

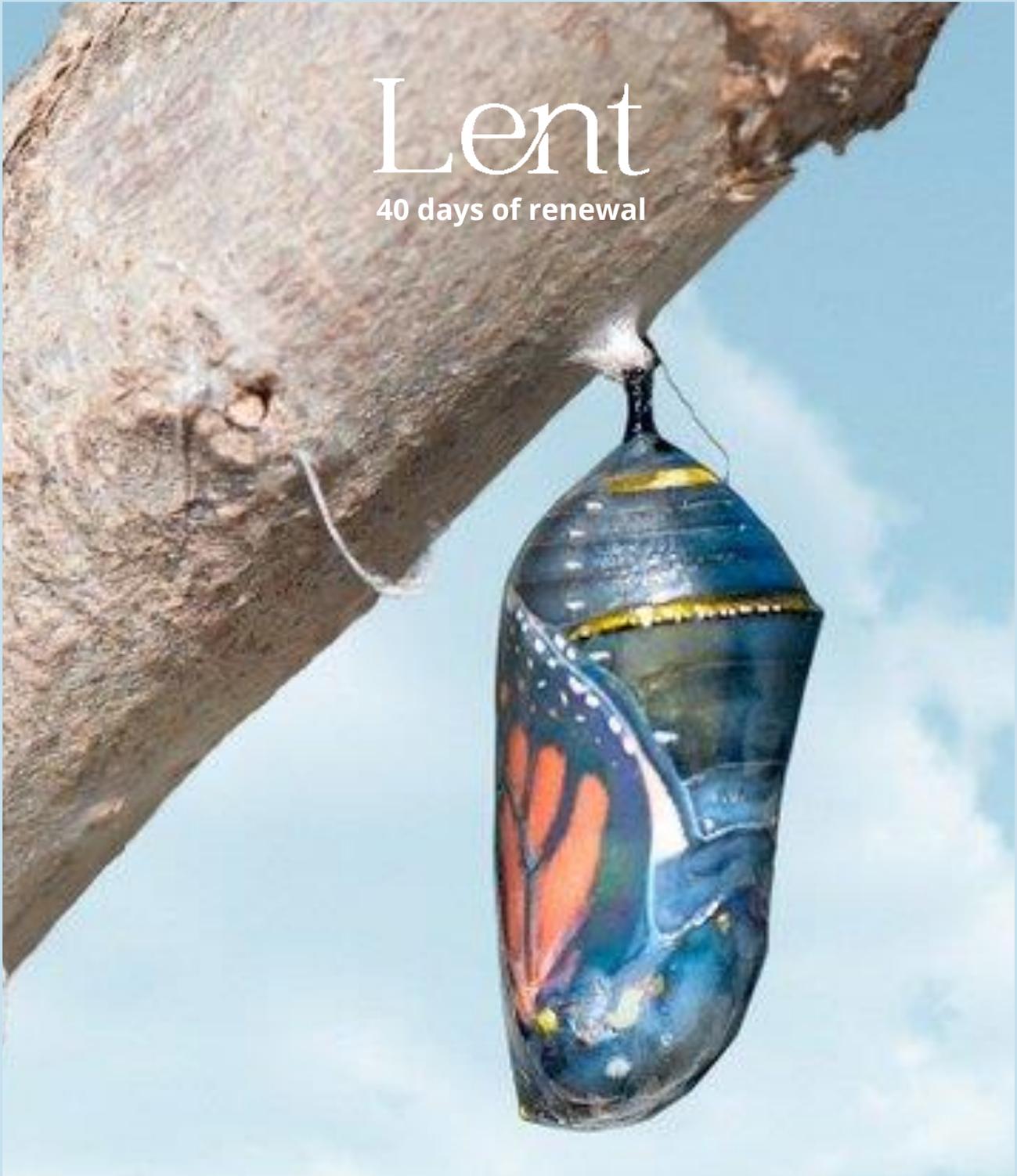
February 2021

A LIFE OF FAITH

Monthly Newsletter of St. Andrew Lutheran Church

Lent

40 days of renewal



A Note From Pastor Cindy

The Kin-dom of God

While participating in this year's Bishop's Convocation, I heard this again: the Kin-dom of God. That's not a typo. It's *not* meant to be Kingdom, but kin-dom. Though I have heard the term before, it brought me to pause this week in a way it hadn't before. Perhaps that's because we have been intentionally studying anti-racism for over a year now, and I am tuned in to the suffering white-centered culture has continued to cause to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color). Perhaps it's because we have experienced such violent divides to cause an insurrection at the Capitol building and deep divisions that stop neighbors from looking out for each other. Most definitely, it is because the pain of our times reminds me ever more urgently that our faith calls us to kinship.

It's such a simple change, removing that g. Yet the result transcends so much of the patriarchy, the power plays, and our world's problematic rhetoric. It beckons us instead to a partnership, love, mutuality, and the bonds of family. Isn't that what the call of our faith is all about? To love God and love one another, to see each other as brothers and sisters. To work for the good of all people, especially our kin who are pushed down or pushed aside. Isn't that God's invitation... to live in the Kin-dom of God?

As we continue to move through these difficult days of the pandemic, of political upheaval, of economic suffering, and ongoing social reckoning, we have an opportunity to sit with this question: what does it mean to live in the kin-dom of God? What does it mean to love one another as sisters and brothers? How does it affect you to consider, not a kingdom of God, with all the hierarchy, pomp, and prestige of the elite, but a kin-dom of God, with all the humility, service, and connection of family? Didn't Jesus show us God's kingdom really is a kin-dom?

I hope you can take some time to ponder what this might mean to you. And as you do, I pray you feel the call to kinship and feel the Spirit of the living God stirring in you a deeper connection with all of humanity.

Peace and Joy,
Pastor Cindy

Worship & Music

Sam Solano, Director

As we move into the season of Lent, I'm excited to begin featuring songs from the new hymnal supplement "All Creation Sings." This supplemental hymnal features themes of healing and wholeness, creation care, justice and peace, praise and lament. All these themes greatly encompass our experience this past year as well as pair well with our Adult ed offering with the "For the Beauty of the Earth" lenten devotional. Thank you so much, Lori McDonald, for providing us with this awesome hymnal.

Much of our program has continued as best as possible to reflect our traditional music ministry. With all the groups continuing to participate in the virtual program, we are so grateful for your participation and support.

If you are looking for something new to try in the new year, you should give the music ministry a try! With the video creation process, you are able to practice singing or playing your part with our recordings as much as you like and have an infinite number of tries recording yourself if need be. Also, if you are one to get stage fright, this is a great chance to still sing or play in a group without playing in front of anybody! If you have any questions or would like any support getting started, I'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to email me at musicdirector@salcvan.org

The start to the new year has been an interesting time. There's been plenty in the news to last all year. It tends to draw our attention, and we want to know what's happening in the world. But the news almost always focuses on the negative side of what's happening.

On the bright side of the new year, I find comfort in my family, activities with the local scene (mostly digital), and positivity that I find at church. The interactions that we are able to have definitely leave me feeling positive about things.

The ministry teams that represent children, youth & family ministry teams are working hard and having a great time as we continue to pursue ways to connect and ways in which we can equip. Church life is ever-evolving and adapting while we can't be physically together – but we continue to deepen our understanding of what directions we can take now and for the future and use some time to dream.

As we move forward into Lent, our youth will have an opportunity to learn about prayer through a lesson series to guide us as we “Think, Believe and Do (T.B.D.)” As we navigate through a world of unknowns, prayer is a constant that helps keep us rooted in our faith.

Here are some other times and events to keep on your calendar:

Children:

- Sunday, February 21st - Sunday School on Zoom Godly Play*

Youth:

- February 7th - High School Meet-Up on Zoom from 2:30-4:00 pm*
“Loved” – Valentine’s Day and the beginning of Lent both help us to remember how we love and are loved. What’s the difference between God’s love and human love?
- February 14th – Parking Lot Worship & Souper Bowl Event
Join us for in-person worship in the parking lot and help at our annual Souper Bowl collection event! More details to come in weekly emails.
- February 21st – High School Meet-Up on Zoom from 2:30-4:00 pm*
“T.B.D. - Prayer” – During Lent, we will work through a series of lessons on prayer. We will kick off this series together.
- February 28th – Middle School Meet-Up on Zoom from 2:30-4:00 pm*
“T.B.D. - Prayer” During Lent, we will work through a series of lessons on prayer. We will kick off this series together.

*Zoom links will be published in the weekly eblast, Family Faith Blast and the Youth News Blast.

Our regular schedule for youth meetups is high school will meet on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and middle school on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. There will be occasional meetups for all youth to join together.

Peace and Joy,
Chris Natland

St. Andrew Christian Preschool

Written by Kimbree Brown

We have a few exciting items to report! First, thanks to many generous donations of money and time, the preschool installed two brand new gazebos. They are a wonderful addition to our playground and will serve us well in the wet months.



Finally, here are some pictures of the children have fun and learning a lot!



THANK YOU

We are celebrating God's faithfulness through all those who helped us meet and exceed our Trike-a-Thon fundraising goal! In total \$3000 was raised through your generosity and Evergreen Insurance matched the first \$1000 for a total of \$4000. Thank you!!!

The raised funds purchased two gazebos that will help shelter children during cold weather and provide shade in the sunshine.

"Becoming the Story We Tell": a Lenten small group to deepen our faith

Written by Diane Smith

The season of Lent is a gift, especially for those interested in focusing on the way of Christ, which is what we will explore in this Lenten small group. This will be an opportunity for you to focus on deepening your relationship with Christ, as well as with others who are seeking to do the same. We will meet for one hour a week and explore the coming Sunday's gospel lesson in a reflective, devotional way, as well as share our own faith journeys.

Our goal for these groups is to identify those things that prevent us from fully following Jesus, so we can turn from them and accept the gift of new life God offers us at Easter through the death and resurrection of Christ. As we do so, we renew our baptismal identity and calling.

The group will meet for six weeks, and there are two choices of day and time. One choice is Sunday at 3:00 pm, and the other is Monday at 6:30 pm. We ask you to attend all six sessions because making connections to others is an important part of the process. There may also be an option to extend the groups into the Easter season. Please consider joining us!

If you have questions, please contact Diane Smith d_gsmith@msn.com or 360-892-1389 or Martha Maier maierm@comcast.net.

Ash Wednesday

On this hallowed day, we mark our foreheads with ashes to symbolize that we are dust and to dust we shall return. It's a solemn beginning to the penitent season of Lent, as Jesus turns toward Jerusalem and the cross. This year, as we continue to experience the tragedy of the coronavirus pandemic, a colleague suggested that instead of trying to force this tradition into our current circumstance, what if we dreamed about a new way of marking this day for this year. Our Worship and Music Ministry Team brought the idea forward that we plant seeds or bulbs. Not only does this demonstrate the reality of death and being buried, but it also holds the promise of the resurrection and new life that will bloom.



As part of our Ash Wednesday service, we will incorporate a planting and invite you to join in your homes. We will provide seeds or bulbs, soil, and pots to those who need them. The supply pick-up will be immediately following our outdoor parking lot worship on Sunday, February 14th. Worship is at 2:00 pm, and the supply pick-up will begin around 2:30 pm. If you plan to participate and would like to receive supplies, RSVP by February 10th by emailing officemanager@salcva.org or responding in the weekly eblast.



Social Concerns

Written by Sarah Terry

Ways to take action in February is easier than you may think.



Awareness in Action

February is Black History Month, and for many of us, our exposure to black history was limited, in many cases very white-washed. With our studies of the last months, we now know we can do more, do better. How many of us know Ursula Burns, Moses Fleetwood Walker, Edward Bouchet, or Guion Stewart Blufort Jr.? We should. These individuals should be as familiar to us as Bill Gates, Babe Ruth, Steven Hawking, or Neil Armstrong. In some cases, we should have known their names in place of others, but they were denied being "first" in their fields purely because of their skin color. In February, our challenge is to make it a point to learn about an amazing BIPOC figure in our history that may have previously been denied in our white goggles of history. Some amazing individuals shared in shaping our collective history, and we can honor them and show them the respect they have earned by learning their names.

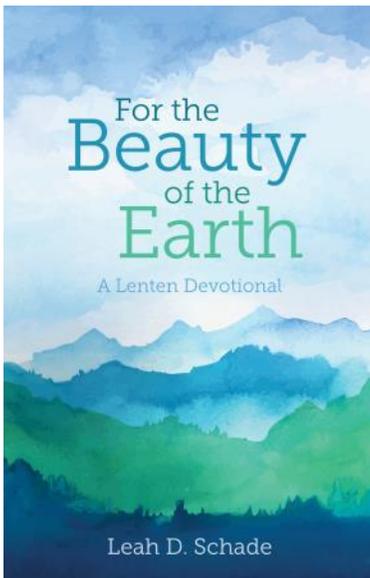
The week of **February 21st - 27th** is **Digital Detox Week**. In our socially distant world, we cannot just turn off the electronics for many of us as we rely on them for work, school, essential goods and services, and staying connected to our worship. But can we limit our exposure to the negative influences of our electronic dependence? During Digital Detox week, maybe choose not to listen to your book on Audible or Kindle and pick up a paper book; yes, they are still popular. Decide to turn off the electronic entertainment for an evening and have a family board game night. Choose to limit news consumption to once per day and resist scrolling at the chirp of each notification. We are in a time when we cannot unplug for an entire week, but we can reduce digital consumption for a day, an evening, or from one app to give our brains a much needed digital downtime.

Social Concerns Team will be having a Book Donation Drive in partnership with EIJ Task Force to benefit our preschool and other programs. Please insert books into 1-gallon Ziploc bags before donating them at the church on **Wednesdays during pantry hour 1 PM- 3 PM beginning Wednesday, January 27th - Wednesday, February 24th**. Donations will be given to the preschool on March 2nd, which is **Read Across America Day**. The focus of our book donations will be to promote diversity, equity, and social justice education, starting with our youngest future leaders. This link, <https://bit.ly/3p8Ztfs>, includes some suggested titles and a system for us to track titles to reduce duplicate donations. You may also have names of other titles you can recommend. Please let us know. We want our focus to remain social justice and diversity, but not limited to preschool-age books. If you have a title that you can recommend that is appropriate for elementary, tween, or even high school-age readers we will gladly accept those. Books not suitable for preschool ages will be donated as EIJ resources for the SALC library or Youth & Family Teams. Duplicate book donations will be donated to Orchards Elementary- no book will go unused. Please click the following link below, mark your selection and add an email or phone number. If you have a title in mind but do not see it on this list, please reach out to Elizabeth Barbian (elizabeth.schlessman@gmail.com) or Sarah Terry (seterry70@gmail.com) so it may be added. Diversity Book Donations <https://bit.ly/3p8Ztfs>

Reduce Waste

Written by Judy Blevens, Earthkeeping Ministry

In spite of our congregation's best intentions to recycle/reuse more, partly because current waste management puts more waste into our landfills: Look for ways to buy less in clamshell containers. Bring your own reusable bags. Keep writing to companies to limit their dependence on plastic.



Lenten Study 2021: For the Beauty of the Earth by Leah Schade
Sundays @ 11:00 Feb 21- March 28

In the Garden of Eden, God called us to be Stewards of Creation. As we struggle with Climate Change and other environmental challenges, we are called to reflect on how caring for God's creation is connected to our faith. Drawing on the beloved hymn "For the Beauty of the Earth," each week of this 40-day Lenten devotional focuses on a different aspect of the splendor of nature, how God nurtures our spirit through creation, and how we must protect our precious home. As we walk with Jesus along shorelines, through gardens, and among trees, we learn from the "birds of the air" and "the lilies of the field." When our Lenten journey takes us into the heart of Earth itself at Jesus' tomb, we anticipate the resurrection with eager longing and active hope. Each daily, one-page, five-minute devotional includes a scripture, reflection, and prayer.

Join us Sundays during Lent to discuss our daily reflections. If you are interested in participating, please order the book. The book, *For the Beauty of the Earth*, is available on Amazon & Christianbook.com. If you need assistance with ordering a book, please contact Aileen Libengood. It is also available for eReaders.

EIJ Corner – Reflection and Action on Equity, Inclusion, and Justice

What is Equity?

The name of our task force begs the question: what is equity, exactly?

Equity is defined as "the state, quality or ideal of being just, impartial and fair." *Equality* aims to ensure that everyone gets the same things in order to enjoy full, healthy lives. *Equity*, in contrast, involves trying to understand and give people what they need to enjoy full, healthy lives. Like equity, equality aims to promote fairness and justice, but it can only work if everyone starts from the same place and needs the same things.¹ Needless to say, they don't! This is why we focus on promoting equity.

¹ From *Equity vs. Equality and Other Racial Justice Definitions*, The Annie E. Casey Foundation (2020).



Did you know...?

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr fought for economic justice for poor and working-class people, in addition to civil rights? In 2016, the median net worth of a white family (\$171,000) was about **ten times** that of the median net worth of a Black family (\$17,500).²

The disparity in wealth leads to many related inequities, including the ability to buy a home, which is a major stepping stone from poverty into the middle class.

² *Examining the Black-white wealth gap*, K, McIntosh, E. Moss, R. Nunn, and J. Shambaugh, Brookings Institution (2020).

February is Black History Month

Dr. Carter G. Woodson called for "Negro History Week" in 1926 to celebrate Black history, which became "Black History Month" in 1976. What are you doing to learn about Black history and achievements this month? Look for opportunities for learning and service each week in the eBlast.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
		9am - Tues/Morn Bible 1:15pm - Zoom Office 3pm - Staff Meeting @ 5pm - Social Concerns 7pm - Ministry Team 7pm - Youth Ed Meeting	Food Pantry OPEN 12: 6pm - Guitar class - PS 7pm - Music Ministry	10:30am - Exec Team 2pm - Re-Creations @		Leadership Retreat
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Confirmation Pod 9am - Fellowship @ 10am - Worship 11am - Adult Ed @ 12pm - Fellowship -link 2:30pm - Youth Meet	6pm - Recorder Meet- 7pm - Handbell Meet-	9am - Tues/Morn Bible 1:15pm - Zoom Office 2pm - Staff Meeting @ 5:30pm - WHO TF 7pm - JOF @ https:	Food Pantry OPEN 12: 9:30am - Prayer Shawl 6pm - Guitar class - PS 7pm - Music Ministry	7pm - JOF- Living our 7pm - Youth & Family		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9am - Fellowship @ 10am - Worship 11am - Adult Ed @ 12pm - Fellowship -link 2pm - Outdoor Worship 2:30pm - Youth Meet 7pm - Book Club	6:30pm - Prayer Service 7pm - Prayer Service @	Shrove Tuesday/Mardi 9am - Tues/Morn Bible 1:15pm - Zoom Office 2pm - Staff Meeting @ 5:45pm - PR Cindy MM 7pm - Worship & Music	Ash Wednesday Food Pantry OPEN 12: 6pm - Guitar class 7pm - Worship - 7:45pm - Music Ministry	9am - Safe Re-Start 12pm - Stewardship @ 2pm - Re-Creations @	7pm - Empty Nesters @	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
9am - Fellowship @ 9am - Godly Play 10am - Worship 11am - Adult Ed @ 12pm - Fellowship -link 1pm - Confirmation 2:30pm - Youth Meet 3pm - SoulCollage®		9am - Tues/Morn Bible 1:15pm - Zoom Office 2pm - Staff Meeting @ 7pm - Pub Theology @	Food Pantry OPEN 12: Lent 1pm - CPR, First Aid, 6pm - Guitar class 6:30pm - Soup Supper 7pm - Holden Evening 7:45pm - Music Ministry			
28						
9am - Fellowship @ 10am - Worship 11am - Adult Ed @ 12pm - Fellowship -link 2:30pm - Youth Meet						

February

- **TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY;** EVERY TUESDAY, 9-10:30 am. Everyone is invited to study the texts for the upcoming week.
- **RE-CREATIONS;** First & Third Thursday, 2 pm.
- **BOOK CLUB;** SECOND SUNDAY: 7pm For more information about the book club, please contact Mary Strehlow.
- **3RD FRIDAYS; EMPTY NESTERS 7pm.** The gang's all here, on Zoom! Bring Your Own Dessert!
- **LAST TUESDAY; PUB THEOLOGY: 7-8:30 pm.** Check us out on Facebook: [St. Andrew Pub Theology](#).
- **PRAYER SHAWL;** Second Wednesday. 9:30am
- **PRAYER SERVICE;** One Monday a month. Please check Google calendar.
- **MINISTRY TEAM NIGHT;** First Tuesday of each month.

A link to view this Google calendar is provided each week in the Saturday eblast.



Winds & Strings Jan. 9th Concert Results

Hello friends. W&S is happy to report that our online benefit concert for WHO was very successful! We received \$4225 in checks at SALC and \$1295 at the WHO program website for a total of \$5520. THANK YOU for your wonderful generosity and in helping us spread the word for the concert. Also, thanks go to all of those who made it possible. Many people stepped up to help create the content, the appeal and to put it up on YouTube.

SOULCOLLAGE®

MONTHLY ON THE THIRD SUNDAY

The St. Andrew SoulCollage® group meets via Zoom on the third Sunday of the month, 3 to 5 pm. This small group is for those who are familiar with SoulCollage®. If you plan to attend or need supplies, please contact Lori McDonald (tartan3@comcast.net) or Martha Maier (maierm@comcast.net) for the Zoom link. If you would like to learn this intuitive collage process for self-discovery, please email officemanager@salcvan.org

Our Small Groups Are Online!

physically distant but still social

Fellowship

Sundays 9am & noon

Empty Nesters

3rd Friday, 6 pm

Re-Creation

1 & 3 Thursdays, 2 pm

Pub Theology

Last Tuesday, 7 pm

Bible Study

Tuesdays 7 pm

Book Club

2nd Sunday, 7 pm



St. Andrew Lutheran Church

40 Days of Caring for Creation

As we travel the 40 days of Lent this year, we will be exploring the gift of creation and our call to be good stewards of the earth. Along with the Adult Education Ministry Team's Lenten study, "For the Beauty of the Earth" by Leah Shade, the Stewardship Ministry Team has prepared 40 days of Caring for Creation activities to inspire and engage us in faithful practices. Commit to one, or one a week, or all 40, but as you do, trust that the Spirit of the living God will use this time to renew your faith as you seek to care for the world around you.

17

Ash Wednesday, February 17 -

Every living thing contains minerals and fluids; when burned, these turn to ash. Light a candle, then put it out. Wait for it to cool, then take some of the ash from the wick. Smudge it on your forehead and say, "I am part of nature. Nature is around me and in me."

18

Thursday, February 18 -

Organic matter is an important part of the soil. Plan to make compost from kitchen waste. Put fruit and vegetable scraps in an outside covered container with some holes for ventilation. Keep adding every day. Stir it once a week.

19

Friday, February 19 -

Go for a walk outside where there is dirt or grass, such as a trail or meadow. Take off your shoes or touch the dirt or grass with your hands. Give thanks for dirt that can grow plants.

20

Saturday, February 20 -

The earth's condition is what we have inherited from our ancestors and what we have done with it. What will the next generation inherit? Start now to waste less and clean up more.

21

Sunday, February 21 -

Find a natural place where you can sense that nature is praising God. Listen to the sounds. Smell the aromas. See the colors. Touch the leaves or bark or soil. Raise your arms, and thank God.

22

Monday, February 22 -

Find a place where you can pick up a handful of dirt. Feel its texture and moisture. Are there small creatures in it that you can see? Are there plants? They are signs of life that things are growing. There are minerals and organic matter to support life.

23

Tuesday, February 23 -

All food ultimately comes from plants. Set aside some nonperishable food items to take to the church food pantry or FISH.

24

Wednesday, February 24 -

Sometime this next week, go outside at night when it is clear and look for stars. Can you see thousands, or hundreds, or just a few? Another time, go where it is very dark and look again. Start now to turn off lights that are not needed.

25

Thursday, February 25 -

Take a walk somewhere and carry a bag with you. Pick up trash and breathe a prayer for the person who dropped it. Pray to remember not to drop trash yourself.

26

Friday, February 26 -

Our solid waste sooner or later winds up in the ocean. Look for ways to reduce waste.

27

Saturday, February 27 -

Burning organic matter produces carbon dioxide, which traps heat in the atmosphere. Set your thermostat a degree cooler to reduce emissions.

28

Sunday, February 28 -

In Hebrew and Greek, the same word is used for air, breath, wind, and spirit. Give a prayer of thanks for the ways you are inspired to help others.



St. Andrew Lutheran Church

5607 N.E. Gher Road
Vancouver, WA
98662-6152

Change Service Requested

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Our Mission

Filled with God's forgiveness and grace...
***we seek to bring healing, wholeness, and justice to ALL
people and creation.***

Join us for worship this Lenten
season

- SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP, 10 AM YOUTUBE.
- FEBRUARY 17, ASH WEDNESDAY, 7 PM YOUTUBE.
- STARTING FEBRUARY 24, HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER, 7 PM YOUTUBE, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON CARING FOR CREATION.



You can find St. Andrew Lutheran Church online at <http://www.salcvan.org> or on Facebook at [facebook.com/salcvan](https://www.facebook.com/salcvan). We can be reached during office hours, 9 am—4:30 pm, Monday—Thursday.

WORSHIP SERVICES SUNDAY AT 10 AM

Call Us: (360) 892-7160,
Fax Us: (360) 892-1306
Email Us: office@salcvan.org

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Cindy Muse, pastorcindy@salcvan.org
Sam Solano, Dir. of Music & Worship Ministry, musicdirector@salcvan.org
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Theresa Swanson, Children's Choir Director, theresaswanson@live.com
Kimbree Brown, Preschool Director, preschool@salcvan.org
Amy McCann, Office Manager, officemanager@salcvan.org
Michelle Veazie, Office Assistant, officeassistant@salcvan.org



For more information about St. Andrew Lutheran **Certified Nature Explore Preschool** visit: salcvan.org/preschool. Recognized by the Evergreen Public Schools as an Evergreen Early Learning Partner. St. Andrew Christian Preschool serves children ages 2—5. For more information contact the Preschool Director, Kimbree Brown.

Call Us: Preschool Phone: (360) 892-7210
Email Us: preschool@salcvan.org

PRESCHOOL STAFF

Kim Bennett, Kendra Bizeau, Lori Edenfield, Bethany Emerson, Kimberly Ewalt, Lisa Fairman, Becky Jones, Kristi Mullen, Jaime Salyers, Jill Taylor, Daisy Worsencroft and Jillian Worthington.

Check us out on Facebook! [facebook.com/st.andrew.christian.preschool](https://www.facebook.com/st.andrew.christian.preschool)