

# ST. ANDREW CHURCH

## NEWSLETTER



### MAY 2016

<sup>25</sup> "All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup> But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup> Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.  
*John 14:25–27 (NIV84)*

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.  
*Acts 2:1–4 (NIV84)*



When you look at the picture above you may be asking, whose birthday is it. The dove gives a hint. The dove often represents the Holy Spirit who descended upon Jesus in the form of a dove at his baptism. No, it is not the Holy Spirit's birthday. It is the birthday of the Christian Church. We refer to it as Pentecost. It happened 50 days after Easter and ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven. It is the day the promise that Jesus gave to his disciples to send the Holy Spirit was fulfilled. It was a day of miracles. First there was the sound of a mighty rushing wind followed by tongues of fire that rested on the heads of the disciples. That certainly served as an attention getter. Then the disciples were given the ability to speak in other languages so each person there could hear the wonders of God, in their own native language. Then came the greatest miracle. After listening to the word preached 3,000 people believed and were baptized. The Holy Spirit used the preaching of the word to create faith in their hearts. That is the real miracle of Pentecost and a miracle that continues to this day. The Lord tells us in Romans: "Faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ." What a miracle it is when the Holy Spirit creates, sustains and strengthens faith through the preaching of God's word. May the Holy Spirit continue to work in our hearts!

## MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

For many years St. Andrew has been represented in the McKinley Park Civic Association Memorial Day Parade. We would like to keep that tradition going to let people know we have a presence in the neighborhood. We are hoping for great turnout for the parade. We will gather at the McKinley Park library on 35<sup>th</sup> Street. The parade steps off at 10:00 AM and lasts about one hour. Please join us.

## ST. ANDREW CHURCH NEWS

The most exciting news to report is that the first Pastor we called to serve St. Andrew after Pastor Semenske's retirement has accepted our call to serve. Pastor Adam Gawel will be the next pastor and shepherd of St. Andrew Lutheran Church. Pastor Gawel graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, WI in 2009. Since then he has served as a missionary in East Asia. His wife Sherry is Chinese and they have three children ages 1-6. He speaks Mandarin and is very familiar with Chinese culture. We believe the Lord has sent us a pastor who fits our needs and ministry plan which is to reach out to the growing Asian population in McKinley Park. Pastor Gawel and his family will be arriving in Chicago in late June and will be installed on Sunday July 10. With Pastor Semenske retiring on June 30 we will only have a 10 day gap between one pastor leaving and another coming. Truly another blessing from the Lord. Please rejoice with us and keep Pastor Gawel and his family as well as St. Andrew in your prayers.

**JOYOUS EASTER** – 137 people joined us to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday. That was up from 112 last year and 108 the year before. We also more than doubled the number of people who joined us for Easter Breakfast. Another reason to praise our Risen Savior.

## FINANCIAL UPDATE:

We are happy to report again this month that our congregation continues to hold its own financially. The second installment from the sale of the school covered the new boiler. The next installment is not until December of 2019.

## Our Pastor:

Doug Semenske,  
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Cell: 708-899-9059  
Email: pastor@standrewchicago.org

## Our Secretary:

Margie Hendricks,  
773-376-5370  
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## Our Worship:

Sunday at 9:30am

## Our Bible Study:

Sunday at 10:45am  
Friday at 10:00 am

## Our Sunday School:

Sunday at 10:30 am

## Sermons on the Web

Listen to Sunday sermons on our web page. Go to [standrewchicago.org](http://standrewchicago.org) Click on Church at the top then click on sermons to see a list of available sermons. Sermons are also available on our Facebook page and iTunes

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