



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Newsletter | December 2015

## *Christmas Eve Service, 7:30pm*

### *Save the Date!*

*December 2* - Deadline for completing Mission Activities Survey

*December 3, 10 & 17 at 12pm* - Bible Study with Pastor Connie

*December 3, 10 & 17 from 6pm* - Chimes / Choir / Bells

*December 5, 8:30am* - Rehearsal, Children's Christmas Program

*December 5, 11:15am* - Caring Lunch

*December 6, 9:30am* - Children's Christmas Program

*December 6, 10:30am* - StA Youth's Pie Fundraiser

*December 6, 11am* - Congregational Meeting

*December 6* - Deadline for dropping off Holiday boxes

*December 10, 7pm - Movie Night at Nick's*  
*December 14, 6pm - Elizabeth Circle at the Ringoens'*  
*December 15 - Deadline for completing Pastor's Performance Survey*  
*December 20, 10:30am - Name Our Choir Winner*  
*December 20, 6pm - Koinonia at the Drews'*  
*December 24, 7:30pm - Christmas Eve Service*  
*December 25 - Christmas Day (Office is closed)*  
*January 1, 2016 - New Year's Day (Office is closed)*  
*January 7, 2016 - Deadline for submitting articles for Annual Report*  
*January 18, 2016 - MLK Jr. Day of Service*  
*January 24, 2016 at 11am - Congregational Meeting*

## *This Month at StA*

[Calendar](#)

[Birthdays & Anniversaries](#)

[Those Who Serve](#)

[Recycle Chart](#)

## *Message from Pastor Connie*

My friend Pam Gonzalez was an ELCA pastor in Colorado and was always being asked about why we don't sing Christmas songs during Advent. It is so hard to refrain from skipping ahead to Christmas with our culture so focused on December 25. Advent is the time when we watch and wait and prepare for the coming of the Christ Child. Advent is important and helps us to prepare for what Jesus means to us.

So Pam took the tunes of Christmas songs and put them to words from the Advent Bible texts we read during Advent. She put these into book form and my husband Steve published her book called, "It's Beginning

to Look a Lot Like Christmas: Carols for the Advent Season."

***I invite you to read the following scripture and Pam Gonzalez' words to her hymn that matches the scripture as your devotional.***

Read James 5:7-10 "Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord."

Here are Pam Gonzalez' words to the tune: ***"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"***

***Patient Waiting pg. 7***

**from "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas" by Pam Gonzalez**

1. Patient waiting, demonstrating faithfulness in daily life  
This our calling, never falling, By our love defeating strife.  
Without grumbling, no complaining, without stumbling, never  
waning!  
Thus we wish to live our lives! Thus we wish to live our lives!
2. Yet our patience is ungracious, And resentment is our song.  
Though our trying is undying. Thoughts and deeds turn to the wrong.  
Failing ever, daily sinning. Our endeavor never winning.  
Still to Christ we do belong! Still to Christ we do belong!
3. Christ is coming, we're succumbing To an over flowing grace.  
Christ will strengthen, patience lengthen, Shine upon us with love's  
face.  
Advent season, preparation, Christ the reason, for elation  
Living in divine embrace! Living in divine embrace!

***December Caring Lunch***  
Kathy Gonzalez

Join us for our Caring Communion Service and Luncheon on **December 5th** for a festive celebration. We'll gather at 11:15 a.m. for the 11:30 worship service that will be followed by our meal prepared for this



day. Feel the warmth of the Advent season as we sing Christmas Carols and enjoy special moments together. Contact Maggie Timeus at 344-0056 or by e-mail at [magtim@comcast.net](mailto:magtim@comcast.net) if you plan to attend and let her know if you need a ride. We look forward to a very merry time!

## *Children's Christmas Program / Pie Sale*

On **December 6, 2015**, St. Andrews will have a Children's Christmas Program during our worship at 9:30 a.m. Please come and bring your friends. The kids are excited about this service and are eager to present the story of the birth of Jesus.

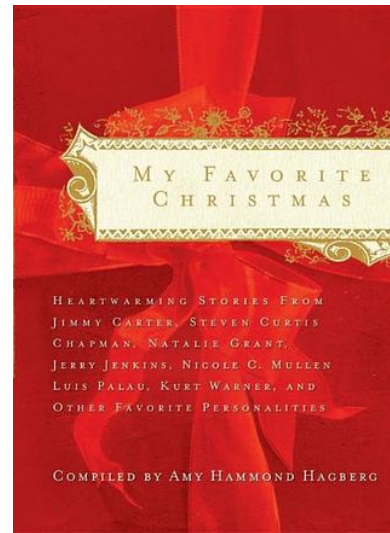
Following the service the youth will be having a pie sale. We will have a free-will donation for a whole pie or a slice of pie. The youth are raising funds to offset the cost of a youth trip to Pacific Grove on January 2-4 where they will be studying God's creation - the ocean. They will be learning about the ocean, doing beach clean up and about ocean ecology. There will be 10 kids going and 3 chaperones. We thank you for your support of the St. Andrews youth.

## *Congregational Meeting on December 6*

Our mission is to Welcome, Celebrate, Learn and Serve in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. To help fulfill our mission and in accordance with our Constitution, the Council is calling a meeting of the voters on **Sunday, December 6th 2015** to present the budget for 2016. The meeting will be held in Meyer Hall after Worship Service. We encourage all members of the Congregation to be present to support our mission as we consider the budget for 2016. It will be distributed to you on that day. We look forward to seeing you all in attendance.

## *Christmas Memories* Kathy Gonzalez, Church Librarian

***My Favorite Christmas***, compiled by Amy Hammond Hagberg, is a collection of heartwarming quotes, stories and anecdotes from a list of contributors that include athletes, recording artists, actors, and authors as well as former U.S. Presidents. Enjoy the personal recollections that will bring back special memories of your own. Found on the inside jacket of the book :

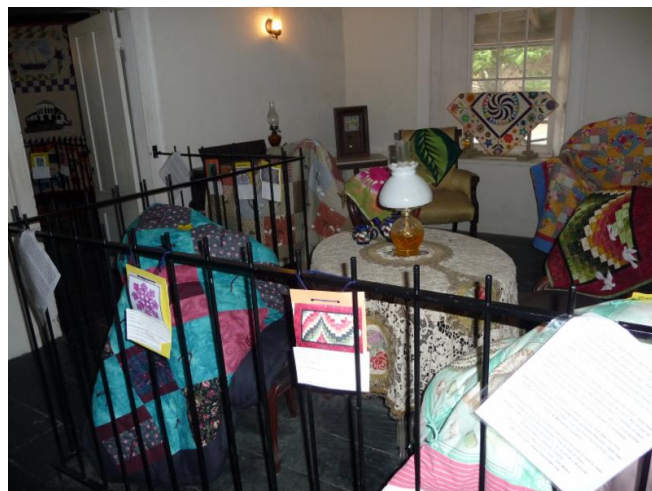


"Tis' the season to cozy up in front of a crackling fire with a book - and a heart full of joy and gratitude for the gift of God found in a manger."

Find Christmas titles for all ages displayed in the library ready for checkout. May you be blessed with peace and joy this Christmas!

## *Samaritan Sundays* Carrie German

For our Samaritan Sunday on December 20, we are collecting Christmas gifts for the family in our House Next Door. We have been honored to have hosted Angela and Jose and their sons, Giovanni (14 yrs.) and Julian (3 ½ yrs.) this year. Gift certificates (Target,



Safeway or movies) are the easiest and most cost-efficient items so that the parents can take advantage of any sales. Based on their ages, you are also welcome to shop for individuals. Any additional funds collected will be used for individual needs. Please leave your donations in the

## Offering Plate.

For our August/September Samaritan Sunday we collected \$155.50 for ELCA Good Gifts - God's Global Barnyard. Your gifts to God's Global Barnyard support the sustainable development ministries of ELCA World Hunger, which include training, education, resources (and much more) to help the community care for animals and create new market opportunities like starting a small business selling eggs, meat or dairy products. Your gifts support this comprehensive approach to animal husbandry. Learn more at [community.elca.org/ELCAGoodGifts](http://community.elca.org/ELCAGoodGifts).

In October four comforters made by the Pieceful Quilters and one bag each of calendars, new greetings and used greetings cards for arts and crafts were delivered to InnVision Shelter Network (IVSN) ([www.ivsn.org](http://www.ivsn.org)). Also in October, three comforters were included in a Quilt Show presented by the Pacifica Quilters Guild at Sanchez Adobe State Park in Pacifica. This was a fund raiser for their donations to non-profits. Then in November, five more comforters and one bag each of calendars, new greetings and used greetings cards were delivered to IVSN. They are dedicated to helping homeless families and individuals regain permanent housing and self-sufficiency in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties. With every delivery we learn that a new family has just arrived from homelessness and is in need of the gifts we bring. The Pieceful Quilters will take December off and resume assembling comforters on January 26, the fourth Tuesday, at 9:30am. Everyone is welcome to bring their bag lunch to Meyer Hall and join us for this simple, rewarding work and fellowship. Dessert is provided.

## *Deadlines*

Please complete the [Mission Activities Survey](#) by **December 2**, and [Pastor's Performance Survey](#) by **December 15th**.

For those of you that can submit an article for the annual report please do so by **Thursday, January 7th 2016**.

## *Movie Night and Discussion*

December 10, 2015 @7:00 p.m.

Nick Douglass' apartment near El Camino and Ralston. Please contact Pastor Connie for exact location and apt. number. His apartment is on the first floor with no steps.

## *Fill a Box, Feed a Family*

CALL Primrose Holiday Boxes

Please pack everything on the list into one box (no glass jars or breakable containers) and make sure to bring your donation to the Church Office no later than **December 6, 2015**.

- 1 can cranberry sauce
- 1 bag/box stuffing
- 2 cans green beans
- 1 bag/box pasta
- 1 box instant mashed potatoes
- 1 pack/can gravy
- 2 packs corn
- 2 cans fruit
- 1 can soup
- 1 tomato sauce
- 1 boxed rice
- \$20.00 gift card (Safeway preferred)

For more information, please contact CALL PRIMROSE at 650-342-2255 or [callcoordinator@callprimrose.org](mailto:callcoordinator@callprimrose.org)

## *"Name Our Vocal Choir" Contest*

You are invited to submit a ballot suggesting a permanent name for St. Andrew's Vocal Choir! **Please put in your entries by December 9**, in person, by email ([standrews1501@gmail.com](mailto:standrews1501@gmail.com)), phone call (650-345-1625), or snail mail (attention: Church Office, 1501 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94402). Members of the Vocal Choir will then vote for



their favorite. The winning name will be announced during Coffee Hour on December 20. A prize will be awarded.

## *ELCA Malaria Campaign*

### **\$15 million fundraising goal achieved!**

Thank you for being a part of this monumental milestone and helping us protect countless lives from a preventable, treatable disease. By working with our Lutheran companions and partners in 13 African countries, we have brought about lasting change.

## *Letter*

Pastor Connie,

Thank ou for the invitation to play music & lead worship for St. Andrew's [on October 11]! We love playing Old-Time Gospel to feed the hungry souls and lift the flagging spirits of people.



Sincerely,

Steve, Erin & Amber

## *MLK Jr. 4th Annual Multifaith Day of Service* January 18, 2016

We are currently accepting the following:



**Gently Used Children's Books  
for Local Students  
and Samaritan House**

- ✓ Ages 5-9
- ✓ Of universal appeal (no books on religion, health & hygiene, or other topics of a personal nature)
- ✓ Multicultural or bilingual books highly desirable
- ✓ New or excellent used condition
- ✓ NO baby, teen or adult books



**Gently Used Clothing  
for Local Students  
and Samaritan House**

- ✓ Only school children's clothing
- ✓ Gently used shoes OK
- ✓ NO baby or adult clothing please



If you'd like to donate, volunteer for MLK Day on January 18, or need more information go to [www.PeninsulaMultifaith.org](http://www.PeninsulaMultifaith.org).  
For more information, contact Vickie Sherman at [vrmsherman@gmail.com](mailto:vrmsherman@gmail.com) or 650-773-1620.

For more information, please contact Vickie Sherman at [vrmsherman@gmail.com](mailto:vrmsherman@gmail.com) or 650-773-1620 or go to the [Peninsula Multifaith Coalition website](http://www.PeninsulaMultifaith.org). Volunteers must register online.

*Photos of the Month*



*Peggy Anderson's specially made table runners for members of the Elizabeth Circle. Not in photo: Peggy Anderson, Jean Hoaglund, Carrie German, and Pastor Connie. Photo credit: Peggy Anderson*

## *Photo Slideshows by Maggie Timeus*

[Baptism of Charlie Jean](#)

[Trust and Sharing Coffee Hour](#)

[All Saints Sunday](#)

[Reformation Sunday](#)

### **St. Andrew's Lutheran Church - ELCA**

1501 S. El Camino Real, San Mateo, CA 94402 | (650) 345-1625  
[standrews1501@gmail.com](mailto:standrews1501@gmail.com) | [www.standrews.org](http://www.standrews.org)

#### *Our Mission...*

Welcoming, Celebrating, Learning, and Serving  
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Sunday Worship Schedule*

Rev. Connie Winter-Eulberg, Pastor

9:30 am Worship & Holy Communion

10:30 am Coffee Fellowship Time

10:45 am Christian Education Classes

Handicapped Accessible & Telecoil Enabled

*Office Hours*

Monday to Wednesday, 9am to 4pm

Thursday, 9am to 12pm

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