

The St. Andrews NET - Volume XL, No 6

June 2020 - Serving, supporting and sending families in Christ

ST. ANDREWS LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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standrewsparkridge.org



St. Andrews Lutheran
Church & School
Park Ridge, Illinois

standrewspr.org

Matthew J. Hoffmann - Pastor

David Christiansen - Minister of Music

Laura Boggs - Principal

Greg Lendy - Director, Contemporary Worship

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Official Acts - April

No Statistical Data

JUNE

BIRTHDAYS

1 Steven Raetzman
Greg Reuhs (Sr.)
2 Don DeVito
3 Grace DeVito
Monica Federer
4 Frank Avila
5 Delores Brandfellner
Angella Kwon
6 Pamela Tomaszewski
Mysi DeSantis
7 Glenn Buric
John Par
Helen Van Alstin
9 Rowan Keefe
Mia Matthopoulos
John McCarty
Isla Rieger
10 Gary Kloess
Richard Michaels
Jim Muresan
Carolyn Punches
12 Aidan Fehrmann
Ronald Hoshizaki
Brian Steffen
13 June Castiglia
Judy Giovannelli
Janine May
14 Nathan Wolf
16 Julia Buric
Gary Cupp
Elizabeth Heller
Beckett Nash
Jeff Warren

17 Keith Grabske
Sally Lynn
18 Larry Cillo
Megan Punches
19 Corinne Aper
Jonathan Baraglia
Jessica Ware-Hanna
20 Norma Gertsch
Julia Lynn
21 Amanda Biela
Daniel Ellsworth
22 Valorie Green
23 Matthew Feltes
Alison Grimm
Carol Hanson
Amos Mitchell
Juliana White
24 Dianna Demke
Peter Demke
Kathleen Hurley
Jenna Warren
Eric Weisheit
25 Jeremy Jason
Bonnie Ware
26 Natalea Goecking
Anna Kinell
27 John Grimm
Austin Paulik
28 Anita Fuchs
Al Schattschneider
Eric Wandel
29 Mary Ann DeWitt
Kathy Kraatz
Carlo Kwon
30 Marilyn Cook

Ryan Holler
Connor Nash
Becca Weisheit

BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

Richard Michaels
Deb Ness
Alyssa Vitulli
3 Greg Reuhs (Jr.)
4 Sophia Rouse
6 Jennifer Barney
7 Andrew Cupp
12 Roger Wilson
16 Michael Bulinski
Elizabeth Polmanski
25 Daniel Tobias
Emily Weisheit

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3 Dawn & Carl Steffen
4 Evelyne & Otto Proeschel
Christie & Jeff Warren
6 Terri & Dale Mirow
10 Lydia Preuss & Nick Bedell
11 Kathy & Ron Kraatz
17 Cathy & Dave Fredriksen
19 Sylvia & Larry Centracchio
22 Mary & David Christiansen
24 Judy & Bill Sirvio
Janelle & Richard Sloma
26 Carole & Tom Cox
Kris & Bill Heller
28 Eric and Mysi DeSantis
Carrie & Jim Kuehm

Dear Family in Christ,

Greetings in Christ Jesus our Risen Lord! As I write this, I am full of different kinds of emotions. Pentecost Sunday morning was such a great blessing. We met outside and worshiped God together in the parking lot. We even had a brief moment of "mighty rushing wind" and a dove landing near us to give an unexpected sensory experience to celebrating the activity of the Holy Spirit on that Pentecost so many centuries ago! It was a bright spot in a day that took a turn for the worse for so many.

The rest of the day was marked by heartbreaking scenes of looting, burning, and sadness for so many. I wrestled with a lot that day, as I am sure you did. I haven't been able to stop thinking about the death of George Floyd. To have someone die in this country while handcuffed and having another man's knee on your neck is beyond words. It brings about deep anger, especially as his death comes on the heels of the horribly unjust shooting deaths of 25 year old Ahmaud Abernathy in Atlanta and 26 year old Breonna Taylor in Louisville. I have been considering that as a white man, I have never felt the added threat of racism in my daily life. I am trying to educate myself these days into the pain I have overlooked in the lives of others, and repent of the times when I have judged others because of the color of their skin, or showed any other kind of bias. Lord have mercy on me.

I am also wrestling with deep anger and sadness over the acts of violence I saw on my television and heard about on the radio all day long on Saturday and Sunday. We have so many wonderful, compassionate, and caring Police Officers and Firefighters in our congregation. I prayed and prayed and prayed for their safety, even as I know they personally would never do the things that set these horrible scenes into motion in the first place. I also dealt with anger and sadness of when I heard of those in our St. Andrews family who had businesses destroyed and vandalized. Years of building a business destroyed in minutes by an out-of-control mob. It's horrible. Come, Lord Jesus.

But perhaps my lasting impression is this: I have been yearning for things to "go back to normal" in my life. And you know what I mean. When can we meet normally at church? When can I do the things I enjoy doing without the worry of COVID-19 in the background? When will the restrictions on my life be over? But I realize for many people, "normal" isn't as great as it is for me. I don't want the struggles with racism in society to go back to "normal." I want these changed forever. I don't want our police officers to have to go back to the "normal" dangers they have to face in their every-day work. I want these changed forever. I don't want people to return to their "normal" anger and frustration and sin. I want this changed forever. And I certainly don't want to go back to my "normal" ways neglecting to empathize with those who face struggles I cannot imagine. I want that to change forever as well.

The antidote to "normal" is the most abnormal thing ever. It is the Gospel of Christ. The Gospel is so hard to understand because it is the most wonderfully "abnormal" thing. We are sinners, but we are loved. We can't earn our place in the Kingdom of God, yet it is earned for us. We cannot have hope in ourselves, but in Christ, we have enough hope for eternity. And this hope is for everyone. Jesus sees us as equal in his eyes, and valuable in his eyes, and worth giving his life for in his eyes. I pray we can see this way too. We will have to learn the Gospel and then relearn it, and relearn it again. But it is worth it. On Pentecost we hear Jesus talk about his love and his Holy Spirit. He says, **"Let ANYONE who is thirsty come to me."** Peter ends his Pentecost Sermon with these words, **"And it shall come to pass that EVERYONE who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."** Lord, help me to see myself and those around me as ANYONE and EVERYONE, just like you do.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Matt Hoffmann





SCHOOL NEWS
Educating Students to Seek, Serve and Soar
June 2020

We are wrapping up our very unusual 2019-2020 school year. It has been a year of learning, growing, leading and supporting one another in a completely different way than we are use to. Our teachers, parents, and students have gone above and beyond to continue our strong academic excellence through remote learning. We are so grateful for all the prayers and encouraging words this year.

Conngratulations to St. Andrews Class of 2020

Graduates:

*Ryder Butterfield
Ava Hreczany
Katarina Milutinovic
Tess Murphy
Makayla Olar
Caitlyn Riordan
Marin Rooney
Daniel Tobias
Annah Ward*

In praying the Lord's blessing for these children, we recall the theme passage they selected from Jeremiah 29:11.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Job Posting

We are looking to fill two openings in our aftercare for the upcoming school year. The position would begin in August when school opens. The hours are from 3:00-6:00 pm Monday through Friday. If you or someone you know are interested, please contact Ms. Laura Boggs at lboggs@standrewslutherschool.org.

Have a blessed summer.

Ms. Boggs
Principal

FROM THE BOARD FOR SOCIAL MINISTRY

St. Andrews members were amazingly generous in their support of the two food drop-off Saturdays in May. 7

car loads of food and \$650 was donated for the St. Paul of the Cross Food Pantry. People who are food insecure are having increased difficulties during this pandemic. Everyone's generosity is greatly appreciated.

This coming summer the Board will be conducting an activity to benefit refugees in the area. We are working with Exodus World Service to determine what household items will be most needed and appreciated. We will keep everyone posted on developments.

We pray for everyone's safety and well-being - physically, emotionally, and spiritually.