

Encounter

From Pastor Jenna Pulkowski Pastor's Pen

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. (1 John 4:7 NRSVue)



Dear St. Andrew family of faith,

When you think of the month of February, what first comes to mind?

I know that for myself it is most often something to do with Valentine's Day, and that I am fortunate to primarily associate this day of love not with romantic love, but with the love of agape (pronounced ah-GA-pay).

Trying to convey the nuances of one of the many ways that the ancient Greeks delineated loving and being loved can sometimes be a futile practice. Some things just cannot be completely translated to another time, place, and way of existing. But, I'm going to try anyway.

When we encounter "love" in scripture, translators have usually translated it from the greek word agape. An agape love refers to a deep and abiding love that does not include romantic feelings. When someone loves with an agape love, they love someone the way a parent loves their child, or siblings love one another. The way in which Jesus loves us and loves the world shows us the way to then love one another, which 1 John 4:7 illustrates.

In college, I was introduced to the artwork and stories of the StoryPeople studio. While the art was initially very off-putting for me—it's quite strange!—the prints that have been gifted to me over the years have become some of my favorite non-biblical good news sources.

Continued on page 3

Worship & Music Lent and Holy Week Schedules

Ash Wednesday - February 22

7:00 pm - Traditional Worship with Imposition of Ashes and Communion

Mid-Week Lenten Services

March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm - Soup Supper

6:15 pm - 6:30 pm - Hymn Sing

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm - Holden Evening Service

Palm Sunday - April 2

8:30 am Traditional, 10:45 am Contemporary Worship, both with Passion Reading

Maundy Thursday - April 6

7:00 pm - Traditional Worship with Handwashing, First Communion and Stripping of Altar

Good Friday - April 7

7:00 pm - Contemporary Worship with Candle Lighting and Prayer Around the Cross

Easter Sunday - April 9

8:30 am Traditional, 10:45 am Contemporary Worship, both with Communion. Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt between services.

We need people to help with Saturday setup, clean up / setup between services on Sunday and clean up after the second service on Sunday.

Training would be provided.

Thanks in advance,

Judy

STEWARDSHIP - GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS AND HEARTS BUILD/PLANT/GROW - Jeremiah 29: 4-7

“Invest Where You Are”

Have you said “YES” to “Invest Where You Are”? This was our Stewardship focus for our Fall '22 Pledge Drive.

At the beginning of our Council meeting a couple weeks ago during our devotion time, Pastor Jenna asked those in attendance to take a few minutes to write down our DREAM FOR ST. ANDREW FOR 2023. There were a variety of answers, some with the same basic ideas; some really big dreams, a new fellowship hall; others more practical, a new parking lot, growth in attendance, bringing back more inactive members, attracting new young families, engaging all members to be part of the corps of volunteers and new ways of worship.

We have received 54 financial pledges so far for 2023 which shows we do have a congregation who cares, a congregation who is willing to make that commitment to say “yes” and prayerfully continue to move forward, to love and support each other in this new year! Let's support our leaders and each other with love and respect and let's STAY PLANTED, BUILD AND GROW!

Today, I will share another story from my daily devotions, “Walking in Grace” (used to be Daily Guideposts but they have changed their name and are also moving forward) written by Vicki Kuyper and published for New Year's Day - Sunday, January 1, 2023.

“Day One of 365...New Year's morning always feels like turning the first page of a new chapter in a much-loved book. I love that feeling. With a caffeine-enhanced skip of joy in my step, I opened the front door to shake out the welcome mat in anticipation of the friends who'd soon be arriving for brunch. I did a double take. An unexpected blanket of snow

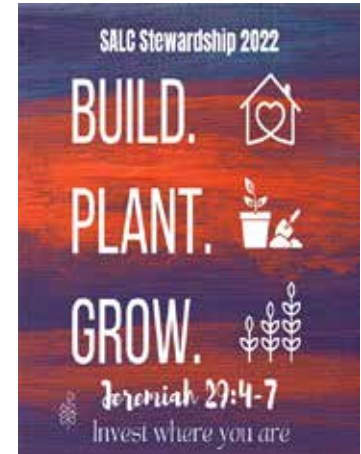
covered my walkway.

I looked up. The Colorado sky was a cloudless, azure blue. Snow hadn't been mentioned on last night's weather forecast for last night or today. Beyond my walkway, which was currently under the protective shadow of the eaves, there was not a hint of snowy white in sight. I phoned my son, who lives five minutes away, and he confirmed that his neighborhood was entirely flake-free.

Weird, I thought. Even for the Rockies. I picked up my broom, but my snow-covered walkway was so perfect, so pristine and untouched, that I hesitated to sweep away the beauty of the freshly fallen flakes. It felt like a God-given picture of my year ahead. A clean slate. No missteps. No wandering in circles. No veering off the path God set before me. So far, anyway. But it was only Day One.

No matter how lovely and perfect that untouched path seemed, I knew life couldn't be lived standing still. I had to move forward, loving and learning my way through the days ahead. I prayed the footprints I left behind me this year would be ones I'd be proud for my grandchildren to follow in. Then I stepped across the threshold and swept away the snow, welcoming in whatever lay ahead.”

Father, thank you for forgiving what lies behind me and guiding me forward onto a path of grace and growth... Amen.



Lyn Hayes

Pastor's Pen - continued from page one

Two of my favorite stories about love and loving, the difficulty of love and loving, and the persistence of love and loving are displayed in my office.

The first is Real Hero: "Anyone can slay a dragon, she told me, but try waking up every morning & loving the world all over again. That's what takes a real hero."

The second is Love Works: "Make me a tool of the resistance, I said to the angel, and when I woke up I wanted to hug everyone I could see."

Both of these stories capture the active part of love. The love that God gave to us in Jesus, and continues to give to us through the Holy Spirit, is a love that moves and acts as well as feels.

As we enter the month dedicated to love, we will continue to encounter God's love through worship and the sacraments. On Ash Wednesday we will bear the sign of God's eternal love for us and all creation as we are marked with ash—a sign of our mortality—in the shape of the cross—God's sign of our everlasting life through Christ.

Next month, I'll be more thoroughly introducing our Lenten theme of "Unfinished" but, in the meantime, I will leave you with this consideration: how is God inviting you to love more fiercely, love more intentionally, and to love more fully this Lent? What better time to start thinking about it than this season of love.

Peace,
Pr Jenna

Dream the Dream 75

We *are* entering a new season in the life of St. Andrew. This year, 2023, marks our **75th anniversary** as an organized congregation.

For everything there is a season. During this Ordinary Season, we are dreaming God's dream for St. Andrew.

Peace, Pr Jenna

PARISH LIFE

What would you like to see happen in 2023?

How can we as a "family" at St. Andrew have some fun together? Ideas? What can you do to help organize some fellowship events?



Thank you to all who have contributed treats for our Sunday Coffee fellowship time between services. Don't forget to sign up if you've been thinking about it and would enjoy these sweet treats and time to chat a bit. You can also call me or send an e mail to busiain2006@gmail.com with any questions.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

YOU matter, YOU are important! You may find your place, your comfort zone and find out you are stronger than you thought.



Thank You for Your Offering!

We continue to have 4 ways to ensure your Giving reaches the church.

- 1) **"Drop-Off"** - During church office hours.
(M-Th, 10-3)
- 2) **Mailing** it to the church
- 3) **On-Line**, for recurring and one-time offerings. Go to standrewmundelein.com/donations to access the online giving portal.
- 4) **In Worship**



Bible Readings for the Month

February 5 –
 5th Sunday after Epiphany
 Isaiah 58:1-9
 Psalm 112:1-9
 1 Corinthians 2:1-12
 Matthew 5:13-20

February 12 –
 6th Sunday after Epiphany
 Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm 119:1-8
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 Matthew 5:21-37

February 19 –
 Transfiguration of Our Lord
 Exodus 24:12-18
 Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
 2 Peter 1:16-21
 Matthew 17:1-9

February 26 –
 1st Sunday of Lent
 Deuteronomy 30:15-20
 Psalm 119:1-8
 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
 Matthew 5:21-37

Church Council - 2023

(At the Annual Meeting, January 29th, new council members will be elected.)

- Leslie Parriott*
- Molly Dir*
- Donn Hamm*
- Anastasia Carmona*
- Heidi Emso*
- Nancy Milne*
- Steve Payne*
- *Krissy Grace*
- *Tia Kowalewski*

*And their response...
 "I will,
 and I ask God
 to help me"*

** New Council Member*



Annual Meeting Summary

Sunday, January 29 was our Annual Meeting. After obtaining a quorum the meeting was brought to order by Council President Leslie Parriott at 12:00 noon. The annual report and agenda were accepted and the meeting moved on to the proposed budget for 2023.

The proposed budget centered around the anticipated shortfall for expenses this coming year based on our known pledges versus the increases expected due to inflation that has been unusually high.

After a review of the proposed budget it was amended to reflect a more conservative approach to the expected donations and therefore the budget was passed with a possible shortfall of over \$60,000 for 2023. This shortfall will be the focus for the congregation and council as we move into the new year.

It is with deepest appreciation and gratitude that we thank the four council members that have completed their elected commitment to the church council; Lisa Green, Lyn Hayes, Mary Hanson and Steve Jacobson. All four of them have served multiple terms on the council and have been instrumental and dynamic in their approach to directing St. Andrew in pursuit of sharing Christ.

We welcome Chrissy Grace and xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx to the Council. We appreciate their commitment to future contributions to be leaders in our congregation.

Treasurer's Report December & YTD (All of 2022)

	GIVING	EXPENDITURES	(+/-)
DECEMBER			
Giving	\$26,388.95	\$27,630.99	(\$-1,242.04)
YEAR TO DATE FOR 2022			
Giving	\$287,913.90	\$298,815.11	(\$-10,901.21)

Donn Hamm, Treasurer

PRAYER VENTURES

February 2023

- 1** Black History Month Give thanks for the gifts, accomplishments, influence and witness of our African-descent neighbors and siblings in Christ — we stand together to glorify God as partners in the gospel, doing God’s work in the world together. Though unified as siblings in Christ, we ask God to guide our church in its pursuit of racial justice, socioeconomic equity, racial reconciliation and an end to hatred and mistrust.
- 2** Give thanks for older adults, whose diverse gifts, life experiences, perspectives and wisdom are essential to the life, vitality and leadership of our congregations and communities.
- 3** Pray for leaders of children, youth and family ministries as these leaders gather for the ELCA Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza in Anaheim, Calif. Give thanks for their commitment, gifts and concern for the faith and well-being of young people.
- 4** Give thanks for staff and volunteers who help congregations function smoothly, grow and thrive, including administrative assistants, accountants, property managers, program coordinators and communications staff.
- 5** Jesus describes us as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Pray that, by sharing our faith and acting with compassion, justice and care for our neighbors, we might direct people’s attention to our loving and generous God.
- 6** ELCA World Hunger works through the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and alongside global companions and agencies in Kenya to build the capacity of families to respond to and withstand worsening droughts. Pray for our neighbors in Kenya and for the immediate and long-term success of LWF initiatives, which include training farmers in climate-smart practices, building and repairing water wells, managing water supplies and promoting hygiene.
- 7** Remember in prayer those who have suffered tragedy, trauma or loss from recent winter storms, flooding and earthquakes. Pray that God will bring them hope and encouragement throughout their grieving, recovery and adjustment to the changes in their communities.
- 8** Pray for pastors and deacons who serve multiple congregations, and pray that congregations sharing leadership will flourish, discovering new partners, resources and assets for doing God’s work in the world.
- 9** Pray that our compassion and advocacy, offered without prejudice or the expectation of any recognition or reward, might bring light, hope and relief to the world. “If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday” (Isaiah 58:9-10).
- 10** Remember in prayer the 1.3 million people serving in the military and the nearly 800,000 serving in the military reserves, many of them young adults.
- 11** Give thanks and pray for the ELCA’s AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities), work that grows more critical every day as vulnerable youth yearn for assistance with the daunting task of finding safety, stability, respect and welcoming communities in our country.
- 12** Pray for people who suffer chronic illness and pain that impacts their daily lives, activities and employment; pray that they might receive affordable health care and effective treatment; and ask the Spirit to stir our empathy and help us provide appropriate, respectful support.
- 13** Pray that our civic engagement and concern for our neighbor and the world might exceed what is required or expected of us by laws, social norms, trends and tradition.
- 14** Ask God to help us understand, respect and set aside our differences so that we might be empowered by our unity in Christ and embrace our complementary gifts and passions to do God’s work in the world, “for we are God’s servants, working together” (1 Corinthians 3:9).

- 15** Praise God that, as different as we are from one another, we gather to celebrate Communion remembering our unity and strength in Christ, who frees us to love and serve our neighbor and to bear God's mercy into the world.
- 16** Give thanks for the publishing ministry of Augsburg Fortress and for writers and editors who help deepen our faith, equip us for life and service, and support our faith communities.
- 17** Praise God for the clarity and joy we find in following God's ways and commandments, and for the assurance that we are never alone or directionless in our baptismal journeys.
- 18** Martin Luther, renewer of the church (1483-1546) Give thanks for the life, faith, prayerful deliberation, and wisdom of Martin Luther, who continues to influence and challenge the church and our theology. Pray that we might remember Luther's human complexity and imperfections — and our own — as we strive to understand Scripture and live as children of God in an ever-changing world.
- 19** We embrace the mystery of the Holy Trinity through the gift of faith. Give thanks that, through Scripture, God leads us to clarity about the true nature of Jesus Christ, who was sent to redeem us and to teach us how to live as children of God: "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (Matthew 17:5).
- 20** World Day of Social Justice Pray that our concern for social justice in the world will be grounded in our faith, Jesus' example and the ways and wisdom of God, emboldening us to serve our neighbor, respect one another and risk changing unjust laws, traditions, institutions and behaviors.
- 21** Shrove Tuesday Ask the Spirit to prepare our hearts for the season of Lent and to create in us a humble, penitent spirit that is renewed daily through faith in God's forgiveness and love, revealed and experienced in Jesus Christ.
- 22** Ash Wednesday "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). Give thanks for the cross of ash drawn on our foreheads today, which assures us of God's forgiveness, love and renewing spirit.
- 23** Pray for ELCA missionaries serving with our global companions in Tanzania: David and Kellen Msseemaa, Astine and Ryan Bose, Dr. Steven and Bethany Friberg, Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson, Deacon April Trout, Linda Jacobson, Robert Kasworm, the Rev. Mary Jo Maas, Derrick Matthews and Dr. Dorothy Brewster-Lee, the Rev. Elieshi Mungure, and Robert and Carolee Stuberg.
- 24** Shout praise and thanksgiving for God's love, forgiveness, patience, creativity and concern for those who suffer poverty, injustice and disregard.
- 25** Pray for the Deaconess Community of the ELCA, an intentional group of women who respond to Christ's call through Word and Service and diaconal ministry.
- 26** Give thanks for the strength and example of Jesus, who prevailed over temptation and demonstrated the power of God over evil, self-interest and greed. Pray that the Spirit will guide and sustain us through the challenges we face each day.
- 27** Pray that we might understand how we stray from God's intent, harming or neglecting our neighbor. Ask the Spirit for the humility we need to confess our offenses, receive God's mercy with gratitude and make amends with neighbors we have hurt.
- 28** Give thanks for synod bishops who manage their synods' work, further the church's mission in diverse contexts, and support and care for leaders and congregations. Pray for them as they gather in mutual support and encouragement for the Conference of Bishops, to advise the presiding bishop of our church and reflect on how we do God's work in the world.

Women's Fellowship

Always Caring and Sharing

Women's Fellowship Thursday Dates for 2022-2023

We hope that you mark your calendars for our upcoming events. We will meet in person at 7pm at church unless noted otherwise noted.

We had a meaningful time together at our November meeting when we met at the Dunn Museum for the Native Drum Circle presentation.

The Seven Springs All Nations Drum group shared stories, beliefs, nature tales, music and dance. It was an uplifting experience.

Our December meeting was our annual traditional Christmas Caroling to church members on Thursday, December 8. Carolers each brought a



couple dozen cookies and/or candies for us to share with our elderly members. We met at the church by 5 pm so that we could put together our holiday trays before we began caroling.

The rest of our upcoming dates are:

February 9th - "Our Favorite Things" theme is set for our February fellowship on Thursday, February 9 at church at 7:00 PM. Pick out a couple of your "favorite things" to share with the women of the church. (piece of jewelry, book,



*Christmas Caroling
December 8th*



*October 13 -
Cookie Baking with Katie -
designing autumn cookies*

photo, food, artifact, decoration, etc.) It will be an opportunity to share stories with one another. Snacks will be provided. We hope that you will be able to join us.

*"Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens,
Bright copper kettles and warm woolen mittens,
Brown paper packages tied up with strings,
These are a few of my favorite things!"*

February 9 - Sharing favorite piece of jewelry, share your favorite piece of jewelry and stories

March 9 - Game Night

April 13 - Movie/Pizza Night

May 11 - Guest Speaker - TBA

June 8 - Dinner at
Taco/Burrito Express



*Barbara
Binversie*

Thanks you,
Barb Binversie, barbarabinversie@gmail.com
or 847-566-8708.

Flowers for the Altar

You can sign-up to donate flowers for 2023. If you would like to continue our tradition of sponsoring flowers for the altar, please email the date and information to Anita. The cost is \$20. Sponsors for the eternal candle are \$20 for the month. Let's continue to beautify and light our church with memories and remembrances and honors!!



Editor's Notes

Information to share, thank-yous, articles, notes, stories or pictures, (many photographers needed!) please continue to email them to:

dehamm@comcast.net.

Please put **ENCOUNTER** in the subject header.

*Next Due Date will Be -
Thursday, February, 16th*

Altar Guild

How Can I Help?

Church services are up and running! This would be a good time to get involved in one of the most enjoyable St. Andrew's many on-going ministries.

It is usually a very quiet time that you can go about preparing the altar for the Sunday service. Work at your own time and own pace.

The Altar Guild prepares the altar for Sunday's service and communion. Traditionally, this was Saturday morning but it can work on different schedules. The assignment schedule is prepared a year in advance and can involve only one month. It is a good opportunity for moms/dads and an older child to serve in this important ministry! Complete "how-to" information is available. Please contact Tana Hamm (tanahamm@comcast.net) if you would like more information.

QUILTERS CROSSING

Who knows that men's large and x-large t-shirts can make four baby diapers to be put into our Baby Care Kits? While clearing out your shirt drawer and you come across those shirts that you no longer wear

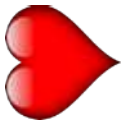


or have never worn (maybe they were a gag gift for your -nth birthday), consider donating them to the Quilters. Let's see how many we can collect! You can also pick those t-shirts up at the resale shops or soon at garage sales again. They just have to be in good condition, stain and hole free.

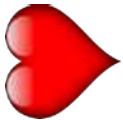
We are always grateful as well to receive donations of blankets, sheets, pillowcases, thread, and sewing machine needles (size 14 and 16). With all of your heartfelt donations and support we have been able to complete at least 250 quilts since May '22 - WE WILL MEET or EXCEED our goal of 350 completed by May '23. We have so many faithful workers and more "hands" to do "God's Work" are always welcome! NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! We will find a job for you and there are almost always goodies to eat while you are working! We continue to meet each Thursday (there have been only a few exceptions) from 9-11:30 and even share "lunch" once a month when all are welcome to join us.

WE ARE CONTINUALLY BLESSED!

Please contact Judy Parriott (847)986-4465 with any questions.

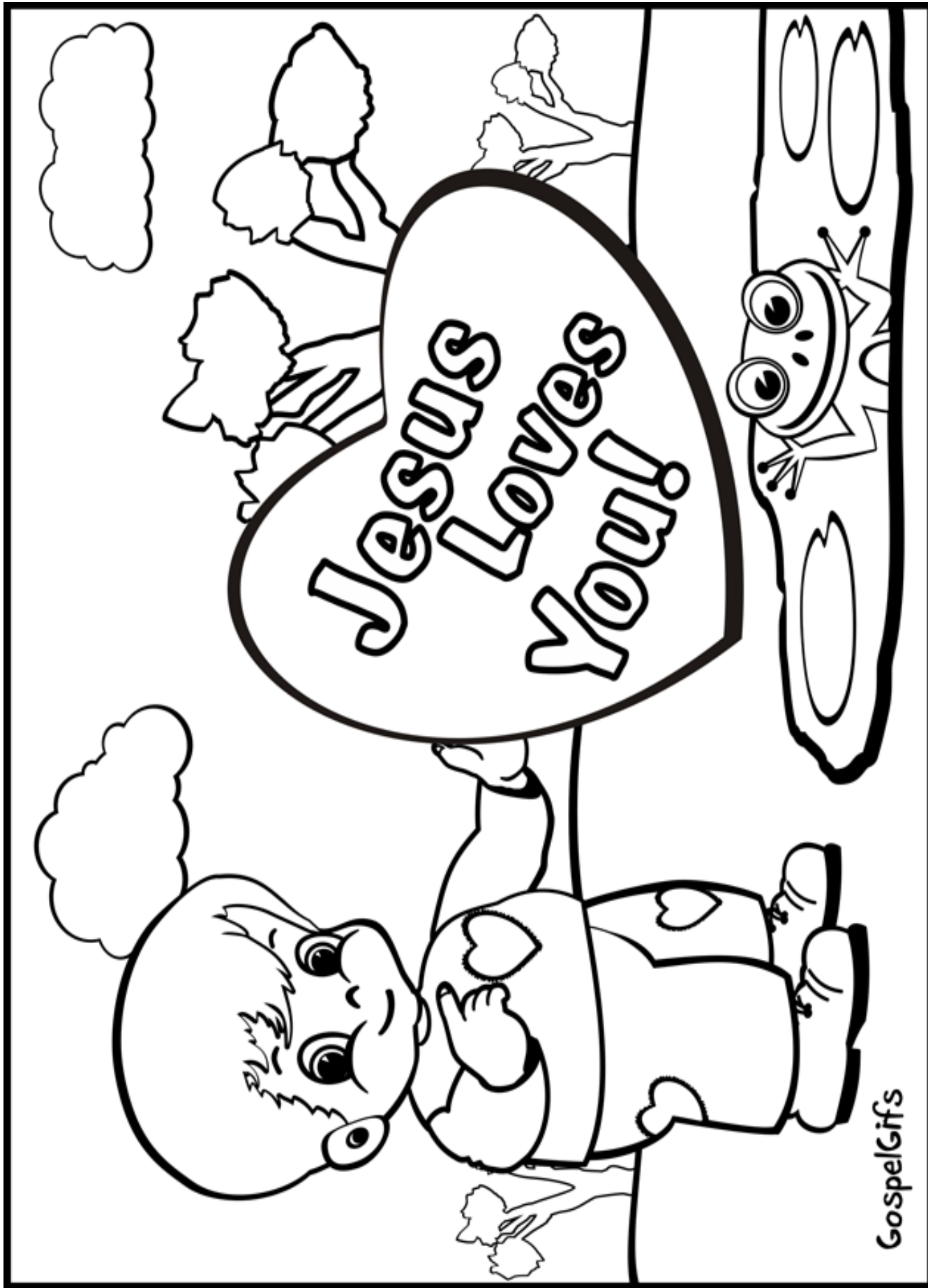


February 2023

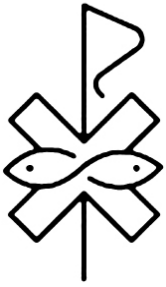


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Confirmation	2 9 am Quilters	3 5:30 pm Early Bird AA 6:30 pm Girl Scouts #47205	4
5 8:30 Traditional 10:45 Contemporary 11:00 Sunday School 3 pm Girl Scouts #45617	6 6:30 pm Early Bird AA	7 6:30 pm Cub Scouts #98 7:30 pm Boy Scouts #198 7:30 pm Mundelein AA	8 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Confirmation 6:30 Bell Choir Reh 7 pm Lucky Ducks 4-H	9 9 am Quilters	10 5:30 pm Early Bird AA 5:45 pm Council Fellowship (off-site)	11 8:30 am Women's Breakfast Bible Study 9 am Council Retreat (off-site)
12 8:30 Traditional 10:45 Contemporary 11:00 Sunday School	13 6:30 pm Early Bird AA	14 Valentine's Day 9:00 am Men's Breakfast (Ely's Restaurant) 7 pm Worship & Music Mtg (ZOOM) 7:30 pm Boy Scouts #198 7:30 pm Mundelein AA	15 ENCOUNTER ARTICLES DUE 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Confirmation	16 9 am Quilters – Brown Bag Lunch – All are welcome	17 5:30 pm Early Bird AA 6:30 pm Girl Scouts #47205	18
19 8:30 Traditional 10:45 Contemporary 11:00 Sunday School 3 pm Girl Scouts #45617	20 6:30 pm Early Bird AA	21 6:30 pm Cub Scouts #98 7:30 pm Troop #198 7:30 pm Mundelein AA	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship w/ Imposition of Ashes	23 9 am Quilters 6 pm Girl Scouts Jr Troop #45730 7 pm Operations Umbrella Mtg	24 5:30 pm Early Bird AA	25 9 am Quilters
26 8:30 Traditional 10:45 Contemporary 11:00 Sunday School	27 6:30 pm Early Bird AA 7 pm Staff Support	28 9:00 am Men's Breakfast (Ely's Restaurant) 7:30 pm Boy Scouts #198 7:30 pm Mundelein AA				

For our young readers



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**Dated Material
Do Not Delay**

All are Welcome...

*The Sunday Morning
Worship Schedule is:*

Traditional Service:
8:30 a.m.

Contemporary Service:
10:45 a.m.

Sunday Service can be viewed at
www.standrewmundelein.com

St. Andrew Lutheran Church (ELCA)
10 South Lake Street
Mundelein, IL 60060

Telephone No.: 847-566-8081



The Blessing

[Thə Ble-sin] **noun**

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His
Face toward you
And give you peace

Amen, amen, amen

Our mission as a congregation is to *Share Christ*. More specifically, it is to help people come to *know* Christ, to *grow* in their relationship with Christ and his Church, and to be equipped to *serve* and *witness* in Christ's name. We would love to have you join us in this mission.