



The Network

The newsletter for Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church

306 N. Division, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 • (734) 663-0518 • standrewsaa.org

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Above: Detail of the Venerable Bede Window · K. Riedel

Dear friends:

The good news is, "Christ is Risen."

The not-so-good news is that for the second year running we will not be able to make that proclamation together, in-person. Many of the other things that get attached to this season are before us. The spring bulbs are poking through the ground. The trees are getting their buds. The seasonal shelves in the stores are filled with candy. Yet the sacred gatherings that mark this holy time must still be held virtually, and the traditional family celebrations will be scaled back, if they happen at all. So, what does it mean to welcome the news that changed the world and our very lives when much of our living is still constrained by a deadly pandemic?

It seems we have two choices: To surrender to the burden that our lives are not the way we want them to be as we resent that fact, mightily. Or, claim the power of the good news and let it shape our daily lives, even in the restricted forms they still must take. There have been, and always will be, forces in life we cannot control that challenge us. I would like to think that our faith is one of the things, perhaps the most crucial thing, that allows us to meet those challenges and rise above, if not conquer them. While we may not, at this time, be able to share that faith in each other's physical presence, we still have each other, and the whole host of Faithful everywhere, striving and longing for the same thing. There is great power in that.

Over three-quarters of a century ago, when the world was gripped by another deadly catastrophe, a German theologian, Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote to a friend of his reflections on Easter as he approached his second Easter in prison on charges of conspiring against the Nazi government.

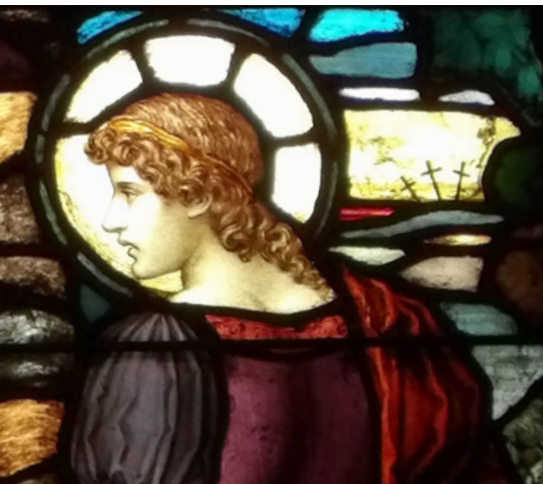
"Easter? We're paying more attention to dying than to death. We're more concerned to get over the act of dying than to overcome death. Socrates mastered the art of dying; Christ overcame death as 'the last enemy' (I Corinthians 15:26). There is a real difference between the two things; the one is within the scope of human possibilities, the other means resurrection." It's not from ars moriendi, the art of dying, but from the resurrection of Christ, that a new and purifying wind can blow through our present world. Here is the answer to "Give me somewhere to stand, and I will move the earth" (Archimedes). If a few people really believed that and acted on it in their daily lives, a great deal would be changed. To live in the light of the resurrection – that is what Easter means."

- Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "Letters and Papers from Prison," from a letter written to Bonhoeffer's former student and friend, Eberhard Bethge, March 27, 1944

May the Faith that Bonhoeffer and so many others have proclaimed with their lives be an inspiration to us in our struggles, so that we may be the daily instruments of change that God intends us to be.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen. The Lord is Risen indeed. Alleluia.

God bless, Fr. Alan



St. Andrew's Virtual Service Schedule Holy Week & Easter

Sunday, March 28
Palm Sunday Liturgy

Thursday, April 1
Maundy Thursday Liturgy

Sunday, April 4
Easter Day Liturgy

Wednesday, March 31
Service of Tenebrae

Friday, April 2
Good Friday Liturgy

All services will be available starting at 9:00 am on YouTube



Parish Briefs

Holy Week Reminders

Join St. Andrew's for Holy Week! We will have services available to watch on our YouTube channel.

- **Coffee Hour** will be held as scheduled on March 28 and April 4 on Zoom.
- **Bible Study will not meet** on Thursday, April 1.
- **Church School will not meet** Sunday, April 4.

A complete Holy Week schedule is available on page 1.

Food Gatherers Drive

March 21 - April 4

If your present circumstances permit, please consider making a donation to our St. Andrew's Lenten Fund Drive for Food Gatherers!

You can donate online at foodgatherers.org/standrews or send a check made out to "Food Gatherers" with "St. Andrew's" in the memo line to: Food Gatherers, PO Box 131037, Ann Arbor, MI 48113.

From the Breakfast

This winter the Breakfast has been privileged to work with three local restaurants, [Salt Springs Brewery](#) (117 S. Ann Arbor St, Saline), [Brewed Awakenings Café](#) (7025 E. Michigan Ave, Saline), and [Great Harvest Bread Company](#) (2220 S. Main St, Ann Arbor) in order to provide a hot meal to our guests each morning. Please take the opportunity to support them the way they have supported us this winter!

The restaurant owners have shown such care and dedication to our community and our mission providing a wide variety of offerings, at a deep discount, and delivering it to the church each morning for distribution. The Guests love the variety and have shared that having a hot meal each morning makes a huge difference in their day.

MORGAN BATTLE, Director

Wednesday Conversations

This spring Eric Braun, our Seminarian Intern, will host a series of weekly small group discussions via Zoom, **starting April 7 at 7:00 pm**. Short readings and video links will be provided prior to each week's meeting.

In April, the Wednesday Conversations will center on the Gospels: *Why are there four of them? How are they different? Who were they written for?* If you're curious about these and other questions, now's the chance to find out more!

April 7 Mark: *Man of Action!*

April 14 Luke: *The Poet*

April 21 Matthew: *The Sage*

April 28 John: *The Mystic's Gospel*

More information, including the Zoom meeting link, will be available in the bulletin. If you are interested in attending, or have questions, please contact: Eric Braun at ric.conway@gmail.com.

In May, the Wednesday Conversations will be a four-part discussion on "The History of Race and Racism in the Episcopal church". Join members of the Social Justice Ministry for thoughtful discussion on this important topic. We encourage you to attend all four sessions if possible. All are welcome!

May 5 Defining terms: *What do we mean by race, racism, and power?*

May 12 The Anglican Church: *A church of Empire*

May 19 The changing times of Post-War America

May 26 Where do we go from here? *Strategies on race and racism moving forward*



Finance

Operating Revenue and Expense

January 1 to February 28, 2021

The \$130k PPP2 advance is provided to support salary expenses during this difficult period.

Income	Actual Year-to-Date	Budget Year-to-Date	Over/Under +/- YTD Actual vs. YTS Budget
Plate Offerings	8,067	5,832	2,235
Pledge Payments	131,206	143,334	-12,128
Other Income	131,402	1,334	130,068
Designated Funds Transfer	0	0	0
Deficit Reduction Withdrawal	0	0	0
Prior Year Surplus	61,085	60,000	1,085
Total Income	331,760	210,500	121,260
Expenses			
Salaries and Benefits	118,930	121,684	-2,754
Maintenance & Overhead	28,148	27,917	231
Office Expense	7,230	7,076	154
Stewardship & Miscellaneous	257	0	257
Church Programs	3,092	5,768	-2,676
Diocesan Pledge	16,525	16,526	-1
Total Expenses	174,182	178,971	-4,789
Net	157,578	31,529	126,049



A Parish Update from Fr. Alan

On March 28, the Diocese moved back into Phase 2 of the re-entry plan that was set out last May. We have been here before. Limited in-person worship was introduced last June, only to be rolled back in August; then again in October, only to be rolled back by mid-November due to an increase in Covid infection numbers. So, what does entering Phase 2 mean for St. Andrew's?

When the plan for re-entry was introduced in May, it was determined due to our size, the make-up of the congregation, and the requirement of sanitizing spaces after services, St. Andrew's would not re-open for public, in-person worship until we reach Phase 3 of the re-entry plan. I never, ever, dreamed that having a large congregation would be a "problem." You can read the entire re-entry plan here: <https://www.edomi.org/update-to-covid-19-reentry-directive/>

A full line-up of services for Holy Week, Easter, and beyond have been planned and will be available on our YouTube channel. Bulletins will continue to be sent out weekly as they have been since last summer.

I look forward to sharing this holy time with you, and also, I even more deeply long for the day when we can see each other in person, share communion, sing and pray, standing next to each other. That day will come, just not as soon as we would like.

- Fr. Alan

Theology in Current Events

Theologically Speaking:

The Role of Contrition in Forgiveness

As I write this, we're in the middle of Lent. By the time you read this, we'll be much closer to Easter, so you might be in a less introspective or penitential mood. For that matter, so might I. Nonetheless, forgiveness has been on my mind lately. One of the things that I have to do every semester in seminary is take a class called Anglican Formation. It's all about building community, and for those of us on track for ordination, it's a chance to practice some burgeoning pastoral skills, and really dig into some important questions centering on what it means to be Anglican. I particularly enjoy this class because, even over Zoom, it allows me to get to know my classmates in a way that I otherwise might not. Our discussions can get quite animated, and there's a bond of trust that has grown over time. That's important, because every community, even a virtual one, is built on trust.

Every semester we have a different theme to explore, and this semester the topic is "Sin". We're exploring all manner of sins; personal, institutional, cultural, and I'll admit that it's been uncomfortable. It's not that I've done something terrible that I can't talk about. My sins are all fairly minor (though there are certainly more of them than there should be.) I am a lifelong Episcopalian. I say that here and now so that you understand where I'm coming from when I say that sin makes me uncomfortable. As a denomination, we don't talk a lot about sin. Intellectually, we understand that it exists, and we accept that "from time to time" we have done (or left undone) many things.

We all sin. We all fall short of the ideal that God has shown us. Thankfully, forgiveness is open to all. God's mercy is such that, no matter how often, if we repent, then God is there to embrace us.

Traditionally, Episcopalians focus much more on forgiveness. There's a certain logic in that. After all, forgiveness is the point of Jesus' message, and at the heart of his earthly ministry. However, if we're not mindful of the reason for that forgiveness, then does it really have the power that it should?

Many of my classmates in seminary are newly-minted Episcopalians. In fact, a number of them are former evangelicals, so they've been taught to recognize their own sin a bit more readily than those of us who are more liturgically minded. All with an eye toward forgiveness. In fact, I think they have a better handle on understanding the role of sin in their lives and their own evolving theology. What they bring to the discussion is an appreciation of what the presence of sin in their life means, and the fact that it makes the eventual forgiveness through the grace of Christ all the sweeter. Remembrance of sin must play a role, and so must genuine contrition; a recognition that we play a part in the sins we have committed,

and we actively desire change. Forgiveness is vital in our lives, and in understanding the love and mercy of God, but, as with many things; it's more complicated than it might seem. We are forgiven, make no mistake about that. God's capacity to forgive us is boundless, but we also play a role in being forgiven.

The Apostle Paul writes a great deal about forgiveness. In the letter to the Ephesians, we're reminded to:

[...] be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.[c] (Ephesians 4:32)

But in the lines just preceding that noble reminder, Paul also writes that those who have done wrong, must change their ways, for the good of the community.

Remembrance and sincere repentance are necessary for true forgiveness. The change of heart that comes from repentance is where forgiveness takes root, and that requires that we remember what happened. This remembrance is key if a community is to learn and grow from important historical events. The point of remembrance is to recognize growth and change, not to keep count of offenses, or mete out justice, and Paul should know. At one point he himself was a persecutor of the followers of Jesus.

On a personal level, a natural consequence of remembrance is contrition. That's another emotional state that I suspect we have problems with, because it means truly recognizing the fault within ourselves, and that's something that human beings excel at being able to justify away.

If I might be so bold, without contrition; without sincere recognition of wrong-doing and a desire for change, then confession and absolution become little more than words that we've memorized. Contrition is necessary to make room for the eventual transformation of self through the sacraments and rites that we practice.

And that's where our liturgy comes in. One of the things that sets the Episcopal church apart from our evangelical cousins is the fact that we do so much as a group. "We" not "I" is the first word of the Nicene Creed, because we, as a body, recognize that we all play a part in what our community, as our corner of creation has done, or left undone. More than that though, the public confession of sin that happens in so much of our liturgy occurs within the setting of group worship so that we can be open enough and safe enough, within the support of the community, that we need not be afraid of what we feel. I've come to understand that Church is the safest place I will ever be. It is where I should confess. Not for the sake of the deed itself, but for my soul.

How many times have I heard "Be not afraid!" and known to take it to heart. Countless times. But here: In the words of English poet John Donne, the words sound, feel, and weigh differently.

From John Donne's "Prayer VI" (Concerning the link between physical illness and the health of the soul):

"O most mighty God, and merciful God, the God of all true sorrow, and true joy too, as thou hast given me a repentance, not to be repented of, so give me, O Lord, a fear, of which I may not be afraid."

I understand the role of remembrance, and contrition in my life now very differently than I might have even a few months ago. Contrition is not a means to an end. It's more complicated than that. The admission that I come to the Lord laid bare, secure enough in love that there is nothing to hide makes that public act more meaningful, and gives the community I share it with that much more meaning. Contrition is the beginning of repentance, and it's a muscle I need to stretch more often.

ERIC BRAUN
Seminarian Intern

Support ReLeaf Michigan

In our fourth grade social studies class we have been studying environmental problems.

We have made a design about deforestation and are selling T-shirts as a fundraiser for ReLeaf Michigan so they can plant more trees!

Purchase our short sleeve t-shirt in adults and kids sizes at <https://forms.gle/kwR3DXDQ4bajUQWR7>. All the profits from this sale go to [ReLeafMichigan](https://www.releafmichigan.org/). Orders due April 7!

Signed, Addy Peterson
4th Grade, St. Andrew's Church School

Contact Becky Peterson (rebecca.l.peterson@gmail.com) for more information.





Church School Happenings

Lord, as we gather together as family and friends on this glorious Easter day; we invite you once again into our lives. May the hope of your resurrection color our days.

May the promise of your spirit working in us light up our lives. May the love you revealed to us shape our giving. May the truth in your word guide our journeys and may the joy of your kingdom fill our homes.

As we gather together underneath the banner of your life, we thank you for the wonderful "bread of life" that we now enjoy and celebrate in your glorious resurrection.

Thank you, Lord. Amen. - Unknown

Some of the unexpected warm days in early spring certainly give us hope for brighter tomorrows. We are seeing many signs that we are moving towards the familiar yesterdays, but perhaps with new awareness of life around us. It sometimes feels like we are inching along, but there is light and there is hope. We hope the children and youth enjoyed the Easter Packet that was mailed at the end of March. A beautiful fresh palm to remind us of Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem, a forget-me-knot seed packet to remember that Jesus died for us so we could live, and a candy packet to remind us that God wants us to be happy. Have fun planting your seeds and please send Carol photos of all your special Easter moments. We can still share our stories in future communications knowing that a picture is worth a thousand words.

In the Virtual Classroom

Preschool through Intermediate Learners

During spring lessons early, primary, and intermediate learners reflect on the Easter Story and rejoice in the life and resurrection of Jesus. His appearance to the disciples, their commissioning, Jesus Ascension and God's gift of the Holy Spirit bring full circle the birth of the Church and our faith community. We'll share in God's abundant love in the story of the Good Shepherd and hopefully enjoy a few outside classroom gatherings.

We may be able to have something outside for the children's classes for the Day of Pentecost on May 23 that includes the "sound of the rushing, mighty wind," pinwheels, and balloons. More to come on this so watch for updates.

Caring & Sharing

"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."
Matthew 6:21 NRSV

Please continue to save your coins for our foster brother Kalid Nazif Abajehad of Ethiopia as we will have a special offering when we return to worship services. Spring and warmer weather provides many opportunities for children to earn

coins; chores around the house, springtime yard cleanup, or play games where the winner donates to the mite box.

With safe distance in mind, small gestures of kindness bring big smiles. Help elderly neighbors with outdoor chores, make a card for homebound parishioners (Carol can provide name and address), make a card for Kalid for his 15th birthday in May (pass along to Carol by April 15), plant seeds in a container, let it sprout and grow then give to a friend.

Vacation Bible School

TENTATIVE Dates June 21, 22 & 23 (M/T/W)

A proposal is under review for this year's Vacation Bible School tentatively planned for June 21, 22 & 23 (M/T/W) with rain dates June 24 & 25. The dates will be subject to the safety protocols at that time. Essentially the entire event will be scaled back but still feature the traditional elements that make it so much fun for children and volunteers, including:

- **Entirely outside, masks required**, sanitizing stations no open food,
- **TWO Daily Sessions:** Morning (10am – Noon) and Afternoon (1pm-3pm)
- **Limited number of participants:** Registration capped at approximately 45 per session.
- Tribes have smaller numbers of children in each and the tribal leader role is greatly simplified
- Rotation to Storyteller/Synagogue, Games and Marketplace for crafts (approx. 90 minutes)
- Tribe Gathering 15 minutes, Closing Circle 15 min
- Volunteers Needed – PLEASE! Contact Carol for more information on volunteering

We partner with our friends from St. Clare's Episcopal Church, First Baptist, Blue Ocean Faith and our wonderful hosts for over 30 years, First Presbyterian Church. VBS on their beautiful grounds is the perfect place to be at the start of the summer season. **STAY TUNED!**

CHURCH SCHOOL CALENDAR

April 4	No Virtual Church School
May 23	Pentecost
May 30	No Virtual Church School
June 6	Last Day of Virtual Church School
June 13	Front Lawn Ice Cream Social & Teacher Recognition
June 21-23	Marketplace Vacation Bible School (Tentative)

Tales from the Journey

Our middies youth group explored a variety of topics in the early spring months discovering women heroines of the Bible in Ruth, Naomi, Anna, Mary Magdalene and a special lesson with Rev. Sally on Deborah, a warrior of God and the only woman judge. The class also discussed the important contributions of Harriet Tubman and Mother Teresa, women who embraced the forgotten and forsaken with love and support, teaching us to care for all God's children. We had a beautiful Candlemas and fun St. Valentine lesson too. In Lent we explore ways to be closer to God, the Bread of Life as a theme and a wonderful live virtual bread baking lesson with Fr. Alan via zoom.

The high school youth group has spent much of this year exploring God's presence in their lives and the ways we endeavor to notice and embrace God as part of our faith journey. Topics of discussion include faith/doubt, blind faith and a system of belief that guides us into a personal relationship with God. Our hope is the discussions serve as a foundation for more meaningful discernment and a gateway to an enriching Pilgrimage. We'll make every effort to reschedule the Pilgrimage before the end of this calendar year.

2021 High School Graduate Recognition

"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans." Proverbs 16:3 (NIV)

Our high school seniors in the Capstone class have tackled one of the most challenging years on the cusp of their final high school chapter. They have persevered throughout this uncharted time with strength, courage and wisdom. We send our love and pray... *"so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and may please Him in every way; bearing fruit in every good work, and growing in the knowledge of God"* (Colossians 1:10)

It is with great respect and admiration we honor the Class of 2021 High School Graduates.

*Ben Duncan, Noah Jackson, Temi Kolawole,
Henry Lukela, Grant Murphy, Peter Nemecek,
Eleanor Niman, Cody Ross, Anders Ruiten-Feenstra,
Vincent Tremonti, Taisiya Tworek, Andrew Zwolensky*

An outside recognition celebration is planned for May. If you have a son or daughter who is part of the high school class of 2021 not listed above, please let Carol know right away.

Our prayers and Eastertide blessings for our Church School family and friends during this glorious time. Christ is Risen – he has risen indeed!

In faith, hope and love,
CAROL ANDREWS-FERGUSON

A Spoon River Anthology Thank You!

Thank you for your generous support of the show and the Youth Pilgrimage Fund! Even if you missed the show, be sure to check out the [play's program](#).

Parish Health

Health Care Decisions Day is April 16

National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD) exists to inspire, educate and empower the public and providers about the importance of advance care planning. NHDD is an initiative to encourage patients to express their wishes regarding healthcare and for providers and facilities to respect those wishes, whatever they may be.

Anything that's human is mentionable, and **anything that is mentionable can be more manageable**. When we can talk about our feelings, they become **less overwhelming, less upsetting, and less scary**. The people we trust with that important talk can help us know that we are not alone.

MISTER ROGERS

the conversation project

Our Episcopal Health Ministries @ St. Andrew's has developed and continues to update a resource page on Medical Decision-Making and advance care planning. [View the EHM Resource Page](#)

May is Mental Health Month

If you or someone you know is in an emergency, call The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) or call 911 immediately.

YOU ARE
NOT
ALONE

Now more than ever, we need to find ways to stay connected with our community. No one should feel alone or without the information, support and help they need.

Join the Episcopal Health Ministry!

The Episcopal Health Ministries @ St. Andrew's (EHM) is a group of parishioners with an interest in health and healing within a spiritual context. Meeting since 2005, the contribution of social workers, health educators, clergy and hospital chaplains as well as nurses and others continues to be sought.

EHM meets on the second Tuesday, four times/year, at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions, please contact Ann Garvin, or just join us!