

Section 3
Congregation Council
Reports

Council Reports

Church in Society by Ryan McElvain

St. Andrews Lutheran Church reaches out to its members and those in the community in an effort to fulfill our mission; to be disciples and make disciples. In addition to the events highlighted below, St. Andrews is continuing to look for more ways to serve the community and the congregation.

Interfaith Shelter

St. Andrews opened its doors to homeless during the first week of the year and provided much needed shelter, toiletries and food to a number of guests. We had a total of 12 guests throughout the week, including two young children. A number of congregational groups and individuals donated breakfast and lunch items for our guests. A number of other people provided hot dinners and also spent the night as overnight chaperones. The congregation as a whole supported this ministry and donated several items to our guests in need.

Soup'er Bowl

In early February, the confirmation students of St. Andrew's solicited cans of soup to be given to the hungry. On Super bowl Sunday, the congregation was asked to put a can of soup in the box of the team they thought would win the Super Bowl. We had an outstanding response and were able to deliver a number of food items to local food banks.

Food Drive

During the month of November, St. Andrew's began our annual food drive. We collected large amounts of canned goods and dry food which were given to several local food banks for distribution to families in need.

Miracle Ranch

St. Andrews continued its support of the Miracle Ranch Orphanage in Valle de las Palmas, Mexico. Throughout the year; Pastor Manuel, youth and several adult volunteers made trips to the orphanage to help improve the grounds, conduct maintenance on the buildings and to show God's love to the kids. This was a great success and we were able to provide a number of items to the kids. Nikki Page and Rachel Petrivelli also organized a gift drive at Christmas time. They were able to deliver a large number of gifts to the children in need.

Education by Michael Muldoon

In keeping with our mission statement to be disciples and to make disciples, St. Andrews offers a variety of educational activities for all age groups that help us in our faith walk.

Sunday School /Children's Church

Children in grades 1-5 gather during the 9:30 worship service for songs, crafts, and stories. Children may attend the beginning of the 9:30 worship service with their families, then go upstairs for Children's Church immediately following communion. Children in preschool and kindergarten meet in the preschool area for age-appropriate lessons. During the summer months, elementary aged children gather in one large group. Preschool and kindergarten are welcome to join the older group or stay in the childcare area. Of course, all children of any age are welcome to stay in the worship service!

Children are invited to participate in the annual Christmas Program and annual Easter Pageant. Rehearsals for these two seasonal programs take place during the Children's Church time. Members of the Steering Team for Children's Church are Christine Dobbins (cdobbins@gmail.com), Katie Kozlik (kate136@aol.com), Teri Potts (ttnmike@msn.com), and Michelle Steuber (msteuber@gmail.com).

Lynn McCarter led Middle School youth in every-other-week Sunday School. "Off" weeks are for taking sermon notes! Thank you, Lynn, for your devotion to our Middle School youth and their faith journeys!

Adult Sunday School

High School aged and above are invited to a discussion group that meets in the sanctuary at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings. Led by Steve Berry and Megan Werland, this group studies a variety of contemporary Christian topics.

Wednesday School

Wednesday School is designed for elementary and preschool-aged children. From 6-7:30pm on WIN nights, children meet in the preschool area for games, crafts, and stories. In the 2015-2016 program year, we did not have enough participants to offer this component of our WIN ministry. This program is being re-designed for the 2016-2017 program year.

Preschool

St. Andrew's Lutheran Preschool is a morning enrichment program for children ages 2-5, with options for two, three, and five-day programs. An optional extended day is also available. Our goal at St. Andrew's Lutheran Preschool is to provide a safe and supportive environment where each child can feel secure and thrive. We also strive to create an environment where parents feel comfortable and confident about leaving their children in our care. While our main focus is on the children's social and emotional growth, we also know children are developing in cognitive and physical skills. Along with these skills we want each child to learn of God's love for him/her, and have a chance to explore God's wonderful world.

We are fortunate to have long-term staff in our preschool. Director Stephanie Alexander has been with the school since 2002. Teachers Teri Potts and Jennifer Mohedano have been part of the St. Andrew's family for many years, and both have professional education and training in Early Childhood Education. Children and parents alike love the creativity, professionalism, love, and care our staff shows to each child and his or her family.

Bible Study

Tuesday, 9:30am finds a lively group gathered for Bible Study and conversation. In 2015 they studied Genesis and Exodus, and will continue studying books of the Bible in 2016. Pastor Andy and Pastor Manuel take turns leading this group.

Hope Circle met the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am. Lydia Dix leads this women's Bible Study Group, using the Women of the ELCA Bible Study from the magazine Gather.

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

The staff from LRCC (Lutheran Retreats, Camps, and Conferences) led our annual Vacation Bible School during the last week of July. Every nook and cranny of our church campus was occupied by children laughing, playing, singing, and learning about God. This is one of the best weeks of our year, and one of our best outreach ministries. Most of the children who attend our VBS are not members of our St. Andrew's family. We are happy to provide a safe, loving, friendly environment for these children and their families. Cindy Page and Meri Jo Petrivelli coordinated the program, and a long list of volunteers donated their time and talent to make this program a success. Thank you!

Adult Education

Pastor Manuel led a group discussion on the biography of Martin Luther written by Martin Marty. This group was formed in preparation for the trip "On the Trail of Martin Luther" taken in September. Nine adults accompanied Pastor Manuel on this tour, seeing important and impressive cultural and historical sights.

An online book discussion group is planned for 2016. Meri Jo Petrivelli will be leading this group, and if it is well-received we will be doing more discussions such as this one.

Education Liaison

We maintained relations with San Diego State University Lutheran/Episcopal Campus Ministry, and supported them in their fundraising and outreach efforts. We also have students who attend California Lutheran University, our ELCA-affiliated university in Thousand Oaks. Pastor Manuel took a group of High School students there in the spring to spend the night and tour the campus. CLU has elected Pastor Manuel as one of their convicators for 2016.

Our staff and volunteers are always open to suggestions for new classes, studies, discussions, and conversations. If you have an idea, be in touch with either Meri Jo Petrivelli or me! Thank you for your support.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Muldoon

Education

Facilities by Jason Sinford

Many new and exciting things have taken place on the Church campus over the last year.

The facelift in front of our campus is continuing. New landscaping was done to the courtyard. This enhanced the beauty of our campus. There still needs to be some additional landscaping done to beautify our campus and we are continuing to beautify the campus in other ways as well. Please be on the lookout for more information on this.

Some of the upstairs rooms and the hallway have been repainted. The time and effort put in to painting was tremendous, but well worth it. Thank you to all that made that happen.

We are continuing our research regarding the possibility of adding solar panels to the Church campus. This will allow us to reduce our electric bill. Please be on the lookout for more information on this.

Verizon installed a cell tower in the sanctuary. The new tower replaced the previous one that Sprint had installed.

In August, a group of volunteers spread some new woodchips in the preschool playground. What a big difference it made to the aesthetics to the preschool and the playground.

We are still in the early stages of upgrading our sanctuary. It will take many more hours and people to make this a reality.

Council would like to thank all the members of church who generously donate their time to make out grounds and our campus look beautiful and keep everything in working order. Without this generosity, our campus would not be the beautiful place it is.

Yours in Christ,
Jason E. Sinford

Financial Support by Tracy Fox

Back by popular demand, the daily devotionals sent to you via emails during our Stewardship campaign were a big hit once again. Thanks to the willingness of individual members of our church family, we learned much about how God has played a role in lives other than ours – yet, perhaps, very much like how He affects our lives as well. These personal stories touched a nerve and shed light on various aspects of life, and allowed us to view a glimpse of God at work.

The Finance Committee grappled with a budget that was looking like it might have to be trimmed, and with it, some important parts of St. Andrews. With a few heartfelt Temple Talks asking you to pray about the church budget (and yours too) and how we would meet the proposed budget, we, as a whole congregation, were asked to give up to God what is His. While the results won't be discerned until later in 2016, it was heartening to hear the outpouring of love for St. Andrews and the hopeful banter regarding the willingness of our brothers and sisters to step up their pledge in hopes of keeping St. Andrews the vibrant, living, church we know it to be.

On another front, the mortgage pay back continues to be moving ahead of schedule. 2016 plans include delving deeper into our Master plan, including a determination as to whether it is feasible for us to go solar.

Once again, this church could not and would not function without your generous financial support. Year in and year out you continue to show your love of and for God, His mission, as well as for St. Andrews and our mission of outreach and of building disciples in Christ.

Hospitality by Kristin Timmons

In March St. Andrews held its annual chili cook-off/cookie chill off to support the Agape House ministries at San Diego State University. This year's winners were Bob Fennema in the chili cook-off and cousins Emma Sinford, Maddie Dobbins, Jaiden Ruckle and Kaitlyn Ruckle in the cookie chill off. They will go on in April to compete for the golden Ladle and golden spatula.

St. Andrews hosted the Agape House Regional chili cook-off/cookie chill off on April 19th. St. Andrews did very well this year taking home the bronze Ladle and the golden spatula. Over \$3,000 was raised by St. Andrews for Agape House ministries at San Diego State University.

On Sunday May 24th we celebrated our newest confirmands by serving cake after the 11 o'clock confirmation service. A small celebration for three hard years of work in becoming confirmed members of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church.

St. Andrews annual Thanksgiving pie social was held on Wednesday November 25th following our Thanksgiving Eve worship service. It was wonderfully hosted and organized again this year by Sandy Konar. About 100 people joined for food and fellowship in the community center. There are numerous pies and goodies served along with coffee and milk for the kids. This annual event has become a favorite among all participants young and old.

Our final event of the year was our annual Carols around the table which was held on Sunday December 6th. About 150 were in attendance to sample over 30 trays of cookies and goodies provided by our congregation along with coffee, hot cocoa and milk. Music was provided by Scott Skinner and the wonderful voices of all in attendance. This year's rendition of Twelve Days of Christmas with our youth as the five gold rings was the highlight of the evening.

Membership by Tim Dobbins

New Member Seminars

Sara Zimmerly continues to serve as the coordinator for this ministry. Two new member seminars were held throughout the year. 29 people became members of St. Andrew's in 2015.

Stephen Ministers

Stephen Ministers are trained, lay caregivers who take time each week to provide Christ's hope and help to people in need. Anyone from our congregation or community is invited to request a Stephen Minister at a time of stress in their life. After a referral process, they will be assigned to a Stephen Minister – women meet with women, men with men. For a period of time, the Stephen Minister and the "Care Receiver" meet on a weekly basis for about an hour. The Stephen Minister listens to the Care Receiver, helps them reflect on their situation, and does all they can to convey Christ's care to them. They also utilize scripture and prayer in their caregiving. Shari Clemans, Kristin Naour, Cheryl Walczak, and Pastor Andy serve as Stephen Leaders to coordinate this ministry. Susan Havens also served as a Stephen Leader prior to her move to Indiana in the Spring of 2015.

Christ Bearers

Our trained Christ Bearers (people who carry Word and Sacrament) extend the Communion table to our homebound families each week. Each Christ Bearer carries bread and wine, consecrated at our congregational celebration of Holy Communion, to our shut-ins immediately following the service, or as soon as possible. They also share a portion of God's Word and affirm the personhood of the homebound through conversation focused on discovering any needs that the person might care to disclose. The Christ Bearers ministry seeks to ensure that persons who are not able to leave their homes are still a part of the worshipping community of St. Andrew's through this weekly extension of the Sunday Celebration. Jack Lester coordinated this ministry until he passed away and Pastor Andy took over after that.

Living Through Grief

Living through Grief is a ministry to help people who have lost a loved one to death deal with their grief in a caring Christian community. Living through Grief combines 9 sessions of teaching presentations with sharing and workbook exercises to help people learn about and deal with their grief. Stephanie Alexander, Maryann Oliver and Pastor Andy coordinated this ministry.

Prayer Ministry

The prayer ministry of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, led by coordinators Sara Hench, Kim Stabley, and Pauline Hankel, is a ministry in which intercessory prayer and praise are offered on behalf of individuals, congregational needs, and needs of the world. This ministry is available to members and non-members alike. Prayers are offered on a daily basis for a period of three months unless otherwise requested. The prayer Ministry is comprised of the two coordinators who work in conjunction with nine teams of prayer partners, who pray daily for the people on their prayer list.

Emergency Action Teams

There are currently 19 team leaders who are ready to help with meals and other services as required, especially in times of need to help comfort our members. Each team leader is assigned a group of 12-14 member families to call on for assistance. Marilyn Duba and Sara Zimmerly coordinate this ministry.

Worship by Mimi Porter

This has been a learning year for this council liaison. The position is charged with providing support to, and recruiting leaders for, various ministries involved with the worship services. The church provides four weekend services in which the congregation gathers to hear God's word and receive Holy Communion. The services range from traditional to contemporary to accommodate various styles and taste but all provide the same gift of God's word.

The congregation also gathers for special services for the liturgical year--Advent, Lent, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Christmas Eve, and Christmas.

Each service requires a host of individual and group efforts to run smoothly. These include leaders for the following tasks:

Altar Guild	Sanctuary Art
Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants
Music Groups	Special Music
Lectors	Acolytes
Ushers	Sound System
Drama	Flowers

Our thanks to all who have served to keep these positions running smoothly so that we may experience the Word of God with reverence and beauty.

Our children participate in worship through the **Spirit Movers**, our dance group, and **Joyful Noise**, our children's choir. Our thanks to the children, their leaders, and their parents.

Our **music director**, Scott Skinner, led and coordinated musical offerings from the Chancel Choir, Folk/Gospel Group, Celebrate Singers and Taize' Singers. He also arranges for special music including soloists and small group offerings providing a wide range of music genre.

The **Altar Guild** prepares and oversees the gifts of bread, wine, and juice for the sacrament of Holy Communion at each of the four regular services as well special services. Karen Stephens and Jeanne Bishop coordinate this ministry. Many thanks to congregation members for donating elements for Holy Community, and to Cindy Williams for coordinating sign-ups to provide bread, wine, and juice.

The **Sanctuary Art Committee** is tasked with creating and providing a wide assortment of banners to celebrate the seasons of the liturgical year. They also are responsible for decorating our worship spaces for Christmas and Easter. This year, they have been working to create new window coverings for the community center to provide better lighting for the worship services held there. Thanks to Nancy Samuelson and Joanne Beets for providing leadership to this ministry.

Preparing the community center for worship requires a daunting task of chair arranging and moving. The **Chair Setup Committee** has faithfully provided this service so that we may worship in both sanctuary and community center. Thanks to Mark Mahan for coordinating this group.

In the background are our faithful **bulletin stuffers**.

All these coordinators, volunteers, and many not listed above come together in service to God and St. Andrews to ensure that the worship experience is welcoming, seamless, and reverent. We are blessed to have such a supportive and giving congregation who work together to provide God's work with their hands.

Finally, thanks to all who worship, raise their voices to sing, bow their heads in prayer, and seek God's presence and guidance through the worship offerings provided at St. Andrew's Church. We are richly blessed and have much to be thankful for.

Yours in Christ,

Mimi Porter

Youth Liaison by Lori Herman

Faith, worship, fellowship, service and fun –it's been a full year for St. Andrew's youth!

On Wednesday nights, over 25 middle school students crowd around tables for dinner, connection and preparation for their public profession of faith. Guiding them on this journey are Pastor Andy Taylor, Pastor Manuel Retamoza, Nick Ferrante, Ryan Frisella, Ryan Handlin, Chelsey Klein, Teri Potts, Jenna Hetrick, Aubrey Rozolsky, Jessica Sanks, Shannon Teague, Emily Teaze, and Joseph Zimmerly. Activities for our pre- and elementary age youth on Wednesday nights include: Joyful Noise choir, directed by Carmen Berry and Mona Nesheim; Spiritmovers dance, choreographed this year by Trish Williams and Courtney Van Buren; and Wednesday School, taught by Tammy Marchand.

In May, 22 youth were confirmed. They are Ruben Allen, Dion Anderson, Donnel Belton, Cole Bertsche, Kyle Bona, Katie Dobbs, Angelina Garcia, Kayla Gunter, Cameron Jones, Cambria Koenig, Cade Marchand, Rachell Mena, Kendall Newton, Katie Ng, Marisa Northcutt, Hannah Pennoyer, Jack Schlotman, Marisa Sedlund, Colleen Shawkey, Emily Teaze, Alejandro Valdez and Maggie Zimmerly.

Sunday night SALT (St. Andrew's Lutheran Teens) gathers our high school youth for weekly Bible study and games. Thanks to the adults sponsors who shared their time with SALT in 2015: Erica Alexander, Ryan Handlin, Lori Herman, Pastor Laurie Line, Steve O'Leary, Cindy Page, Jason Sinford, Kyle Tweet, Saige Walding, Sara Zimmerly, and Pastor Manuel Retamoza.

Throughout the year, our youth continued to engage in camp, church-wide gatherings and service projects, experiencing God and creation while learning about others and themselves. Over the past year, they attended:

- Luther Glen Camp and Farm in Yucaipa CA – Elementary, middle and high school youth grew in faith, while experiencing life on a working farm.
- Middle School Gathering in Woodland Hills CA – The theme for 2015 was Minecraft: “Now he’s using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the cornerstone that holds all the parts together.” A day at Universal Studios filled out this energized weekend of worship and discovery.
- High School National Youth Gathering in Detroit MI + Chicago – We sent 25 high school youth and guides to Detroit to “Rise Up” and proclaim justice, community and story. The group also visited Chicago, took in some baseball and, as you know if you were at the Formal Dinner, experienced the summer of a lifetime. In proclaiming their stories, we learned that any fears of Detroit as depicted in the media were replaced with understanding and awe because of first hand interaction with the people and the city.
- Rancho El Milagro in Tecate MX - The close relationship the youth at St. Andrew's have formed with the children at Miracle Ranch continued to grow. In July, our youth and adult sponsors spent a week there, playing with the children and helping repair the facility.

The people of St. Andrew's generously bless our youth with prayers and donations throughout the year. Thank you for all your assistance, including supporting the Haunted House, Bunco, Formal Dinner, High Tea events, as well as the weekly Coffee Cart.

Lori Herman, Youth Liaison