

# Listening to God: Looking to the Future

## Faithfulness Through Changing Times



Original ULCA Charter Signed in 1958

# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

### (1958-2023)

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### **Acknowledgement**

Many members of St. Andrew’s Evangelical Lutheran Church, from its inception, were honored to have known Forrest E. “Red” Leighton, a Charter Member and long-time leader of the congregation who passed away in 2023. His spirit, zeal, leadership and commitment left an indelible mark on the formation, focus and activities of St. Andrew’s and on his service to the broader community. Dorcas, his wife and a Charter member, has also contributed in countless ways to the life of St. Andrew’s. We are grateful to receive a portion of Red’s memorial gifts for the support of this St. Andrew’s 65th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet.

## *Introduction*



# **Listening to God: Looking to the Future**

## **Faithfulness Through Changing Times**

### **Introduction to the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Booklet**

Change is inevitable. St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church became a member of the United Lutheran Church in America sixty-five years ago. Through a series of mergers of several Lutheran church bodies in the U.S. over the years, it is now a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Thus, we have a history of experiencing and adjusting to change.

Clearly, the outbreak of Covid-19 in January 2020 challenged the congregation's ways of functioning, challenged how we were to live out our mission of "Sharing Christ in Faith, Fellowship and Service." During the pandemic, worship, council and committee meetings, along with some learning opportunities, were conducted over an internet video conferencing platform called "Zoom". Gatherings for fellowship as well as many of the avenues for service were suspended. The changes necessitated by the pandemic accelerated changes that had already been on the horizon for the church. As in-person worship and the ability to gather again for meetings, education and fellowship resumed, some pre-pandemic activities and ministries did not. To quote the Youth Ministry report from the 2023 Annual Congregational Report, "Outreach and engagement of the youth is undergoing changes right now. We know youth ministry is going to be a challenge for the next few years as we work to rebuild relations with our young people and their parents and guardians."

New opportunities for worship, education and fellowship are emerging, including Dinner Church; worship with a more informal style for families with small children; Family Forums that involve children and adults in learning and hands-on activities on Sunday mornings; and gatherings for teen-age and college students in participation with Calvary Episcopal Church. We have discovered, too, that some of the technologies that were critical for our functioning during the pandemic have become useful tools for communication in the life of the congregation. Zoom continues to be an alternate way for worship and for conducting meetings.

Members of St. Andrew's have a long history of service, both within the congregation, in the local community and beyond. That commitment has not wavered, as evidenced by the list in this anniversary book of the ministries in which the congregation is currently engaged. Those involved find fellowship with one another as they serve.

To demonstrate our commitment to one another and our community, the Inclusion Team developed a comprehensive statement of welcome to any and all who come to St. Andrew's. At the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2023, the congregation approved the Welcome Statement, which led to our becoming a Reconciling in Christ church.

The statement reads, in part,

*At St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (ELCA), we hold space for you—the full you—including your race, age, ethnic background, personality, experiences, gender identity, sexual orientations, gender expressions, and mental, spiritual, and physical needs. Here, you are invited to worship, pray, play, be baptized, get married, and celebrate Holy Communion a church that holds space just for you, we are better for having you and your unique...As voice here! Come just as you are!*

The Archives Committee has been active over the past few years gathering documents, articles, photos and other memorabilia that are relevant to the history of the congregation, identifying as much as possible the events and people pictured in the photos and slides. For safe keeping, the collection is now a part of the archives at the Missouri State Historical Society in Columbia. In addition, other efforts are on-going to ensure that our historical records are as complete as possible and digitized for preservation. Much is documented in our 64 Annual Reports, but reports for 1965, 1966, 1968, 1970-73, 1975-80, 1982, 1988, 1989, 1994 and 2002 are missing. Additions of items of historical interest are always welcome.

Included in this book are pictures, descriptions and the history of the visual arts and some of the permanent objects in the St. Andrew's building and on its grounds, many of which were memorials or special gifts donated over the years. It also includes brief descriptions of many of our ongoing ministries. This record will serve to preserve this history for the future.

The changes in the world, to the culture and to the environment, seem to come at a much faster pace than in the past. But, within the congregation and throughout the wider community and world, in small groups or as a whole, St. Andrew's members continue to live out their calling to share Christ in faith, fellowship and service. We close this introduction to the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration as we often close meetings and events, with the prayer of St. Andrew's:

*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, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

In Christ,

The 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration Committee  
Jerry Nelson, Chair

Other Committee Participants and Contributors:

Bev Casey, Charlene Kavanaugh, Carol Headley, Janet Farmer (Council Liaison), Meta George, Scherrie Goettsch, Susan Goldammer, Randy Johnson, Susan Krings, Sarah Larson, Harry Lewis, Sheryl Mehrhoff, Karon Speckman, Linda Vedder, Carol Waudby, Pastor Julia Will

*Historical Context*  
**1958 Charter Membership Document  
Of St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

The Charter Membership roll, as shown on the cover of this booklet, contains the signatures of the 75 confirmed people who were the original members of St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church. A listing of the names of these members is included in the attached table. This membership roll can be considered the founding document of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in 1958.

In the document, these participants petitioned the Board of American Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America to permit them to organize themselves into a congregation of the United Lutheran Church in America. The people pledge to support the efforts of the church, do all to advance its growth, and to support the greater work of the church and the advancement of the Kingdom of Christ through the benevolence program of the church at large.

The document was designed and created by artist Corrine Niedenthal, the wife of Pastor Niedenthal, our first pastor. The artwork and text on the left side and bottom of the document include symbols related to the church and its mission.

- The vine at the top refers to Christ's declaration, "I am the vine, ye are the branches." The pomegranate, with its numerous seeds, represents the church, unity in faith, and a community of members.
- The peacock was an emblem of resurrection and the eternal life of Christ. It was a symbol of immortality because it sheds its feathers every year. The "eyes" in the tail represent the all-seeing God.
- The boat was a frequent symbol for the church: the church of Christ guides us to salvation through Christ; it is also a reminder of Jesus calming the storm on the sea and saving the disciples.
- The fish was another frequently used symbol. During the time when Christians were being persecuted, the fish was the secret symbol used to identify one Christian to another. "Fish" in Greek is "ICHTHYS," and those Greek letters are an acronym for "Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior."

The original document is now located in the St. Andrew's Archives at the State Historical Society of Missouri. A copy of the document can be found in the Oak Memorial Display Cabinet in the narthex.

**Founding Members of St. Andrew's  
Who Signed the Original 1958 Charter**

Left Column Signatures	Right Column Signatures	
William Leroy Wheeler	Victor A. Bayer	Mrs. Harold A. Bauer
Eleanor Ann Wheeler	Elizabeth A. Morin	Harold A. Bauer
James J. Sherman	Donald H. Morin	Sylvia M. Hansen
Loraine E. Sherman	Sharon R. Brunken	R. L. Cordell
Eloise R. Richard	Mrs. A.F. Brunken	Carl H. Johnson
Donald L. Richard	Arthur F. Brunken	Carma I. Johnson
Fay W. Malchow	Kenneth H. Hansen	Barbara Baker
Richard L. Malchow	Dorothy Jane Grimm	Ralph L. Baker
Barbara Torbey	Stanley A. Grimm	Mildred J. Ballsrud
James R. Burge Sr.	Donna K. Grimm	Weasley E. Ballsrud
Dorothy S. Cordell	W.C. Murphy	Irene Smith
Otto E. Niedenthal	Virginia A. Woodbury	David A. Smith
Ruth Petey Bank	Reid Woodbury	Julia B. LaHue
Doris A. Smith	Olive L. Newman	William R. LaHue
Bert A. Smith	Troy C. Newman	Paula Schmaltz
Corrine Niedenthal	Morris Niedenthal (pastor)	Phyllis J. Parisi
Russell Sloan	Elizabeth A. Strong	Vito Parisi
Marian E. Sloan	Bonny Andrews	Alva Powell
Lloyd A. Sloan	Barbara Sanders	Dale Kuehl
Dorcas J. Leighton	Eleanor A. Teague	
Forrest E. Leighton	Mrs. Ruth Botkin	
George Strong	Mrs. Thelma Baker	
Anna S. Bayer	Mrs. Lloyd Schmaltz	
	Lloyd J. Schmaltz	
	Mrs. Nancy Gates	
	Carl. W. Gates	

Others who were unable to sign the Charter:

Margaret Throckmorton Will and her daughters Betty Throckmorton Palm (Mrs. Harlan Palm) and her older sister Judy Throckmorton. Betty was not confirmed when the Charter was signed but has attended since 1958.



## History of Lutheran Church Transitions

When St. Andrew's Lutheran Church was established in 1958, it was a member of the United Lutheran Church in America (ULCA). The ULCA was one of many Lutheran bodies in the U. S. that had been created over the years, based primarily on the ethnic background of its members.

Over the years, members' ties to their countries of origin loosened and the divisions that had separated one Lutheran body from another seemed less and less important.

In 1962, the ULCA, whose members were largely of German background, merged with the American Evangelical Lutheran Church (Danish background), the Suomi Synod (Finnish background), and the Augustana Lutheran Church (Swedish background) to become the Lutheran Church in America (LCA). In 1987, the American Lutheran Church (Norwegian background) merged with the LCA to become the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Because these various Lutheran bodies had differences in polity, liturgical style and tradition, the talks leading up to the mergers involved much time, discussion and compromise. But the consensus was that there was strength in unity, and that Christ had prayed before he was crucified that "all might be one."

The church continues to evolve, to meet the needs of each current age, to better witness to the heart of the Gospel message. St. Andrew's has had exceptional pastoral leadership to guide the congregation through these transitions. Photos of these pastors are on the wall in the north entrance to the church, along with photos of former seminarians (now pastors) who learned about Christian faith, fellowship and service during their formative years at St. Andrew's.





## Hymnals Used by the St. Andrew's Congregation in Worship

Since its formation in 1958, the St. Andrew's congregation has used four different hymnals for its worship services.

As the Lutheran Church in the United States has evolved over the years, its liturgies and the hymns that its members have sung have changed. Newer liturgies and hymns have replaced some from earlier hymnals to reflect a difference in theological understandings, and there has been a greater awareness of world-wide Christianity, with the inclusion of liturgies and hymns from a wider variety of resources.

When the St. Andrew's congregation began worshipping together in 1958, they used the Common Service Book, the hymnal of the United Lutheran Church in America, published by the ULCA in 1917.

In the late 1950's, eight Lutheran church bodies, including the ULCA, cooperated in the Inter-Lutheran Commission on the Liturgy and the Commission on the Hymnal which resulted in the publication of the Service Book and Hymnal of the Lutheran Church in America. Published in 1958, the SBH was authorized by and copyrighted by the eight participating Lutheran church bodies.

A new hymnal was published in 1978, The Lutheran Book of Worship, prepared by the Inter-Lutheran Commission on Worship whose members were the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada.

In 2006, Evangelical Lutheran Worship was commended for use in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada.

These hymnals are shown below in sequence, with the oldest on the left and the newest on the right.



## *Commemorative Items and Visual Arts*

### **The Centrum**

#### **History**

As the congregation continued to grow there was interest in expanding our facilities for worship and education. Some favored first adding an education wing while others favored an increase in the worship area, and some wanted to spin off a new congregation in Northeast Columbia. Eventually, in fall of 1975, it was decided to construct the Centrum, a larger office area and a youth room. The older worship area would be remodeled to provide more educational space and a Fellowship Hall for meetings and other functions. Funds were raised and construction began in 1977 with the dedication of the additions in 1978, on the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation.

The Centrum design was unique to serve the flexibility of a dynamic congregation while retaining the dignity and reverence of a worship area. The angled ceiling was suspended by steel beams painted white, the cinder block walls had slots to help with acoustics, The altar table, donated by Troy and Olive Newman, and the lectern were elevated by being placed on movable panels. The communion rails could be removed to allow the alter area to be multifunctional. Like today, the “pews” were movable wooden chairs that were linked by a metal hymnal rack.



One entered the original Centrum from the north wall and needed to pass by the baptismal font that was donated by Jack and Mary Ellen Horton. That font and the location were a reminder that we enter the kingdom of God through baptism by flowing water. At that time the west wall of the Centrum was solid with an emergency exit on the south wall.

The picture below shows the entrance to the church as it was in 1978, before the west wall of the Centrum failed and needed to be reinforced in 2012. At that time a second wall on the west was added which allowed for an extended L-shaped narthex and the new attractive main entrance with several areas for beautiful plantings. To be consistent with its preferred location and significance, the baptismal font was moved to its current place just inside the main entry point to the Centrum.



## **Altar Paraments Made by Barbara Overby**

Have you ever sat in church and noticed the pieces of cloth on the altar and the lectern? Have you wondered what they were for and what the colors meant? The pieces of cloth are called Paraments. They are used to adorn the worship space and call attention to special occasions following the church year beginning with Advent.

The paraments used at St. Andrew's were hand-woven by Barbara Overby, a long-term member, in approximately the 1980's, according to Barbara's daughter, Katy Howland.

Barbara became interested in weaving in high school and college. She had a weaving shop in Columbia, was a Missouri Master Weaver and belonged to the Weaver's Guild. Katy said her mom made the paraments as a gift to St. Andrew's because of her love of fabric, color, the seasons and weaving.



Reasons for the specific colors are as follows:

- Blue is used for Advent representing hope.
- White is used for Christmas representing the purity of the newborn Christ. Epiphany is white and Christ's baptism is white.
- Green is symbolic for our growth in Christ during Epiphany. Green is a neutral color when more festive or somber occasions are not called for.
- White to celebrate The Transfiguration of Our Lord into radiance and rising into heaven.
- Purple is for the first day of Lent (Ash Wednesday). Lent stays purple representing repentance and the solemnity of Lent.
- A scarlet strip on white is placed beside the purple parament on the lectern during Lent. Scarlet represents the color of blood. Purple and scarlet remain for Palm Sunday.
- White goes back on for Maundy Thursday in honor of celebrating The Lord's Supper. The altar is then stripped and left bare for Good Friday due to the solemnity of the occasion.
- White is put back on for the Easter Vigil and for Easter Day for the joy of Christ's resurrection.
- Red goes on for Pentecost after the Sundays of Easter representing the tongues of fire over the people of Jerusalem.
- The next color change is back to white for Holy Trinity Sunday which is joy to and about the Triune God.
- Green is put back on next which represents our growth in faith through the ministries and teachings of Christ.
- Red paraments are placed on Reformation Sunday in remembrance of Martin Luther.
- White is used on All Saints Sunday in celebration of our loved ones who have gone on.
- The church year ends in white for Christ the King Sunday in celebration of our Lord.



## Altar Candles

Jan Johnson's artistic eye led her to suggest an alternative to the tall candles that stood on either side of the altar when she and Randy first joined St. Andrew's. After some research online, she located an iconic pair of altar candle holders that resemble the Christian symbol of a fish or "ichthys", letters that represent the initials of the Greek words for Jesus Christ Son of God Savior. Jan and Randy Johnson donated the candle holders to St. Andrew's in 2014.



## Christmas Advent Banner

Jan Johnson also created an Advent Banner with movable figures depicting the journey to Bethlehem for St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in 2010. After several years, the wear and tear on the movable parts became apparent, and the figures were fastened permanently in the Christmas scenario. The banner is a beautiful addition to the Christmas season.



Jan and Randy's daughter (Karen Kibitzing) is on the left.

## Stained-Glass Windows

The stained-glass windows in the Centrum, dedicated April 22, 1979, were given in loving memory of Kenneth F. Struessel, M.D. (1939-1977) by his wife Pamala "Pam" and their family.

The Struessel's were active members of St. Andrew's during the 1970-80s. Pam was on the Church Council for six years serving as its president from 1982-83. The Struessel children went on to lead lives of service in their professions-Tracy and Tami in the medical field and Garrett, as an ordained pastor in the Lutheran Church. In memory of Pamala "Pam" Struessel, 1942-2022, friends and members of St. Andrew's made donations to the St Andrew's Endowment Fund for Ministry Education.



The windows were designed by Dietrich Spahn (1938-2021), a German born stained-glass artist who produced roughly 370 stained-glass commissions for places of worship, hospitals, universities, and private residences throughout the United States.

Spahn expressed the theme "Christ in the World" with the window on the south wall. The appearance of the simple cross, white in color, represents the Lord as the savior over the world. A landscape with morning colors is on the left, moving to evening colors on the right. The east wall windows, above the chancel and altar area, reflect "Word and Sacrament." The theme of the west wall windows is "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." After the stained-glass windows had been in place, the design of the windows was repeated in the kneelers at the altar rail. The kneelers were designed by Barbara Overby, a long-time member of St. Andrew's, and were crafted by Portuguese women.

## Pipe Organ

In 1971, the electronic organ that had been used by the congregation for worship in the First Unit since 1961 was deteriorating. The organist, Valerie Anderson, contacted the Kavanaugh Organ Company in Columbia about the possibility of purchasing a small pipe organ to replace it. Kenneth Kavanaugh had purchased a five rank Wicks organ and removed it after a fire at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Leslie, Missouri. The console and a few pipes were lost in the fire, and there was smoke and heat damage externally on one end of some chestwork.

The congregation voted to purchase the organ. The organ was completely refurbished, including refinishing of the chestwork and other wood components, thorough cleaning and refinishing of metal pipes, plus replacement pipes for ones lost in the fire. A new two-manual and Pedal console was built by Klann Organ Supply from Waynesboro, VA. Volunteers from the congregation, with Mr. Kavanaugh's assistance, built the chamber for the instrument. The new organ was dedicated on Easter Sunday in 1972. On one side of the organ console is a plaque listing the names of the major donors to the fund which was established to purchase the organ.

In 1977, construction on the Centrum began. The building included an elevated chamber space for the organ, so the organ was moved and installed in its new chamber. A used 4-rank pipe chest was purchased from Mr. Kavanaugh to provide for future additions to the instrument. The Centrum was dedicated on Feb. 26, 1978.

Following the death of St. Andrew's' organist, Dr. Heinz Arnold, a memorial fund was established and by the fall of 1983, enough money had been raised to add two more ranks of pipes to the organ.

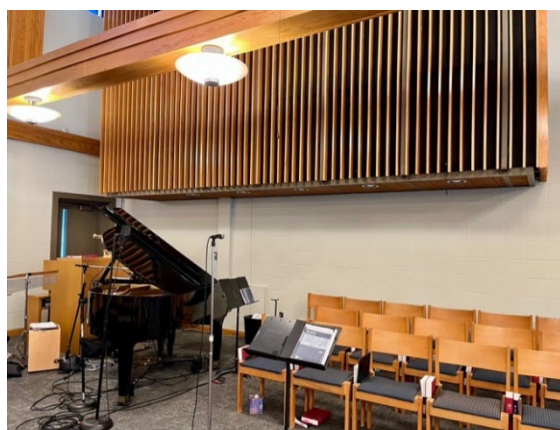
Currently, in 2023, the organ has 2 manuals, 523 pipes, 7 ranks, 27 stops and 6 couplers.

The initial cost for the organ in 1971 was \$7,000. The move to the Centrum plus the addition of the chest and pipes were an additional \$5,250 bringing the total cost of the organ to \$12,250. The approximate replacement cost in 2023 would be \$325,000.

Detailed information about the organ can be found in the church files and in the St. Andrew's' Archives.

*Source:*

*Charlene Kavanaugh*



## Pianos

Music is an important feature of Lutheran worship and St. Andrew's has maintained that tradition. In the beginning an older piano was used along with an electronic organ. In 2023 there are four pianos located in the building. In 1975, the congregation purchased an upright Baldwin piano (Photo A). To raise funds for the piano, members were asked to contribute \$11 per key, and members could buy as many keys as they desired toward the purchase. Currently, the Baldwin piano is in one of the Sunday School rooms.

In 1984, two new pianos were received during the year: A Schumann spinet, now in the office of the Minister for Music (Photo B), was a gift from Dorcas and Red Leighton. The Steinway baby grand piano in the Fellowship Hall was a gift from Dr. John and Linda Carlson, current members of the congregation (Photo C).



Photo A



Photo B



Photo C

A grand piano, a Howard, located in the Centrum, was provided by special contributions and memorial gifts, including a major gift from Frances Marquardt, his wife, and the Marquardt family in memory of Otto (Mark) Marquardt, a charter member of the congregation (Photo D).



Photo D



## The Fellowship Hall

### The Red Doors

The red doors to the storage closet in Fellowship Hall were made by David Rausch in the early 1970's to replace the original doors to the west entrance of St. Andrew's' first unit.

Those original doors were rotting on the bottom, and during a storm, at some point, the glass windows in the doors were blown out. David Rausch undertook the task of building new doors. He incorporated the carved handles to the doors into the cross of St. Andrew, while Pastor Sylvester had the Alpha and Omega symbols to add to the doors. David consulted with Pastor Sylvester about what color the doors should be, and they decided on red, a good liturgical color. Chuck Headley helped to paint the doors. They were installed around Thanksgiving time in either 1970 or 71.

When the red doors were no longer needed at the entrance to the church, they were considered too iconic to dispose of and so were put to use as the doors to the storage closet in Fellowship Hall.

*Source: David Rausch*



## The Mosaic Cross in the Fellowship Hall

The mosaic cross now hanging in Fellowship Hall was designed and created by artist Corrine Niedenthal, the wife of St. Andrew's Pastor Morris Niedenthal.

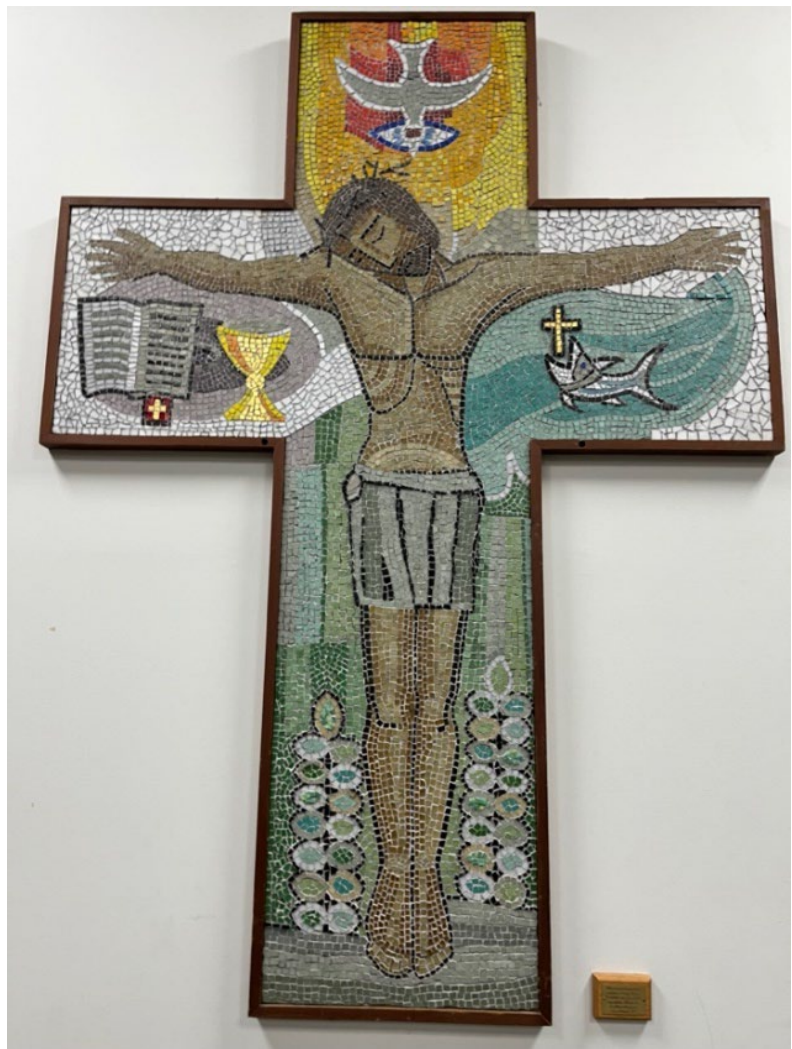
In the cross, Christian symbols surround the crucified Christ. The descending dove is the symbol of the Holy Spirit. The fish was used as a secret symbol by the early Christians when they were being persecuted to identify one Christian to another. "Fish" in Greek is "ICHTHYS," and those Greek letters are an acronym for "Jesus Christ, God's son, Savior." At Jesus' feet, the vines remind us that Jesus told his disciples, "I am the vine, you are the branches." The chalice represents the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and the Bible symbolizes the word of God.

The cross hung behind and above the altar in the worship space in St. Andrew's' first unit, which is now the Fellowship Hall. At that time, the chancel was on the east wall of the worship space, so the congregation would face east toward the altar as they worshiped.

Before the first unit was built on West Boulevard, the congregation worshiped at the Labor Temple on North Garth Avenue. Meetings during the week, such as council meetings, choir practice, etc., were held in the walk-out lower level of the parsonage on Spring Valley Drive.

While she was creating the cross, Corrine had the frame leaning against the wall in the parsonage living room. When members of the congregation would come to the parsonage, Corrine would invite them to add some tile, glass or marble pieces to the cross from the boxes of materials she had nearby.

Thus, St. Andrew's members contributed to the work of art that has been a part of our history since 1961.



## Scout Troops 706 and 523

In December of 1966, a group of young men with a love of adventure and the outdoors banded together to start St. Andrew's 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 (see below). 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. Recently, young women and their leaders have launched a new initiative, Scout Troop 523. The scouts and leaders of Troop 706 and 523 are grateful.





## The Narthex and Hallways

### The Prayer Room

The Prayer Room on the Southwest corner of the Centrum was added when the west wall of the Centrum had some settling problems and had to be reinforced. Thus, a new wall was constructed, and a new church entry was added. The addition created an extension of the old Narthex and also allowed space for the Prayer Room on the south end. This area for thought, contemplation and solemn prayer is dedicated to Colette and Chuck Anderson, long-time members of the congregation. Colette had a great personal interest in the prayer room, helping to get it furnished and arranged appropriately to be inviting and functional. The embroidery was done by Rachel Leip. Others helped to furnish the room and enhance its ambiance.

### Special Brass Rubbings

The brass rubbings hanging on each side of the prayer room's window were made by Scherrie Goettsch, a current member of St. Andrews who has belonged for more than 40 years. A well-known Iowa architect and friend, William (Bill) Wagner, since deceased, gave Scherrie the special paper, black wax crayons and directions for how to make these special rubbings, along with a book that listed churches that allowed tourists to make these rubbings for a small donation. The pair of rubbings was made in July 1976, when Scherrie traveled to Saint Peter's Church in Tiverton, County Devon, England. The rubbings are taken from full figures, but the paper was only big enough for the heads of John Greenway, a woolen merchant, and his wife, Joan, dated 1529. Few churches allow this practice today unless a replica is used to make the rubbing.

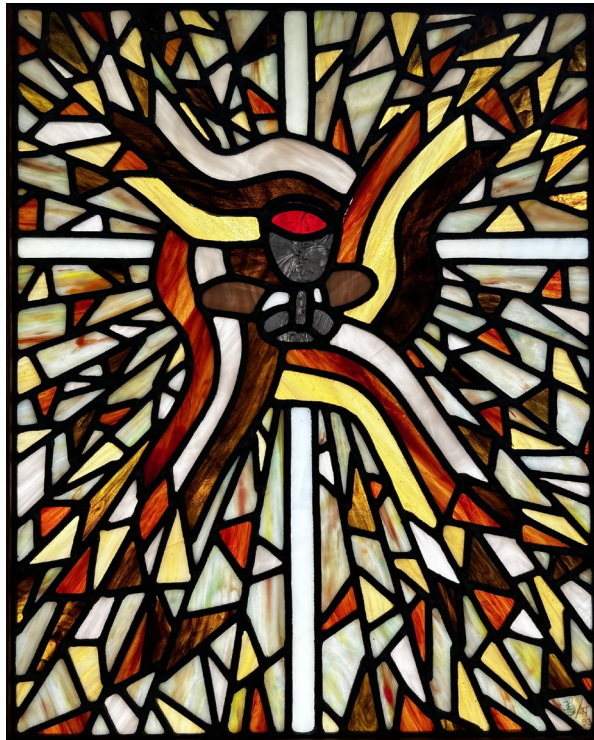


## Stained-Glass Art Shards of Glass

Randy Johnson's wife Jan lived a life of creativity and artistry. In the period from 1982 to 1988, Jan and friends Skip and Bev Stasi created 23 intricate stained-glass windows for St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Elmhurst, Illinois that depicted the most important events contained in the Gospel of Luke. Only five years later, Randy felt no qualms in volunteering their services when The Metropolitan Chicago Synod's council was told in February of 1993 that the keynote speaker had to withdraw from that June's Synod Assembly. Both Jan and Randy had attended the previous year's assembly, where Jan had met the bishop's assembly manager, Char Moloney. Jan and Char met and discussed a new direction to take for a theme for the 1993 Assembly and the result was "Shards of Glass."

With this theme in mind, Jan developed the design for the stained-glass panel while the Stasi's made a large box into which they put the frame and pieces of glass. During the Assembly, the box with the pieces of glass and eventual frame, along with a picture of the design were placed conspicuously in the foyer of the Seibert Chapel on the campus of Carthage College located in Kenosha, Wisconsin on the shore of Lake Michigan.

Jan, Skip and Bev Stasi led the efforts to assemble the panel throughout the 2.5-day Assembly meeting, but they were ably assisted by the many delegates to the Assembly who offered their own suggestions for the placement of each piece of glass. When the panel was complete and leaded, it was presented to the Bishop and hung in the Synod office. After Jan's death in July of 2000, Randy sought to locate the panel. The Synod offered to return it to him and subsequently, Randy donated it to St. Andrew's where it currently hangs in the south window of the narthex.





## Oak Archives Display Cabinet

The oak archives display cabinet was given to the congregation in 2014. This contribution was donated by family members in memory of charter members George and Elizabeth (Liz) Strong and long-time members Adolf (Dolf) and Rebecca (Becky) Schroeder. The photos below show the cabinet when it was first bought with Liz Strong standing beside it (left). The second photo (right) was taken a few years later as the cabinet gradually filled with memorabilia related to St. Andrew's history.

The cabinet is overseen by the Archives Committee. It was nearly full not long after it was purchased, so some of the valuable materials were moved to the Missouri State Historical Society for safe-keeping and long-term preservation. The display materials include a copy of the original signed Charter that appears on the cover of this booklet.

If any members of the congregation have items they would like to contribute to the display, either as a loan or a gift, the items would be most welcome.



## Ceramic Mosaic Cross

The mosaic cross in the hallway was created and designed by Barbara Overby and her daughter, Katy Howland as a project for Vacation Bible School in the late 1990's. Barbara Overby also designed the kneelers in the Centrum and wove the paraments, as well. Children brought buttons and beads from home and helped place them in the mosaic. It was a very joyous process with lots of conversation about symbols. Barb and Katy helped complete the project and framed it so it could be displayed.

The mosaic cross is located in the hallway by the east doors of Saint Andrew's. It is rich with Christian symbols. Notably, the white cross with a victory crown over the head of the cross. In addition to the jeweled victory crown on the figurehead of Christ, one can also find an additional crown that looks like the crown of thorns close to the facial features. The two crowns illustrate the suffering and the victory of Christ's death and resurrection.

Within the white cross is an additional cross, an inner cross of crimson. These two crosses again illustrate the cost and the victory of Christ's passion for the world. On one side of the crimson cross are a chalice and bread, symbols of holy communion and on the other side, the heart of Christ, symbolizing his eternal love and saving forgiveness. The bottom of the cross has a basket, like the basket used in the feeding of the five thousand or it could also be reminiscent of the feet of Christ.

The entire cross within a cross, is overlaid on a circular sphere, like the sphere of the world. There are also rays extending outward. These rays could symbolize the saving power of the cross extending over the world into the cosmos.

Below the cross is a river with fish, symbolizing baptism and the river of life. The fish is also a symbol for Christian discipleship, as well as recalling the miracle of the loaves and fishes. There is also a butterfly, a widespread symbol of the resurrection. There are also colorful flowers of new life and hope on the riverbank. Sprinkled throughout the mosaic are pearl like spheres, reminiscent of the parable of the pearl of great price noting the priceless value of the kingdom of heaven. The more one studies this work of art, the more one can see into it and be inspired!





## The Sun Cross

During construction of the new education wing, Scherrie Goettsch donated a marble plaque for use as a back splash above the drinking fountain that is in the hallway near the Sunday School classrooms.

The Sun Cross was given to her by a friend who said it came from a church that was being torn down in Washington, D. C.

Mosaic tiles in gold, black and white squares create a cross and its circular border within the marble slab. The simple design can be attributed to the Sun Cross, also known as the Solar Cross or Wheel Cross, recognized by its equal-arm cross inside a circle. This cross symbol has been associated with various cultures and often symbolizes the solar calendar or cycle of the seasons.

Historically, it is one of the oldest and most universal religious symbols. Today, it is often used in the context of archaeology, anthropology, and mythology to represent ancient religions.

The Sun Cross is characterized by its simple geometric design, which represents the rotation of the sun, the four seasons, or the cardinal directions—north, south, east and west.

*Sherrie Goettsch*



## Murals

### Faith Stepping Stones and Wall Murals in the East Wing

A distinctive feature in the east wing of our building are the murals on the walls in the hallway. These represent and reflect the Faith Stepping Stones program that was begun in 1998-1999 and used for many years as a base in the Sunday School program. Each grade level had a specific key passage to memorize that was felt to be foundational for their faith journey, and each of these passages were depicted in the wall murals. These beloved passages provide guideposts for our Christian faith across all generations.

Pre-Kindergartners sang Jesus Loves Me  
Kindergartners recited John 3:16  
First graders recited The Lord's Prayer  
Second graders recited Psalm 23  
Third graders recited the Apostles' Creed  
Fourth graders recited The Ten Commandments  
Fifth graders recited the Books of the Bible

Laurie Pancoast directed the painting of the Faith Stepping Stones on the walls of the east wing by the various Sunday School classes, with help from Liz Wilden and the youth. Many young people helped with this project. First, they painted the walls one color for consistency before starting on the words and pictures. The words and pictures were drawn by tracing images and words, often from clip art and various alphabet types, using an overhead projector and then painting them.

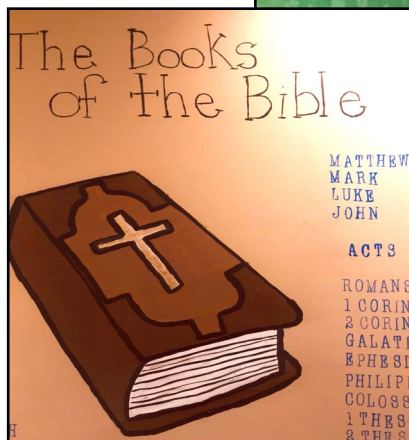
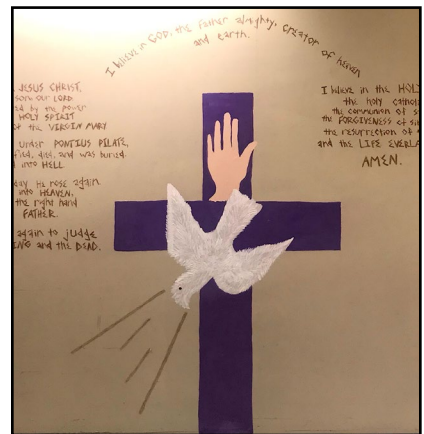
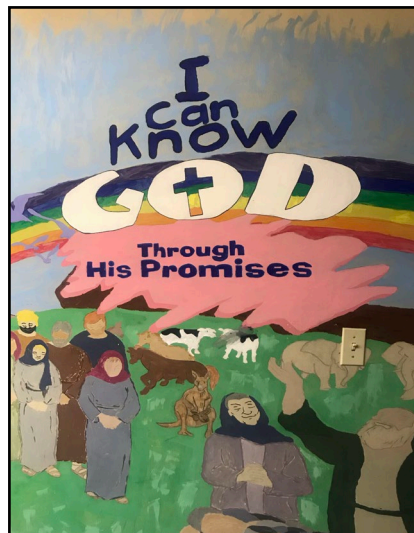
Photos of several of the youth participants and the murals are shown below.

7<sup>th</sup> graders at work, Hannah and Melanie Pancoast, Julie Wood, Leslie Neu and Shannon Fox.





The original mural of the mountain and prophet “Shepherds on the Hill” (top row) was painted without use of the projector by Caleb Chapman, son of Duane and Merri Wente-Chapman. Unfortunately, most of the individual contributions of other young artists are not known (next rows).



## *Caring for Creation*

### **Creation Keepers**

### **First Years**

As we commemorate the first five years of the Creation Keepers Ministry, we celebrate both small, subtle changes as well as very visible changes in our church's life. In June 2018, our Central States Synod passed a resolution recommending that churches within the synod become "caring for creation congregations". Following a four-week Sunday forum series on "Crisis in Creation and Our Faith", more than two dozen participants agreed that we should accept our synod's recommendation. A new ministry was formed which was named Creation Keepers Ministry. The group also asked the Church Council to approve a covenant or commitment with Creation which was approved unanimously on September 20, 2018.

Working with the national organization, Lutherans Restoring Creation, our ministry team began identifying actions or projects to express creation-care commitment within five areas of St. Andrew's church life: worship, education, discipleship at home and work, public witness/advocacy, and building and grounds. The "team" is the network of people that oversees that these actions are carried out by either forming smaller groups for specific projects or supporting the projects of ministries already in place. People of all ages are welcome to join the team at any time. Following are just a few examples of our expressions of care for God's creation:

***Worship.*** This is the fifth year that St. Andrew's will observe a Season of Creation during October. The Church begins its Creed with "I believe in God the Father, Creator of Heaven and Earth." These special Sundays allow us to dig deeper into this foundational belief during worship, the primary activity of our congregation. Other worship opportunities have included Earth Day Prayer services from the Memorial Courtyard Garden, short services for planting ceremonial trees, and outdoor summer worship services.



***Education.*** We continue learning about God's marvelous creation, what is our place in creation, and what is our responsibility. During the summer of 2019 we offered "God's Green and Living World", a cross-generational, VBS-styled, Sunday morning activity that drew about sixty participants of all ages for four consecutive Sundays. Other educational experiences have included film discussions (e.g., *Kiss the Ground*, regenerative agriculture), book discussions (e.g. *Wild Hope: Stories for Lent from the Vanishing*, endangered species; *Earth, Our Original Monastery*, *Cultivating Wonder & Gratitude through Intimacy with Nature*), and guest speakers

(e.g. Adam Saunders, co-founder of CoMO's Ag Park). St. Andrew's also hosted a teleconference on "Solutions for Global Warming: Introduction to Drawdown".

***Discipleship at Home & Work.*** Our congregation as well as individuals began making lifestyle choices to better model concern and care for creation. At church these changes included printing fewer bulletins, installing a new dishwasher to reduce reliance on disposable tableware, adding recycling containers, and replacing lightbulbs with LED bulbs. Individual parishioners claimed over sixty free cloth shopping bags sewn by the church's *Our Hands Crafters*. After learning about how human actions are endangering many species, individuals vowed to read more product labels, avoiding those containing palm oil or toxic chemicals such as oxybenzone. The goal in this area is to continue developing mindfulness of how our choices may affect the interconnectedness of God's creation.

***Public Witness/Advocacy.*** Members of St. Andrew's are already actively witnessing and serving others outside our church walls through the many projects sponsored by our Community Ministry and Global Missions teams. We are also seeking to change systems that degrade creation through such means as signing petitions of support for renewable energy or adding our voice to national issues through ELCA Advocacy Connections.

***Looking to the Future.*** One positive outcome from the Covid pandemic is the ease with which people gather by Zoom. We are able to deepen our relationships with other ELCA congregations seeking to care for creation within our Central States Synod and around the country. During this valuable time, we learn what others are doing and what resources are available for this work. We are also able to join the work of other compassionate groups who are grappling with how to rectify the social and economic injustices resulting from systems that degrade creation. Even if it seems small, we can all do something. Together we can accomplish much. We hold to our Creator God's promise, "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Matthew 18:20

*Source: Sheryl Mehrhoff*



## Building and Grounds



While St. Andrew's has a long-standing Building & Grounds Committee, the following landscape changes around our church building are a direct result of Creation Keepers Ministry. On September 30th, 2018, we planted a native white oak on the southwest corner of our property to celebrate St. Andrew's 60th anniversary. (This is a partner tree to one we sponsored in the Luthergarten in Wittenburg, Germany for the Reformation 500th Anniversary.) A second white oak was planted in this area on April 18, 2021, in honor of Sheryl Mehrhoff's service. A third oak was planted on the northeast side on April 22, 2023,

celebrating our new campus ministry, a joint venture of St. Andrew's & Calvary Episcopal Church.

At a March 2019 forum, Creation Keepers agreed to develop a comprehensive & sustainable landscape plan. A task force gathered information which included studying the architects' plans for the 2011 construction project. The plans included detailed landscape plans for the front of the building and the north bio-retention areas or rain garden, a requirement by the city to handle storm water run-off. Although deemed an excellent plan featuring Missouri native trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers, not all were planted. Challenges to those that were planted included drought years, lack of regular care & maintenance, and inadequate communication during transition times.

With the leadership of Mary Ellen Degnan, a new plan was formed for the beds in front of the church on the West Boulevard side. The goal was to restore as well as augment the original landscape design using MO native plants. Then for the next few years many volunteer hours have gone into revitalizing these areas through planting, weeding, mulching and watering.

Restoration of the north Rain Garden areas began on May 1, 2022, with an intergenerational planting event during Earth Week. Six 2-generation families, three 3-generation families, and one 4-generation family each planted a *Beauty Berry* shrub as per the original landscape plan. Then in August 2022, the capstone of Liam Arbuckle's Eagle Scout Project completed the initial stage of a memorial for Kay Maas. Kay, a long-time member of St. Andrew's left us with a legacy of caring for creation, the people and the place.

The landscape plan for the west section of the Rain Garden was completed by planting a serviceberry, a buttonbush, and a red buckeye in her honor. Plans are in place to continue restoration of the Rain Garden this October with the planting of three serviceberry trees, also a part of Kay's memorial.

Other ideas we are exploring include building a labyrinth, developing a meditative walk around our church building, pollinator gardens, determining the ages & health of our older trees, and adding more signage. Knowing names deepens our connection to God's creation.

*Source: Sheryl Mehrhoff*





## Memorial Courtyard Garden

The Memorial Courtyard Garden was designed by Architect Keith Westenhaver as part of the new educational wing and other extensive renovation at St. Andrew's that was dedicated in 1991. Technical and procedural guidelines are managed by a standing committee to ensure the Garden is a living, growing memorial that reflects the on-going flow of life and death. Its natural beauty is enhanced by three River Birch Trees, three groupings of Oakleaf Hydrangea and ground cover of English Ivy with scatterings of Resurrection (Surprise) Lily, Daffodil, Iris, Hosta, and Lenten Rose (Hellebores). The garden contains three large urns with seasonal plantings and a quietly flowing fountain.

Reflecting on the Memorial Courtyard Garden at the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, it seems fitting to pay homage to the most recently interred saint in the garden. Barbara Overby was interred October 28, 2022. Barbara was instrumental in establishing the procedures involved in prayerfully preparing ashes for committal in the quiet beauty of the Garden. Small linen cases used to contain the ashes and a handwoven linen pall made by Barbara are provided by the congregation to hold and cover the cremated remains on an earthenware plate during memorial/committal services. Barbara's husband Osmund Overby is also interred in the garden. Individual plaques with names of all interred are mounted on the west wall.

The garden has 21 saints interred:

- + Dorothy L. Baeker 1921-2014, and Robert Baeker 1921-2019, husband and wife
- + W.A. (Bill) Cooper 1923-2015, Averil Sandberg Cooper 1926-2017, husband & wife
- + Forest Albert Davidson 1918-2004, and Crystal Nell Davidson, 1921-2011, husband and wife, parents of Marvin Davidson, grandparents of Laurie Arbuckle
- + Lum Feickert 1951-2013, wife of William Feickert
- + Helen Ebba Geneux 1920-1998, mother of David Geneux
- + June P. Hughes, 1934-2016
- + Jan Johnson 1942-2020, wife of Randy Johnson
- + John Larson 1941-2018, husband of Sarah Larson
- + Osmund R. Overby 1931-2014, and Barbara Overby 1934-2022, husband and wife
- + Emily Sodeman Romine 1981-2011, daughter of Paul and Linda Romine
- + Adolf E. Schroeder 1916-2013, and Rebecca Schroeder 1921-2018, husband and wife
- + Marjorie W. Sylvester 1930-2009, wife of Jim Sylvester (2nd pastor of St. Andrew's)
- + Amanda Taylor 1970-2019, wife of Gary Taylor, mother of Alex Taylor
- + Richard Charles Vedder 1945-2017, husband of Linda Vedder
- + Nina D. Weinberg 1924-2011, mother of Steve Weinberg
- + Theodore L. Vogelweid 2018-2018, son of Eric and Emily Vogelweid

"Therefore, we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life."  
Romans 6:4

*Susan Krings, Chair of Memorial Courtyard Garden Committee*

## Sculpture of Crosses and Fisherman's Net

In 1991, the Troy Newman family commissioned Hartsburg (MO) artist Don Asbee to design and create the sculpture of the three crosses and fisherman's net in memory of Troy Newman, a charter member and president of the congregation from 1958-61. The sculpture was dedicated on October 6, 1991.

The three crosses symbolize the crucifixion of Jesus when he was put to death between two rebels (or criminals) on what we now call Good Friday. The fisherman's net, with its catch of fish, recalls that some of Jesus' disciples were fishermen. When he called them, he said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." Andrew, one of the fishermen who followed Jesus, then brought his brother Peter to Jesus, saying "we have found the Messiah." With the guidance of the Reverend Morris Niedenthal, the church's founding pastor, the congregation selected as its name "St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church." As Andrew brought his brother to Christ, St. Andrew's' members are called to bring others to Christ.

The sculpture was made of forged metal and steel. Originally, it stood on the lawn on the West Boulevard side of the building. When it started to lose its finish, it was painted an ivory color. During the expansion and renovation of the church in 2012, the sculpture was moved closer to the new west entrance to the building. The ivory paint was removed, leaving the natural colors of the materials to better stand out against the building.

The first two photos below depict the sculpture in its original location on the lawn. The next two photos show the sculpture where it stands today near the west entrance of the building. Olive Newman, wife of Troy Newman and longtime member, stands in front of the sculpture in the new location.



*Social and Outreach Ministries*  
**Congregation Ministries**  
**Shepherd's Ministries**

The Shepherd's Ministries at St. Andrew's are made up of individuals or teams that provide support for members who have needs at various times in their lives.

The ministries include:

- Anonymous Angels, providing financial aid to members in need
- Sending cards to those who are ill or grieving
- Comfort Baskets to members to have experienced the death of a loved one
- Cradle Roll, which provides parenting resources for new parents
- Preparing and serving luncheons after a funeral or memorial service
- Visiting Shepherds, who bring Communion to those who are home-bound
- Prayer Shawl/Knitters and Crafters Ministry
- The Prayer Team

The following section illustrates two of these ministries.

**Prayer Shawl/Knitters & Crafters Ministry**  
*To Comfort Those in Need*

The Prayer Shawl ministry at St. Andrew's started following a Lenten talk that was given in 2006. The series that year was based on the Lord's Prayer. This talk focused on the third petition, *Thy will be done*, connecting God's will and prayer in their life. One of the connections was making prayer shawls, praying for the recipients while knitting the shawl. After the talk there were a number of people who were interested in knitting shawls and learning to knit. Several sessions were held to assist those interested in learning or getting back into knitting, followed by weekly gatherings of those who wanted a time to knit together for fellowship and for others to learn more about knitting. Some have chosen to make prayer shawls on their own. Shawl ministry at the national level is 25 years old <https://www.shawlministry.com/> and serves as a great resource. Our original pattern was a Knit 3, Purl 3 repeat to a typical size of about 24 x 60 inches. However, any pattern and shape can be used for a prayer shawl. The final shape, pattern, size and knitting method are up to the makers of the shawl and their preferences. Shawls can also be crocheted.

What makes a prayer shawl different are the prayers that go into it and the purpose for giving one. Shawls have been given out by the Prayer Team for reasons such as serious illness, stressful times, the death of close family members, and include a thank-you for recipients for providing exceptional service to the congregation. The way the recipient uses the shawl varies depending on the personal needs and how the shawl and its associated prayers and support prove to be helpful to them. Through May of 2023, 392 shawls have been given out.

During the first year of the ministry, in addition to shawls, the weekly group decided to make small prayer cloths for every family in the congregation. These prayer cloths had the Bible verse “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17) attached to it. The prayer clothes were placed in the mailboxes for each family.

Several women with interest in a Knitters and Crafters group continue to join together about monthly for fellowship and making progress on the valuable project that contributes to the ministry of St. Andrew’s by donating the shawls. The knitters, besides knitting prayer shawls, now also make scarves, caps and mittens for those in need, particularly for refugees coming from countries where winter clothing is not necessary. The items lovingly created by this group are a meaningful way for the congregation to wrap our prayers of support around a member, show our love to those in need, and remind the recipient of God’s unending faithfulness.

### **The Prayer Team**

The Prayer Team meets monthly to pray for those who have requested prayers for themselves or others. The requests may come from the Prayer Request Cards found in the Friendship Pads in the Centrum, from individuals online, over the phone or in person. The requests for prayers may be shared with the congregation or only with the Prayer Team, according to the wishes of those asking for the prayers.

### **Community Outreach Endowment Board**

Some in our Congregation remember Bob Piest as the initiator of the Endowment Board. Bob was very supportive of Community Ministries during the 1983 Annual Congregation Meeting. Bob, chair of the Outreach Commission, gave a report that ended with his strong plea for a higher priority on Community Ministries. The Church budget line had been \$1,000 for Community Ministries over the past few years but was used for other expenses. Bob wanted a secure budget line for Community Ministries.

That led to formation of the St. Andrew’s Endowment Board in 1984 with members elected at the Annual Congregation Meeting each year. The Community Ministry fund was set up as a restricted endowment by which all donations went to the principal to be held in perpetuity. Investment income has been used annually to fund ranked proposals to support non-profit Community Ministry organizations that serve residents of Boone County. Early awards were for up to \$500, now they are up to \$1,000 if the investment returns are sufficient.

Music, Youth and Family Ministry and Church Ministry Education Funds were added to St. Andrew’s Endowment Fund in 1985 due to congregational desire to support other programs. These are non-restricted so investment income and/or part of the principal can be used to fund

proposals. These proposals usually originate within the congregation, are larger, one-time and require first approval by the Church Council.

The Board accepts gifts to these funds at any time to increase the principal, plus receives a special Easter offering for the Community Ministries Fund. While long-term statistics from annual reports are not all available, the funds of record increased rather quickly, exceeding expectations, with income from the investments being used to support priority ministries and St. Andrew's programs. As of 2021, investment income has been distributed to make over \$60,000 in awards.

The Ken Hansen Endowment Fund is also managed by the Endowment Board. Initiated by charter member Ken Hansen to honor his wife, Sylvia, this fund supports a scholarship for a graduate of Hickman High School each year. It is restricted and requires the principal to remain above \$10,000. A \$500 scholarship is made if investment return exceeds \$500. The official endowment document is recorded in the Boone County courthouse. The Hansen Fund investment return has contributed an estimated \$7500 in scholarships to deserving graduates of Hickman High School to date.

In 2023, Endowment Board members revised their bylaws and created a gift policy to maximize the fund's impact on the community and support our Christian mission. This document will be presented for consideration at the Annual Congregation meeting in January 2024.

## Lutheran Family and Children's Services



In 2023, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church was recognized by Lutheran Family and Children's Services (LFCS) as a "Caring Congregation" for its support of the agency over many years. Ever since LFCS began serving the mid-Missouri region with offices in Columbia, the people of St. Andrew's have contributed their time and financial resources to the agency in a variety of ways. LFCS provides services to birth mothers and adoptive families, support for young parents, and mental health counseling, particularly for children and youth, among other services. The Christmas Eve offering at St. Andrew's is designated for LFCS.

## **God's Work. Our Hands**

As a congregation that focuses on community ministry, the Sunday Celebration of God's Work, Our Hands (GWOH) sponsored by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA) was a natural fit.

The ELCA first encouraged congregations to focus on community service on the Second Sunday in September in 2013. That is the year the Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri kindly opened its doors for a special volunteer opportunity to allow the St. Andrew's Congregation to pack food on the Sunday of the celebration. Over one hundred members participated – many in their gold GWOH T-shirts. On that same day, hands-on activities were also provided for children and youth in between our church services. For example, children could learn how to sew pillowcases for the University of Missouri Women's and Children's Hospital or make cards (with lots of glitter!) for veterans.

The GWOH celebration has continued to grow at St. Andrew's. To help accommodate busy schedules and a variety of interests and abilities, the celebration has now expanded to over a month of hands-on activities that vary from year-to-year and help kick-start fall worship. In addition to packaging food at the Food Bank, activities have included: Baking cookies and making care packages for cancer patients, packaging dried soup for Love, Inc., knitting and sewing hats and scarves for international students and refugees, knitting baby blankets for the Lutheran Family and Children's Services, tying fleece blankets for refugees, sewing masks during the pandemic, writing cards for the women with whom we minister at the Boone County jail, helping clean the Russell Chapel Church, manning a food pantry, harvesting for the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, volunteering at Columbia Second Chance Animal Rescue, cleaning the ditch along the highway and a city park, volunteering with the Wardrobe and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

We continue to provide activities between our worship services on Gods Work, Our Hands Sunday such as sewing pillowcases and making cards for veterans. Other activities have included tying fleece blankets, preparing prayer squares for nursing homes, and making bookmarks for the women in the Boone County jail.

Since the pandemic, we have also tried to focus on our existing ministries in an effort to rebuild relationships and revise projects. For example, new volunteers have tried baking, cooking or serving at the Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen.

We are always looking for more ways to serve! God's Work, Our Hands Sunday in the fall of each year provides a mile marker and is a great reason to regroup, focus on continuing the regular and rally to develop new projects. While one Sunday stands out, members of St. Andrew's support the community in a variety of ways year-round.

*Susan Goldammer*







## Fifth Sunday Offerings

Since its beginning as a congregation, St. Andrew's has had a strong community ministry focus. In addition to monetary collections and donations of time, for more than the last 25 years St. Andrew's has collected a special offering in support of the community every month that has a fifth Sunday (typically four a year). Members of the congregation are encouraged to suggest organizations to support from which the Community Ministry Team has tried to select diverse organizations that address a wide variety of needs.

This practice has no doubt benefited the recipient organizations which are providing meaningful assistance in their specific way. But the manner of selecting and supporting the organizations introduces new areas of need. This effort also has brought additional attention and education of the congregation about current needs in the community and the wide range of organizations that exist to assist.

The total donations for a given fifth Sunday generally range between \$200 and \$500, although some Sunday donations have exceeded \$2,000. While good records were not kept during the early years, below is a list of recipients from the past 10 years.

Some key recipients have been supported more than once during that period.

- Boone County Council on Aging
- Booneville Valley Hope Alcohol, Drug and Related Treatment Services
- Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)
- Centro Latino de Salud
- City of Columbia Utility Assistance
- City of Refuge
- Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- Columbia Area Older Adult Ministries
- Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture
- Coyote Hills
- Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri
- Granny's House
- Habitat for Humanity
- Harbor House, Salvation Army Shelter
- Interfaith Resource Center
- Job Point
- Literary Action Center
- Lutheran Family and Children's Services
- Meals on Wheels
- MedZou Health Clinic
- Moving Ahead
- MU Eldercare Center
- Operation School Bell
- Rainbow House
- Reality House
- Catholic Charity, Refugee and Immigration Services
- Room at the Inn
- Russell Chapel Food Pantry
- Sturgeon Food Pantry
- The Wardrobe
- True North
- Turning Point
- Voluntary Action Center – Housing
- Worley Street Roundtable

*Susan Goldammer*

## **Jail Ministry**

After beginning her ministry with Saint Andrew's in 1995, Pastor Julia Will began attending the "Columbia Interfaith Council," a coalition of faith groups and social service agencies which met monthly to share information. One of the groups represented was the Boone County jail ministry. Edith Taylor, community leader and a member of First Christian Church invited Pastor Will to come with her to minister to the women incarcerated in the Boone County jail. Rev. Maureen Dickman, of Rock Bridge Christian Church, led the bible study. On her second visit she went with Edith Taylor and met Edith Prince of Russell Chapel, CME. They had a very important conversation about how the locks in the jail go deep into the soul of those incarcerated. Christ's compassion was the key to help in the soul work of the women incarcerated there. After discussion with church leaders, the Saint Andrew's Jail Ministry activity began in 1996.

A steady stream of caring people at St. Andrew's voluntarily joined the ministry. Visitations were limited to females. The St. Andrew's women began creating bible studies, choosing hymns that were broadly known in the Christian community (Amazing Grace was a favorite!) and working on a very brief communion service at the jail. Time in prayer was a crucial part of the worship. Prayer requests were invited from the incarcerated women, then shared with the broader prayer group at St. Andrew's. Later, the effort was expanded in visibility and prominence so first names are mentioned in our oral prayers every week during our Sunday services.

The ministry continues today, thanks to the dedication and faith of compassionate volunteers. They participate every fifth Sunday in the afternoon with the incarcerated women in Boone County jail.

“. . . I was in prison, and you visited me . . . just as you did it to one of the least of these . . . you did it to me.” Matthew 25:36, 40

## **Voluntary Action Center Christmas Program**

For many years, members of St. Andrew's have participated in the Columbia Voluntary Action Center's Christmas Program. Those participating adopt a family or individual who has indicated a need for assistance at Christmas time through the VAC. In coordination with VAC, St. Andrew's members purchase gifts and household supplies or provide financial aid for a holiday meal for the families in need and then deliver them to the VAC collection point in time for Christmas. St. Andrew's has been a great supporter of this program, which brings joy to recipients as well as those who contribute.

## Men's Breakfast

Beginning about 1970, several men in St. Andrew's began meeting on the first Saturday of the month for breakfast, a Christian message and fellowship. Ken Larson had joined St. Andrew's, and based on his experience in Ames, IA, Ken organized the breakfasts for several years. Early on many breakfasts were in the homes of the host participant, but most meetings are now held in the Fellowship Hall. Early on, some sons and occasionally a daughter would attend.



The goals are simple, to provide Christian Fellowship with a devotion and discussion to learn about significant issues in the lives and faith of participants. One would volunteer to provide breakfast, and another led the devotion and message that stimulated discussion. Topics of the devotion continue to be diverse, dependent on Bible passages about how Christians relate, function and discuss answers to social and religious situations. Delivery differs among the presenters, but invariably the topic leads to more insight, discussion, collegiality and fellowship. When Ken Larson moved back to Ames in about 1995, Harry Lewis became and still is the chair.

The basic goals have continued while the average age of the participants has gradually increased. The group did not meet during COVID, but now is active again. There are usually about 12-15 regulars and there is room for more; we must only alert the cook! So, feel welcome to join. For several years the Men's Breakfast group barbequed hamburgers and provided other dishes for the teachers and students at the opening evening of Vacation Bible School. A free-will offering is taken each month to defray food costs, but is rarely accepted by the cook, so it is given to the leader to hold the money. Gradually, when donations have accumulated to about \$100, the funds are given to a local agency to support needs and work in the community. The group has provided leadership and labor for lawn care, minor building repair, trimming trees and bushes, fall cleanup of the grounds and setting up rooms for church functions and activities.

## **International Outreach Aiding Refugees from Afghanistan**

Members of St. Andrew's participated in the resettlement of four families from Afghanistan from November of 2021 through the fall of 2022.

Working through the Columbia office of Catholic Charities, St. Andrew's volunteers helped in many ways to make the refugees' transition from their home country to the United States as easy as possible. They assisted the men in securing their drivers' licenses and jobs; they had English language classes for the women, supplying child care for the children, providing transportation to doctors' appointments, grocery stores and other shopping as needed, getting the children enrolled in school and involving the parents in PTA meetings, enabling the mothers to receive WIC benefits, and helping to furnish and stock the apartments of the families. People in the congregation were encouraged to donate produce from their gardens and space was found for the families to grow vegetables, as well. In addition, the congregation contributed financial resources to aid in the effort of insuring that these 22 refugees displaced from their homes would have solid support as they began their lives in a new country.





## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

**“... and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8**

### **Lutheran World Relief (LWR) involvement through Global Missions Team**

St. Andrew’s became involved with LWR quilts, kits and relief efforts starting in the early 2000s. Many members donated supplies and hours to bring overseas people comfort, warmth and joy. Recipients were people in orphanages and hospitals; people recovering from disasters; people living in refugee camps; and people needing basic school, personal-care and baby-care necessities.

Our involvement focused on several areas (see photos next page):

- Making backpacks for school kits and filling the kits; assembling other types of kits (baby-care, personal-care, sewing). The below numbers are an undercount because we don’t have the totals from the first five years:
  - School kits, 2,500
  - Health-care kits, 650
  - Baby-care kits, 604, mostly made by Karin Snyder
  - Sewing kits, 74
- Making quilts. Pat and Virgil Luedders made LWR quilts on their own for several years. More St. Andrew’s members led by June Hughes joined them to make it a vital part of our overseas missions. Quilt making is intensive and requires sewing tops, making backs, assembling the layers, tying the quilts and finally hemming. Approximately 1,523 quilts were sent after 2005, which likely underestimates the total because the number sent during the first five years is unknown
- Providing financial support for LWR through selling pumpkins, making green tomato relish and other canned goodies and handcrafts and quilts, selling Fairtrade coffee and chocolate, and hosting Fairtrade fairs.
- Hosting the mid- and western-Missouri LWR ingathering/pickup from 2006-2022. For two Covid years, we were the only ingathering for the entire state of Missouri.

Karon Speckman, Global Missions Chair, and Linda Vedder, LWR Vice-Chair

Photos from top to bottom:

- June Hughes and Pat Luedders, our early quilt makers
- All of the LWR contributions from Missouri in 2020 at St. Andrew's
- Blessing of quilts and kits in 2022
- Some of the 200 school kits sent in 2023
- Centrum view of the 100 quilts sent in 2023



## Growing Hope Globally



Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these ..., you did it to me.”  
Matthew 25:40

### Helping overseas subsistence farmers through Growing Hope Globally (Formerly Foods Resource Bank)

Growing Hope Globally works with 11 denominations to fund agricultural development programs overseas. St. Andrew’s became involved with Growing Hope in 2003 through a partnership with a rural church, Peace United Church of Christ-Hartsburg. We celebrated our 20-year anniversary in October 2023.

Our Peace UCC partnership has raised a total of \$354,512, thus helping 6,445 small-holder farmers to learn farming techniques to raise food for themselves and their families. (\$55 makes a person’s food secure for life). We also partnered with Peace Lutheran in Salisbury for several years, providing input for the Peace farmers’ crops. The churches raised money through the sale of corn and soybean crops, picking grapes, selling wine and melons, quilt raffles, dinners, and Lenten offerings.

Overseas farmers learn conservation methods, irrigation, marketing, livestock management and more. Helping a farmer means his/her family has food for an entire year, the family’s health is improved, and the farmers will have funds to pay for their children’s school supplies and family necessities. Most of the programs we have supported have been Growing Hope Globally/Lutheran World Relief programs in Uganda, Colombia, Bolivia and Peru. We’ve also supported programs in Sierra Leone (USA Presbyterian) and Kenya (Covenant World Relief and Development). International visitors from Gaza and Tanzania have visited St. Andrew’s.

Pictures from top: Orion Beckmeyer (Peace UCC-Hartsburg) with Linda Vedder and with Karon Speckman (Global Missions Chair); Two Gaza visitors from Growing Hope Globally at a St. Andrew’s dinner.

