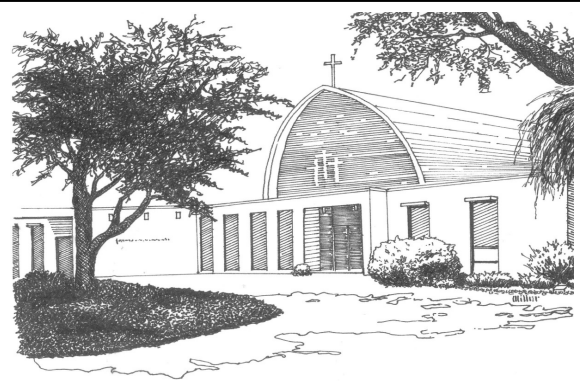


# LOAVES & FISH

## News from St. Andrew's by-the-Lake Episcopal Church

December 2017



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### Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 AM

Holy Communion: Rite II

10:45 AM

Coffee Hour

11:00 AM

Adult Inspirations

***We invite you to worship, grow & serve with us!***

### **WE WILL SERVE THE LORD!**

A few weeks ago, the semi-continuous lectionary readings took us to Joshua 24, in which Joshua challenges the people of Israel to recommitment themselves to the Lord, especially since they were entering an era of relative ease and prosperity in the newly settled land of Canaan. Joshua boldly calls the people to commitment, one that he himself makes as well: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!" During the sermon time, I asked our congregation to reflect upon and write about 2 questions. First of all, describe a time when you consciously committed yourself to God. Second of all, what have been the blessings and the challenges of this commitment? While these responses are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway, I wanted to share a few of the responses that I found inspiring.

*I can't pinpoint one incident. My level of commitment ebbs and flows. I am happiest when I am filled with the Holy Spirit and live my faith day in and day out. // 'What will others think of me?' is always in the background, but breaking that and witnessing is such a blessing and so rewarding.*

*After waiting for an extended time, God gave me the family I always wanted. I chose to serve him more completely and raise my children to do the same. // Life often gets in the way of serving the Lord the way I should.*

*Just being here each Sunday drives my atheist friends nuts. Yet they are unhappy, drinking, drugging, lost. Not me. // I try to let God live my life for me. Give up control. Be an example*

*As a teenager, I was anxious and depressed. I vowed to follow Jesus if my cares were removed and they were. // Recognizing my on-going sin is difficult. Recognizing God's continuing blessings has been most rewarding.*

Let's continue to support one another as we, together, daily choose to serve the Lord! God bless you!

Rob +



## December Lectionary Readings

### December 3 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9  
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37

### December 10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

### December 17 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm 126  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 24(am) – 4th Sunday of Advent

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Canticle 3  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

### December 24(pm) – Christmas Eve

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Titus 2:11-14  
Psalm 96  
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

### December 31 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3  
Psalm 147  
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7  
John 1:1-18



## Happy December Birthday!

Dec. 6 Michael Ducey  
Dec. 8 Marily Krutzkowsky  
Dec. 26 James Sowards

## Vestry Corner

Our next vestry meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 20 at 11 am.** Please remember all church members are welcome to attend vestry meetings. Our current vestry includes:

Senior Warden/Treasurer - David Jocelyn  
Junior Warden - Bill Hazelgrove  
Secretary - Sue Vail  
Lisa Emshwiller



## Worship at Rittenhouse

Each month, St. Andrew's offers a 'Protestant Worship Service' at Rittenhouse Senior Living Center in Michigan City. **We gather at 9:30 am, usually, on the first and third Wednesday of the month. This month, we will host worship at Rittenhouse on December 6 and 20.**

All members of St. Andrew's are welcome to join us for worship at Rittenhouse. Equally as important as connecting with God, these services afford us an opportunity to connect with the residents at Rittenhouse! Come worship and be a friend to our senior brothers and sisters in Christ!

## Office Hours for Father Rob

My normal office hours are:  
Wednesdays from 10 am—3 pm,  
and by appointment.

PLEASE feel free to contact me for any reason on my cell phone: 219-299-6772.

## Lay Ministries Schedule

### December 3 – 1st Sunday of Advent -

#### Altar Color: Purple

Greeter	David Jocelyn
Reader	Bruce Williams
Altar Guild	David Jocelyn
Sunday School	Joe Walker
Tellers	Klare/Volunteer

### December 10 – 2nd Sunday of Advent –

#### Altar Color: Purple

Greeter	Williams Family
Reader	C. Ostermeier
Altar Guild	Carol Hazelgrove
Sunday School	Sue Marz
Tellers	Klare/Volunteer

### December 17 - 3rd Sunday of Advent –

#### Altar Color: Pink or Purple

Greeter	Emshwiller Family
Reader	David Jocelyn
Altar Guild	Cheryl Ostermeier
Sunday School	Bruce Williams
Tellers	Klare/Volunteer

### December 24(am) – 4th Sunday of Advent

#### Altar Color: Purple

Greeter	Lu Cox
Reader	Sue Vail
Altar Guild	Tay Klare
Sunday School	Lisa Emshwiller
Tellers	Klare/Volunteer

### December 24 (pm) – Christmas Eve

#### Altar Color: White

Reader	TBD
Altar Guild	The Guild
Tellers	Volunteers

### December 31 – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas

#### Altar Color: White

Greeter	Dick & Tay Klare
Reader	Tay Klare
Altar Guild	David Jocelyn
Sunday School	Volunteer
Tellers	Klare/Volunteer

## Adult Inspirations Corner:

The Adult Inspirations class is currently on break! If you have any ideas for future studies, please talk with Fr. Rob!



### Caroling at Rittenhouse—

**Dec. 3**

St. Andrew's will spread some holiday cheer by caroling at Rittenhouse Assisted Living at 1 pm on Sunday, December 3. Even if you don't sing, your presence and support is welcome as we interact with the residents. Prior to caroling, we are planning to eat together at a local restaurant, so please come and join in the fun!



### Greening of the Church –

**Dec. 10**

Please join us in decorating the church immediately after the 9:30 am worship service on Sunday, December 18. We will provide baked goodies and seasonal drinks to keep you in good cheer!

### Like us on Facebook!



Did you know that St. Andrew's has a Facebook page? (Thank you very much, Sue Marz!) Please "like" our page next time you check your page and invite your friends to like us too!

On Saturday, December 2, members and guests of St. Andrew's gathered to remember the real life saint who inspired the Santa Claus myth: St. Nicholas! The morning began with a breakfast with pancakes that looked like St. Nicholas (cut strawberries for a mitre, chocolate chips for eyes and whipped cream for a beard!) For the second year in a row, Mr. Steve Costa made an appearance as St. Nicholas and told the story of this amazing saint. We had a total of 15 children in attendance this year, as well as many adult volunteers and participants. THANK YOU to everyone who attended this event, invited a neighbor, cooked breakfast, played music or staffed the various activity stations.!

## **"BREAKFAST WITH ST. NICHOLAS" A SUCCESS!**



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P.O. Box 8766  
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**Return Service Requested**

**December 2017**