

Encounter

From Pastor Jenna Pulkowski Pastor's Pen

Dear St. Andrew family of faith,

It seems like we were just singing "Away in the Manger" and "Silent Night", and yet we are only a couple weeks away from the start of Lent and our journey to the cross with Christ.



When the Worship & Music Team met in early November, we quickly settled on once again using A Sanctified Art for our Lenten materials. Inspired by the hymn "Come Thou Fount", we will focus on the life and faith of the rock of the church, Peter. Peter, who was both steady and unsteady, who followed Christ and whose wandering heart often struggled to stay.

Oh, to grace, how great a debtor / Daily I'm constrained to be. / Let thy goodness like a fetter / Bind my wandering heart to thee

There's a reason why Peter is one of my absolute favorite apostles. He struggles, he falters, he makes bold commitments that he doesn't always keep, he loves Jesus, and he doesn't always make the best choices.

But Peter doesn't give up; he keeps going. "He drops his nets, he walks on water, he runs to the empty tomb, he swims to the shore to meet the risen Christ. He keeps searching and yearning and loving, even after missteps and mistakes. Ultimately, in Peter's story, we are reminded that God loves imperfect people...[because] that's precisely who God claims and calls".

This Lent, God invites us to the cross and the empty tomb, using the stepping stones of Peter's story to help us find our own faith path. "As we wander, let us tune our hearts to sing God's grace. May we rest in streams of mercy, never ceasing".

Each week will explore the theme of "Wandering Heart", from Ash Wednesday's "Tune my heart" all the way to Easter's "And I hope". There will be a beautiful variety of resources to help your own Wandering Heart, including several different devotional options,

Continued on page 4

(CIA) Caring in Action



If you are homebound, or know of anyone who is, or would just like a visit for companionship or perhaps to play a game of scrabble or cards

**contact your Caring
In Action Team –**

We are available to visit, pray, chat, read scriptures, offer communion or help with your needs of picking up some groceries or medications and other errands. We could arrange some help with rides to Dr. appointments or perhaps Church. Call Anita to get in touch with our team: Pastor Jenna, Myrna Wells, Carol Clouser, Tana Hamm, Paulette Metts, Ellen Van Zeeland, Barb Benversie and Carol Clark. A warm welcome to Sonia Schoenfield who has volunteered to join our team. We extend an invitation to others who can find time to also add their name to this important mission of serving others. Please contact Anita in the church office at 847-566-8081.

Myrna Wells and
Carol Clouser

Gifts and Memorial Fund

The church gift/memorial fund is established for the purpose of receiving and holding money given to the church in memory or honor of someone or to honor a special occasion.

GIFTS CAN BE GIVEN IN MEMORY, IN HONOR, AND WITH THANKS TO, GOD FOR BLESSINGS RECEIVED.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

LOLITA BOLDT

Ray Parpan

RHONDA GORKEE

Mary Hanson

Ron & Norma Schultz

Lil Anselm

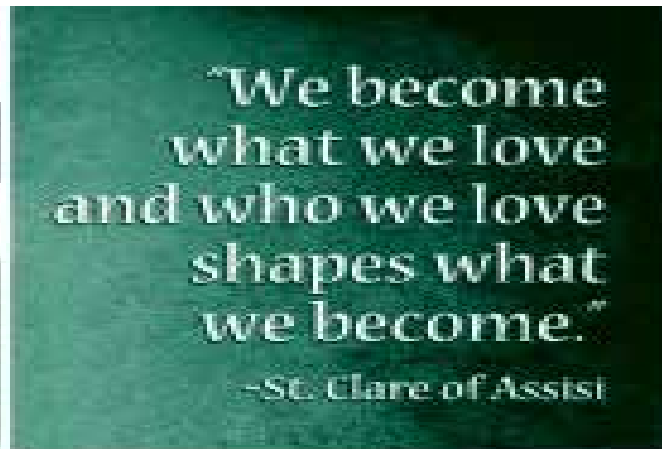
ALICE ARROYO

Lawrence & Inez Sheya

JACQUELYN SCHMIDT

Mary Hanson

From Andrea Ammons



Bible Readings for the Month

February 4 --

5th Sunday after Epiphany

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

February 11 --

Transfiguration of Our Lord

2 Kings 2:1-12

Psalms 50:1-6

2 Corinthians 4:3-6

Mark 9:2-9

February 18 --

1st Sunday in Lent

Genesis 9:8-17

Psalms 25:1-10

1 Peter 3:18-22

Mark 1:9-15

February 25 --

2nd Sunday in Lent

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Psalms 22:23-31

Romans 4:13-25

Mark 8:31-38

Editor's Notes from Donn Hamm

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, 15th



Flowers for the Altar



If you would like to continue our tradition of sponsoring flowers for the altar, please either email the date and information to Anita or sign up on the flower calendar outside of Pastor's office. 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!!

Thank you for your offering!

We continue to have 3 ways to ensure your Giving reaches the church.

- 1) **"Drop-Off"** - During church office hours.
- 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.



TREASURER'S REPORT

December 2023

Total Expense:.....	\$39,823.01
Total Income:	\$25,676.57
Net:.....	+14,146.44

A big thank you to all that contributed in December, it was our best month all year and really helped in reducing our deficite for the year!

My prayer is that your generosity can continue to allow St. Andrew to continue in our mission **where all people are welcomed, fed, and nourished in the name of Jesus Christ.** -Donn

Quilters' Crossing

"Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love....."



Your St. Andrew faithful quilters are still hard at work with more than 225 quilts completed so far this year. We are at a bit of a stand-still as we need quilt tops sewn, but soon prayerfully we will be at full swing again in assembling & tying our beautiful quilts to fulfill our mission. If there is anyone out there with a sewing machine at home who would be willing to learn how to sew the tops, just let us know. Kits of pre-cut material and instructions are available to be picked up at church and sewn at your leisure! We have been truly blessed for many years with "home sewers" who have completed these tops for us but could use some more hands and hearts for this project.

Items for the baby care kits are still being collected - men's large or larger t-shirts that are used to make diapers and baby socks 6-24 mo and receiving type blankets are needed.

We are always grateful, as well, for sheets (queen or king size flat are preferable) and blankets that can be used as backs for the quilts. Some blankets can also be used as fillers. If you are cleaning out your linen closet and have good, clean items to donate, we will graciously accept them.

Thank you again to all who supported our Christmas craft sale and quilt raffle. Thanks to you, all of our machines are now cleaned and serviced and "ready for action".

If you have questions, come to see us on Thursdays in the church basement from 9-12 (or on the 4th Saturday of every month), call Judy Parriott (847) 986-4465 or catch one of us on Sunday morning and we will tell you what a great time we have and how rewarding this "work" is!

We are truly blessed to be able to help in comforting others and sharing good fellowship, snacks and building good and lasting friendships along the way!

Lyn H. for the Quilters



St. Andrew Garden & Flower Report

Pictures of large clumps of Iris that should bloom prolifically next spring.

In the front of garden I have roughly a 10-12' main flower bed. At front of bed I have a row of Standard Dwarf Bearded Irises these grow to 15", and behind them are Miniature Tall Bearded Irises and Tall Bearded Irises. These grow to 27" and to 40"+ respectively. Plus, my own siberians on sides plus Red Hibiscus in back middle.

On the right side of the garden I am building 3 rows of flowers mostly my own , + some of Illinois hybridizers and some of my friends Irises from Oregon! The row to left of Tall Bearded Irises will be Daylilies and row to left of those will be Siberians. What I dont get planted this year I will plant in spring!



In September traveled to Monticello and saw Thomas Jeffersons garden. Though hard to say if it really looked like that, their idea of wood teepees to grow Pole Beans intrigued me enough to try it here.

That, also, will let our fence grow different crops than beans. (more vining plants, cucumbers, peas, melons, etc)

In deference to try to get a larger crop for consistent donations I am gonna try more determent tomatoes (plants that produce fruit that matures at same time) plus separate rows of tomatoes for ease of picking.

New rows of Cabbage, more peppers and more hotter peppers. Many different Cucumbers, Zucchini, squash, and bush beans with many staggered plantings to try to have a large crop every week from middle of July to October.

Onions, leeks, kale, many Spinach and Lettuce, chard, some smaller sugar baby watermelons and some very large orange fleshed watermelons. It should be a great year.

In spring I am gonna ask for egg shells, 6-8' wood poles for the teepees, extra worms, composted veggie scraps to supply nutrients to the garden!

I also have decided to try "No Dig Garden ala Charles Dowding of England" advocates no dig that advocates no weeds and better produce!

I will get the garden organized so the congregation can help me.

Dale and Anne Hamblin

Pastor's Pen - continued from page one

midweek soup suppers and Holden Evening Prayer, and supportive resources for families with young children.

I am holding you all in prayer as we ready ourselves for the ashes that lead to new life in Christ, and that you have a holy, meaningful Lent.

Prone to wander, Lord I feel it / Prone to leave the God I love / Here's my heart, oh take and seal it / Seal it for thy courts above.

In Christ's Peace, Pr Jenna

Women's Fellowship



Not sure who enjoyed Christmas caroling on Thursday, December 21st our longest night more - the carolers or those we sang to! It was not a "Silent Night" but a "Joy to the World" one. Thank you everyone who brought cookies/candies and sang! We had a wonderful group and time! Happy New Year! (Enjoy the photos)



Women's Fellowship: We were extremely fortunate to have our Bunco Gathering just before the snow storms and frigid winter temperature. The dozen of us enjoyed our very filling potluck dinner and story sharing. Then the Bunco "stealing" began. The warm winter socks were the hit and are probably being worn during this extremely cold week. There were many unique gifts. We all had a great time! Thanks for joining us. If you missed it, hope you can come to the Feed My Starving Children gathering in February. We are also planning our annual "summer" dinner out in June.



Feed My Starving Children Service Project: We will meet at the Libertyville FMSC site (742 East Park Avenue, Libertyville) on **February 15, 4:30 - 6:15 pm** to fulfill our mission statement! "Our mission is to be a church where all people are welcomed, fed and nourished in the name of Jesus Christ." Please let Barb Binversie (barbarabinversie@gmail.com) know by February 5 if you are able to join us, so that she can sign you up on the FMSC website. Afterwards, we will continue our fellowship with going out for dinner at nearby Culvers.



STEWARDSHIP –

STEWARDSHIP - We Continue to Share our GENEROSITY (our Time, Talents and Treasures)

THANK YOU ALL again who have made a new, or who have renewed, your financial commitment to your St. Andrew family for 2024. If you have not turned in a pledge and are still planning to do so, please do so as soon as possible. If you give on-line or intend to keep your pledge the same as before, please still fill out a pledge card (or call the church office) so we have an accurate accounting of what finances we can expect to keep our ministry going. As we start a new year, there are many visions of what we want to do in the coming year, changes that we can make to help and support each other and the community at large. We are all so blessed and we should be continually grateful. We do this by being generous with our treasure but also with our time and our talents/abilities.

As many of you know, or may have noticed, I use many stories in my monthly articles that I come across in my daily devotions. I was so excited to pick up my new copy of “Walking in Grace” -2024 to get a sneak peek of what I may be able to share with you - the theme for the coming year is “Called to Peace” inspired by Colossians 3:15, “Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”

Life can be unsettling. What a balm that Jesus assures us He never changes. He offers His solace and comfort as we focus on His words in the Bible, where He tells us, over and over again, that He is a peace-bringer. What good news to set our mind upon, to hold close. In an ever changing world we are privileged to be surrounded by many talented people who have their own stories to share - vulnerable, beautiful, sorrowful, and joyful stories from their own lives and their own faith walks. These insights can open up a whole new window into our own spiritual lives and our own spiritual life and relationship with God to encourage and help us as we walk daily with the Lord and to bring us peace.

One of the writers is going to reflect on the eternal value of some of her friends, valued by God even if they are not important in the world’s eyes. Another reflects on how even difficult situations like tense school board meetings can provide moments of learning and connectedness with her daughter. Another shares about the hurt of church rejection and subsequent healing she’s experienced. Another tells us that even sharing a coloring book with her daughter can be a moment for God to help her expand her generosity. Another remembers his own health struggles as he encourages patients as a hospital chaplain.

As we focus on 2024, let us find comfort and peace that we have a faithful family at St. Andrew, faithful friends and leaders that we can count on in times of need and times of joy. I pray that each of you can find that peace, comfort and your part of the body of Christ here.

Praise be to our God and our living Saviour, our Lord Jesus Christ!

Lyn H and the Stewardship Team



Worship with us
by viewing our
service on line at:
Standrewmundelein.
com

PRAYER VENTURES

February 2024

- 1 Pray for synod hunger team chairs and other key ELCA World Hunger leaders participating in the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering in Houston. Ask the Spirit to guide their work of energizing congregations and synods to end hunger and poverty in the world, bringing relief and hope to our neighbors.
- 2 Remember in prayer those who suffer from heart disease, heart failure and congenital heart defects. Pray for the doctors, nurses, surgeons, care providers, researchers and chaplains who provide treatment, care and encouragement to patients of all ages and their families.
- 3 Pray for your synod's leaders, congregations and special ministries. Ask the Spirit to sustain them and stir their creative wisdom in carrying out the mission of the church in a changing and challenging world.
- 4 Give thanks for Jesus, our Savior, who changed the world not by force or coercion but by demonstrating God's lifesaving love, mercy, care for those who suffer and welcome for those who are excluded. Pray that the example of Jesus and the word of God will guide us in living for one another and sharing the gospel.
- 5 Pray for peace, healing and justice in places of conflict and violence, especially Ukraine, the Holy Land, Myanmar, Haiti, Venezuela and the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- 6 "The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary" (Isaiah 40:28). Who better to have at our side during every twist and turn in life than God, who is mighty, merciful and concerned for our well-being? Give praise and thanks to God!
- 7 Remember in prayer our neighbors and siblings in Christ who experience domestic abuse — physical, sexual or emotional. Pray that they will find refuge, community support and care for their injury and trauma. Give thanks for the work of ELCA Justice for Women, Women of the ELCA and community organizations that serve victims and survivors of domestic violence.
- 8 Praise God for the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger and the ways God continues to use our collective assets to impact the world and serve our neighbors in need.
- 9 Promise to follow in the footsteps of Paul, who was mindful of the responsibility God had entrusted him with to share the gospel with people of various cultures, beliefs and life circumstances.
- 10 Pray that the Spirit will strengthen and sustain Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, stir her wisdom and renew her vision for our church and its mission.
- 11 Like Jesus' disciples, we are often confused, fearful and full of questions, longing to understand what God is doing through Jesus and what we must do as followers. Pray for God's patience as our faith matures and we learn how to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ.
- 12 Give thanks for our global companions whose daily realities, faith traditions, culture and language may differ from ours yet complement and enrich our lives and faith.
- 13 Pray that everything we do and say as people of faith will light the world, direct attention to our Creator and reflect God's love for humanity and all creation.
- 14 *Ash Wednesday* "Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them" (Matthew 6:1). Reflect on who we are to God — fragile, imperfect beings and loved children who stand before God with humility and gratitude.

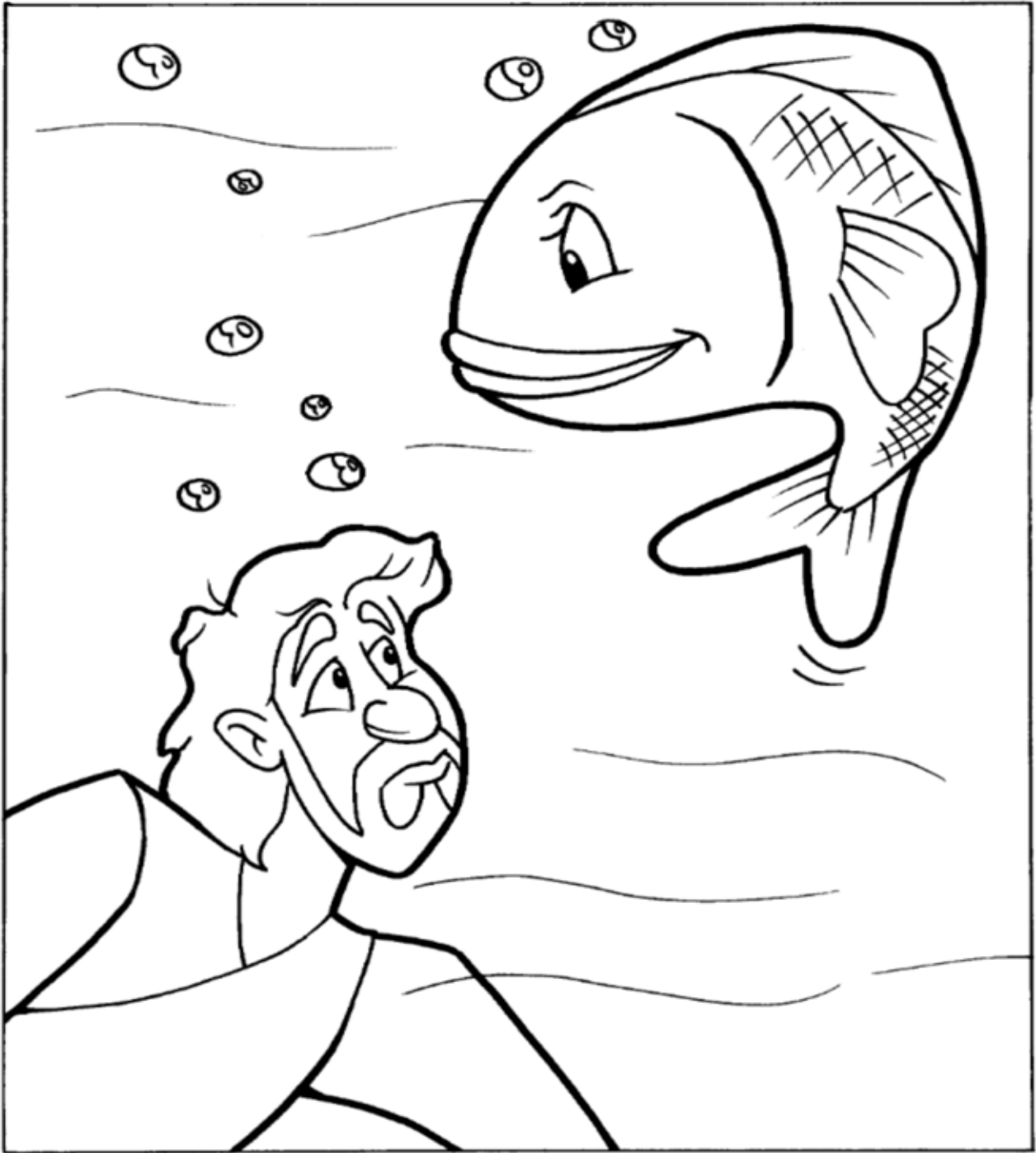
- 15** Joy and sorrow are both intrinsic to being human. Pray that we might feel each of them as deeply, in the world and in our lives.
- 16** Pray that, during Lent, we will lean into God's grace and mercy with humility, trusting the promise that the suffering, death and resurrection of Christ win us a place in the kingdom of God.
- 17** Pray that, as bold disciples of Christ, we will be unashamed of our faith, confident in God's promises, comfortable telling our faith story and quick to respect and serve those in need.
- 18** "God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth'" (Genesis 9:12-13). Give thanks and praise to God for this promise of love and forgiveness.
- 19** *Martin Luther, renewer of the church (1483-1546)* Give thanks that we continue to learn from and be inspired by the sermons, hymns and writings of Martin Luther, who studied and wrestled with Scripture and the church to better understand God's saving grace and how it impacts every aspect of daily life.
- 20** Ask God to bless the work of the ELCA Organizing for Mission Network, a community of leaders and resource providers who use the principles of community organizing to develop, redevelop and renew gospel-centered communities that act for the sake of the world and the well-being of our neighbor.
- 21** The cross has become widespread in art, jewelry, clothing and popular culture around the world. Reflect on the symbol and the true meaning of the cross for those who find salvation and identity in Christ.
- 22** Remember in prayer those who helped you become the child of God you are today — siblings in Christ, parents and family, church leaders, teachers, friends, strangers, mentors and influential people who have gone before us.
- 23** Promise to learn God's ways and truth and to integrate them into your daily life, that we might operate from a firm foundation of love, wisdom and justice when struggling to discern right from wrong and to relate to one another.
- 24** Pray for the work of the ELCA Peace Not Walls campaign, which seeks a just and lasting resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and connects ELCA members with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, the Lutheran World Federation and ecumenical companions across the Middle East.
- 25** Do you know someone celebrating a momentous occasion — a birth, an anniversary, recovery from illness or injury? Let their joy be your joy, and lift up prayers of thanksgiving to God.
- 26** Pray that we will not grow weary of serving our neighbors in need, both nearby and around the world. Ask the Spirit to renew us when we feel overwhelmed by human needs.
- 27** Remember in prayer the bishops of our church gathering for the Conference of Bishops in Itasca, Ill. Give thanks for their faith, gifts, wisdom and diverse perspectives, which God uses to benefit the church and help us do God's work in the world.
- 28** "In my trials, Lord, walk with me; when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me" (ELW 325). Lent reminds us of our frailty, suffering and loneliness and of God's love and forgiveness, found in the life, suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Breathe a sigh of relief and thank God.
- 29** Be mindful of those in your community who lack safe shelter and adequate food. Pray that their needs will be met, and that God will use you and your congregation to meet them.

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 9 am Quilters 12:30 LHOUSE Co-Op	2	3
4 8:30 Worship 10:45 Worship 11 Sunday School #45617 3 Kirk Players Auditions	5 1 pm LHOUSE Co-Op 5:45 Girl Scouts #47789 6:30 pm Early Bird AA	6 6:30 pm Cub Pk #98 7:00 pm Troop #198 7:30 pm Mund. AA	7 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Confirmation 7 Kirk Players Auditions	8 9 am Quilters 12:30 LHOUSE Co-Op	9 5:30 pm Early Bird AA 6 Kirk Monthly Mtg	10
11 8:30 Worship 10:45 Worship 11 Sunday School	12 1:00 LHOUSE Co-Op 6:30 pm Early Bird AA	13 9 am Men's Breakfast (Mauri's) 4:30 Girl Scouts #45730 7 pm Council Mtg 7:00 pm Troop #198 7:30 pm Mund. AA	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Valentine's Day 6 pm Confirmation 7 pm Worship	15 ENCOUNTER ARTICLES DUE 9 am Quilters - Brown Bag Lunch 4:30 Women's Fellowship Feed My Starving Children	16 5:30 pm Early Bird AA	17 8:30 Woman's Breakfast Bible Study
18 8:30 Worship 10:45 Worship 11 Sunday School 3 Girl Scouts #45617	19 PRESIDENT'S DAY 5:45 Girl Scouts #47789 6:30 pm Early Bird AA	20 6:30 pm Cub Pk #98 7 pm W&M Mtg 7:00 pm Troop #198 7:30 pm Mund. AA	21 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:45 pm Hymn Sing 7 pm Lenten Mid-week Worship 7:30 pm Choir Reh	22 9 am Quilters 7 pm Operations Umbrella Team Mtg	23 5:30 pm Early Bird AA	24 9 am Quilters
25 8:30 Worship 10:45 Worship 11 Sunday School	26 12 pm Pr Jenna MCS Boundaries Training 1 pm LHOUSE Co-Op 6:30 pm Early Bird AA 7 Staff Support Mtg 7:30 Mundelein Coin Club	27 9 am Men's Breakfast (Mauri's) 7:00 pm Troop #198 7:30 pm Mund. AA	28 10 am Bible Study 6 pm Confirmation 6 pm Lenten Soup Supper 6:45 pm Hymn Sing 7 pm Lenten Mid-week Worship	29 9 am Quilters 12:30 LHOUSE Co-Op		

JONAH AND THE GREAT FISH

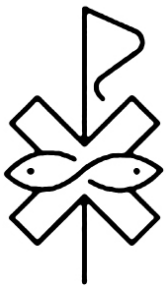
(JONAH 1:1-3:3)



"Now the LORD had prepared a great fish to swallow up Jonah. And Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights."

JONAH 1 : 17

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St. Andrew Lutheran Church

10 South Lake Street
Mundelein, IL 60060

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

“Sharing Christ”

- In Faithful Worship
- Faithful Giving
- Ministry Participation
- Daily Living

www.standrewmundelein.com
Telephone No.: 847-566-8081

**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

www.standrewmundelein.com

Telephone No.: 847-566-8081

FEBRUARY BUCKET LIST



Love your neighbor



have self love



love others by honoring them



be patient with love



God is love

**Our Mission is to be a church where all
people are welcomed, fed, and nourished
in the name of Jesus Christ.**