

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

January 2016
Annual Meeting January 31 at 10:30 am

Dear friends,

This January your membership information packets are in the entry way for you to pick up. If you need us to mail or deliver your information please let us know! Please call the office at (920) 235-6616.

We invite your continuing participation in the mission of St Andrew's Lutheran Church! Our mission is to worship God, serve others, grow in faith, and offer fellowship to one another along the way as we follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

We ask you to consider how you will support this mission at St Andrew's with your gifts. And so you each receive an Estimate of Giving and a Time and Talent sheet to return to church.

We all like to give the kind of offerings that result in things we can see and delight in. So we give to purchase farm animals (remember **Buck a Chick?**), or send relief somewhere in the world where folks are desperately in need of basic support to live.

In recent years you have so generously purchased a new organ when the old one was dying and unrepairable. You have placed beautiful and energy-efficient windows and made other improvements to our building. You have supported our youth on mission trips and other adventures. Thank you so much!!!

All gifts to God are precious! And our gifts begin in less tangible ways than chickens and windows – our gifts begin through worship, teaching, and reaching out to invite and to welcome people.

Your welcome includes the beautiful building and grounds that you have made here, but even more it is the people who gather under this roof in Jesus' Name, to worship, to learn, to grow in faith and then take that faith on the road!

So we ask you to consider how you will support the whole mission of God in this congregation – and we

ask you to return your intentions on the Estimate of Giving. Your estimated gifts are a crucial part of your support.

There will always be special needs and missions that emerge for us to consider together and move to support. We ask that you make those gifts over and above your regular giving that creates and sustains this congregation.

Jesus said: ***Go, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.*** (Matthew 28:19-20)

Thank you so much for hearing the call to follow him, for gathering with us in this house of God called St Andrew's Lutheran Church, and for all that you do in Jesus' Name. Thank you!!!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

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We have a couple of fun **thank you's** planned in gratitude for your participation!!!

When you return your estimate of giving on or before Sunday, **January 10**, we will have a gift for you at church!

When you return your time & talent sheet on or before Sunday, **January 17**, we plan to draw one sheet from those that have been turned in and give a special prize: a \$50.00 Oshkosh Chamber certificate.

St Andrew's Lutheran Ch Membership Checklist:



____ January 10 – return Estimate of Giving.

____ January 17 – return Time & Talent sheet

____ January 24 – return membership info sheet

____ January 31 – Annual Meeting for 2016 –

and thank you for your partnership in the Gospel!

Epiphany Season
January 6 to February 9, 2016

¹⁴"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14-16

Shine with God's Love!

Each time we celebrate a baptism, we light a candle and give it to the candidate or the baptismal sponsor and urge them to let their light **shine**. And I often remind them to regularly bring out the candle and talk over the baptism... but why do we ever put that baptismal candle away?

Jesus invites us to **SHINE** – to be a light that helps others get to know the God who loves us all.

Martin Luther recommended remembering your baptism when you washed your face in the morning – and not just to do it once a day, but to do it as the day begins! All day we are to **remember whose we are** so that we may remember who we are at all times. And act upon it!

Our congregation has so many gifts and passions – all inspired by the Holy Spirit to reveal God's love and bless others. We have been gathered into a congregation to share God's love in very special ways that make a difference in Oshkosh and beyond!

Thank you, St Andrew's members and friends, for all you do to help the Light shine right here and far beyond our doors for others in Jesus' Name.



Music at St Andrew's is a Gift from God!

We hope you were able to worship with us in Advent and Christmas during December, when there was so much beautiful music offered by the choir and by our children and adults.

Thank you to everyone who gave music to the glory of God. We had both vocalists and instrumentalists offering special music in our Christmas worship services. Thank you to Kris Selk and Sandy Last, and to Charles and Ann Stephan and their children, Faith, Nora, Kate, and Matthew. Thank you to Pam Pawlak, Jerry Rott, Nancy Netys and Pam Nemmetz. Thank you to every one of you who raised your voice in carols and hymns – we truly made a joyful noise to the Lord!

You are always welcome to take part in the choir at St Andrew's. This year we have new members including two confirmation students who stay after their studies on Wednesday nights to rehearse and sing with the choir!

We thank God for Brenda Francis, our choir director, who teaches and leads the choir, encourages and challenges us to grow in music. She is patient with our varying schedules so that everyone may take part. Please check out the choir practice some Wednesday night at 7:30 pm – to see what fun we have!

We thank God for Sandy Last, who so ably accompanies us in worship, even to playing Carols by Request each Christmas Eve (and often at other times during our year). She quietly and so skillfully undergirds our worship life with her talents and faithfulness.

To God be the glory!
Shine on, St Andrews!

Noisy Offering January 17, 2016
Day by Day Warming Shelter, Oshkosh

website: <http://www.warmingshelter.com/>

The goal of the Day by Day Warming Shelter is to help ensure safe shelter for anyone who needs it. Our support helps provide a warm bed, nutritious food, and encouragement to help local homeless people on the path to self-sufficiency. \$65.00 provides safe shelter for one guest for one night. Cash is the most useful donation but there is a wish list at their website for in-kind items to give. (*We made hygiene kits for the shelter residents during our September 13 God's Work Our Hands Day.*)

Thank you for considering support for this mission.

St. Andrew's Council Meeting

December 8, 2015

Minutes approved by council via email

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

Excused- Kristi Cutts, Ann Stephan

Guests- Jayne Lindsay

Treasurer's Report: Matt shared the bills to be paid, profit and loss for 2014/2015, budget vs. actual and budget sheet. Motions approved to accept bills and financial reports.

Old Business

Part-time office staff update: If a special project comes up, the secretaries will notify Council how much time it will take and any details so the budget can be monitored.

Nominating committee report: There is still one opening on the Council. Motion approved to accept the names for 2016 nominations to be presented to the congregation.

Hiring Policy: Motion approved to accept the hiring policy as proposed.

Constitution Update: No update until January.

New Business

Budget 2016: Income is similar to last year. We are currently \$37,000 short of income for the year, with only December remaining. As the budget stands with the same projected income and no raises for staff, we would be at a negative \$11,838. We are \$4,000 ahead of last year's proposed income. Current staff have gone three years without a raise. Pastor Karen is being paid below Synod guidelines. We have been using savings designated for special funds to pay bills instead. The intent is that when the mortgage is paid up, we will be restoring the money used from special funds. This seems hard to envision with a negative budget and income as low as the past few years. Our church is a mission, and when we give, our money is helping the mission of the church. A missional church is a congregation that focuses on the intended mission, not on just the everyday running of our building/congregation. Pastor gave out information about switching to a year-round Stewardship. For each month, there would be a different emphasis. These would be the big missional events for our congregation. It would be a helpful way to share the information with the congregation so that they know what we have accomplished and where their offerings are going. The suggestion was made to see what other similar churches are doing in this regard. Jakob made the suggestion that we pull out of some of the non-synod benevolence (Lutheran Social Services, Oshkosh Conference dues, Crossways, Oshkosh Food Pantry) expenses from the budget. We have made these contributions as a congregation in the past. Special appeals would be made to the congregation to donate to the benevolences that are near and dear to their hearts. By doing this, we could give the staff a 1% raise and not change the 2016 budget. Motion approved to accept the 2016 budget with

a 1% increase in salaries and removing the non-synod benevolences. Pastor stated her concern that it would be difficult to get people to want to contribute to the Oshkosh Conference dues. Motion approved to present this in a way to make sure these dues are covered first.

Lighting for Choir (Sanctuary): We are looking to improve the lighting in the sanctuary. Gary Bruce mentioned asking Witzke Electric for ideas on how to accomplish this.

Continuing Education Budget: Professional development conferences are getting more expensive. It was suggested to roll over the continuing education budget so staff could attend bigger conferences to bring back what they learned to the congregation. The monies can't be rolled over due to annual budgets. Perhaps money could instead be put into a special fund and be augmented with Thrivent Funds. Staff should present specific proposals to the Council.

Annual Meeting: JANUARY 31st at 10:30 am. What is our outline? What do we want to do? We can educate about the special non-synod benevolences. Where have we gone since last year? How did the online giving work? Do we want to talk more about narrative budgets? It has been three years since staff received raises. We want to make sure we are showing appreciation with a raise this year. There can be a discussion on how to educate about stewardship. There will be a greeting from the Synod Council and information about benevolences and the synod.

New Members: Motion approved to accept Pam Meyer and Bella as new members.

New Copy Machine: Oshkosh Office Systems gave us a quote of \$6872 for a new copy machine, with the old machine traded in. This will streamline the office work with bulletins. The motion was approved to spend up to \$7,000 on a new copier with memorial fund money. The motion was also approved to spend up to \$800 on a new computer for Pastor.

Committee Reports

Evangelism: The dinner for old and new members and for Pastor was a huge success.

Fellowship: The member dinner was a great success! The appreciation for our Pastor was wonderful.

Property: Old Business: Continuing to look at carpet/tile replacement in the sanctuary. We have \$8,603 in special funds, with a total need of \$13,000. We have quotes from Floor Quest and Carpet Gallery, which doesn't handle stain-free carpet. The bathroom painting by Klinger is complete. Now we need to build a privacy wall in the men's bathroom. The janitors have requested a new vacuum. Quotes are needed. Gary will start getting quotes to add a restroom on the southwest side of the building. We are looking at reversing offices and the lounge to help reduce costs. Perhaps the men of the congregation could help remodel.

New Business: Discussed using portable display boards to be used throughout the facility. The décor committee will decide where some items are to be hung throughout the church. Auto

entry doors to the west entrance were okayed by council. The cost is \$4,990, to come from the memorial fund and a special donation. Approval was sent to Auto Entrances of Wisconsin. It will be installed on November 25, 2015. The cost of the hearing loop is \$7,450. Paul Wolf will replace the broken kitchen faucet. The question was posed if the property committee should be responsible for the church sign messages. The next property committee meeting is December 17 at 6:00 pm.

Stewardship: Envelopes for 2016 have been ordered, and the packets will be assembled for distribution at the beginning of 2016. We are working on a "Mission Manual" that will be continually updated. The goal of it is to inform members of what missions are happening in and throughout St. Andrew's. Information will include WHEN events take place and WHO to contact for details. E-giving will continue to be promoted and encouraged. Service ideas will be discussed with Christian Action, Youth Leadership, and Property committees to coordinate ways that the youth can serve in helping to maintain the church and help make it feel even more like their home. Discussion will further take place with Christian Action to have regular mission (God's Work, Our Hands) Sundays throughout the year, focusing on two missions each time. Ideally, one would be on-site at St. Andrew's and one off-site.

Technology: Our next meeting is Monday, January 11, 2016, at 10:00 am.

Worship & Music: the City-wide Lutheran Choir sang at the Grand Opera House for the Interfaith Festival on Sunday, November 22. It was well-received, and was especially appreciated that children were included. **Advent:** A prayer theme will be used for Wednesday worship. Sunday worships will focus on Luke 1 and 2. On December 23, there will be a Blue Christmas service at 7:00 pm. **Christmas Eve:** At 6:30 pm, there will be Lessons and Carols. At 7:00 pm, the theme will be Martin Luther's commentary on the lessons and carols. (Special music will be interspersed throughout.) **Christmas Day:** Holy Communion with jingle bells! **Christmas Season:** Children will play jingle bells throughout the season during the hymn of praise. Setting 4 will be used. **Altar Committee:** Poinsettia orders are complete; no more can be added at this time. **Old/Continuing Business:** Kathy Bellaire will organize Assisting Minister Training; both evening and Saturday sessions will be needed. An usher and greeter training session needs to be done early in the new year. **New Business:** Discussion was held on compensating substitute organists. **Next meeting:** Monday, January 4, 2016 from 4 to 6 pm.

President's Report: Employee evaluations are underway. So far, the office staff, choir director, youth director and organist staff have participated in the employee evaluations. The custodian needs to be scheduled. Pastor will participate in an evaluation this week on Thursday. I still need to work on all job descriptions and plan to tackle some of those in December. I am still awaiting finalization of the Constitution from the subcommittee volunteers who are undertaking this project.

The subcommittee that will work on the emergency preparedness portion of the Employee Handbook will be scheduled after the holidays. I want to thank council members for their participation in these projects and for all the committee work that has taken place this year. May God's Blessings be with all of you. Thank-you notes were sent out for all the generous people who spoke at Pastor's dinner.

Pastor's Report: For Advent services, we are focusing on prayer. We are looking at learning and practicing prayer. Pastor was able to go to a synod conference yesterday about mission work and how to use technology to bridge the gap between the generations. It is a goal to have some of the young work with the older generations of our church. Today's Oshkosh Conference meeting talked about World Hunger. We are doing so much at St. Andrew's already to make a difference. WAY TO GO! Keep it up!

January's devotions: Melissa Last

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 12 @ 7:00 pm
Meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Martinez, Council President



FOOD DONATIONS NEEDED!

FROZEN ITEMS:

- Ground Beef
- Bocca Meat
- Chicken
- Hot Dogs, Brats
- Shredded Cheese
- Pizzas
- Lasagna
- Family Dinners

DRY GOODS:

- Canned Soups
- Boxed Dinners
- Noodles, Rice
- Spaghetti Sauce
- Chips
- Mixes
- Candy
- Ice Cream



Saints Alive!

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



Jakob Iversen: “After several years of prodding from Chris Ziegler, I finally relented and agreed to join Council in 2013. With my background in technology, I fairly quickly started working on

improving the way technology is used at St. Andrew’s. I worked on creating a new website and setting us up with Google Apps, so we would be able to provide shared email and calendars for staff, council members, and volunteers as needed. I also worked with the office staff to help them sort through various technology issues they had in the office. Most recently we have worked on establishing electronic giving through Vanco and improving church record keeping by putting the Church Windows software package online so it can be used by both the financial secretary and the office staff.

It’s been interesting to get more involved in the day-to-day operations of the church and see what goes on behind the scenes, and it has also been very rewarding to be able to use the talents I have to further the mission of the church. It has especially been gratifying to see that the new website has been received well and that we are now able to use it as a vehicle to get sermons to those who are unable to attend church on Sundays.”

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

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 31, 2016

10:30 am

(there will be no 10:30 worship that day)
Please join us to help make important decisions about our mission and life together here at St. Andrew’s. Snacks will be provided!

Youth News

Pizza Sale!

January 24 – Feb. 27

We will start selling pizzas on January 24, and we will be making them on Saturday Feb. 27 (time to be announced). Everyone is welcome to join in and help.



This is one of our best “group building” funds raisers and the kids are always in high spirits!!

BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

Grades 2 through High School

Game Day, Saturday, Jan. 9, 2 – 4 pm



Anyone from second grade through high is welcome to join in for board games, cards, and a little hide and seek. See what the fun is all about!

YMT (Youth Ministry Team)

Sunday January 24, 10:30 am

Family Meeting for Mission Trip

If you are interested in joining us on our upcoming mission trip to Voyager Canoe Trip in the Apostle Islands or want more information, please join us. We will be finalizing some dates and giving important information. Bring a parent please!



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, Jan. 9 at 8 am

Lunch –

Meet at Jansen's Restaurant, 344 Bowen St.
Tuesday, Jan. 19, at noon

Lutheran Adults for Fun and Fellowship

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

Art & Soul

Saturday, Jan. 30, 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.

Technology Committee

Monday, Jan. 11, at 10 am

Council Meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, Jan. 21, at 6 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, Jan. 4, at 4 pm

January Noisy Offering

The **January 17th** Noisy Offering is designated for the [Day by Day Warming Shelter](#) here in Oshkosh, helping to provide a warm meal and place to sleep during these cold months.



Epiphany 2016: A Light Shines in the Darkness: As we move from the Christmas season into the challenges and opportunities of the New Year 2016, we hear the story of the Star that led wise men to find the infant Jesus. You can read it for yourself in Matthew's Gospel (see Matthew 2:1-12). Our life of faith is a light – a gift from God that shines in darkness and guides us on our way forward to the God who loves us. It is no surprise that the light of Christ that shines in YOU helps others find their way into God's love.



We invite you to be part of the mission and ministry of St Andrew's Lutheran Church. 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:



(Questions? Please call us at 920-235-6616)

When you give electronically, please make use of the fish symbol cards in the pew racks to place in the offering plate as it passes! Your gift matters. **WE THANK YOU!**

Church Staff

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

Looking ahead to February



Wednesday, February 10, 2016 – Lent Begins

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 –
Ash Wednesday Worship
12 noon and 7 pm

Wednesdays, Feb. 17, 24 –
Lenten Services
12 noon and 7 pm Worship