

Lutheran Witness: This monthly magazine is written and provided especially for members of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. It features important aspects of Christian life, the ministries of congregations, worldwide missions, and people of faith. Bible studies that help you apply God’s Word to your life are a regular feature. In addition, every month has a message from the synodical president, as well as news updates on the last synod developments.

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MYRA’S DECEMBER & JANUARY Myra hopes everyone had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! She was quite busy as 2025 came to an end and then started 2026 with a full schedule. Myra made 35 visits in December and 37 visits in January. In addition, she attended Saturday and Sunday church services, Wednesday chapel services and visited with the Sunday School classes.

December 2025 and January 2026 visits included all of Myra’s regular facilities which are Amazing Grace, Ascension Life Center, Ascension Living, The Pearl of Montclare, White Crane Wellness Center and Humboldt Park Health in Chicago. She made visits to New Perspectives and Avantara in Long Grove, and to The Sheridan, The Summit and Avantara in Park Ridge. Trinity Services, Chicago Behavioral Hospital and Advocate Adult Day Care and Rehab in DesPlaines were all visited by Myra. Facilities that she visited in Morton Grove included Parkland Preparatory Academy, American House and Bella Terra. The Garlands in Barrington, Arden Courts in Elk Grove Village, The Carrington in Lincolnwood, and St. Benedict in Niles were also on her agenda these two months. Not to be forgotten were Warren Barr Lieberman, Alden North Shore, and Orchard Village in Skokie. The House of Welcome in Northfield also had visits from Myra and she visited Ms. Maryann, a hospice patient who also lives in Northfield.

In December, Myra had the opportunity to visit and greet students and staff during finals week at Walther Christian Academy in Melrose Park. She also made a visit to the University of Chicago Regenstein Library as the semester was ending and students were preparing to head home for the holidays. At Northbrook Place in Northbrook, Myra visited with some of the hospice patients and family members who all appreciated the diversion she brought.

In January Myra made a visit to Warren Barr Gold Coast and will now be visiting this rehab facility on a monthly basis. Residents at Asbury Court in DesPlaines, which is visited every other month, were delighted to start the New Year with her visit. The special needs students at Miller Elementary School in Westmont were visited by Myra and fellow Comfort Dog, Brutus. For some of these students, Myra and Brutus were the first dogs they ever saw and with which they were able to interact. Synapse House in Downers Grove, another facility visited every other month, was also on her January agenda. National Louis University in Wheeling was celebrating “Wellness Week” and Myra was invited to share her comforting personality with students and staff. Visits at Immanuel’s Food Pantry started again in January and Myra is always welcomed by the staff and those who visit.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Hawthorne Woods celebrated the commissioning of their new Comfort Dog Bethesda and while Myra did not attend because of another commitment, two of her handlers did and were able to congratulate Bethesda’s team and visit with the 17 Comfort Dogs that were also in attendance to celebrate with Bethesda. St. Andrews School hosted an Open House and Myra participated in the event simply by being present and introducing herself to potential new students and families.

Myra and her handlers also visited one of the Team’s Ministry Partners who is currently in a rehab facility following hip surgery. And the young lady whom Myra met a few months ago had some visits from Myra when she and her mother were hosted by a few of our church families while attending rehab in downtown Chicago.

If you would like to know more about any of the Team roles and responsibilities or are interested in joining the Comfort Dog Ministry, contact Joanne August via email at hsmom1@comcast.net



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This has been a LONG stretch of freezing weather! During times like this it is easy to feel down and disconnected. It is more important than ever to make sure you are coming to church, staying connected with your St. Andrews Family, and taking advantage of the opportunities we have for fellowship! You are not in this alone!

PRINCIPAL UPDATE

On January 18, our voter's assembly voted to hire Mrs. Hillary Delanty as our next school principal! While we are all so sad to see Ms. Boggs retire, it is so exciting that God led us to our next awesome principal and that he opened this door so clearly and quickly for us! Praise be to God!

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Your St. Andrews Strategic Planning Steering Committee has been hard at work gathering information from various subcommittees, focus groups, and an extensive survey. In February we are going to evaluate all of the information and feedback we have received and in March we will be putting the whole strategic plan together. Some important changes have already started taking place, but I cannot wait to see the whole plan and putting together a strategy for all of us to take part in executing the vision God is revealing through our Church and School.

Blessings to you in Christ!

Pastor Matt Hoffmann



Hello St. Andrews Family!

Pastor Ethan here, updating you on some of the wonderful happenings here at St. Andrews. I want to first celebrate our ongoing youth groups: High School, Middle School, and Confirmation. We have such a great, consistent group of young people. They are so much fun to work with and I love seeing them developing their faith, asking insightful questions, and growing in their relationships with each other.

I also want to celebrate YOU, and all that you have invested toward the well-being of this Church and School. Ever since I arrived in July, it has been abundantly clear just how deeply you all care for this place. Whether you've been here your whole life, or are a newcomer like me, you all love St. Andrews and you want to see us continue to thrive. It is very special to have a group of people willing to self-evaluate and have honest conversations. This strategic planning process is a sign of congregational maturity. I ask that you all continue to pray – pray for openness to what God has planned for us, pray for clarity as to how He might use us, and pray for grace, knowing that improvements and adaptations aren't always easy or comfortable. May God continue to do His great will through us.

A few things to be aware of moving forward:

VBS June 15-19

I want to put this on everyone's radar – both for kids and potential adult volunteers. First, please pray for VBS, that it would be a formative experience for those involved. Second, ask God if this is an event He may be able to use you. If you have gifts in decorating, organizing, teaching, working with kids, or anything really, please prayerfully consider helping out this summer. More information on how to be involved will be shared soon.

LCMS Youth Gathering, San Antonio 2028

This may seem like the VERY distant future, but it is bound to be here faster than we think. This is a powerfully formative experience for anyone between the ages of 14-19. I hope to start forming a group of volunteers and chaperones for this trip in the near future. There's nothing for you to do at this point other than to **please pray** for the gathering and begin to ponder if you and/or your child would like to be a part of it.

Thank you for all you do St. Andrews.

Sincerely,

Pastor Ethan



SCHOOL NEWS
St. Andrews Lutheran School
Journey of Faith and Wisdom
February 2026
HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



“Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like

it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matthew 22:37–39

We had an amazing Open House on Sunday, January 25, despite the snowy weather. It was truly wonderful to meet so many families who are interested in sending their children to St. Andrews.

February is a very busy and exciting month at school. Our students will be participating in a Glow Run to help raise funds for the school. The PTL is hosting a Daddy Daughter Dance, as well as a special activity for our middle school students. Our sixth-grade class will host a Spaghetti Dinner on Saturday, February 21, as a fundraiser for their upcoming trip to Walcamp.

In addition, our fifth-grade students are taking part in First Communion classes, and all students will enjoy participating in a Valentine’s Day exchange. Our basketball teams are wrapping up their seasons, and our Cheerleaders and Junior Cheerleaders are sharing their school spirit with us.

We are also grateful for our Pre-Kindergarten and first-grade students, who recently led Chapel and shared heartfelt thanks with John Snow and Gary Trapp for their helping hands and serving our Lord.

Registration is now open for all students. If you know of a family interested in an excellent Christian education, this is a wonderful opportunity to introduce them to St. Andrews. Please continue to pray God’s blessing for our ministries here.

As always, we ask that you keep St. Andrews Lutheran School in your prayers, and we look forward to sharing with you the talents of our students this coming year.

Working together for Christ,
Ms. Laura Boggs