

St. Andrew's News



www.standrewspres-tbay.ca

November 24th, 2024

Responding! Restoring! Rejoicing!



COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CONCERT



St. Andrew's will be hosting a special community concert, "The Sounds of Christmas," on **Sunday, December 8th**, at **4:00pm**.

It will feature performances from a variety of talented local musicians. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors (60+), and children under 10 are free.

Tickets can be purchased online (standrewspres-tbay.ca), through the church office, or at the door (cash only).

FOOD BANK DRIVE



Mission and Outreach Food Bank Drive will continue during November. For most of us, November is the time to make lists, bake for the church, and make plans for holiday gatherings and special meals.

For others, special plans of any kind are not a possibility. There will be no special meals or extra treats for kids. You can help to change that. Your continuing generosity will make a difference. Thank you for your support of this vital project.

CHECK OUT THE HERITAGE WALL



Christmas is coming, and the Heritage Committee has arranged a collection telling the story of Christmas at St. Andrew's over the years.

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN

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Sunday Worship - Available online at
standrewspres-tbay.ca

Office Hours:

Wednesday - Friday, 9:00am - 1:00pm

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK

Tue Nov 26 - St. Aidan's Guild @ 12:00pm
Wed Nov 27 - Fun & Fitness @ 10:00am
Wed Nov 27 - The Music Class @ 4:00pm
Wed Nov 27 - The Music Class @ 5:15pm
Thurs Nov 28 - The Music Class @ 11:00am

ADVENT STUDY

Heaven and Earth by Will Willimon

Thursdays, November 28th, December 5th, 12th, and 19th, 12:00 - 1:15pm

It's not within our own power to make a fresh start. If we're to have a future different from the past, it must come as a gift, something not of our devising. What we need is a God who refuses to be trapped in eternity, a God who not only cares about us but is willing to show up among us and do something with us, here, now.

In *Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation*, Will Willimon introduces you to the God who does just that, bringing heaven to earth and changing everything. In Advent we celebrate and anticipate the earth-shaking, life-transforming good news that God is coming to us. Watch out. Get ready. God is on the way.

Excerpt taken from: [Heaven and Earth: Advent and the Incarnation: Willimon, William H.: 9781791029036: Books - Amazon.ca](#)

Contact Rev. Joyce if you would like to participate. You can order the book yourself, or she can order it for you.

LOOKING AHEAD

Every year around this time, a small bare tree will suddenly appear in Rowand Hall. At first it is bare, but with your help, it will soon be covered with gifts for two women's shelters.



Your gifts may include toys, puzzles, markers, crayons, notebooks and paper, scarves, gloves, mitts, and hats, personal care items, and small household items like can openers, batteries, etc. Small denomination gift cards are also welcome.

Over the years your continuing generosity has made this project a huge success. If you can't get out to shop, someone will shop for you. Gifts should be "under the tree" by December 15th.

From Joyce



Advent: A Time of Longing, Wonder, and Worship

As the season of Advent approaches, we find ourselves at the beginning of a new church year—a time to reflect, renew, and rejoice in the profound story of God’s love breaking into the world. Advent marks the anticipation of Christ’s birth, a story of wonder, humility, and transformation that continues to resonate deeply in our lives.

This is not merely a retelling of an ancient narrative; it’s a call to rediscover its relevance and power. The story of Jesus’ birth is not one of might or grandiosity but of vulnerability and love—a God who came to us as a baby. This child would grow to transform hearts, restore relationships, and bring hope and peace to the world.

Advent reminds us of the depth of Christianity’s impact on human history. While acknowledging the moments of pain and imperfection in this journey, we also celebrate the hope, love, and community that have flourished through the story of Christ. It is a season to remember the God who shared in our humanity, experiencing our joys and sorrows, our laughter and tears.

Longing for More: An Advent Worship Series

This Advent, our worship theme is “Longing for More,” inspired by a series by Lisa Vanderkamp. It invites us to embrace the deep yearnings of our hearts while finding fulfillment and renewal in the presence of Christ.

- **Advent 1 – December 1: We Want** We begin this journey with a communion service and the baptism of a baby—a beautiful reminder of new beginnings and God’s ongoing work in our lives.

- **Advent 2 – December 8: We Are Weary** A moment to bring our burdens before God, finding rest and restoration in His promises.

- **Advent 3 – December 15: We Worry** This Sunday, dedicated to children and families, reflects the joys and challenges of life, grounding us in God’s faithfulness.

- **Advent 4 – December 22: We Waver** As we approach Christmas, we confront our doubts and uncertainties, anchoring ourselves in the steadfast love of Christ.

Christmas Eve – December 24: We Wonder
Join us for a 7:30 PM candlelight service, a time to marvel at the mystery of God’s love revealed in Jesus.

An Invitation to Worship

Come and worship with us this Advent season. Come to hear the story again, to feel the awe and wonder of God’s love made flesh. In the baptism of a baby, the sharing of communion, the lighting of candles, and the gathering of community, we are reminded that this is not just a story of the past but of the present and future—a story of hope for all people. Let us journey together, longing for more of God’s peace, love, and joy in our lives and the world. Come and wonder. Come and be welcomed.

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Come and join us for a **St. Nicholas Day Eucharist and lunch** at 11:00 am Wednesday, December 4 at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 10 Farrand St.. St. Nicholas is the patron saint of seafarers and this is a time for the community that supports the Mission to Seafarers to come together to pray for seafarers and for the Mission to Seafarers. St. Nicholas’ Day is also the anniversary of the founding of the Mission to Seafarers in Thunder Bay in 1961.

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

“The future of our fragile, beautiful planet home is in our hands. As God’s family, we are stewards of God’s creation. We can be wantonly irresponsible, or we can be caring and compassionate.”

- Desmond Tutu, Anglican Bishop and theologian

Donations can be sent via e-transfer to offerings.standrewspres@tbaytel.net

UNDERCOVER PROGRAM

Since 2006, the Undercover Project by Community Clothing Assistance has been dedicated to ensuring that children in need, age 4-14, receive essential undergarments. Through this program, over 1000 children benefit annually, receiving 7 pairs of new socks and underwear.



St Andrew’s is happy to be participating in this program. We would ask that you drop off children’s underwear and socks at the church, into a bin marked “Undercover,” until **December 22nd.**

Thank you for supporting this great initiative!



Thank you to all who put their valuable time and energy into supporting both our annual shortbread fundraiser, and last week’s Family Christmas Event!