

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church ***Newsletter***

Welcome to worship and life at St. Andrew's!

August 2015

Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

Dear friends,

Late in July I had the opportunity to “**Re-Think**” **Confirmation** at a three day conference at Luther Seminary in St Paul, MN.

As you may know, I love continuing education **always**, but this was a very fine class – that was really a great entrance into how we do Faith Formation **for all ages**, not only for students in grades 6th to 8th !

We heard from several leaders involved in the Confirmation Project – a joint project by five US protestant denominations including ours (the ELCA) who are seeking to make known the best practices for passing on our faith to our children and youth.

One of the most stirring talks at the conference was offered by Reggie Blount. He helped us understand that each child of God is God's **MASTERPIECE** !

He quoted Ephesians 2:10: *For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.*

Please forgive me, but I can't resist sharing with you the literal sense of the Greek: **For we are (God's) workmanship (*poiema*), having been created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that in them we should walk.**

You and I are God's own “poems,” God's own masterpieces. Take a minute and relish that understanding. That is what God sees when he sees you and me in Jesus Christ.

You are one of God's great works of art!

Reggie went on to explain that the best way to pass along our faith to others is to regard them as God regards them – as masterpieces, great works of art, beautiful, precious creatures made by God.

If we approach others (**all others**) as God's works of art – masterpieces – we will treat them so differently from the way they expect to be treated in a harsh world!

Each child of God – each child – priceless and precious, loved and cherished.

I hope you had a teacher or two (or many) who treated you in such a way. How if we could treat each person – whatever their age and whatever their situation – as God's precious masterpieces – as they truly are!

That would not only shape our faith formation practices in this congregation, but all of our mission to the world God entrusts to our care!

Are you ready? Will you join in this celebration of God's artistry that is the Christian faith active in this world? Let's get started in Jesus' name!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Karen Jewell

Bible Studies in August:
Mondays, 7:15 pm in Front Lounge –
Reading Second Corinthians
Wednesdays, 12 noon in Front Lounge –
Questions about our Lutheran Tradition
YOU are welcome!

St. Andrew's Council Meeting
June 9, 2015

Present- Jane Martinez, Chris Ziegler, Michael Anderson, Jakob Iversen, Kristi Cutts, Pastor Karen Jewell, Gary Bruce, Melissa Last, Matt Moore
Excused- Jay Klinger, Ann Stephan, Peg Olson, Patty Koplitz
Guests- Jayne Lindsay, Steve Last, Sandy Last, Kay Procknow
Devotions- *Stop, Look, and Listen* - Jane Martinez
Financial Reports- Moved and seconded to approve Bills Paid and Treasurer's Report.

Old Business

Recording Sermons for Shut-ins - New equipment was received for recording sermons. The first sermon was recorded this past Sunday and will be put on the Website.

New Members and Mentoring - All the new members' names have gone to Jay.

Vanco Update (Kay Procknow) - Offering can come from an individual's checking account, saving account, debit cards, and credit cards, as well as using a QR code from your phone. Vanco will not have access to member's personal information. Other churches saw an increase in giving after offering an e-giving option. Moved and Approved to list Current/Operational Expenses, Benevolences/ELCA & Synod, Debt Reduction, Unspecified/General Fund, and Youth as funds on Vanco. A motion was made and approved to set up a temporary fund and to authorize a fund raiser for Brenda Francis' medical needs.

Church Windows (Sandy Last)- Membership and donation materials are all on Church Windows. Address, "snowbird" address, family members, phone numbers, giving, births, baptisms, confirmations, weddings, emergency numbers and time and talent lists will be included. All information will be in one place for all involved in keeping information updated on our members. Goal is to have BASIC information to be done by the end of June.

New Business

Council went into a closed session at 9:05 PM to discuss next steps for the secretarial position. After review of the current budget the motion was made and approved to absorb the \$3500 spent the past 3 months with the additional secretarial help and return to the 20 hours per week as indicated in our current budget. Additional secretarial hours will be evaluated with the 2016 budget process. Ongoing updates on the Vanco and Church Windows projects will be provided at monthly Council meetings.

Committee Reports

Fellowship - We had a Fellowship meeting on June 1. It was decided to have a nice dinner to honor/recognize the new members that have joined over the past 12 months and to honor the remaining charter members at the same dinner. The dinner would be held Sunday, November 15th at around 6:00. More details will follow as planning for the event continues. I am currently working on the volunteer schedule for the next quarter (July-Sept.). People have asked to be removed from the list of volunteers, so it is getting more difficult to fill all of the necessary duties without burdening the remaining volunteers. 2015 goals for Fellowship were shared.

Technology-

Phone answering service is now working via Time Warner. Web-based giving through Vanco is set up and working. Customizing and roll-out plans are in the works.

Church Windows is operational and data entry is underway, but will take a long time. The plan is to work on current member information but eventually go all the way back and enter all the data we have about members from the founding of St. Andrews. Ordering a new receiver/transmitter to sit by organ. Sandy can then do the recordings during service by plugging in the voice recorder to the new receiver, and then upload sermons to the website and make CDs for shut-ins. Jakob to continue working on document to share information - using an existing document of physical inventory as the starting point. Cindy Bruce is reaching out to everyone who showed interest on Time and Talent to set up a first meeting of a web/social media committee. We have been able to find used receivers for hearing assistance. Three receivers are coming in June. Priorities for 2015 were shared. Next Meeting: June 16 at 10:00AM.

Youth-

The young people that want to attend JYG did a temple talk. Thanks to everyone in our congregation for their generosity! We are now only about \$1500 away from our full goal. We continued working on art for the Pentecost Art show and have received candy bars from Van de Walles to sell. We also had a couple of requests for help from the youth. The youth assisted with yard work for a member, and worked at a member's party as kitchen help.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 14 @ 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted: Melissa Last, Council Secretary

A complete copy of the minutes is available on the Narthex bulletin board.

Youth News

Conversation on Racism and our Faith

This is an excerpt from a recent email letter from our ELCA Church-wide Bishop, the Rev Elizabeth Eaton:

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,
The hard but undeniable fact of deeply embedded racism in American society has come to the fore in painful ways this past year through high-profile occurrences of racial discrimination, hatred and violence – including racially motivated killings. As Lutheran Christians, what should be our response and witness? As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, how are we called to confront the sin of racism?*

*We need to talk and we need to listen, but we also need to act. As one important step in this process, I invite you to join me and **William B. Horne II**, an ELCA lay leader and member of the ELCA Church Council, for a [live webcast conversation](#) on the complexity and implications of racism on Thursday, **Aug. 6, at 8 p.m. (CDT)**.*

If you would like to take part in this webcast please go to: <http://www.elca.org/webcast> . For the full text of her letter please go to <http://www.elca.org/Resources/Presiding-Bishop-Messages>. As always, Pastor Karen Jewell is happy to talk with you about any of these issues!



Exciting news! Pastor Karen's sermons are now posted on our website!

Visit <http://www.standewsoshkosh.org> and check it out! The monthly newsletter and calendar, as well as worship assistants are also available online, as well as information about our life at St. Andrew's.

Youth Mission Trip

This year we went to Red Lake Reservation in Red Lake MN. I had 2 young adults chaperone with me, Andrea and Chad have both been with YMT for a number of years.

The trip started off with a flat tire at lunch. Chad and Andrea were busy taking care of it. They started before I even had a chance to say anything. But the jack wouldn't raise the truck high enough to remove the tire. A man from the diner came to help us. He

needed 4x4's under the jack to remove the tire. He wouldn't accept the money I offered. He requested that I give it back to the church. What a blessing.

The week was filled with God moments and the Holy Spirit. The kids all worked hard and well together. They did what was asked of them and more. My favorite time of the week is the foot washing. The staff wash the feet of the adult leaders and pray for them. Then we get to wash the feet of the students and pray for them. Ask the kids how that went.

On the way home, we stopped in Duluth to stick our toes into Lake Superior. It was heavenly. We went on to have lunch in Superior at Perkins. We all had on our "PHAT" shirts and were pretty giggly. Our waitress was pleasant and fun. I thought she came to give me the bill for lunch. Instead, she informed me that lunch had been paid for by the couple at the next table. I couldn't thank them as they had left. I was beyond moved and admit that I cried. What a beautiful gesture that was.

The week was full of gifts, Angels and beautiful times. There were a lot of laughs, some tears. We saw poverty but we also saw beauty. We swam in the sacred Red Lake and met local people with wonderful stories to tell.

We have been blessed, I have been blessed. Thank you for allowing me to serve.

Patty Koplitz
Youth Leadership Facilitator



God's Work, Our Hands Day **Sunday, September 13th**

We are excited to be part of many ELCA congregations who will be embarking on many special mission activities. This year we hope to offer something for everyone who would like to help:

Here are some activities we are organizing

- tying blankets for folks at the homeless shelter
- assembling soups and meals for our Lutheran Campus Ministry at UWO
- assembling LWR school kits (*see following shopping list*)
- assembling hygiene supplies for our homeless neighbors (*see following shopping list*)

In addition we have a few activities under development:

- we hope to have a team of members who will collect food items for the Community food pantry – perhaps choir members and youth group members teamed up together.
- we may be assembling Leopold benches to welcome neighbors who use our church backyard

We hope you will sign up for an activity, or bring an item to help, or contribute funds to supply some of these needs. We thank you for considering being part of a great and joyous gathering of folks who would like to help others in Jesus' name!

Sign up by August 23 so that we can get you a T-shirt in your size! Sign up at church or on-line at our website standrewsoshkosh.org or by calling the Church Office at (920) 235-6616. THANK YOU!

Hygiene items needed for the homeless kits Shopping list

Combs
Brushes
Deodorant
Shampoo
Hand soap
Toothbrushes
Tooth paste
Lotion
Razors
Shaving cream
Washcloths

Lutheran World Relief School Kits Shopping list

Four 70 sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10.5 "
One blunt scissors (safety scissors with imbedded steel blades work well)
One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
One pencil sharpener
Five new unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
Five ball point pens
One eraser approximately 2.5" long
One box of 16 or 24 crayons

We plan to assemble the school kits on September 13, 2015 – God's Work, Our Hands Day!





Sunday, August 16 is **NOISY OFFERING,**
and *SILENT AUCTION,*
and Sundae Sunday!

Come prepared to **enjoy an ice cream Sundae** made with Leon's custard and your choice of toppings.

If you wish take part in the **Noisy Offering** during worship (at 9:00 or 10:30 am) or the **Silent Auction** in between services (10:00 to 10:30 am), all proceeds will go to help defray the costs of the surgery and hospitalization of our choir director, Brenda Francis.

If you would like to donate an item for the Silent Auction, please call (920) 235-6616 and let the Church office know what you would like to provide. We will be setting up on Saturday evening, August 15th with all the gifts for the Auction. You can auction off a service (such as raking the lawn in the autumn) as well as items (such as a pie or a basket of goodies).

No matter what – there will be something for everyone! Please join us!



Thank you for all the ways you support the mission and ministry of this congregation! We are delighted to let you know that you are now able to make your gifts to St Andrew's electronically. By late July several members have begun using this avenue for their giving.

Of course you may continue using your offering envelopes but you may also use your smart phone technology! If you would like to give an offering electronically please feel free to use the short URL: <http://bit.do/stagiving> . We also have a secure web page available that can accept your offerings online. Feel free to use your home personal computer and go to standrewsoshkosh.org . We have forms available for you in the office or a pdf on line for you to print, fill out and return to the office to authorize your choice of funds, frequency and method of donation.

When you give electronically feel free to use the fish symbol cards in the pew racks to place in the offering plate as it passes!
THANK YOU!

Church Staff

Pastor Karen Jewell Phone: (920) 235-6616
e-mail: pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org

Office Staff – Sandy Last & Kay Procknow
Phone: (920) 235-6616
e-mail: office@standrewsoshkosh.org

Youth Director – Patty Koplitz Phone: (920) 420-5616
e-mail: pattykoplitz@gmail.com

Choir Director – Brenda Francis
Organist – Sandy Last
Caretaker – Pat Coates



St. Andrew's Men with Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast –

Meet at the Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, Aug. 8, at 8 am

Lunch –

Meet at Jansen's Restaurant, 344 Bowen St.
Tuesday, Aug. 18, at noon

Lutheran Adults for Fun and Fellowship

Lunch-

All are invited! Join us for lunch and great fellowship! Watch the bulletin for the meeting date and time in August.

Art & Soul

Saturday, Aug. 29, 10:30 am - 4 pm

Meet in the "Creation Station" off the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome, all abilities are welcome. We work on our own projects, as well as community projects.

Notes & Meetings



All members are welcome.

Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 11, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, August 27, 2015 at 6 pm

Technology Committee

Monday, Sept. 1, at 10 am



August Noisy Offering

The Aug. 16 Noisy Offering is designated for Lutheran Association of Missionaries &

Pilots (LAMP).

Calling All Green Thumbs

The Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW-Oshkosh is gearing up for its annual plant giveaway for incoming freshmen students this fall. Please consider planting some easy-to-grow houseplants this summer and have them ready by the end of August. For questions, contact Connie at 231-1168, or connie@lcmosh.org. Help them minister in a welcoming way.



Do you have news you would like included in the bulletin or the monthly newsletter? Please note that the deadline for items for inclusion

in the weekly bulletin is the Tuesday before publication. You may submit them to the office. Also – for the newsletter, we ask that any articles be submitted to the office by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Thank you for your help!

Looking ahead to September



September begins "What do Lutherans believe?" theme for the year. We will explore our Christian tradition in worship, confirmation, and bible studies. Feel free to ask **your** questions!

Sept 13 - 10 am Sunday School registration (find us in the fellowship hall)

Sept 20 - 9 am Sunday School begins (Begin in worship with your family, then meet your teacher!)

Wed Sept 9 - 6 pm Confirmation orientation

Wed Sept 16 - 6 pm Confirmation classes begin

Wed Sept 9 - 7:30 pm Choir begins (join us in the choir room)