

From our Council President

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

My goodness! As I sit to write this article for March, I realize that this is my first article since December! My apologies. No excuses. I'll try to do better. Since I haven't corresponded in a while, there is much to say, but you already know most of it, so I'll be as concise as my right brain will allow, and I'll write from my heart.

First, I want to recognize and profusely thank **Jolene Richardson**, who is retiring from her role as Parish Administrator after a nearly sixteen-year career at St. Andrew. Jolene's hard work, determination, skills, and attention to detail are second only to her huge caring heart. She will be missed in the role but promises to remain active in the congregation after retirement, and after some time to travel and visit remote family members. Jolene, THANK YOU and know we love you and wish the best for you and Mike in retirement!

I also want to thank Music Director **Brian Russell** (a little late I know) who has accepted a call at a large church near his home. Thanks, Brian, for all you brought to St. Andrew! Thank you to **Marsha Scheusner** for accepting the interim role. Your gifts are a tremendous asset. Also, a big thank you to **Pastor Susan Springer**, who is moving on from her role as Administrative Assistant. Thank you, Susan, for your hard work and dedication. On your Church Council, **Allison Bussone** has relinquished her role as Treasurer, and **Dwight Bonifacius** has graciously stepped into this important responsibility. Thank you, Allison and Dwight.

Next, I want to relay to you what a terrific job **Liza Hawkins** (Director of Youth and Children's Ministries) and **Jeana Butler** (Faith Formation Committee Chair) are doing with our youth programs. The energy is very exciting! Youth and children are the future of our church, our community, and society. It's incredibly heartwarming to see this effort and results.

Last year, in our December Congregation Meeting, you ratified changes to our Constitution, By Laws and Continuing Resolutions. One of the changes you ratified is the organizational structure of your Church Council. These changes will be outlined and presented to the congregation as information at our Spring Congregational Meeting, tentatively scheduled for May 1, 2022. The Nominating Committee, chaired by **Darrel Reifschneider**, will also present Council nominees for the session that begins July 1, 2022. Please pencil in that date and plan to attend and participate. An agenda will be forthcoming. Thank you!

Finally, I want to express my profound appreciation to all the members of our COVID Advisory Team. Many among us don't realize how much time and effort this group has exerted in helping to guide us through an extremely tenuous, dangerous, and uncertain time in our world's history. This group has convened EVERY WEEK for the past TWO YEARS to do their very best to protect our congregation and community against the COVID scourge. **Amy Vehec, Matt Coleman, Beth Smith, Eric Crispell** and the rest of the team, **THANK YOU!**

To all in our community of faith: thank you for your faithful service to our Lord and Savior, through your work and gifts. You are the Lutheran Church of St. Andrew. Together, **in Christ, We Worship, Love, Grow, Serve and Send.**

In Christ's service,

Ken Cockerham