

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

Welcome to worship and life at St. Andrew's!
Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

February 2016
Lenten Wednesday worship 12 noon and 7 pm

Dear friends,

First, I would like to thank you so much for the sympathy and support you have provided at the death of my mother, Joan Jewell. Thank you so much for your many kindnesses.

Our family has planned a memorial service for her later this month in Florida and then a memorial service here at St Andrew's on Saturday, April 30 at 2 pm. Thank you again for all your kind words and generous listening. Your friendship and welcome for my mom and family meant the world to my mom and also to me!

Second, I need to apologize to all of you – it is my fault that the newsletter was delayed in being published. Some of you inquired whether we had dropped you from the distribution list! Please forgive me, if you can, and know that it is NOT the fault of the folks in the office!

We enter in Lent into a time of preparation once again. Getting ready for Easter is a bit like getting ready for a marathon – we are more aware of what we do, what we eat, how much we practice. As usual we may be running around a lot these days, but what we are trying to do in Lent is to build stamina in our faith-life.

So how can we do that? **Set a goal to connect with God each day.**

You know the best time to think or write in your day – so set yourself a task: to pray a prayer you know, or to pray a Psalm, or to journal briefly what you need to share with God about how it is all going.

God honors you by listening always, just as God is always reaching out to you through what you read or hear in the bible, through prayers you enter in worship, through music, through friends, even through the stranger (neighbor) on the street!

Your connection with God bears fruit – God will never let such a good thing go without blessing you!

If you would like a devotional for each day, we have printed ones at church, but you can also use some wonderful on-line resources if you like to do that. Here are a few I use:

Rachel Hackenberg sends an emailed daily prayer prompt and posts a daily prayer through Lent. She uses bible verses and notes how they apply to our lives. Sign up at: <http://rachelhackenberg.com/blog/>

d365 is a daily devotional that goes all year, but during Lent they offer “Journey to the Cross.” Each brief devotion is done at your computer screen – with a Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go. There is music if you would like that, or you can pray it silently. It is at www.d365.org.

Bread for the World has daily devotions – praying for the hungry people of this world. Go to <http://www.bread.org/blog/lent-devotions-moving-shame-freedom-christ>. Or download a table tent for your table with a page for the five Sundays in Lent and a page for Holy Week. Print it off or order it at: <http://www.bread.org/sites/default/files/downloads/lent-table-tent-2016.pdf>.

You can sign up for an ecumenical daily devotional that emphasizes how to fast environmentally to care for the earth. See the website at: <http://www.interfaithpowerandlight.org/resources/carbon-fast-resources/>.

God loves us and reaches out to us through so many, many means! Over and over God reveals to us that God is here for us all the time!

I hope and pray that your Lent will be a time of reconnecting your faith, a deepening of your trust in God, and a great preparation for the race we run in Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

**The Season of Lent in 2016
February 10 through March 26, 2016**

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday** each year, but the date of Ash Wednesday moves with the date of **Easter Sunday** – set according to the time of the first full moon after Spring begins! Ash Wednesday is 40 days plus 6 Sundays before Easter!

(Confusing? Please bear with me a little longer!)

Lent is a great time for Spring-cleaning the soul! It was originally a season for people preparing for baptism at Easter to learn what being a Christian means. Since those early days of the church it has been embraced as a time when all Christians, new or long-time, re-connect their lives to God through spiritual practices.

In the **Sermon on the Mount**, (especially see **Matthew**, chapter 6) Jesus teaches about practicing our faith with integrity, not seeking to impress God or other folks, but by simply and deeply devoting ourselves to God and God's mission for this world. So the traditional practices of prayer, fasting, and giving alms (money given to help others) were encouraged as a way to walk more closely with God.

In our congregation at the **Annual Meeting on January 31** we have just elected our council members and other representatives to the larger church mission. Our council members are learning and re-learning their roles in leadership of our congregation.

Here are your council members this year:

2016 council members

Jane Martinez, council president
Jay Klinger, council vice president
Chris Ziegler, council secretary
Matt Moore, council treasurer

Kristi Cutts Christian Action Committee
Linda Ellman Christian Education Committee
Jakob Iversen Technology Committee
Jay Klinger Evangelism Committee
Warren Luce Property Committee
Peg Olson Worship and Music Committee
Ann Stephan Stewardship Committee
Chris Ziegler Fellowship Committee
_____ Congregational Life Committee

Here are some of the responsibilities of the role: Council members usually serve for a **three year term** and may be re-elected to a second three year term.

Our council meetings are the **second Tuesday** of the month at **7:00 pm**. All members of St Andrew's are welcome to attend the council meetings! Please come to sit with us if you would like to learn what is involved in guiding and caring for our congregation and facilities.

If you have a specific topic or interest to bring to the council, please contact Jane Martinez, Council President, or the council person in charge of the committee that deals with your activity or area of interest.

In addition to attending and contributing to monthly council meetings, council members take part in encouraging areas of church mission – by committee and task force work with congregation members, or by helping to shape days of service and other opportunities for us to come together – within or beyond our church doors!

Each council member with committee oversight reports on the committee work, helps create a narrative budget that describes the mission of their area of oversight (for instance, the cost of Sunday School materials is reported in the Education Narrative budget), and the Narrative budget and a report of accomplishments and activities is published in the Annual Report. Please feel free to ask in the office for a copy of this report if you would like to learn more!

Most of the council members take turns as captains of the counting teams that count offerings and take them immediately to the bank following our worship services. Some also help with ushering and other leadership in worship.

It can be an intense stewardship of the gifts of each council member throughout their terms. Their generosity in taking on the role on council and working through the years with our congregation is wonderful!

Please pray for your council leaders, check in with them if you have a specific interest, and know they are working for Christ and for you!

St. Andrew's Council Meeting

January 12, 2016

Minutes approved by council via email by: Jan. 31, 2016

Present- Jane Martinez, Jakob Iversen, Matt Moore, Gary Bruce, Chris Ziegler, Peg Olson, Jay Klinger, Pastor Karen Jewell, Mike Anderson, Melissa Last, Kristi Cutts, Ann Stephan

Guests- Jayne Lindsay

Treasurer's Report: Matt shared the bills to be paid. We came out \$378.26 ahead of our budget of a proposed deficit of \$15,837.

Old Business

Constitution Update: No current update.

New Carpeting/Hearing Loop: We have enough money to purchase the new carpeting and the hearing loop.

New Copier: A new copier will be ordered from Oshkosh Office Systems:

Choir Lighting: Witzke came to solve the problem of better lighting in the front of the church using LED light bulbs.

New Business

Council Retreat: Council is looking for a time to go off campus and have a day to focus on our missions and what is being done in our committees. This would be especially helpful when we are welcoming new council members and during committee goal-setting. We are tentatively planning a council retreat in March. Jane and Pastor will draft an outline of the details for the next council meeting.

Additional Worship Time: A request was brought forward to see about doing some services occasionally on Saturdays and having a Christmas Eve service earlier in the afternoon. It was discussed by Worship and Music. They would like more time to work on this idea and bring it back to Council.

Task Force for Communication: The technology committee has been looking at the best ways to use technology to get information out. They asked that we think about having a sub-committee or task force to create a plan for our church's communication goals. They are looking for a chairman for this task force.

Welcome of New Members in February: Jane expressed the idea of those going off council coming to the February meeting to meet the new council members.

Annual Meeting Planning: The council discussed the 2016 Annual Meeting agenda.

Committee Reports:

Christian Action – is working on the noisy offering giving schedule for 2016.

Congregational Life – bowling and labyrinth are still in the works.

Evangelism/Outreach – meeting on January 13 to set up a dinner for spring.

Fellowship – meeting on January 13 to set up a dinner for spring. They also plan to do a small breakfast-themed supper in February.

Stewardship – a BIG THANK YOU to Jayne Lindsay, Sandy Last, and Kay Procknow for getting packets put together and out to the congregation. This committee wonders if there were any problems with handing the envelopes out in January?

Technology - The office is getting a new copier, and we are looking into getting a new computer for Pastor after Easter.

Worship and Music – The year-end expense report was reviewed. We finished the year with a positive balance of \$371.30. There was a discussion regarding continuing education money. Pastor recommended seeking a grant if anticipated expenses exceed budget limitations.

Old/Continuing Business: Advent and Christmas services were reviewed. The worship services for Lent and Easter are planned and will have a focus on principles of faith formation. Pastor will include a note to ushers with the new schedule asking that people be assembled earlier for communion. We will seek opportunities to invite members to take part in worship/fellowship activities with children and youth.

Pastor's Report: Church Office: we produced bulletins for Blue Christmas, Lessons and Carols, Candlelight communion, and Christmas Day communion in addition to the ongoing Sunday worship services. A party of volunteers helped us do final folding and assembling. All the membership documents were finished for Jayne Lindsay to assemble in the packets. Deep thanks to Jayne for all the work! We have included a form to help complete our Church Windows database, and once again encouraged the use of electronic media for both offerings and communications. Work was continued on the Annual Report and the monthly newsletter.

Work in progress: - Monday evening Bible study: beginning (Samuel Wells) Be Not Afraid. – Wednesday noon Bible study: discussed next study topics: Paul's Letter to the Romans, discernment and theological reflection. We are also planning to use a Lenten devotional resource in Lent.

Attended: Oshkosh Conference meeting Jan. 12 at Ascension in Fond du Lac. Discussion of discipleship and leadership training techniques.

Upcoming: Jan. 14 – Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh Professional Advisory Group meeting.

Jan. 16 – Synod event: Equipping Ministry in a Diverse World: Listening Deeply to the Other at Calvary Lutheran.

Jan. 31 – our Annual Meeting at 10:30 am!

Feb. 1 through 3 – Mid-winter Convocation at Luther Seminary: Translating the Reformation: Martin Luther as Pastoral Theologian for Today.

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 10 this year. Wednesday Lenten worship services will be at 12 noon and 7 pm starting Feb. 10 through March 17.

Thank you to all those going off Council: Gary Bruce, Melissa Last, and Mike Anderson.

February's Devotions: Pastor Karen Jewell

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 9 at 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Last, Council Secretary

Milwaukee Rescue Mission (MRM)

(Noisy Offering for MRM is Sunday, Feb 21!)

Milwaukee is the eighth poorest city in the United States. One out of three residents lives in poverty. Forty-three percent of children go without basic everyday needs. More than 1,500 men, women and children are homeless in Milwaukee every day.

The Milwaukee Rescue Mission opened its doors in 1893. This year, they will be observing their 123rd anniversary.

Within the MRM, there are three major areas of operation: Safe Harbor for men, Joy House for women and children, and the Cross Trainers Academy, all of which provide shelter, food, clothing, counseling, Christian care and education/training for assimilation back into the community.

Being originally from the Milwaukee area, the MRM has become close to our hearts. Having toured the Mission last summer, we were able to get a close-up look at the facility in full operation. Of the many things that impressed us, one that truly stood out and left us with a lasting impression was the joyfulness of both staff and residents alike.

We realize that there are so many needs in the Fox Valley; however, we feel that it would be a good thing to remember and come to the aid of our brothers and sisters in desperate need in Wisconsin's largest city.

--Greg and Ginny Behling

On Sunday, **January 17**, we drew one Time and Talent sheet from those that had been received and we gave a special prize to member Mike Martinez: a \$50.00 Oshkosh Chamber certificate! Congratulations Mikel!

Lenten Worship Schedule 2016

Ash Wednesday (February 10): Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at **12 noon and 7 pm.**

Wednesdays in Lent (February 17 to March 16): half hour worship at **12 noon and 7:00 pm.**

Sundays in Lent (February 14 to March 13): Holy Communion at 9:00 and 10:30 am.

You are always welcome!

2016 Easter Altar Flowers – information

We contacted House of Flowers to get the prices and ordering deadline for our Easter altar flowers.

Here are the prices per plant

Lilies	14.00
Hydrangea	30.00 (pink or blue)
Tulips	14.00
Daffodils	14.00
Hyacinth	14.00
Mums	15.00
Azaleas	25.00
Kalanchoe	18.00

We will have Easter altar flower envelopes for you to use or you may call the office with your order at (920) 235-6616.

The deadline for ordering is **Sunday, February 28th**. For a few days after that deadline we are able to add on an order subject to the availability of the plant you would like to order.

Your plants may be given to the glory of God, or in honor of a person or event, or in memory of a person or people you wish to remember. There will be a place to designate your flowers on the ordering envelope or again, you may call our office. Please know that you may pick up your flowers after the last service on Easter Day (at approximately 11:30 am) or leave them for another week if you prefer.

We thank you so much for considering this gift to St Andrew's!!!

Bible Studies in Lent

Monday nights at 7:15 pm in Front Lounge

We are continuing to read Samuel Wells' book Be Not Afraid: Facing Fear with Faith. It is a series of wonderful short essays on issues that challenge our faith. It reveals biblically-based Christian ethics applied to our lives. Please come and join us as you are able.

Wednesdays at 12:30 pm in the Front Lounge

We are studying the Book of Romans with the help of a video series led by Seminary Professor Walter Taylor. He takes us into the life and times of Paul as well as the meaning of the text. Our class follows the noon worship for Wednesdays in Lent. Please come and join us whenever you can!

Saints Alive!

Reflections from members who have contributed their time and talent in a variety of ways.



Christ Ziegler: “When I was approached to write a short paragraph about being a male leader at St. Andrew’s, my first thought was ‘I am a leader?’ I guess I have never looked at myself in that light. The reason I first

became involved in St. Andrew’s was from a father’s perspective. My wife and I wanted to bring our children up with an understanding and appreciation of God and what he can mean in your life. Throughout their confirmation years, and throughout their youth activities, I started to take a more active role in the activities and duties of the church. If I have a talent, gift, or passion for something, I felt it was important for me to share it. It may sound kind of selfish, but a big reason I did that was because it made me feel better about myself to be able to help in any way I could. The chaperoning of youth activities and volunteering for other service-related functions started to expand into other facets. I became an usher and greeter for the 9:00 service and would help whenever necessary. I was then approached and asked if I would consider serving on the church council. As a council member, I served as the representative for Stewardship, Property, and Fellowship/Hospitality. I have also served as both Vice-President and Secretary as part of the executive committee. I served on council for two three-year terms, which was the maximum allowed by the constitution, and then took a several-year break to spend more time with my family. I am now in the middle of serving my second three-year term again as a council member. I still don’t see myself as a “leader” in the church. I see other men in the church that I would consider leaders, and they act as inspiration for me to be as active as I can be. I am the comic relief many times during services, activities, and even during council meetings. I enjoy seeing the smiles on people’s faces, and that I believe at times is my true talent that I give to the St. Andrew’s family. Maybe somewhere along the way, this clown HAS become a leader in St. Andrew’s, but I promise you he will never admit to that!”

Watch future newsletters for more reflections of our fellow members and their involvement at St. Andrew’s.

Share your gift of Music

Please consider sharing your gift of music with us, especially during Holy Week and Easter! If you would like to play an instrument or sing for one of our worships, please contact Pastor Karen, Sandy Last, or Brenda Francis by March 6. Thank you!



Lutheran Campus Ministry – Oshkosh

invites you to their Annual Meeting, Sunday, February 21, 1 – 3 pm at All Saints Lutheran Church, 1072 Honey Creek Road, Oshkosh. Meet students from The Gathering Place as well as board members who will share more about this vital young adult ministry.

Youth News

Pizza Sale!

January 24 – Feb. 27

You remember all those pizzas you ordered? **Saturday, February 27 at 9 am** is pizza making day! You are most welcome to join in the fun of this event. This is one fund raiser that is our best group builder and the kids really work hard and have a great time doing it! Please let me know if you will be able to help! Thank you for your support of this fund raiser!



BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

Grades 3 through 6

SPAM – Soda, Pizza, and a Movie

Friday, Feb. 19, 6 – 9 pm



Third through sixth graders and all confirmation and high school students are invited to join us for soda, pizza and a movie night! Come and see what the fun is all about!

JYG (Junior Youth Gathering)



Confirmation Students and Kids grades 6 through 8

February 20- 21

This is a great weekend for kids to worship, learn, and play with peers from around our synod, as well as our friends in confirmation classes! More information will be coming in the mail, but set the dates aside now! The Gathering will be February 21 and 22 at the Riverwalk Hotel in Neenah this year’s theme is [“The Lane of Life”](#). (Proverbs 3: 5-6), The guest speaker is Dan Scharnhorst and Dakota Road will be providing music! (We’ve sung some of their music in worship!!) Cost is \$80 per person.



St. Andrew's Men with Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast –

Meet at the Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St.
Saturday, Feb. 13 at 8 am

Lunch –

Meet at Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson St.
Tuesday, Feb. 16, at noon

Lutheran Adults for Fun and Fellowship

LAFF will NOT be meeting in the month of February.
Watch the newsletter and bulletins for future dates.

Art & Soul

Saturday, Feb. 27, 10:30 am - 4 pm

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

Notes & Meetings

All members are welcome.

Christian Action Committee

Saturday, Feb. 6 at 2:30 pm

Technology Committee

Monday, Feb. 8, at 10 am

Council Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, Feb. 25, at 6 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, Feb. 8, at 4 pm

February Noisy Offering



The February 21st Noisy Offering is designated for the [Milwaukee Rescue Mission](#), helping people in the Milwaukee metro area who are homeless, poor, and hungry. Look for more information elsewhere in this newsletter.



Lent 2016: Create in me
a new
heart, life, beginning,
hope,...faith!

God took what was dust and ashes and breathed life into being. We take time in Lent to remember our "created-ness" so that we may turn in trust to our Creator. We remember how he took on our life as a human being so that we know God's love and mercy right where we live. We remember how Jesus took on our death to show us that God's promise means life in spite of all that opposes it.

We would like to thank you for your presence at St Andrew's in worship, and to thank you for your devotion to God revealed in ministry and mission. We invite you to consider supporting the mission and ministry of St Andrew's with your gifts.

Please feel free to make your gifts to St Andrew's electronically, if that is best for you! You may use your smart phone technology: If you would like to give an offering electronically here is the short URL: <http://bit.do/stagiving> or the QR Code:



Social Media Communications Group February 28 from 10 to 10:30 am

Let's meet on **February 28** between worship services (**10 to 10:30 am**) in the Front Lounge with Cindy Bruce to organize our efforts **to get the word out** about all the special mission and ministry activities happening at St Andrew's. Come invest yourself in the work **to invite and welcome folks via social media. All are welcome** to check this out!