

MESSENGER

ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Pastors
Rev. Brenda Henry, Rev. Sue Devine
and Rev. John Gropp

MARCH NEWSLETTER 2024

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens*
Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NIV)

Ecclesiastes chapter 3 begins with the beautiful verse “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens.” This verse is followed by a poetic description of opposites that we will experience over our lifetime:

- ² a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot,
- ³ a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,
- ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,
- ⁵ a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
- ⁶ a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away,
- ⁷ a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,
- ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

This passage of scripture is rich in its description of the rolling aspects of life. The ups and the downs. It offers hope in that nothing is constant, change is an expected part of life, and those changes will bring points of joy, sadness, confusion, and perhaps even enlightenment. What is clear about the passage is that change is a normal and natural part of life.

Many of us have seen this passage and may even have a version of it posted in our homes. It may be a source of comfort for us when we are experiencing change, especially when that change is unexpected or unplanned.

Siblings in Christ, in the first two months of this year the ministry of PLUM received two unexpected announcements. Pastor Alexander Sumo resigned effective February 4th due to unexpected family concerns. Pastor Sue Devine shared that she will be retiring effective June 30th. This passage of scripture aptly describes the range of emotions that we are feeling upon hearing these announcements. Prayerfully this newsletter is not the first time that you are hearing about these changes.

What does this mean for PLUM? Clearly, we are in a time of change and transition. We will need to go through another call process after so recently completing one. This may bring up concerns: are we ok? Truthfully, we are in a period of lament. We are grieving. Odd as it may seem, the timing of this fits so well with the season of Lent that we are in. As we reflect on Jesus' suffering and death we are filled with lament, with sadness. Just as in Lent we reflect on Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, that road that took him to the cross, we too will be reflecting on our ministry and where God is calling us to next. Jesus knew that his death was not the end, rather a transformation of living out God's promise of being with us always. The cross reflected hope.

Here too at PLUM we have hope. This year is PLUM's 20th anniversary! Can you believe it? Twenty years of doing ministry together. An idea that started through the faithful response of three congregations (Christ, East Liberty, St. Andrew) and two pastors (Pr. Beth Seifert, Pr. John Gropp) to care for one another and their communities. It was a response to offer a way for congregations like us to continue to be *Christ's Light of Hope* in our communities despite our size.

PLUM has grown, it has experienced changes, and once again God is calling upon us to transform our ministry. What has been constant in these changes is our commitment and faithfulness to trust, to believe that God remains with us and guides us. During the upcoming months, we will lament together as we process these changes. We will have an opportunity to celebrate together as you will hear more about our 20th anniversary celebration that is being planned by our What's Next committee. We will also reflect together as we listen to God's voice as we prepare to enter the call process. As we have heard in our scripture journey through the gospel of Mark, we are called to listen and to follow with a child-like posture.

I encourage us to continue to listen, to offer words of encouragement and affirmation to each other. And just like Jesus stayed focus on his journey to Jerusalem, through the struggles to remain faithful to God's will, let us too remain faithful to the journey of transformation to which God is calling us.

Christ's Peace,

Pr. Brenda

On behalf of PLUM Pastors

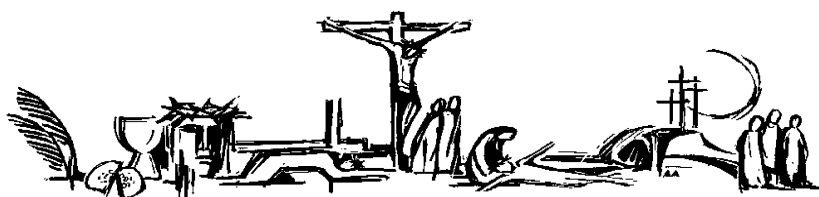
ST ANDREW NEWS

SPRING BEGINS

We say goodbye to Winter when Spring officially arrives on **Tuesday March 19th**.

SAL COUNCIL MEETING

St. Andrew's next Church Council Meeting will be on **Monday, March 11th at 5:00pm via ZOOM**. All Council members are asked to attend. Thank you.





DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Daylight savings time officially starts on **Sunday March 10th at 2AM**. So set your clocks **AHEAD ONE HOUR** before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9th. This is also a good time to change the batteries in all your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3-4 BRYCE RODRIQUEZ
3-24 JACKY HAMBLETT

3-5 BECKY MOEHRING
3-29 JANET CRICHLEY



EVERYONE ENJOY YOUR SPECIAL DAY!

SAL'S COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF EASTER

Join us for the **Second Annual Community Celebration of Easter**. This will take place on **Saturday, March 23, 2024 from 2pm to 4pm**. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for the children and refreshments for all. We welcome all to join us for this fun-filled community event!

LET US REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS:



Patrick Murphy, Eric Gazda, Agnes Gazda, Anthony Sanners, Dylan Baker, Dan Hoover, Teresa Kuehl, Margaret Hrabovsky, Justin Gloor, Kay Gloor, Jodi Keifner, Keith Malizio, Elaine Moore, Chris Biery, Jazz, Anita, Toni, Faith, Lisa, Bob Kraus, Janet Comber, Kit Stockman, Dave Keblish, Robert Seaton, Lenroy Bright, Teresa Stacy, Carol Redlawsk, Pastor Paul Koch, All those who are suffering from disease, Covid-19, violence or distress; All frontline health care workers; All those who protect and serve our country and community; All those who have suffered the loss of a family member or a friend; The Churches of PLUM and their Pastors and Staff; The Community of East Carnegie and the Congregation of St. Andrew.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR MARCH

USHER: Anyone Available

TREASURER'S ASSISTANTS: Anyone Available

ALTAR GUILD: Bobbie Everly

STAIR GLIDE: Anyone Available



MARCH 3:

Greeters: Jess & Tom Hrabovsky

Lector: Steve McGrogan

MARCH 10:

Greeters: Marilyn & Tim Rogers

Lector: Marilyn Rogers

MARCH 17:

Greeters: Bobbie Everly

Lector: Barb Malizio

MARCH 24: PALM SUNDAY

Greeters: Jess & Tom Hrabovsky

Lector: Steve McGrogan

MARCH 31: EASTER

Greeters: Marilyn & Tim Rogers

Lector: Marilyn Rogers

PLUM NEWS

LENTEN STUDY

Join PLUM for...3 Thursdays: March 7, 14 & 21, at 7pm on Zoom. Using the 2024 Lenten Study created by ELCA World Hunger, we will study scripture and explore how we experience the living God today. Along the way we will reflect on what it means to encounter God in experiences of reconciliation, transfiguration, crucifixion, restoration and resurrection.



2024 SYNOD ASSEMBLY: The Southwestern PA Synod Assembly will be held on Friday, June 14, 2024 and Saturday, June 15, 2024 at Penn West University – California, formerly Cal U. Registration is now available on the Synod website. Two delegates are needed from each church. Prayerfully consider representing St. Andrew. Thank you.

AT HOME TAIZÉ PRAYER SERVICE: Please join us in Taizé Prayer from the safety of your homes on Wednesday, March 6, 2024, 7:00 pm via ZOOM.

PLUM WORSHIP AND MEETINGS VIA ZOOM: We continue to provide a means to gather as a combined congregation through PLUM's ZOOM site. Sunday Worship, meetings, bible studies and fellowship are all available on the ZOOM format. Just use the information below and you can be a part of all we are currently doing.

Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>
Zoom by phone: (646) 876-9923 Meeting ID: 401 596 541

PLUM BOARD MEETING

The next PLUM Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 7pm via ZOOM. All board members are encouraged to attend.

EASTER FLOWERS 2024

It is time once again to order Easter flowers to adorn the Sanctuary this Easter Sunday (3/31/2024). We will be ordering from Janoski's Greenhouse. Our order can be picked up or if order is over \$300.00 it can be delivered for a charge. **Please have all orders into the office by 10AM on Wednesday morning, March 20, 2024.** This year's flower costs are as follows:

Lilies:	\$11.00	Mums:	\$10.00
Tulips:	\$10.00	Hyacinths:	\$10.00

You can place your payment in the donation plate on Sunday or drop it off in the Church office at your convenience. Please let Karen know for whom the flowers are in honor or memory of, for inclusion in the Easter bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact the office. Thank you so much for adding to the beauty of the Church this Easter!




















In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

NAME: _____

St. Andrew Lutheran Church

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2
3  WORSHIP 9:15AM ZOOM 3PM	4	5 	6  TAIZE WORSHIP 7PM ZOOM	7  MHC 11:30AM LENTEN STUDY 7PM ZOOM 	8	9
10  9:15AM <i>Spring Forward</i> Daylight Saving Time Begins	11  SAL COUNCIL MEETING 5PM ZOOM	12	13	14  LENTEN STUDY 7PM ZOOM	15	16 
17 HAPPY <i>St. Patrick's</i> DAY WORSHIP 9:15AM ZOOM 3PM	18 	19  <i>Spring begins</i>	20 EASTER FLOWER ORDERS INTO OFFICE 10AM	21  MHC 11:30AM LENTEN STUDY 7PM ZOOM 	22	23 EASTER COMMUNITY EVENT 2PM -4PM
24  PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP 9:15AM ZOOM 3PM	25 PLUM BOARD MEETING 7PM ZOOM	26 	27	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP @ BETHANY 7:30PM 	29  GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP 12PM	30
31 EASTER WORSHIP 9:15AM ZOOM 3PM 