

Sharing Christ in Faith, Fellowship, and Service



**Celebrating 60 Years of
Leadership at St. Andrew's
September 29 and 30, 2018**

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Celebrating 60 Years of Leadership at St. Andrew's

Why are we celebrating leadership of our pastors and fellow congregational members? It is because we have been stimulated, are answering the collective call and sharing the rewards.

Slightly over 60 years ago, a dedicated group of Lutherans decided to form an ELCA Church in Columbia, Missouri. After ordination in June 1957, Morris Niedenthal, with his rural roots, was called to provide spiritual leadership and assist the fledgling group become functional. It was officially named St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in 1958 to recognize the first person Christ called to be a disciple, the first of a group of common individuals like most of us. Following the calling from Christ, the early members of St. Andrew's used their skills to endow the new ministry with the guiding principles of sharing Christ in faith, fellowship, and service.

Faith of the members, strengthened by fellowship and guidance from Pastor Niedenthal led the diverse members to insure services were held, sacraments shared and traditional Sunday School and Vacation Church School programs were active. Everyone was needed and had to play a role. The property was purchased and the current Fellowship Hall was constructed. In 1960, Pastor Niedenthal was called to be on the faculty of the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago where he developed into an outstanding professor of homiletics. As a special gift, his wife Corrine made the beautiful mosaic cross that adorns the Fellowship Hall.

Pastor James (Jim) Sylvester was called to serve in 1960. Partly due to the budget, he remained a pilot in the U.S. Air Force Reserve, and encouraged expansion of community service, especially for minorities. Columbia was growing and the membership increased. Some programs were revised and those in Christian education and music were increased, but the major effort was to pay off the property and building debt to be able to expand our mission. The Endowment Board was set up to support proposals for social programs in Boone County. Pastor Sylvester later served an inner-city congregation in Kansas City, MO.

Pastor Ralph Anderson, who began in July 1972, introduced less formality of worship with his guitar and more variation in style. The youth ministry program began and the confirmation program was completely revised. The congregation grew in number and activity, the pipe organ was purchased and the Centrum was added. Of great significance, Pastor Anderson and several inspired members of St. Andrew's led the organization and early operation of the Meals on Wheels service in Columbia. A can-do perspective emerged that led to even more members getting involved and leading other social and congregational programs. A series of dedicated youth ministers, many part-time, assisted with that program. Pastor Anderson accepted a call in 1986 to serve a congregation in Rochester, NY.

Pastor Paul Moessner came in 1986 while membership and member involvement continued to increase. The education wing was added to meet needs and free up the Fellowship Hall for other activities. Later, the west side of the building was expanded to provide more office space and a larger narthex. The drainage from the expanded parking lot was diverted into a wetland and a new drive was put in to improve safety. Youth projects on social programs were expanded, and the Rainbow Trail program and participation in national youth conferences were emphasized. Of special note, Pastor Moessner, along with members, worked to facilitate the new Mid-Missouri Office of Lutheran Family and Children's Services. He continued to serve on the local Board while at St. Andrew's. He accepted a call in 2016 to serve a congregation in Omaha, NE.

Pastor Julia Will joined the spiritual leadership team in 1995 with special skills in connecting members with social programs. Based on her leadership, new programs were started to enhance youth education and services for the elderly. Examples include initiating the Mom's Group and the Chronic Illness Support Group, providing communion for the homebound, enhancing membership roles in Loaves and Fishes and coordinating a Sunday worship service and other support efforts for women incarcerated in the Boone County Jail. Pastor Will resigned, according to protocol, leaving a few weeks after Pastor Moessner.

Pastor Peter Rehwaldt served as the transitional pastor for nearly two years, leading the congregation through a detailed self-assessment of characteristics and goals for our church. Throughout, he provided a sense of stability and inspiration as we considered the future. It was an insightful experience that nurtured evaluation of our needs in pastoral leadership.

Pastor David Frerichs answered our call in January 2018, and is continuing quality spiritual leadership and becoming engaged in a wide range of activities. Luckily, over the last several years we have experienced increased involvement and leadership from the members. Our social outreach programs have expanded greatly to cover a broad range of activities such that there is something for everyone. We are now a mature congregation with a wide range of skills, including confident leadership and a willingness of our members to be involved.

Of special significance is the number from our congregation who have been called to the ministry. During the last 35 years at St. Andrew's, nine have been inspired to study and spread the Gospel as ordained Lutheran ministers around the world. The Reverends Garrett Struessel, Steve Sylvester, Cathy Rosenholtz, Melissa Afdahl and Anna Murphy Ballan, grew up and were confirmed at St. Andrew's. Reverend Chad Langdon joined us at St. Andrew's while attending college, and the Reverends Maureen Howard, Scott Simmons and Ted Carnahan attended and became an integral part of our congregation a bit later in life before going on to the ministry. Each worshiped with us, prayed with us, and served in ministry with us. Crystal

Lee, in her second year of Seminary will be number ten. We also have two Parish Ministry Associates, Bill Markgraf and David Stock.

But above all, mostly the thousands of people who have entered our congregation for worship and then re-entered the world for service, may seem like small-time players in the world's drama. Yet, we are the people, the hands and voices God has used, and will continue to use to bring to reality what Jesus taught the disciples. We praise God for all who have shared their unique skills and lay leadership, contributing to the ministry of Saint Andrew's and to receive abundant joy and even stronger commitment to serve. That is the leadership we celebrate; to rejoice in how the Spirit has encouraged and led so many. Clearly, the Spirit combined with effective role models and an enabling environment have shaped a congregational culture that is making a difference in so many ways. After 60 years it is appropriate to take time to celebrate.

- *Jerry Nelson*

Legacy Trees: Growing in God's Grace

We began a special tree planting project during our 60th Anniversary Celebration weekend. The project grew out of a July 2018 Forum led by Sheryl and Art Mehrhoff on “Crisis in Creation and Our Faith”. Trees are particularly resonant and critical in the 21st century as the world faces a serious ecological crisis that can be traced, at least partially, to deforestation. Integral to the process that converts carbon dioxide into clean water and eventually oxygen, trees give us life. We felt that planting trees was one way to demonstrate our commitment to care for God’s creation.

First, we sponsored a tree in the Luthergarten in Wittenberg, Germany. On Sunday morning of our 60th Anniversary celebration, September 30th, 2018, Saint Andrew’s tree (number 459) was dedicated in the Luthergarten. There is a plaque by our tree with our church's name & location, type of tree (Scots pine, *Pinus sylvestris*) and our Bible verse, Revelation 22:2. *“On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.”*

We will receive a certificate, pictures of the planting and a map of where our tree is located. All this information will be also be added to the Luthergarten website (<http://www.luthergarten.de/>) including an interactive dot on the world map for Saint Andrew's.

We learned about the Luthergarten while watching a video by Lutheran theologian, the Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing, about Eco-Reformation. In 2017, the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, which began in Lutherstadt Wittenberg, was commemorated.

To express this event, the Luthergarten was built on Wittenberg’s ramparts, the areas that contained the original walls around the historic city center. As part of this project, a total of 500 trees were planted in three locations, giving concrete form to Martin Luther’s optimistic attitude which is so vividly expressed in the quotation ascribed to him: “Even if I knew that the world is going to die tomorrow, I would plant an apple tree today.”

Churches from all over the world and all denominations were invited to sponsor one of the 500 trees and at the same time to plant a tree near their home church. The dedication of the trees was ongoing throughout the year. The last group of trees were to be dedicated on October 31, 2018, including tree number 500 by the entrance to the Lutherhaus. Our tree (number 459) is located on a little hill, just next to the Lutherhaus.

Second, we planted our partner tree on Saint Andrew’s church grounds during our 60th anniversary weekend. Following a celebratory service on Sunday, September 30th, we processed outside to plant and dedicate our tree, a white oak (*Quercus alba*). We are grateful to Dave Murphy for procuring this Missouri native tree, to Forrest Keeling nursery in Elsberry, Missouri, for donating the tree and to Chuck Freidrichs for making the plaque.

Third, we have plans to plant additional trees. One tree will be planted with a ministry partner using funds from the Central States Synod. The CSS was gifted with a grant from ELCA to assist in planting 500 new trees throughout Kansas and Missouri to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.

- *Sheryl Mehrhoff*

A “Building” for Christ’s Mission

During Saint Andrew’s first 50 years in Columbia, our building served us well—from our original building in 1961 (today’s Fellowship Hall), to the addition of the Centrum in 1978 and the Sunday School wing in 1991. Ten years ago, as we prepared to celebrate our 50th Anniversary, the 50th Anniversary Committee (led by Wayne Porath) began a series of conversations to help us reflect on how our building could enhance our ministry over the next 50 years.

These conversations led us to realize that our building needed to evolve for our ministry to evolve. We had significant concerns about the structural integrity of our western wall. There were other safety concerns, too. Limited parking space often caused members or visitors to have to park on adjacent streets. The blind left turn onto West Boulevard from our driveway was hazardous. Inside, our Centrum was showing its age (or perhaps its or**AnGE**). Our bathrooms appeared dated and were not fully accessible. Staff offices were spread through the building somewhat haphazardly. Finally, as seen from West Boulevard, the light of Saint Andrew’s ministries was to some extent hidden under the bushel basket of our building’s windowless front design.

Through these conversations, a task group was put into place to develop a comprehensive plan for the renovation and future expansion of the building. This group developed a plan with leadership from architect Erik Miller. We began a capital campaign in 2009, ***Building for Christ’s Mission***, co-Chaired by John Farmer and Wilson Freyermuth with the assistance of KAIROS and consultant Wes Hendricker. This campaign produced three-year commitments totaling \$722,846. During 2010, we selected Huebert Builders as our contractor; construction commenced in 2011 and we dedicated our newly renovated and expanded space with a service of celebration on September 30, 2012. During 2013, many members continued their building fund commitments for a fourth year; ultimately, contributions to the building project from 2009-2013 totaled \$1,056,234.13.

As completed, our building now provides facilities well-suited to enable us to carry forward our mission of ***Sharing Christ in Faith, Fellowship, and Service*** in the years ahead. Our Centrum continues to be flexible, but provides a more open look that is well-suited for incorporating modern technologies to enhance our worship. With our new front plaza and atrium, the Centrum is now visible from West Boulevard (aptly, this provides us with a challenge—finding new and creative ways to make our front plaza a place of visible, vibrant activity and welcome each week). New additions include a dedicated prayer room; expanded and functional office space to enhance collaboration among our staff; a large conference room for adult education and Council meetings; a renovated youth room; expanded narthex space for fellowship; and larger, updated, and fully accessible restrooms. Redesign of our parking area and driveways has both expanded our parking capacity and increased traffic safety. This redesign also included installation of a natural rain-garden area along the northern edge of our parking area. This reflects our commitment as an ELCA congregation to environmental sustainability (i.e., our goal to be a “green” church) and makes us a better neighbor (i.e., we’re not

diverting water from our parking lot onto neighboring lots). Finally, our building continues to enhance our service ministry by providing regular meeting space for numerous community groups. We give thanks for the way God has blessed us with this space, and pray for God's continued guidance that we may remain good stewards of it!

- *Wilson Freyermuth*

Words From Our Pastors

Morris Niedenthal, 1957 - 1960



Simon, Corinne, Pastor Niedenthal, Paula

The Reverend Morris Niedenthal was the founding pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Columbia. Newly ordained, he was called by the United Lutheran Church in America (a predecessor body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) to establish a mission congregation in a city with a population, at that time, of about 40,000.

Arriving in Columbia in July of 1957, Pastor Niedenthal canvassed neighborhoods in the community, calling on families to inform them of the formation of a new Lutheran church in the city, and assessing their interest in becoming a part of this new congregation.

The first meeting of those interested was held on August 15, 1957, and the first worship service, with 67 adults and 31 children present, occurred on September 15 in the Labor Temple on North Garth Avenue. Sunday, February 9, 1958, was observed as the official Organization Day of the congregation, with 123 baptized members on the membership roll.

With Pastor Niedenthal's guidance, the congregation selected as its name "St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church," named for the disciple who brought his brother Peter to Jesus.

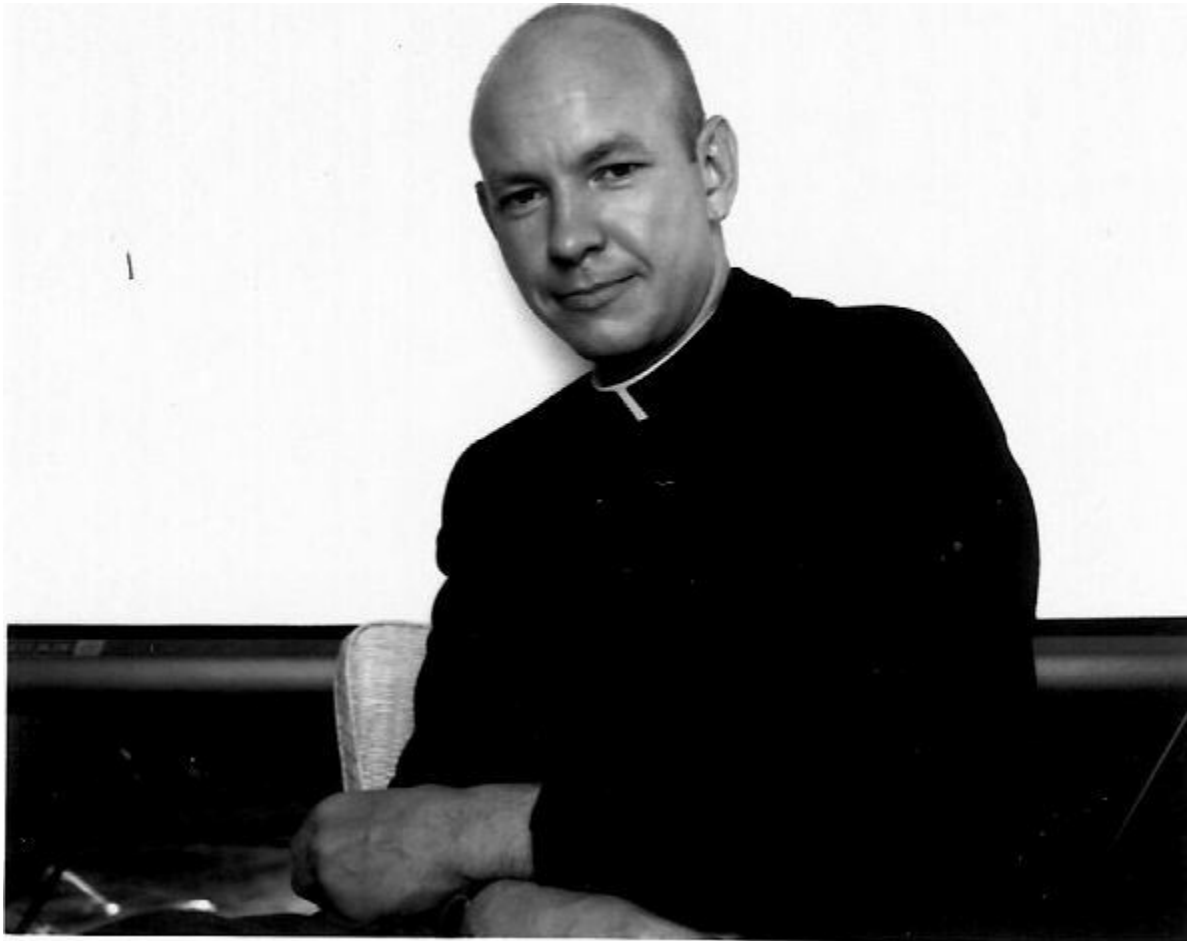
In 1960, Pastor Niedenthal was called to the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary in Maywood, Illinois, to be a professor of homiletics. During his long tenure at the seminary (which later became the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago), Professor Niedenthal taught courses in preaching as well as courses designed to equip future pastors who would be serving in rural ministry settings. The author of several books and many articles about his areas of expertise, he retired from the seminary in 1996. After his retirement, he continued to mentor students and to stay involved in the teaching of oral interpretation. Morris Niedenthal died on February 8, 2008.

Pastor Niedenthal's wife Corrine was an artist and teacher. She created the mosaic cross of Christ (now hanging in Fellowship Hall) that hung over the altar in the congregation's first sanctuary.

The Niedenthals had two children, Simon, who is an associate professor and researcher in Game Studies at the University of Malmo in Sweden; and Paula Niedenthal Brauer, a professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

- *Meta George*

Jim Sylvester, 1961 - 1971



Pastor Jim Sylvester

Our father started his ministry at Saint Andrew's in 1961, when my brother Jim was four years old, I was two, and sister Andi was a baby. There's not a lot about our father's time as pastor those days and for the next several years that we remember; except that he was gone most nights. He was always home for dinner, but then he was out, and many nights we were in bed asleep before he returned home. That was our reality, and it probably never occurred to us that it was a reality that was not shared by everyone. When we struggled with it, our mother would explain that Dad was doing important work, the work of caring for people.

As we grew, we listened to Dad talk about serving on the Columbia Human Rights Commission. We remember a neighbor coming to our home with a petition that, through some extra-legal mechanism, was meant to evict from our neighborhood the first African-American family that had moved in. Our father looked at the petition... and tore it up. These things were not directly related to his work as a pastor, but they were always absolutely a part of it, as pastor and person are things that don't separate well,

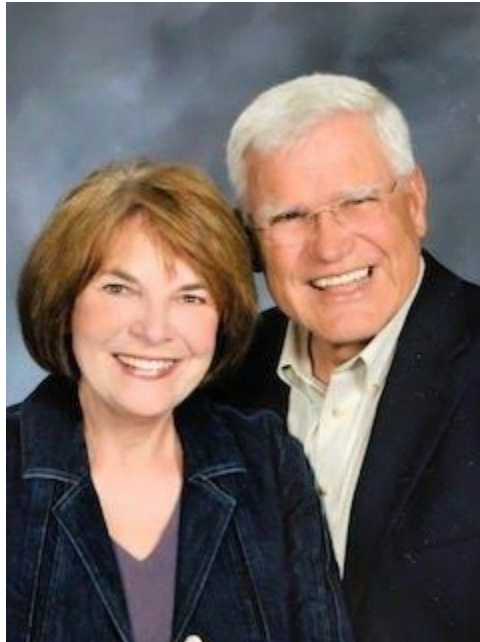
especially if you grew up in Dry Holler, Arkansas, and then discovered through your brother-in-law the gospel truth that all of God's children are equal and equally loved.

Dad was not shy as a leader. In fact, we knew even then that he could be bullheaded, that he would not go out of his way to avoid a difficult conversation or a cantankerous church member. But we also knew how often he dropped what he was doing, even if what he was "doing" was family, and went to see someone in need of comfort or help. A particularly resonant memory was the time that, even though we were poor, although we kids didn't know it, and the church was launching a building campaign, Dad wrote out a \$1,000 check in front of the congregation to begin the fund. That doesn't seem like much these days, but back then it was a nearly inconceivable amount of money, and it helped us understand how deeply he cared about what he did, who he was to the church community.

We remember Dad working very hard to keep people in conversation with one another. Columbia was a fascinating place. It was where north and south met. It was a place of new residents and ideas living alongside generational guardians of tradition. Dad did his absolute best to gather those differences under the gospel of Jesus Christ. Having not grown up in the church, Dad's faith was not a habit of being so much as it was a way of thinking, and he truly believed that people of all backgrounds and inclinations could decide to live together as sisters and brothers under the love of Christ. By and large, the people of St Andrew's were able to do that, but when they were not it was very hard on our father.

Even early on in his ministry our father had a sense that leadership required by a "mission" church was different from the leadership a more established church needed. When St Andrew's began to make that transition, Dad felt he was not the one to continue to lead the congregation. He looked at pastoral calls elsewhere. We remember a conversation around the kitchen table after he had made a trip to visit with a church in Keokuk, Iowa. To us kids, Keokuk sounded as if it were on the edge of nowhere, and in the end, Dad and Mom decided that after eleven years as its pastor, Dad would leave St Andrew's and we would stay in Columbia. It seldom works for a pastor to remain as a member of a congregation after leaving it, but St Andrew's was really our first home, so we stayed. We will always be grateful to our next pastor, Ralph Anderson, that he opened his arms to our father as "just" a member, and we will always be proud of our father that he was able to step back and make it work.

Ralph Anderson, 1972 - 1986



Jan and Pastor Anderson

It was the intriguing phone call from Columbia, MO, related to an open position as pastor of a fairly new congregation in a university town that resulted in my visiting and accepting the call to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. Jan and I with our daughters ages nearly 3 and a little over eighteen months, drove from our home in San Mateo, CA, in our 4 door Volvo sedan arriving a bit weary looking, in January of 1972. St. Andrew's members welcomed us most graciously.

We had learned that St. Andrew's was a strong congregation with a broad mix of members. That knowledge continued to expand itself throughout the 14 years we remained in Columbia.

Besides getting to know the 250 plus members that first year, I listened to members about the patterns of worship attendance. The point was emphatically made that the Christmas Eve service would be of low attendance related to the fact that many members took advantage of the holiday break at the University and would leave town. Therefore, as an attempt to create a more intimate setting, the sanctuary was carefully arranged with chairs for "worship in the round." The chairs quickly filled, with more people steadily arriving, necessitating further rearrangement. The service was full of exuberant singing and quite worshipful, but, I learned to not try that arrangement again!

St. Andrew's continued to grow, attracting strong leaders. It was an unusual opportunity to grow the ministry in various directions. Worship, education and community outreach. We were steadily supported by musicians who stretched our spirituality and educators willing to work with Sunday School, the Adult forum, and develop a creative confirmation

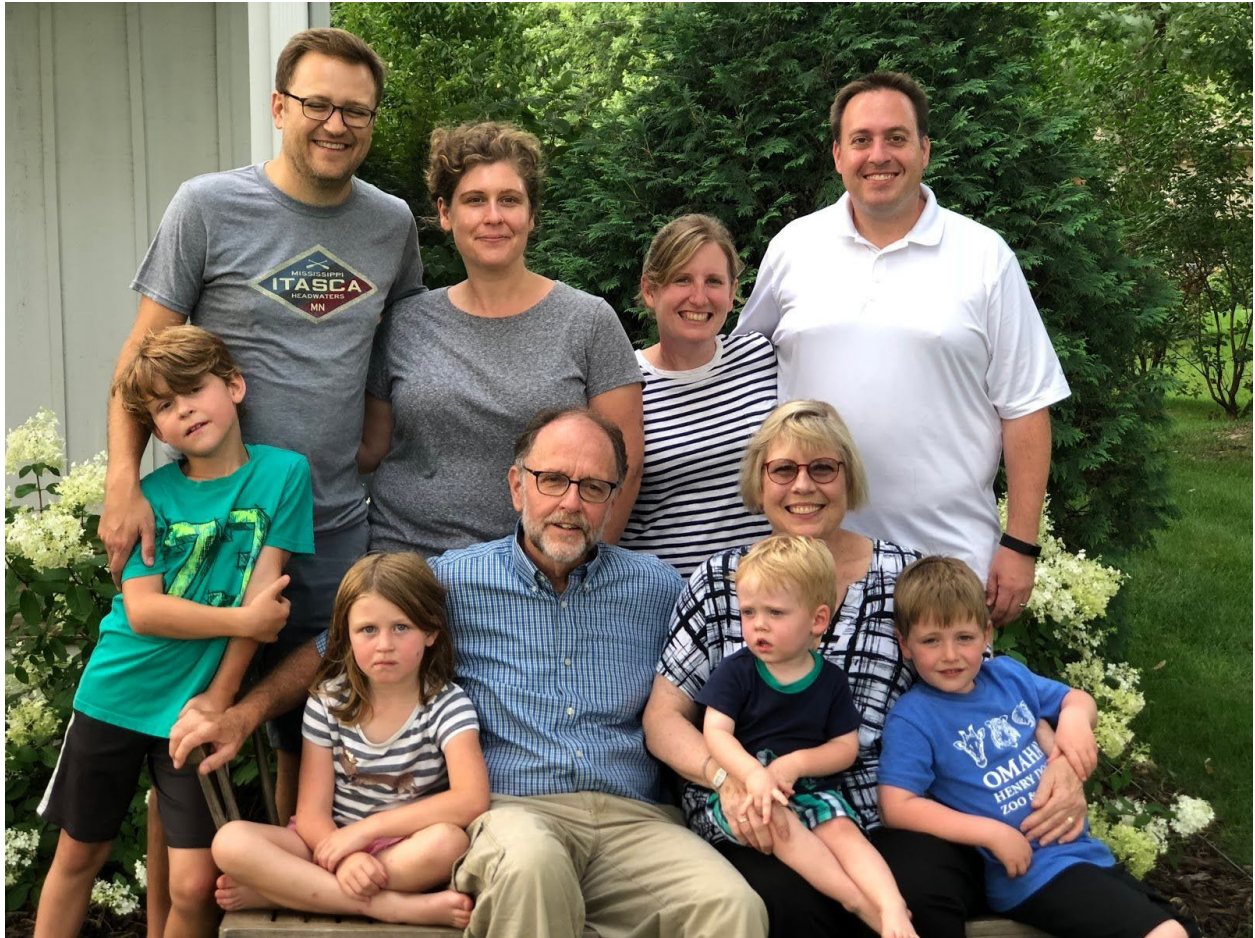
program. And, there were those who helped found the city wide Meals on Wheels program, FISH, and worked willingly in sponsoring a Vietnamese family. More education was fostered with the Theologian in Residence program welcoming Lutheran scholars Joseph Sittler, Martin Marty, and Gordon Lathrop.

Who can forget the strong youth group! How many pastors and leaders came out of that group?

The challenges and excitement of building the Centrum were overcome by how the ministry was able to expand. Obviously, that has continued! Congratulations!

The high and low points we shared with individuals and corporately are still poignant! On a lighter note, who can forget Roger Langendorfer's cinnamon rolls, the Easter Vigil services, the children's choir performances, and more. Please add your memories to this list! Our daughter Kris no longer climbs trees outside the church! Meg no longer gives the sign of the Cross behind her Dad sitting in the children's choir. Our family been grateful for the time we spent at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Columbia, Missouri!

Paul Moessner, 1986 - 2016



*Back – Eric and Krista Boyd, Anja and Steve Walentik
Front - Hugo Boyd, Vera Boyd, Pastor Paul, Donna Moessner, Jacob Walentik,
Benjamin Walentik*

One of the great joys and privileges of serving as pastor of Saint Andrew's was working with many tremendously capable people. In their professional work, their community service, and their daily lives, they are truly leaders. This abundance of competent members leads, then, to one of the great challenges of serving such a congregation: When are leaders also followers? How do we draw people together, to work together as followers of Jesus, disciples building the kingdom of God? Many members helped me learn how to do this. I must mention one.

Mel George introduced me to the phrase, *Servant Leadership*. As a mentor, Dr. George led me to the writings of the man who coined the term, stating, servant leadership "begins with the natural feeling that one wants to serve, to serve first. Then conscious choice brings one to aspire to lead." For the pastor, this leadership must start by being a servant of the Word, and the word. In preaching, teaching, organizational

administration and pastoral conversation, the words we speak must point to Jesus, the Word made flesh.

The servant-leader of the congregation must also empower the other servant-leaders to grow in the faith. Dwelling in the Word is the way we acknowledge each of us can lead others to new insights and deeper understanding of the Bible – even passages that are very familiar. Another, most significant step we took, enabling the saints of Saint Andrew's to be servant leaders, was asking our people to prepare the prayer petitions for our worship services. Various voices, out of diverse experiences, lead each of us to a deeper relationship with our Lord and with one another. As a result, we serve one another as we are part of the answer God is offering to our prayers.

Julia Will, 1995 - 2016



Mike, John, Pastor Julia Will

It was 1995, when I first walked through the doors of the Centrum with the prayer of Saint Andrew's overhead. I was reminded of our inviting God who calls us, to "come and see." The story of the disciple Andrew in John 1, grounds the congregation and speaks of the mission of the people of God. We are to actively share the Gospel, the good news of saving grace in Christ. Architect, Edward Sovik, chose the name "Centrum," for our worship space, to speak of what is central to life in Christ. We are called and gathered, drawn in like breath by the Holy Spirit to worship. Then, filled with life, through Word and sacrament, we are sent, breathed out, to offer justice and mercy to a hurting and broken world. I was filled with joy and thanksgiving to be called as the associate pastor with the people of Saint Andrew's and Pastor Paul Moessner, a wise and gifted leader. As I learned Saint Andrew's history, I was honored to be in partnership with esteemed previous pastors and Pastor David Frerichs, gifted current pastor.

My leadership as an ordained woman pastor is part of the inclusive work of the Spirit in the whole Church. Women in our denomination were first ordained in 1970. There was a sense of pioneering in my 1990 ordination. I remember when I baptized three little girls in our congregation. Their mother told me they were all pretending to be pastors and baptized everything in sight, including the dog! In my ministry, directly or implicitly, I have sought to encourage people to hear the call of Christ, some as pastors. Some contributions to the ministry of Saint Andrew's that have my watermark on them are the

“Faith Stepping Stones” memory work, to be learned and shared by the Sunday School children. Three groups that continued for ten years or more in fruitful ministry include the Chronic Illness Support Group, the Mom’s group and the Visiting Shepherds who visit and distribute communion to those unable to attend worship. In service to the Columbia community, I began Saint Andrew’s jail ministry to the women inmates of the Boone County jail which has continued for over twenty years. I also served on the Central States Synod Candidacy Committee for ten years. During that time, I was excited to have some of our people, Melissa, Anna, Ted, Chad and Scott coming through our committee. All our pastoral leaders are great gifts to the Church.

It was a privilege to serve with an abundance of gifted congregational leaders at Saint Andrew’s. Every ministry of the church is filled with the names and faces of dedicated leaders. The bible calls these leaders and role models “oaks of righteousness.” Please don’t let this image limit your picture of faithfulness. These leaders were very human with needs, struggles, some zany humor and a most precious “holy imagination,” as to what is possible in Christ. Regardless of methods, traditional or new, in tasks great or small they sought to investigate what it meant to heed Jesus’s command to love, as Christ loved us. Investing in friendships and enjoying fellowship together encourages eyes to see gifts for leadership development and service. Inviting, practicing and guiding encourages Christ followers to explore leadership in the church. I think of the disciple Andrew in John 6, as a leader, he did not rule out the incredible potential of the smallest gift . . . a child with a basket of loaves and fishes, which in the hands of Christ, fed multitudes.

I believe the pastoral leadership that has come out of Saint Andrew’s has a great deal to do with the culture of the congregation. Saint Andrew’s is a tremendously prayerful congregation, inspired by one of her great church leaders, Colette Anderson. Colette’s influence, now as a saint in light, deepened the faith of the congregation with the power of prayer. Bathed in the relationship with God in prayer, Saint Andrew’s historically has displayed a discerning openness to ideas and differences in order to do great things for the Lord. Saint Andrew’s is compassionate and welcoming. Children and young people are taken seriously in their desire to lead and serve. Pastoral candidates are loved and generously supported. My prayer for Saint Andrew’s is to continue to live out the prayer of Saint Andrew, who readily obeyed the call of Christ and follow him without delay. “Grant that we, called by your holy word, may in glad obedience offer ourselves to your service . . .” through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Peter Rehwaldt, 2016 - 2018



Pastor Peter

One of the blessings of being an interim pastor are the constant conversations I have with congregations about what it means to be a leader. At St. Andrew's, with the simultaneous departure of two longtime pastors, these conversations began with a sense of urgency - "How will we get through this?" - but I was amazed at how quickly those fears began to recede. Council members and others realized that while Pastor Paul and Pastor Julia would be missed, ultimately we would be fine. Yes, there would be mistakes along the way, and yes, things would change, but these became less

threatening and more ordinary as we got to know each other. Working together, the lay leaders and I trusted and proclaimed to the congregation that the leadership that truly matters, that truly gives hope and banishes fear, is the leadership of Christ.

Then, as always happens, there came that point at which people's fears about future leadership turned to excitement. The place I saw that happen was at the end of the Lenten "Holy Conversations" about staffing patterns and the place of LGBTs in the church and the world, when we completed the Ministry Site Profile and sent it in. The excitement wasn't that we had all the answers - we didn't. We said we wanted a pastor who could lead a staff, but we couldn't describe exactly what that staff would look like. We said we were largely but not unanimous in being open to finding the best pastor for St. Andrew's regardless of sexual orientation, as long as that pastor would be the pastor to the whole congregation and not simply those who agreed with him or her. We didn't have all the answers, but we realized that we didn't need all the answers either. I was overjoyed at the lay leadership throughout those discussions, as they modeled for the rest of congregation how to speak and listen, and as they created an environment where difficult subjects could be addressed faithfully, not fearfully.

Leadership in the church is a shared task, and in my time at St. Andrew's, we experienced this daily. Some leadership is formal, like that of people with offices and titles. Other leadership is informal, such as that exhibited by those who have the trust of the community regardless of any position they may hold. Both kinds of leadership are critical for healthy ministry to take place, and in my time at St. Andrew's, I was blessed to be part of a community with an abundance of both those kinds of leaders.

David Frerichs, 2018 - present



Daniel, Amanda, Pastor David, Megan, Dawn Frerichs

When I accepted the call to serve as senior pastor at Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church less than a year ago, I really only knew a couple things about this congregation. I knew that Saint Andrew's had a history of relatively long pastorates. To be sure, Pastor Paul and Pastor Julia were a team whose ministry spanned the more than half the history of this congregation. Pastors Niedenthal, Sylvester and Anderson make up the rest. For their ministry, for their legacy, I am grateful.

I knew also that Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church is a mid-sized congregation in a mainline denomination. With that truth, there are a list of anxieties and concerns that permeate life as church. When we begin talking about our future ministry in this place, it is no surprise that youth ministry, finances, and shifts in membership are key concerns. These concerns are not solely those of Saint Andrew's. Even as I begin acquainting myself with sister and brother leaders of congregations throughout Columbia and the nation, I hear echoes of these themes.

What I did not know was that the church world is so small. Pastor Niedenthal's mother was secretary at Saint John Lutheran Church in Russell, Kansas, when my father served there in the mid-1970's. So I was aware of Pastor Niedenthal as professor at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago at that time. This new awareness gave me

a sense of connection with this congregation. I am grateful for the stories of those early days in the life of this congregation. Pastor Niedenthal's leaving Saint Andrew's ultimately to pursue a teaching career in seminary is perhaps this congregation's first one sent to serve the larger church.

I also recall that Pastor Julia sat on the panel for my final approval for ordination. Though we did not know one another all that well, I am aware of her deep commitment to developing and supporting those who experience call to ministry. I seem to recall her nodding her head in agreement and support as I answered some sticky questions about why I spent ten days in a Buddhist Meditation training for my senior year January interim class.

Among all these pastors is an impulse to support and encourage people as they respond to the call of the Holy Spirit to serve in formal leadership throughout the church.

What I found at Saint Andrew's was a community of member leaders who have clarity and strength of purpose. I found individuals who do not easily get rattled. Such clarity, such ability to take decisive action, such ability to live in the midst of the responses, are all signs of spiritual maturity in leadership. At least that is what Frank Thomas writes in his book, *Spiritual Maturity*.

I am aware that my leadership and ministry in this place is fledgling at best. I know also that the ministry we share as Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, moving into the next decade, into what God is calling us to do and to be for the time ahead, is grounded in the movement and activity of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ, for the sake of the Good News and the world we are called to serve.

For all of this, I daily give thanks to God!
Pastor David Frerichs

Words From Our Seminarians

Anna Murphy Ballan



August Ballan, Pastor Anna Murphy Ballan, Joe Ballan, Ezra Ballan

Rev. Anna Murphy Ballan
Associate Minister, Saint Mary's Parish in Helsingborg, Sweden

While the decision to hear God's call and to respond is intimately personal in some ways, discerning that call and understanding it is necessarily communal. My experience at Saint Andrew's helped me to recognize that.

When my family moved to Columbia in 1988, we joined Saint Andrew's after a few visits. The community's influence on my spiritual growth and my call to ministry began there. My sister and I participated in Sunday school, were in the children's choir and attended worship regularly. I gradually grew into a leadership role in the youth, serving as an acolyte, in the nursery, helping with Vacation Bible School at various levels, and training to be a Peer Minister. The summer before my junior year of college, I was blessed with an internship at Saint Andrew's, during which I explored my call to pastoral ministry with Pastor Paul Moessner and Pastor Julia Will. That same fall, I helped plan and lead a Peer Ministry retreat. These opportunities for ministry at Saint Andrew's

taught me a lot about commitment and participation in the life of a congregation, and about pastoral leadership. The trust and responsibility with which I was honored at an early age is something that I carry with me, something that not only helped me to grow as a pastoral leader, but that I constantly remember and aspire to in my work with lay people today – young people, in particular.

Throughout my childhood, and in several major transitions in my life, Saint Andrew's has always been a welcoming place, a place for honesty, a place of comfort, and a place of deep joy. The space that it provided challenged me to be myself, to ask questions, and to take my faith seriously. Throughout my education and discernment process I have felt supported and encouraged by the people of Saint Andrew's – in my years as a seminarian at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, in the year that I spent as an interfaith chaplain at a large hospital in Chicago, and in my first years of ordained ministry here in southern Sweden.

On June 16, 2012, I was ordained in the first worship service celebrated in the “new” sanctuary at Saint Andrew's. I was ordained as a missionary of the ELCA, and am now serving in a congregation of the Church of Sweden in Helsingborg. In an international context, I am frequently asked to compare and contrast my experience of the Church of Sweden with that of the ELCA. In such conversations, Saint Andrew's is, of course, a significant point of reference for me. I generally find myself sharing my experience of the community of Saint Andrew's as one committed to being the body of Christ in the world. I speak about the importance of worshiping together. The commitment to living with and supporting one another in real and meaningful ways. The commitment to serving one another and serving the greater community. The commitment to raising up leaders among us, for the sake of the world. What a powerful witness. I give thanks for your witness, saints of Saint Andrew's!

Ted Carnahan



Jennifer, Laura, Peter, Pastor Ted, Rebecca, Anneliese Carnahan

Pastor Ted Carnahan is currently serving the congregation at Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church in Holdrege, Nebraska.

Maureen Howard



Pastor Maureen Howard, Michael Howard, Mariah Howard, Ryan Peterson, Rachel (Howard) Peterson, Steven Howard

It is a great honor to be invited back, to join my brothers and sisters in Christ at St. Andrew's, as you joyously celebrate your 60th Anniversary in spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The Howard family was active in the life of St. Andrew's in the 1990's. Steven and Mariah were born in Columbia with Mariah being baptized at St. Andrew's by Pastor Julia Will. Rachel received her First Communion training and First Communion at St. Andrew's. It was at St. Andrew's the bedrock of Faith Formation occurred for Rachel and Steven. We are deeply grateful to and for the people of St. Andrew's and the wonderful memories we have participating in the life of the congregation.

I knew when I was in high school that God was calling me to be a pastor. However, God gave me time to grow before the call to seminary. It was during this time of growth that we were active at St. Andrew's. It was here that I was given the opportunity to: co-teach the 3-year old class (which I did until our move), organize and lead the Children's Christmas Pageant into an "Off, Off Broadway" dinner/theater show, co-led Vacation Bible School creating it into an entire family event, and served on several committees. The openness of Pastors Moessner and Will allowed me, and others, to try

new things. I have taken this lesson with me in my own ministry: be open to change! Pastor Will also showed me what good pastoral care looked like. She prayed with us, at the hospital, prior to Rachel receiving another set of ear tubes/adenoids removed. No surgery is too insignificant to have a pastoral presence.

We moved to Boone, IA where God finally said "NOW!" was the time to attend seminary. With Mike and the family's support, I attended Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Mike, Rachel, Steven, and Mariah stayed home in Boone while I commuted to Luther during the week, coming home on weekends. I earned my M.Div. in 2008 and that summer we moved to Eureka, KS to serve the people of Christ Lutheran Church. I left Christ Lutheran in 2012 to serve Immanuel Lutheran Church in Washington, IA. I continue to serve the people at Immanuel Lutheran.

Mike is a professor in the community college system teaching Biology classes. Rachel has her MS in Speech Language Pathology and is the SLP in the school district of Sauk Centre, MN. Ryan, her husband, is finishing his BS in Special Education in St. Cloud, MN. Steven is a jet pilot for a private company in Janesville, WI. Mariah is a Sophomore at Iowa State University, Ames, studying Fashion Merchandising. No matter where we are the Howards are die hard MIZZOU fans! Black and Gold all the way (OK, Mike bleeds red for Nebraska).

Congratulations on your 60th Anniversary. May God continue to bless your ministry as you serve God's people in Columbia, Missouri, and around the world in the name of Jesus the Christ.

Peace,
Pastor Maureen Howard
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Washington, IA

Chad Langdon



Vivine, Lynde, Pastor Chad, Rosa Langdon

Name: Pastor Chad Langdon

Family: Lynde (wife), Vivine & Rosa

Part of St. Andrew's family: Fall 1996 – Summer 2000 while a student at Mizzou

Seminary: Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

Congregations served:

- Hope Lutheran, St. Charles, MO (June 2004 – September 2011)
- Christ Lutheran, Wichita, KS (October 2011 – current)

My time at St. Andrew's was critical to my life and to my calling as a pastor. As a freshman at Mizzou, I started worshipping at St. Andrew's on Saturday evenings. I really appreciated the music, the informality, and the time of the service. It was very different from the high church environment I grew up in and felt much closer to the camp-style worship that I was accustomed to for many years as a church camp counselor at Camp Tomah Shinga. There weren't many other college students who attended, but I loved interacting with the families, listening to Pastors Paul & Julia preach, and I got to know Jim Lewis well. Jim recruited me to help out with the senior high youth group and plan monthly gatherings called Breakaways. For a couple years, I led the team that planned these messy, fun evenings and I picked up a lot of different youth group games that I still use today in my ministry. As a youth group sponsor, I regularly attended service projects, lock-ins and retreats. I also volunteered to help out with the confirmation program. Pastor Paul put me in charge of a small group of 6th grade boys and I became their leader. They were an energetic crew, but I really enjoyed trying to corral them, teach them a little something, and really just build

relationships with them during the confirmation Power Events. I was fortunate to get to go to Rainbow Trails with this group of guys, and St. Andrew's generously flew me back to Missouri during my first year of seminary so that I could attend their confirmation service.

Looking back, the people and leaders at St. Andrew's allowed me to experiment with my call and helped me figure out if church leadership was something I could do or would be interested in. I had many conversations with Pastor Paul, Pastor Julia, and Jim Lewis. They were all very encouraging and affirming. They answered my questions, gave me advice, and helped me discern the call to pastoral ministry that eventually became my life's work. Their styles of ministry were also very different and that gave me permission to be myself. The youth and kids gave me a wonderful break from my undergrad studies, and many of the families reminded me of home. I even found part-time work through members of St. Andrew's and worked at the Mark-It t-shirt shop all 4 years in college. As I went off to seminary, the congregation gave me a very generous scholarship gift to help with my expenses.

This church blessed me in so many ways. After I became a pastor and ended up back in the Central States Synod, I loved getting updates from Pastor Paul and Pastor Julia at various synod events. This congregation will always hold a special place in my heart and has played a vital role in my faith journey.

Crystal Lee



Matt, Crystal, Randy, Stephanie Lee

I am currently in my second year as a seminarian at United Lutheran Seminary-Gettysburg. I am largely here because of the support I have received from St. Andrew's- its members, staff, and pastors. During my time at St. Andrew's, I was surrounded by people who lived into the baptismal promise made by the congregation to help and guide the faith of the newly baptized. I remember pastors and members, making suggestions for me to go to seminary. After college graduation, I was offered the position of part-time, interim Director of Youth and Family Ministry at St. Andrew's. During my three years as the Director of Youth and Family Ministry, the congregation supported me and the work I was doing. I spent three years working with fabulous children, youth, parents, and volunteers. They were supportive of me during my time and supportive of my decision to leave the position in acknowledging my call to attend seminary. Because of the outward call of the congregation- the members and the pastors, I was better able to hear my internal call to ministry. I want to thank the congregation for all of their support, past, present, and future.

Melissa A. Micham (Afdahl)



Marvin Micham and Pastor Melissa

Call to Pastoral Ministry:

Growing up at St. Andrew's, for me, was an incredible place to be shaped and encouraged as a person of faith. When I started college, I began reading the Bible daily and fell in love with the story of the Israelites – so stubborn and rebellious – and the incredible God who was consistently patient and loving. I wanted everyone to know about God's love for them! My college roommate was the first to say to me, "You know, you would make a great college chaplain." It was the permission I needed to switch majors from architecture to religion and pursue my faith as a professional vocation.

I cannot give thanks enough for those who nurtured me in faith along the way, especially: Dana McConnell, Sue Sjoblom, Julia Will, and Paul and Donna Moessner. Perhaps most of all, I give thanks to God for blessing me with parents who taught confirmation, led stewardship campaigns, and ensured that my sister and I were in worship every Sunday (even if we were late)!! I also have incredible gratitude for my sister who believes in me even when I don't.

Service History:

My first call was to Glenwood Lutheran Church in Toledo, OH. I met my husband at a glass-blowing demonstration at the world-renowned Glass Pavilion of the Toledo Museum of Art. We were married at Glenwood in 2008. During my tenure, we opened The Giving Store – a free store with clothing and household items available without cost. It was a wonderful format to meet our neighbors and share our faith together. In 2015, I departed Glenwood to become the site director for Abundant Life Together – Toledo. This gap-year ministry encouraged young adults to explore their vocation, practiced faith, and build community. As this ministry ended, I sought another congregational call. I now serve as the Associate Pastor of Olivet Lutheran Church, a larger congregation in Sylvania, OH. It is a blessing to work alongside my colleague, Rev. Nathan Tuff.

For the past seven years, Marvin and I have lived on five acres of land in Berkey, OH. We raise hens – primarily for fun, but also for their eggs. We have two cats, Charlemagne and Lady, who keep us entertained. Marvin and I have been able to travel domestically and abroad.

Cathy Rosenholtz



Cathy Rosenholtz

Pastor Cathy Rosenholtz currently serves the congregation at Augustana Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C.

Scott Simmons



Pastor Scott Simmons

Pastor Scott Simmons currently serves the LydiaPlace Collaborative Communities in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Garrett Struessel



Kenneth, Stacey, Joseph, Pastor Garrett Struessel

Dear St. Andrews Saints!

What a privilege to share in the 60th Anniversary Celebration. I am sorry we won't be able to attend this year but are sending our thoughts and prayers towards Columbia.

My story of St. Andrews began early in the 1970's, when my family visited for a Sunday worship, and Pastor Ralph Anderson came to the house for a visit. St. Andrews and our faith community were central supports when my father died in a car accident in 1977. We are forever grateful for the church during a very difficult time for my whole family. Later, St. Andrews would grow in new ways under the steadfast leadership of Pastor Paul Moessner.

My sisters and I were confirmed at St. Andrews and participated in numerous Youth Events, including fund-raisers for the Lions Eye Bank, backpacking trips to Colorado, and canoe trips to the Boundary Waters in Northern Minnesota and Canada, and a mission to trip riding a bus to Mexico City!

I remember the spiritual leadership and warmth of the congregation; it was always a very diverse and accepting place. I like to say, as a young person, that I didn't always want to GO to church, but once I was there I didn't want to leave; it has been a very formative place for me and many others.

In High School, the newly hired Youth Director, Dana, took me to visit Luther College in Decorah, IA. This visit sealed my interest in a Lutheran college education, and was a distinct turn, as it would turn out later, in my church leadership. I met my wife Stacey (Sokol) at Luther, and we both worked at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Colorado.

After two summers of serving as a camp counselor, and graduating from Luther, I accepted a position as a Youth Director at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Fort Collins, CO. I served there for three years and was encouraged by Pastor Gary McCluskey to consider serving in the church through ordained ministry. Stacey and I were married in June of 1995, and we moved to Berkeley, CA in June of 1996, in order to begin seminary.

I graduated in May of 2000 with an M.Div, and started as an associate pastor at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Littleton, CO.

My second Call was at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Lakewood, CO where I served for 11 and a half years. I accepted a Call to serve at Hope Lutheran Church in Milton, WI, and after three years, accepted a Call to serve First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Longmont, CO.

We have come to know Colorado as our home, among millions of newcomers, and have two children, Kenneth (15), and Joseph (14).

I am grateful for this journey that started at St. Andrews and I know now how much it has influenced me as a young person, and now as a person in leadership in the church.

Blessings on the celebration this year, and the many more to follow.
Thank you and God Bless,
Pastor Garrett Struessel

Steve Sylvester



Pastor Steve Sylvester

I was ordained as a parish pastor on May 5, 1991, to serve Immanuel and Little Plum Lutheran Churches in Pepin, Wisconsin. When I was running around the grounds of St. Andrew's with my brother and sister, Jim and Andi, and Bruce Fairchild, Van Darkow and so many others, I'm sure no one ever dreamed that ordination was part of my future. Those experiences, however, and being cared for by so many surrogate grandparents and aunts and uncles, from the Newmans, Marquardts, Headleys,

Struessels and Andersons to name a few (and I apologize for not including all of you. There were simply so many!), were the basis that sent me into the ministry.

I served for four years in Pepin. Jennifer and I were married in my fourth year there, and a little less than a year later, I accepted a call to Emanuel Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, so we moved to what the locals called “northeast.” Four years after that, we moved to the east side of Saint Paul, and First Lutheran Church. All of my calls to that point had been as a solo pastor, although at Emanuel I was blessed to serve with Bimen Limbong for two years, a native of Indonesia who was in seminary at Luther in Saint Paul, and needed a place to live and work. Bimen lived with us for those two years, and our older son, Sam, who was born during that time, still refers to him as, “My other dad.”

Following four years at First (are you sensing a pattern here?), where our second son, Charlie, was born, we moved to Dallas, Texas, where I serve for, you guessed, four years at King of Glory Lutheran Church as Director of Discipleship. That was my first experience serving on a larger staff, so my, yes again, four years there prepared me well for my current call at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Circle Pines, Minnesota, where I have served as lead pastor since 2007.

Our Savior’s is a church with a rich community history. The congregation started up in 1946, at roughly the same time that Circle Pines was organizing as a cooperative. It was ten years before Circle Pines incorporated as a township, and that cooperative spirit is still very much a part of our DNA. We are deeply involved in our community and we serve as the hub for ecumenical and agency relationships in the area. We are a young congregation, and are getting younger all the time. In addition to our local ministry efforts, we are involved with two global ministries. Tarkanfi (Start Walking!) is a ministry in Ethiopia that brings women out of the sex trade. It was begun and is still led by Worknesh Begi, a native Ethiopian and Our Savior’s member. We are also in our twelfth year of relationship with Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala (ILAG, the national Lutheran church in Guatemala) and the congregation of San Isidro Labrador in Nueva, Guatemala, having sent nine delegations for visits during those twelve years. I have been blessed to participate in two delegations to visit our sisters and brothers in Guatemala.

All of this began at Saint Andrew’s. It’s very difficult, of course, to trace back to and understand all the influences from my childhood and adolescence (and young adulthood, as well, as Scott Simmons and I were involved with Saint Andrew’s and its worship and youth ministries when we lived in Columbia after graduating from Bethany College in Kansas) that helped guide me to where I am today. But God’s hand was in all of it. I wish all of you well as you begin your 61st year as a congregation. As you continue to answer God’s call to be God’s children, good things will happen in God’s world.

Pastor Steve Sylvester
Lead Pastor
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church, Circle Pines, Minnesota

Ministries

Faith Formation

Family and Youth Ministry at St. Andrews comes in many forms, and we strive to consider the lifelong needs of all our members in each individual's unique journey of faith. We have a play area in our narthex where little ones can have a break from worship services while their caregivers can still hear the service. We also have a nursery that families can use. Our Sunday School serves children from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Elementary Sunday School uses a workshop rotation model, in which we study the same Bible story for 3-4 weeks. Each class goes to a different workshop each week, and explores a different aspect of the story. Workshops can be art projects, cooking, drama, or science, for example. Volunteer workshop leaders only need to commit for 3-4 weeks, and this allows a greater range of adults and confirmed youth to participate as leaders in Sunday School. Our older children take part in many trips and special events, including a fall bonfire, Youth Quake trips, summer mission trips, ELCA youth gatherings, and the Rainbow Trails trip for 9th graders preparing for Confirmation. Vacation Bible School takes place for one week every summer, and involves children and adults of all ages. Our milestones ministry celebrates life events starting with baptism, and including backpacks for kindergarteners, Bibles for third graders, first communion in fifth grade, confirmation in 9th grade, and high school graduation dinner. Throughout our ministry to our families, we build relationships and establish a safe, loving environment in which everyone can ask questions, express themselves, share their gifts, and grow in faith, fellowship, and service.

-Cathy Richter

Global Missions

After Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan, he asked, "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell in the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to the lawyer, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10: 36-37

Saint Andrew's has:

Helped 5,753 smallholder farmers and their families in developing countries become food secure for life since 2003.

- We have joined with Peace United Church of Christ-Hartsburg farmers to raise more than \$286,000 to help overseas farmers learn sustainable agriculture as part of our project with Growing Hope Worldwide (formerly Foods Resource Bank). Because this training costs only \$55 per family, this partnership helped 5,208 farmers and their families become food secure for life. Since 2015, we've also supported Peace Lutheran-Salisbury farmers. This partnership has raised

more than \$30,000 – helping another 545 overseas farmers and their families become food secure!

- Our share of Peace UCC's profits and all of Peace Lutheran's profits have gone to Growing Hope Worldwide/Lutheran World Relief sustainable agriculture projects.

Aided disaster relief through Lutheran World Relief kits & quilts.

- Since 2005, we have made more than 760 quilts, 1,385 school kits, 375 baby kits, 370 personal care kits and 30 sewing kits. Figures for previous years are not available although we did participate in this ministry.
- St. Andrew's became the first mid-Missouri LWR substation for collecting quilts and kits in 2007. We used members' trailers in the early years and now rent a truck to take the boxes to St. Louis on their way overseas.

Supported other global mission efforts.

- We have supported various overseas missions for ELCA and LWR since 2000, including several missionaries and Young Adults in Global Missions and overseas hospitals.

Supported these efforts through fundraising, grants and offerings.

- We have used a variety of activities to support our Global Missions – including collecting an annual Lenten offering along with Sunday School and Lenten soup supper offerings; selling homemade canned goods and Fair Trade items and pumpkins; hosting quilt and silent auctions and Mission Meals; and using Thrivent grants.

- *Karon Speckman*

Lutheran Family and Children's Services

Lutheran Family and Children's Services (LFCS) opened its Mid-Missouri office in 1995 with a single social worker. Former Pastor Paul Moessner served on our Mid-Missouri Advisory Board from the very beginning. The growth of LFCS programs has increased tremendously over the years. Currently we employ 10 full time and 7 contract workers while serving 52 counties in central, northern and western Missouri with Regional Director Heather Wall. Programs include pregnancy counseling, adoption, maternal mental health and nurturing.

Saint Andrew's and its members were generous in their time and funds during our early growth and the capital campaigns that ran from 1999-2001, the Defining Moment Capital Campaign from 2005-2008 and the LFCS Growing Hope Capital Campaign. We could not have been this successful without our Co-Chairs, Meta George and Jerry Nelson along with the Mid-Missouri Steering committee: Linda Brokamp, Justin Brown, Mike Dahl, Chuck Headley, Mary Lou Hughes, Geneen Morgan and David Trinklein.

Their insight and knowledge during these campaigns were invaluable to Christine Corcoran (White), the Regional Director.

Pastor Paul was instrumental in helping with our tax initiative, Putting Kids First, by dedicating a sermon to the tax initiative as well as urging people to sign the petitions and to vote. We are honored that we had many Ambassadors from St. Andrew's: Carol and Chuck Headley, Jerry Nelson, Meta and Mel George, Red and Dorcas Leighton and Wilson and Sharyn Freyermuth. Their endless work and guidance for our office has been such a blessing.

The members of Saint Andrews have supported our agency every Christmas since we opened the doors. Their generous offerings help the families we serve. Jayne Young, Saint Andrew's member on our current Advisory Board, is instrumental in promoting needs and short-term fund raising. St. Andrew's has allowed LFCS to use their space over the past eight years for our Successful Young Parents Group. They have opened their church kitchen, nursery, conference room as well as their hearts to our families as they gather together to support each other under the guidance of the mentors, volunteers and LFCS Staff.

We were blessed to incorporate members of Saint Andrews as volunteers, promoters and attendees of our signature fundraising event, Festival of Trees from 1995-2014. Pastor Paul Moessner offered the services of Boy Scout Troop 706 to help move the trees from our office to the Holiday Inn. Michele Towns, Office Manager, fondly remembers that support as well as that of Geneen Morgan who spent countless hours hand addressing 500 invitations to the Festival and transcribing records to electronic form.

Thank you to the members and staff of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church for your caring and loving hearts. Your support continues to be amazing to the families we serve. We wouldn't be where we are today without St. Andrew's and its members.

Music

Martin Luther wrote, "Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music."

We are grateful for the many musicians who bless us all year long in every season and occasion with their leadership and their gifts of sacred music:

- Regular work by the Adult and Children's Choirs
- Resurrection Ensemble leading worship once a month
- Sunday School and Vacation Bible School bands
- Brass Ensemble playing for Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, Reformation, and Christmas
- String Ensemble playing for Good Friday
- Instrument soloists

- Vocal Soloists

Saint Andrew's also provides a venue for numerous student instrument and/or vocal recitals. Other special events include concerts by Show Me Brass as well as a benefit concert for Salvation Army.

On Sunday, November 5, 2017, we said goodbye to Nancy Robertson who had served Saint Andrew's as Music Minister for 12½ years. She returned to her hometown of Freeport, Tennessee, to become the minister of music at Mount View United Methodist Church. Nancy's departure came at a time when the congregation was finalizing a call to a new pastor.

During an interim period, thanks go to Sheryl Mehrhoff, church organist, for leading the music program and to Anne Cox for playing for Saturday night services. Then, on August 1, 2018, we welcomed our new Music Director, Colin Knoth. We are looking forward to his leadership in our music program at Saint Andrew's.

- *Sheryl Mehrhoff*

Troop 706

In December of 1966 a group of young men with a love of adventure and the outdoors banded together to start St. Andrew's Boy Scout Troop 706. With the help of their families and the support of St. Andrew's these boys committed themselves to the scouting ideals of duty to God, duty to country and to helping other people at all times. In the ensuing 51 years over 500 young men from all over Columbia have found a home in Troop 706. To date, 146 young men in Troop 706 have completed the toughest challenge scouting has to offer, that of becoming an Eagle Scout. Each of their names is inscribed on a plaque located in the Fellowship Hall. Less than 5% of scouts reach the rank of Eagle Scout. The large number of Eagles from Troop 706 is a testament not only to the hard work of each individual scout but also to the commitment of their adult leaders and the unwavering support they have received from the St. Andrew's community.

Our scouts have camped, hiked, biked, climbed, swam, sailed and fished all over the country while learning critical leadership and team building skills. A central part of the troop's purpose is to promote servant leadership and our scouts have completed thousands of hours of community service with nonprofit groups like Clean Up Columbia, the Urban Farm, the Central Missouri Food Bank, Camp Hickory Hill, Rockbridge State Park and numerous local schools and churches.

Our world has changed considerably since that first group of young men raised their right hands and recited the Scout Oath and Scout Law. However, another group of young men follow in their footsteps today by reciting the same Oath and Law every Monday night in the Fellowship Hall. The scouts and leaders of Troop 706 are grateful

for the support we have received over the last half century and congratulate St. Andrew's on its 60th Anniversary.

- *Daniel Hassett*

Social Ministries

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

Our church is messy. When you walk through the narthex you cannot help but notice the volunteer sign-up sheets and baskets, boxes and bins to collect food, toiletries, school bags, quilts and other donations. St. Andrew's does not just exist in the community, we serve the community, sharing God's grace with our time and talents and gifts. At St. Andrew's we pray with both our lips and our hands. We are not afraid to get messy.

And our commitment to community service is growing stronger. We are volunteering more, donating more, and teaching our children and youth the joy of service. Congregation members also serve as directors, leaders and volunteers with groups outside our church circle, spreading God's grace even further.

While it is impossible to capture every service done in the last 60 years in the name of Christ, the following is a snapshot of St. Andrew's continuing efforts to love through faithful service.

Service to the Community

Loaves and Fishes

The Columbia Interfaith Alliance operates a soup kitchen that serves meals for anyone who is hungry every single day of the year - and St. Andrew's is there. Congregation volunteers plan, shop, prepare, and cook a meal every fourth Sunday of the month - even when the day falls on a holiday.

The congregations participating in Loaves and Fishes initially served meals out of a public housing unit, but that space soon became too small. In 2012, the ministry moved to Wilkes Boulevard United Methodist Church, which has a large kitchen located in the urban center of the city. However, the kitchen was never intended to serve so many every single day.

In 2014 members of St. Andrew's applied for a grant through Thrivent Financial Services to assist Wilkes Boulevard in updating the kitchen. Thrivent donated \$5,000 and pledged to donate an additional \$5,000 if the community raised \$10,000. St. Andrew's notified the interfaith community and the money was raised, resulting in a \$20,000 donation to the project. The new facilities were blessed in 2015 and the ministry continues in a modernized space that meets health code standards and will support the mission for years to come.

Jail Ministry

Pastor Julia Will first introduced St. Andrews to ministering to the incarcerated. She trained a group of volunteers to lead Bible studies at the Boone County Jail. This ministry continues with an even larger group of dedicated volunteers that meet with approximately 10-20 inmates on every month with a 5th Sunday for Bible study, songs, and prayers. The inmates are typically very poor, unable to post bail, and are starved for the love, hope and peace that only Christ can bring.

In 2018, St. Andrew's purchased a book cart and the congregation filled the cart with books for all reading levels, focusing on materials to assist inmates in studying for the high school equivalency examination and to prepare for life after incarceration. A special thanks to Thrivent Financial Services and Scholastic, Inc. for donating towards this project as well.

The congregation supports this ministry in other ways. Cards are written to the inmates as part of the Gods' Work, Our Hands weekend and children have made bookmarks for the inmates to remind them that they are loved.

God's Work, Our Hands Weekend

On September 7th, 2014, St. Andrew's first joined hundreds of ELCA congregations in the annual God's Work, Our Hands day of service. On that day over 100 St. Andrew's volunteers packaged food at the Food Bank. In addition, the children packed school supplies for Lutheran World Relief and made cards for veterans.

Now this day of service has evolved to an entire weekend of service, with activities for everyone in the congregation, no matter their age or ability. In 2018 the congregation again packed food at the Food Bank. However, volunteers also gardened with Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, helped clean the Russell Chapel Church, and handed out food at the Russell Chapel pantry. A team also removed garbage from a stretch along Stadium Boulevard. Volunteers knitted and crocheted blankets hats and scarves for refugees throughout the summer, baked treats for cancer patients, and wrote cards to be distributed through the jail ministry. Children made pillowcases for the Women's and Children's Hospital, wrote cards to veterans, and prepared jars of dried soup to be distributed through Love, Inc. It was a busy weekend, a messy weekend, and a weekend full of joy of service.

Habitat for Humanity

St. Andrew's built a house with Habitat for Humanity to celebrate the church's 50th Anniversary and the commitment continues. Every year St. Andrew's spends a day or more working on a new house to provide affordable, safe housing to a family.

Voluntary Action Center Christmas Gifts

For decades St. Andrew's has celebrated the Christmas gift of Jesus by sharing with families and individuals in need in the community. Through the years St. Andrew's has given clothes, toys, appliances, household goods and food for meals with hundreds of

families, but this annual ritual is actually a gift to the congregation as well. Our children help select gifts for other children, the adults are reminded that not everyone eats too much at Christmas, and we all remember the night when Jesus was born into humble surroundings. From the least of us comes the greatest!

Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri

St. Andrew's loves to eat and wants to make sure everyone in the community has plenty of food. There are dedicated baskets in the narthex to collect non-perishable food throughout the year. In addition, the congregation volunteers to package food and has conducted food drives such as the Soup-R-Bowl in coordination with Super Bowl Sunday.

Youth Service Projects

The youth love to serve too! In 2015 and 2016 the youth traveled to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota for a mission trip.

Special Projects

The needs of the community and the interests of the congregation are constantly changing. In addition to St. Andrews' regular and continuing commitments, the congregation has also participated in a number of other opportunities to serve. For example, the congregation helped a grandmother who was caring for six young children move into a suitable home. The congregation has also rang bells at Christmastime for the Salvation Army, donated shoes to students through the Shoes that Fit program, and donated blood to the Red Cross.

Lutheran Family and Children's Services

St. Andrew's is especially supportive of the Lutheran Family and Children's Services of Missouri. Through the leadership of Pastor Paul Moessner, the Mid-Missouri Branch was begun and has grown in providing adoption and other social services to mothers and adoptive families in the region. St. Andrew's annually collects a special offering on Christmas Eve for LFCS and participates in other fundraising activities for the organization, including gift trees, the Baby Bottle Boomerang, and Christmas Tree auctions. LFCS regularly uses St. Andrew's church facilities for parenting classes and support groups for adoptive parents.

In addition to the congregation initiatives, many members donate additional time to this group. Several have served on the Board of Directors. About 10 years ago members of St. Andrew's led the capital campaign that raised \$350,000 for the Branch Office. In 2012, LFCS was instrumental in getting on the ballot an initiative which created the Children's Services Fund in Boone County, funded by a quarter-cent sales tax, the proceeds to go to children mental health services and support for children in the area. Many members of St. Andrew's supported this initiative financially and collected signatures, posted signs and spread the word about the program.

Boy Scouts

Nearly 60 years ago St. Andrew's provided financial assistance and use of our space for the development and operation of Troop 706. The annual budget assisted in purchasing of cooking and camping gear and stored it in the church between events. Every Monday evening is still very busy at the Church. With great leaders and member involvement, Troop 706 became a leader among troops in the area and produced a very large number of Eagle Scouts, many from our congregation. Their names have nearly filled a large plaque displayed in the Fellowship Hall. A second plaque is being started as part of the 60th Anniversary and recognition of leadership.

Financial Gifts

The congregation donates financial resources to a number of community causes throughout the year.

Endowment Fund

For over 50 years the Endowment Fund has been dedicated to Christian education and community service. Funds are invested and the interest generated is annually donated to community causes in Boone County, generally about \$500 each, as well as for church music and Christian education. This Fund is governed by the Endowment Board, elected by the congregation. A special offering is collected every Easter to continue to increase the principal for the Fund, and gifts are received from individuals and memorials throughout the year for the same purpose.

The following are examples of organizations that have received support through the Fund: Meals on Wheels, Rainbow House, Children's Grove, Sustainable Farms, St. Francis House, Lois Bryant House, Turning Point, the Voluntary Action Center, Woodhaven, Columbia Older Adult Ministry, Turning Point, Worley Street Roundtable, Sturgeon Ministerial Food Bank, Lutheran Children's and Family Services, Loaves and Fishes, Coyote Hills.

In 2013, the congregation borrowed \$75,000 from the Endowment Fund at 3% interest payable monthly. There was no repayment of principal during the period of the loan which is due in full on May 31, 2020. This was beneficial to both parties as the Endowment Fund would only have earned 1% on a CD at that time and the church was paying 3.5% on its first mortgage. This decreased the cost of the mortgage to the congregation, freeing up funds for other church ministries. It also increased the interest generated by the Fund that could be donated to community causes.

In 2018, the Endowment Board decided to move its funds to investments in equity funds of industries deemed socially responsible. This allows both the principal and the interest to continue serving the community!

Fifth Sunday Offerings

On months with a 5th Sunday a special offering is collected for a community service organization. This helps the congregation learn more about the various organizations in

the area that are serving a variety of needs and gives individuals the opportunity to learn about the range of programs and to pool funds towards worthy causes. Individuals are welcome to suggest a cause and the Community Ministry Team makes the final decision.

Since 2012, the congregation has donated 5th Sunday offerings to: Boone County Council on Aging, Boonville Valley Hope Alcohol, Drug and Related Treatment Services, Centro Latino de Salud, Coalition Against Human Trafficking, Columbia Area Older Adult Ministries, Harbor House Shelter, Interfaith Resource Center, Lutheran Children and Family Services, MedZou Health Clinic, Moving Ahead, MU Eldercare Center, Rainbow House, Refugee and Immigration Services, Russell Chapel Food Pantry, Sturgeon Food Pantry, The Wardrobe, True North, and the Voluntary Action Center.

Sunday School Offerings

Our young people are learning to share their money, no matter how modest, to support organizations in the community. Special Sunday School offerings are collected and donated to causes such as the Rainbow House and the Food Bank.

Esther Circle

The Esther Circle supports the community as well. Members annually select projects to support with their offerings. In the past few years, these projects have included donations to the city Heat, Energy and Light Program (HELP) for utility assistance for families; Love, Inc.; and the Operation K.I.T.E. Foundation (Keeping in Touch Eternally), which helps children stay connected with incarcerated parents.

Ruth Circle

The Ruth Circle takes a collection at its monthly meeting and donates funds to community groups as well. The group is particularly partial to True North Women's Shelter and Oaks Indian Mission in Oklahoma. In past years the group has also donated to Rainbow House and Stop Human Trafficking.

Men's Breakfast Group

The Men's Breakfast Group meets monthly for Bible study and fellowship. The group collects donations for a number of worthy causes, averaging over \$300 annually. In 2018 the group is donating towards Oaks Indian Mission.

Space and Encouragement for Service by Other Groups

St. Andrew's opens its doors to the community and encourages individuals and groups to use our space. This is yet another way we support the community. We are blessed to have a facility that has been recently remodeled, handicapped accessible, has adequate and lighted parking and is centrally located in the city, making it an excellent meeting location. The facility is frequently used by the Boy Scouts, Lutheran Children and Family Services, support groups such as Al-Anon and Overeaters Anonymous, music instructors, and the Boone County Clerk on election days.

Service to the Congregation

God calls us to support each other as well as the community. St. Andrew's has a variety of ministries designed to care for the congregation.

- Card Ministry: This ministry writes notes and sends handmade cards to those who are ill or grieving.
- Cradle Roll: This ministry makes our "Splash" Christian magazine available to new parents. When a second child is born, the parents are given the book, Parenting for a Purpose. Baptism anniversary cards are sent out until the children are old enough to enter Sunday School.
- Anonymous Angels: This ministry was started in 2016 to collect funds to aid congregation members who are in financial need. Donors are anonymous as well as the recipients.
- College Connections: Volunteers bake and purchase snacks and treats which are mailed to college students from the congregation.
- Comfort Baskets: This ministry creates baskets filled with meaningful and personal items for those who have experienced the loss of a close family member.
- Feed My Lambs: This ministry delivers meals to those who have returned home from the hospital or who have had a baby.
- Funeral Receptions/Luncheons: This ministry provides receptions or luncheons for funerals/Memorial Services.
- Military Outreach: This ministry sends care packages to family and friends of church members serving in the military.
- Prayer Ministry: Prayer requests are sent to an online prayer group as well as incorporated into the worship services.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry: Volunteers knit and crochet shawls for those who are sick or grieving. These are distributed by the Pastor.

- Susan Goldammer

*Almighty God,
as the apostle Andrew readily obeyed the call of Christ
and followed Him without delay,
grant that we, called by your holy word,
may in glad obedience offer ourselves to your service.*