welcoming

The “pew pads” are an important link for those who are visiting on Sunday mornings. If you are a member or associate member and your phone number, address, or email have changed, you can write the new information in the pew pad (writing the words “new information” help us, too). If you’re a member or associate member and your contact information hasn’t changed, just write your name. Thank you!

Thanks to those who are wearing their new or old **nametags**. This simple act helps our newer members (and our not-so-new members) remember names. If you haven’t already, please order a nametag on the bright green sign up sheet by the church office. (We receive a discount when there are at least 10 nametags ordered.) There is no charge for nametags, but you are free to make a donation to cover the cost.

Contribution Envelopes

If you have not already done so, drop by the church narthex and pick up your 2024 contribution envelopes. They are sorted alphabetically. Double check your name and information when you pick up your envelopes. Thank you in advance!

Outreach Report

Thank you for your donations for the Souperbowl of Caring! (See totals on page 6.) And thank you for your regular donations of food and clothing, eyeglasses, pop tabs, newspapers, plastic bags, and hygiene items.

We will be collecting Easter baskets, plastic eggs, candy, small puzzles or toys, children’s books, art supplies, and other related items which we will need on or before Monday, March 24.

Lutheran Social Services of Nevada is looking for volunteers at the Resource Fair on March 28 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Contact our church office or LSSN if you can help!

Doreen Drinan

Welcome to Las Vegas!

Original *Welcome to Las Vegas* sign from 1929 to 1931.



Las Ventanas

This month, we'll lead worship at Las Ventanas on Palm Sunday (March 24) and Easter Sunday (March 31). You are welcome to attend! Because of renovations, we'll be in the assisted living dining room for these worship services at 1:30pm.



Featured News Synod: FBI

FBI Extends Resources to Faith Communities Amid Rising Election-Year Tensions

In a proactive move to address concerns during election years, the FBI has extended its resources and support to the Office of the Bishop, highlighting the unfortunate trend of increased hate crimes during these periods. With a commitment to safeguarding civil rights and ensuring the safety and dignity of all individuals, the FBI offers comprehensive guides on hate crimes, federal civil rights statutes, and international human rights violations.

Community members are urged to report hate crimes or any criminal activity directly to the FBI via 1-800-CALL-FBI or online at tips.fbi.gov, and for internet-related crimes, at www.ic3.gov. For emergencies, dialing 911 remains the immediate course of action. This collaboration underscores the FBI's dedication to combating hate and fostering a safe and inclusive environment for all, especially in times of heightened political activity.

Haiku

What is a Haiku? a Japanese poem of seventeen syllables, in three lines of five, seven, and five, traditionally evoking images of the natural world.



Roger Storkamp is pleased to share a few of his own haikus on a wide range of topics each month, promising only politics-lite with no bias. The world according to HAIKU.

MARCH ...

FREEDOM

Unique office plan
Work from home, humpless
Wednesdays
Unicorn camel

CHILD'S VIEW

Lied about Santa
Easter bunny proven fraud
Child Jesus story?

FATE

Face consequences
Life unfurls, humans react

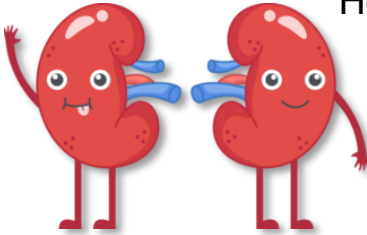
Destiny blameless

Some of Roger's novels: *Orphan Train Kid*, *Thelma's Quilt*, *'Neath a Crescent Moon*, *Miss West*, *Light Years from Home*, *Pvt. Richard Leslie*, and *Showgirl Memoir*.

Health & Wellness Education Judy Swanson RN, MSN, FCN

MARCH 2024 IS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH. The theme for education this year is “Get to know your Kidneys,” sponsored by the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). Griffin P. Rodgers, M.D. (Director of NIDDK) stated: “NIDDK research creates knowledge about treatments for diseases that are among the most chronic, costly, and consequential for patients, their families, and the nation.”

Here are some facts:



Symptoms of Kidney Disease often include: swelling of the hands, face, abdomen, ankles, or feet. Blood in the urine, foamy urine, puffy eyes, painful or difficult

Urination, increased thirst, and fatigue. You may have some but not all of these symptoms. Your kidneys filter urine 25 times per day, regulate fluid levels, activate Vitamin D for healthy bones,

filter wastes from your blood, direct production of red blood cells, regulate blood pressure, and help keep blood minerals in balance.

Do not hesitate to contact your health care provider if you are experiencing any of the symptoms. Take a deep breath, pray and breathe there are lots of things you can do to keep your kidneys functioning.

MINDFULNESS MOMENT: MEDITATION TO RELIEVE STRESS

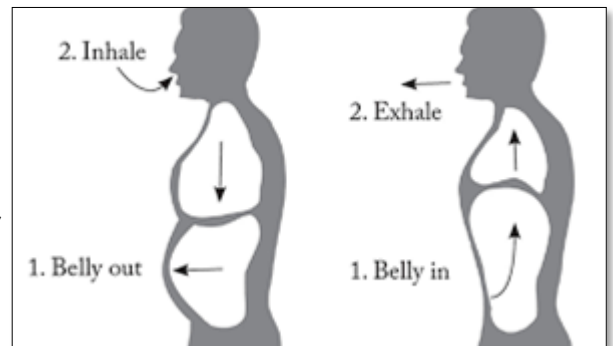
by Rev. Aimme Rogers-Jones, 3rd Baptist Church, San Francisco

With so much going on in the world around us, it is easy to be stressed out and overwhelmed. Each of us has burdens we are carrying and sometimes they feel too heavy to bear.

While we may not have the power to change our situation, we do have the power to change our perspective of the situation. Taking time for a mindfulness moment can help bring about the change in perspective we so desperately need.

Today, take some time even if it's just 5 minutes to find a comfortable position, close your eyes and breathe. If you find yourself starting to think of the list of things you need to get done or feel yourself worrying about the issues in the world, take a breath and focus on your breathing.

When I am having a difficult time, I simply breathe in (through my nose) for a count of 4 and breathe out (through my mouth) for a count of 4.



Try it!

Breath in 1 - 2 - 3 - 4

Breath out 4 - 3 - 2 - 1

As you sit there breathing, reflect on the blessings God has already provided, starting with the gift of life and the ability to breathe.

To learn more about how meditation can reduce stress, feel free to visit the website <https://www.verywellmind.com/meditation-4157199>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
March 2024						
3 8:30AM - Worship 9:20AM - Fellowship 10:00AM - Worship 5:00PM - AA Mtg. 7:30PM - AA Mtg.	4 6:00PM - Zoom Lectio Divina 6:15PM - Women's Book Grp 7:00PM - Women's AA	5 10:00AM - Lectio Divina 7:00PM - Men's AA Mtg.	6 9:00AM - Zoom Bible Study 10:30AM - Recovery Group Noon - Al-Anon 5:30PM - Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm - Soup Supper	7 Noon - AA Mtg. 6:00PM - Book Group 7:30PM - AA Mtg.	8	9 2 Camera Club
10 8:30AM - Worship 9:20AM - Fellowship 10:00AM - Worship 5:00PM - AA Mtg. 7:30PM - AA Mtg.	11 6:00PM - Zoom Lectio Divina 6:15PM - Women's Book Grp 7:00PM - Women's AA	12 10:00AM - Lectio Divina 5:00PM - Finance Comm 5:30PM - Council 7:00PM - Men's AA Mtg.	13 9:00AM - Zoom Bible Study 10:30AM - Recovery Group Noon - Al-Anon 5:30PM - Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm - Soup Supper 6:30pm - Worship	14 Noon - AA Mtg. 6:00PM - Book Group 7:30PM - AA Mtg.	15	16
17 8:30AM - Worship 9:20AM - Fellowship 10:00AM - Worship 5:00PM - AA Mtg. 7:30PM - AA Mtg.	18 6:00PM - Zoom Lectio Divina 6:15PM - Women's Book Grp 7:00PM - Women's AA	19 10:00AM - Lectio Divina 7:00PM - Men's AA Mtg.	20 9:00AM - Zoom Bible Study 10:30AM - Recovery Group Noon - Al-Anon 5:30PM - Choir Rehearsal 6:00PM Soup Supper 6:30PM Worship	21 Noon - AA Mtg. 6:00PM - Book Group 7:30PM - AA Mtg.	22	23
24 8:30AM - Worship 9:20AM - Fellowship 10:00AM - Worship 1:30PM - Las Ventanas Worship 5:00PM - AA Mtg. 7:30PM - AA Mtg.	25 6:00PM - Zoom Lectio Divina 6:15PM - Women's Book Grp 7:00PM - Women's AA	26 10:00AM - Lectio Divina 7:00PM - Men's AA Mtg.	27 9:00AM - Zoom Bible Study 10:30AM - Recovery Group Noon - Al-Anon 5:30PM - Choir Rehearsal 6:00PM Soup Supper 6:30PM Worship	28 - Maundy Thursday Noon - Worship 6:00PM - Book Group 7:30PM - AA Mtg.	29 - Good Friday Noon - Worship	30
31 - Easter! 6:30AM - Sunrise Worship 8:30AM - Worship 9:20AM - Fellowship 10:00AM - Worship 1:30pm - Las Ventanas worship 5:00PM - AA Mtg. 7:30PM - AA Mtg.						



St. Andrew Lutheran Church

8901 Del Webb Boulevard
Las Vegas, NV 89134

Return Service Requested

**NONPROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAS VEGAS, NV
PERMIT NO. 1875**

Pastor Phillip J. Stuart

Pastor Mari Larson

☎ (702) 255-1990

Sunday Worship

8:30 & 10:00AM

Livestream on YouTube at 10:00AM

All are welcome!

Please place address label here

CONNECTIONS NEWSLETTER

March 2024



- March 10 * *Daylight Savings Begins*
- March 17 * *St. Patrick's Day*
- March 6, 13, 20 * *6:00PM—Lenten Soup Supper*
6:30PM—Worship
- March 24 * *Palm Sunday*
- March 28 * *Maundy Thursday (Noon Worship)*
- March 29 * *Good Friday (Noon Worship)*
- March 31 * *Easter Sunday (Worship at 6:30, 8:30, 10,
and at 1:30 at Las Ventanas)*