

# ***ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, NEW PALTZ***

## ***PARISH & COMMUNITY NEWS***

***DECEMBER 18, 2025***

### **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

Readings: Isaiah 7:10-16; Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18; Romans 1:1-7; Matthew 1:18-25

[For readings see: [www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)]

### **Worship Schedule**

Sunday	Mon.	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
<b>9:30 am Eucharist</b> (in-person & livestreamed) <b>Coffee hour</b> (following the service)  <b>10:45 am – noon –</b> <b>Sunday School</b> on the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays of each month at Redeemer Lutheran Church		<b>10:00 am Morning Prayer</b> on Zoom  <b>12:30 – 2 pm –</b> Body & Soul: The <b>Tuesday Book Group</b> on Zoom		<b>10:00 am Morning Prayer</b> on Zoom		

**Church YouTube Live Stream link for Sunday services:**

**<https://www.youtube.com/@standrewsepiscopalchurch-n6936>**

**Church ZOOM link: <https://zoom.us/j/570270415>**



## A PRIEST'S PONDERINGS...

**The Rev. Allison Moore**

For whatever reason, I have been obsessed with the differences in the birth narratives in Matthew and Luke this year. Not really useful for preparing a simple message for a family service! I can identify more with the experience of preparing for birth in a safe home, which is what Matthew portrays, than a long required walk or donkey ride (there's actually no donkey now in either gospel!) in the last month of pregnancy. And with the preparations and changes in the prospective parents (I'm sure my husband and I gathered more stuff for the baby than Mary or Joseph dreamed possible!!).

In Matthew Mary is "found to be with child by the Holy Spirit." No explanation, and no angel coming to Mary. Mary told Joseph, and Joseph "decided to divorce her quietly" before an angel came to him in a dream and told him to "Be not afraid," which is what angels say to almost everyone they meet, and to take Mary as his wife.

The [Salt Project commentary](#) asks an intriguing question. What is more fearful for Joseph: taking a woman who's pregnant by another man or taking a woman who's pregnant by the Holy Spirit? And what about Mary (Matthew pays little attention to her), who either knew the biological father, or was raped by someone against her will, or who found herself pregnant knowing she'd not been with any man? We have no record of the conversations that probably happened (or, perhaps worse, the silences as both parents worried about how to talk about this) as they could watch and feel the baby grow, watch and know the murmurings of the villagers, know their own doubts and fears.

We talk about love incarnate in the birth of Jesus. Look too however at love incarnate in the love of Mary and Joseph, "courageous love". Whether you have ever had a baby, or adopted a child, or started a new career or adventure or path to sobriety or decisions without your lifelong partner, honoring dreams is a risky business. Is this of God or am I crazy? Am I in this alone or do I have human support around me? If I'm working my way out of a choice I now regret or a mess I have made, do I dare trust that God has forgiven me and is blessing this new path?

Until the birth, we only hear of one of Joseph's dreams, the one that led him to accept Mary and her pregnancy. Did the angel come more often or was Joseph otherwise left with just that one clear vision? And what about us, trying to live faithfully, maybe with glimpses of direction in God or prayer or conversation with others but without much

certainty? When and how has love grown in your life? When have dim hopes strengthened your heart, your will, your love for God and yourself and others?

This is the season for us to attend to where courageous love is becoming incarnate in our decisions, actions, and connections. Ana Hernandez has a chant, "When in your heart you make a manger for his birth, then Christ will once again become a child on earth:" a child of hope, of courage, of strength to do the next right thing until the new path becomes clearer. What fears can you hold up to the light of God's love as you prepare to celebrate Christ's birth?

## **FAMILY SERVICE THIS SUNDAY**

**December 21** is a Family Service, and we hear Matthew's version of Jesus' birth. We're going to throw a **baby shower for Jesus**, because in Matthew Jesus was born at home in Bethlehem. Cards will be available for everyone to draw or write something you are doing to prepare your heart for Jesus' birth. Children in church will help set up the nativity and decorate the manger area.



## **CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST. ANDREW'S**

**Carols 6:00pm**

**Eucharist service 6:30pm**

## **CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

**Rehearsals for the Christmas Choir  
(anyone and everyone invited to  
participate!):**

**December 21 8:45am**

**December 24 5:30pm**



## ANNUAL MEETING

**The Annual Meeting will take place on January 25.**

**Annual Reports** of those who lead the various ministries of St. Andrew's need to be in the office **by January 12** please.

Any **additions, corrections or changes for the church directory** should also be in to the church office by **January 12**.

## MITTEN TREE

The mitten tree is up at St. Andrew's. Please bring mittens, hats, gloves, scarves and other winter items to adorn the tree and afterwards, for donation to Family of New Paltz.

## FOOD COLLECTION

There is a basket at the entryway to the church where we ask that you place **non-perishable food items** for distribution to those who come by for Free Fresh Food as well as to Family of New Paltz.

## SCHEDULE AT ST. ANDREW'S FOR SUNDAY (December 21)

LEM:	Rae Slingerland
Acolyte:	Abby Brown
Lector:	Kappa Waugh
Usher :	Jen Cutter
Altar Guild:	Valerie McAllister
Music:	Janet Frommer
Coffee Hour:	Charlie Burgner
Live Stream Tech:	Jane Conger

## SCHEDULE AT ST. ANDREW'S FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

LEM:	Jen Cutter
Lector:	Wendy Bower
Ushers:	Martin Bend, Annette Johnson
Altar Guild:	Susan Piowaty
Music:	Janet Frommer
Live Stream Tech:	Charlie Burgner



*Advent Quiet Day at St. Andrew's*

**ACTION CORNER**

Steps you can take to work on justice. Ideas welcome!!

**Action for this week**

See the church website ([www.standrewnp.org](http://www.standrewnp.org)) for actions.

## COFFEE HOUR

Sign up to do coffee hour on sign up sheet in the Parish Hall. Information on how easy it is to participate in this ministry is on the sheet and in the kitchen.



## BUILDING RENOVATION NEWS

The feasibility study has been completed, along with a survey of our property. The architect, Allen Ross, will present his findings to the church this Sunday, December 21 after the service (it was cancelled last Sunday due to snow). Please stay and hear what he has to say.

## BLUE CHRISTMAS

“Blue Christmas” services acknowledge that often holiday festivities heighten awareness of the year’s losses and grief. New Connexions, the new name for New Paltz Methodist Church, has offered this service for over a decade.

The longest night service will be **December 21 at 4:00pm at New Connexions.**

## WELCOMING THE NEW YEAR

### RETREAT FOR PEOPLE IN RECOVERY IN 12 STEP PROGRAMS

Holy Cross Monastery, West Park, NY

December 30, 2025 to January 1, 2026

*Join Sisters Shane Phelan and E, and step into the New Year on good footing with a retreat for people who are members of any 12 Step Program of Recovery. [See the Holy Cross website for more information](#)*

**THANK YOU** to all those who served at St. Andrew’s this week, especially Valerie, Brenda, Jane, Cathy, Janet, Luba, Charlie, Cathy, and Laurel. Thank you to those who continue to help with the food pantry and the free fresh food project, those who tend to the grounds of the church and vicarage, and those who are helping with the live streaming of the Sunday service.

## Church Office Hours

### Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays

### 9:30 am – 2:30 pm

*If you need to reach someone when the office is closed, contact The Rev. Allison Moore at 845-633-8272 or by email to [standrewsrev@gmail.com](mailto:standrewsrev@gmail.com); Julie Mazur, Senior Warden at 845-853-3708; or Martin Bend, Junior Warden at 845-423-9666.*



## ON-GOING EVENTS, MEETINGS, ETC.

### SUNY Ulster Food Pantry

### FREE FRESH FOOD!

### Tops Supermarket Food Ministry

### Ascension Holy Trinity Mission Center

### Andy's Peeps

### Sunday School

**Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Thursdays, 12:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.**

Free Fresh Food 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. 1st Sundays: Reformed Church of New Paltz; 2nd Sundays: Redeemer Lutheran Church; **3rd Sundays: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**; 4th Sundays: Methodist Church; 5th Sundays: New Paltz Friends Meeting, 8 N. Manheim

**Sunday mornings:** Pick up food; Speak with Kappa or Jane; Community Service hours available.

Food & clothing always needed. **Clothes can be brought to Ascension of 9W after 9:30 on Sundays.**

Online forum for St. Andrew's community  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/andyspeeps/>

**First & third Sundays, 10:45 a.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church**

St. Andrew's Website ([www.standrewnp.org](http://www.standrewnp.org))

Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/standrewsnp/>)

### ***Our Parish Prayer List:***

We continue to pray for especially ***Charles, Edna, Sheila, DuSean, Lisa, Mary, Gabriel, Joan, Gwenn, Nancy, Patricia, Ola, Joe, Janet, Charles, Martha, Elizabeth, James, Molly, Vickie, Linda, Charlene, Christine, Emily, Jen, Betty, Liz and her family.***