



The Fisherman's Network

St. Andrews United Methodist Church

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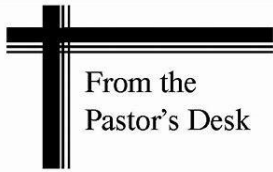
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Our Mission: "To Show, Share and Grow in God's Love, through Jesus Christ."

Our Vision: "Believe in God, Follow Jesus, and Serve Others."

March 2024 Newsletter



From the
Pastor's Desk

Preparation to Easter

"But you must return to your God; maintain love, justice and wait for your God." Hosea 12:6

Lent is a time of intentional repentance and spiritual preparation leading to Easter resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. While people try all kinds of changes in their lives, the best thing is to know that God loves, forgives our sins and seeks to reconcile with us.

Lent is a time to practice our spiritual disciplines of giving, fasting and praying. More efforts should be done to read the holy scriptures.

I pray that during this Lent season, you will open yourself to the lead of the Holy spirit so that your faith may grow stronger.

Lent forces us to be aware of our need for God's presence. We admit that we are sinners in need of God's forgiveness. Lent reminds us how we are dependent on God's blessings to be successful in our Christian walk.

As we journey the Lent season, may God cleanse our souls, minds, and hearts.

I share my gratitude for all your support for our church in the ongoing peanut butter egg fundraiser. Thanks for all your donations in the past years. If you would like to make a donation of any amount in memory of a loved one, please contact the pastor.

Let us live holy lives this lent season. May our lent season be filled with good fruit as we march on to Easter with renewed minds, soul and heart in Jesus' powerful name. AMEN.

Happy Easter!

Blessings,

Pastor Christopher Serufusa



St. Andrews Music Notes

Phil Wickham has a new song called, "Holy Forever" which I actually purchased for our choir to sing. The music and words are absolutely beautiful. Hopefully we will have it ready to share with you in April. Some of the lyrics say, "If you've been forgiven, if you've been redeemed, sing the song forever to the lamb. If you walk in freedom, and if you bear His name, sing the song forever to the lamb. We have much to sing about!

March 17th will be a very special Sunday service called "At The Cross". Many of our church members will be involved in sharing Jesus' story during that service. I hope you can attend in person. The choirs have been working extra hard on music for Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter.

The Worship and Music team is always open to hearing ideas to enhance our worship services and/or scheduling activities that promote Christian fellowship. Please share your ideas with a member of our team.

Easter blessings to you!

Lisa Shives
Music Director



- Mar 3 - 3rd Sunday in Lent
- Mar 7 - 7:00 pm Trustees
- Mar 9 - Turn your clocks forward when retiring
- Mar 10 - 4th Sunday in Lent
- Mar 10 - UMCOR Sunday
- Mar 10 - Daylight Savings Time begins
- Mar 12 - 6:30 pm Finance meets
- Mar 14 - 10:00 am Bible Study begins
- Mar 15 - April Newsletter articles are due
- Mar 15 - 7:00 pm Rehearsal for "At the Cross"
- Mar 17 - 5th Sunday in Lent
- Mar 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 17 - "At the Cross Program" at the 10:00 am worship service
- Mar 20 - 11:30 am Senior's Lunch at Parlor House
- Mar 21 - 10:00 am Bible Study
- Mar 24 - Palm Sunday**
- Mar 26 - 7:00 pm Church Council meets
- Mar 28 - No Bible Study today
- Mar 28 - 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service at Emmanuel UMC**
- Mar 29 - 7:00 pm Good Friday Service at St. Andrews UMC**
- Mar 31 - Easter Sunday**



Set your clocks forward on March 9 when you retire for the night.



St. Mark's Food Bank and Bester Elementary

St. Mark's and Bester appreciate the food items we donate each month! In the last month we delivered 67 boxes of cereal to St. Mark's and 15 snack boxes to Bester. Thank you for your support of cereal, pantry items, and snacks for families in our community!

REACH Cold Weather Shelter

In February we supported REACH on "Souper Bowl" Sunday and collected \$220.00 for the cold weather shelter. Thank you so much for caring about those facing homelessness. All the items in the REACH box will be delivered at the end of February. Those items will be used to restock their supplies.

Bester Community of Hope

Bester Community of Hope is an Outreach of San Mar to support families in the Bester Community.

On April 6th they will be having a Community Baby Shower with lunch, activities, giveaways, early learning carnival, and resources for families of young children. They have asked us to help with this BABYPALOOZA with donations of diapers. The month of March will be "Diapers for Babies". If you would like to help, please donate a pack of diapers on the hall table for this fun community outreach. Thank you!

UMCOR

March 10th is UMCOR Special Sunday. UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) in the United States and around the world when emergencies occur such as hurricanes, floods, wars... help those suffering with immediate care. On this Sunday donations go to "underwrite the cost of doing business" so 100% of other gifts for specific projects can be quickly used.

Head Start of Washington County, Inc.

We received a lovely thank you letter from the Head Start Executive Director, Vicki Robinson, for our donations of mittens for small children: "on

behalf of myself, our staff and most especially, the children and families served by Head Start of Washington County, please accept our greatest appreciation."



Notes on Finances ...

Please support our Spring peanut butter egg fundraiser by buying and/or selling these special homemade eggs for \$1.50 each. These profits will support our General Fund expenses.

Applying Bible Principles

Money is a neutral commodity, a means of exchange. It is neither inherently good nor evil. But a wrong view of money can become a problem to us.

In First Timothy 6:9-10, Scripture warns about the dangers of a determination to get rich: "But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil; and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains."

When we have a consuming desire to get rich, when we are obsessed with money so that it becomes the focus of our time and attention, then we have made it the number one priority in our lives. In that spot, it replaces everything, including God. We begin to find our security in money, not in God and in God alone.

However, when our view of God is right and our view of money is right, we will realize that money cannot buy security; money cannot purchase happiness; money cannot guarantee peace or joy or contentment. God alone can provide these essentials as we "... strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness."

In his book, *The Gift of Giving*, Wayne Watts said this: "God always lovingly instructs us in the path that is in our best interest and which will bring us the greatest happiness in life. Therefore, for our good, He instructs us to put Him first in all things, and this includes how we use our money."

How do you view money? Is it at the center of your life, thereby perhaps replacing God's rightful role?

And equally important, are you using the money God has given to you to advance His kingdom and His righteousness?

Money is a neutral commodity, a means of exchange. It is neither inherently good nor evil.

"But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"
(Matt. 6:33)



Mark Your Calendars! Potato Drop is April 20th

A signup sheet for helpers will be placed in the narthex on March 31st. Please sign up to help distribute potatoes and if you can help in any other way or have new ideas, please contact John Davidson.

On April 20th, we will begin to set up at 7:30am and distribute potatoes from 8:30 to 10:30. We will break down the 50 pound bags into smaller bags for the community.

If you know any organization or individual that is in need of potatoes, please give that information to John Davidson. He will need contact information and the quantity of potatoes requested. We would like to take care of the local needs first but we must have reservations.

Pray Around the World



We continue our mission of praying for all countries in the world over the next couple of years. If you would like to choose a country, just sign up on the list that is posted by the world map in the hallway.

Then, take a few minutes during the worship service, on the date you have chosen, to inform the congregation of the needs of this country so that we can offer them up in prayer.