

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

July 2015

Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

Dear friends,

First a confession to you – this newsletter was delayed by me – so many things happened at the end of June that I kept trying to revise what we sent out to you. Please forgive me, if you can, and know it was NOT the Church Office Staffers (who are saints to even put up with me!).

The end of June was filled with both momentous and tragic events. In worship on both June 21 and 28, we remembered the victims killed at the **AME Emmanuel Church bible study in Charleston, South Carolina.**

In the face of that tragedy, we have been invited by our Church-wide Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to search our souls, examine our churches and communities so that we may repent of racism and learn to advocate for everyone afflicted by stereotypes and slurs. Her letter is attached to this newsletter.

Meanwhile, the **Supreme Court decision** in late June regarding the constitutional rights of all Americans to same-sex marriage informs an ongoing discussion throughout our national church (the ELCA) of the best ways to express God's gift of human sexuality and offer support through our life together to all our members.

Please feel free to talk with me! I welcome your comments and questions on any of these issues.

With regard to human sexuality, I have researched and downloaded several of our ELCA church studies and statements that pertain to this issue with the hope that I can provide you with good information and support as we continue to walk with one another and serve our greater community through these momentous times.

And now for something completely different... I would like to lift up two wonderful achievements by our Church Office Staff! The extra time and effort in the office of Sandy Last and Kay Procknow has begun to bear fruit that we really needed.

Sandy has implemented the software for Church Windows and loaded our current information into the data base so that we can create and maintain an up-to-date church directory! (This has always been a struggle for us!) She has also worked tirelessly to create new

ways to carry out so many more of our communications with efficiency so that we can reach you!

During these same three months, Kay Procknow has worked tirelessly with the on-line giving processes designed by VANCO, so that we can now receive and record your on-line gifts and offerings.

We want you to know that VANCO has the highest ratings for security and efficiency for e-giving, and that Thrivent Insurance endorses them for their work with churches. These are crucial endorsements! We want to do this right.

We would also like you to know that neither of these companies collects or uses your information in the process of electronic giving. We strive to protect your privacy and not abuse your trust!

Finally, our **Christian Action** committee is really rolling on several fronts to help us be active in mission and ministry in our community.

In July we are involved in supporting the **Back To School Fair** – see the article in this newsletter!

On August 16, we will be holding a **Sundae Sunday** (ice cream and toppings for everyone!) with a Noisy Offering, a Silent Auction, and other great fun in support of one of our staff who is facing large medical bills. Brenda Francis, our choir director, will be having surgery in July. Please keep her in your prayers.

If you wish, you can take part in the fundraisers on **Sunday, August 16** by taking part in the Noisy offering, perhaps contributing a gift basket, an artwork or craft or a gift certificate for a needed service to sell in the **Silent Auction**. There will also be a penny war to vote for the funniest pet costume or pet trick – with our pets providing some entertainment for us!

In September, our congregation will be taking part in the ELCA **God's Work, Our Hands Sunday (Sept 13)**. If you have a particular passion for some hands-on mission work that day – please talk with Kristi Cutts on council. More information to follow! And bless you for your love and service in Jesus' name!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

Highlights of St. Andrew's Council Meeting

May 12, 2015

Present- Jane Martinez, Chris Ziegler, Michael Anderson, Jay Klinger, Gary Bruce, Melissa Last, Ann Stephan, Peg Olson

Excused- Jakob Iversen, Beth Moore, Kristi Cutts, Pastor Karen Jewell

Devotions- Jay Klinger "How's your service"

Financial Reports- Moved and seconded to approve Bills Paid and Treasurer's Report.

Old Business

Update on Part time Office Staff

Church Windows is installed and adding of information from the church office is started. We are working on getting the Vanco online giving link on our website so members can have access to give their offerings online. The Executive committee wants to get together before June 9th to discuss how we want to move forward after the 90 days of this dual job.

Taping of sermons moved to the June meeting.

New Member updates moved to the June Meeting.

Finance committee met to discuss the resignation of our treasurer.

Beth Moore, on a phone call verbally stated "I would like to resign as treasurer." Beth and Matt Moore volunteered to work as a team. Beth would stay on as the book keeper. Matt would be the treasurer. He would attend the council meetings, sign checks, and be in charge of the reports.

Motion made and approved to appoint Matt Moore as Treasurer until the end of 2015.

New Business

Sharing of goals

Council members have until the July meeting to bring forth their 2015 goals for given committee.

Revising of Constitution and Bylaws

Council would like to create a committee to read the updated ELCA churchwide constitution and Bylaws and then update the church's constitution and bylaws. A memo will be put into the newsletters and bulletins to ask for 5 people to be on the committee.

Committee Reports

Congregational Life-

Talked with the Stamp guys to form a Men's Bible Study. Will be going to the Property meeting to talk about the Labyrinth.

Education- Looking for a chairperson.

Evangelism- Getting some dates together for new member dinners. Look for dates to come soon.

Property- Saturday is church clean-up day.

Technology-

- Time Warner answering service is now working. Thank you to Matt Moore for help getting it over the finish line.
- We are signed up for Vanco, but still need to add the links to the website to make it active.
- Web version of Church Windows is now operational.
- Recording sermons: One sermon has been successfully posted to the website, but has not gone live yet.
- Wireless receivers for hearing assistance: Our transmitter/receiver system is obsolete and no replacement parts are available. A new system (transmitter and 4 receivers) would be about \$1000. Additional receivers are about \$50 a piece.
- Next Technology Committee Meeting is May 26 at 10:00AM in the lounge.

Worship and Music- Next meeting is Wed. May 20th at 6pm.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor moves to accept the confirmands Abigail Beyer, Evan Clark, Natasja Iversen, Gerald Rott, and Logan Walter to be accepted for membership. Motion seconded and approved. Pastor will be gone visiting her mother over Memorial Day and will be back by May 29th.

June's devotions: Jane Martinez

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 9 @ 7:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Last, Council Secretary

From our ELCA Bishop.....

June 18, 2015

It has been a long season of disquiet in our country. From Ferguson to Baltimore, simmering racial tensions have boiled over into violence. But this ... the fatal shooting of nine African Americans in a church is a stark, raw manifestation of the sin that is racism. The church was desecrated. The people of that congregation were desecrated. The aspiration voiced in the Pledge of Allegiance that we are “one nation under God” was desecrated.

Mother Emanuel AME’s pastor, the Rev. Clementa Pinckney, was a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary, as was the Rev. Daniel Simmons, associate pastor at Mother Emanuel. The suspected shooter is a member of an ELCA congregation. All of a sudden and for all of us, this is an intensely personal tragedy. One of our own is alleged to have shot and killed two who adopted us as their own.

We might say that this was an isolated act by a deeply disturbed man. But we know that is not the whole truth. It is not an isolated event. And even if the shooter was unstable, the framework upon which he built his vision of race is not. Racism is a fact in American culture. Denial and avoidance of this fact are deadly. The Rev. Mr. Pinckney leaves a wife and children. The other eight victims leave grieving families. The family of the suspected killer and two congregations are broken. When will this end?

The nine dead in Charleston are not the first innocent victims killed by violence. Our only hope rests in the innocent One, who was violently executed on Good Friday. Emmanuel, God with us, carried our grief and sorrow – the grief and sorrow of Mother Emanuel AME church – and he was wounded for our transgressions – the deadly sin of racism.

I urge all of us to spend a day in repentance and mourning. And then we need to get to work. Each of us and all of us need to examine ourselves, our church and our communities. We need to be honest about the reality of racism within us and around us. We need to talk and we need to listen, but we also need to act. No stereotype or racial slur is justified. Speak out against inequity. Look with newly opened eyes at the many subtle and overt ways that we and our communities see people of color as being of less worth. Above all pray – for insight, for forgiveness, for courage.

Kyrie Eleison.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

St. Andrew's Christian Action

"Christmas in July 2015"

The 2015 Community Back to School Fair will be held for area school children and their families on Thursday, August 6, 10:00am to 6:00pm at Oshkosh North High School.

The Community Back to School Fair was started to help families in need to provide necessary supplies for their K-12 students to begin each new school year. The goal this year is to help 1,000 youth.

Backpacks and school supplies, shirts, pants, socks and underwear, toiletries and vouchers for haircuts are included in the items given to students attending the fair.

The Community Back to School Fair is a grass roots event of a caring community. Oshkosh area businesses, clubs, churches, organizations and individuals provide school supplies, backpacks, hygiene products, haircuts, medical & dental information, educational resource information, in-kind donations, display & storage space, food for volunteers, publicity, cash and hundreds of hours of volunteer manpower to implement the event.

Action

- A Christmas tree will be in the Narthex of the Church with tags with gender and clothing size and a suggested alternate monetary donation.
- Choose a tag if you wish to participate.
- Shop for the item and return it unwrapped and place it under the Christmas tree with the tag.

Or

- Put the tag in an envelope with: a cash contribution, a check made out to "**Community Back to School Fair**", or a gift card from Old Navy. Place the envelope in the basket under the Christmas tree.

The items will be collected weekly July 5 through August 2nd.

Last year 24 churches in Oshkosh and Winneconne participated.



<http://www.internetmonk.com/wp-content>

We are so excited to let you know that St Andrew's Lutheran Church is launching out into new waters.

We are now able to receive offerings electronically.

You may 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> or the QR Code available at church.

We also have a secure web page available that can accept your offerings online. You can use your home personal computer and go to standrewsoshkosh.org. We also 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.

Please know that your information **WILL NOT** be shared with Thrivent, Vanco, or any third parties.

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!

Your gift will support the mission of God through St Andrew's!

THANK YOU!



A volunteer opportunity for you!

Winnebago County Literacy Council (WCLC) needs volunteers. WCLC is a private nonprofit organization that helps provide free classes and tutoring to families and individuals with little to no literacy. Learners are refugees and immigrants from around the world as well as local folk who have never developed their literacy skills. Over 70 people are on WCLC's waiting list with no active tutors ready. For more information, contact (920)236-5185, or www.winlit.org.



St. Andrew's Men with Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast –

Meet at the Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, July 11, at 8 am

Lunch –

Meet at Jansen's Restaurant, 344 Bowen St.
Tuesday, July 21, at noon

Lutheran Adults for Fun and Fellowship

Lunch-

Meet at Rodney's Cafe
1060 Koeller St. (920) 230-2335
Thursday, July 30, at 11:30 am

All are invited! Join us for lunch and great fellowship!

Art & Soul

Saturday, July 18, 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.

Youth News

Youth Mission Trip

Our youth will be leaving on Sunday, July 12 for their mission trip to Red Lake Reservation, MN. Come and see them off, as they gather and leave from St. Andrew's at 6 AM that morning! They will be returning on Friday, July 17. Blessings to them as they share God's love, and for safe travels.

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



Notes & Meetings

All members welcome

Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 14, at 7 pm

Technology Committee

Tuesday, July 7, at 10 am

Christian Action Committee

Monday, July 27, at 1:00 pm

July Noisy Offering

The July 26 Noisy Offering is designated for Mission Safety International. Mr. Jon Egeler, president of MSI, will be here sharing a mission announcement and will meet with members between services. For more information about MSI, visit www.msisafety.org.



Volunteers Needed

We are in need of additional volunteers to help with worship services. **Especially needed** at this time are volunteers to **usher for 10:30 service** and for **coffee clean-up**.



If this is a ministry you would like to share, please contact the office or leave a message in Chris Ziegler's church mailbox.

Summer Music

Are you interested in sharing your musical talents?

Can't volunteer on a weekly basis? Now is your chance!

If you would like to share your musical gift at a summer



worship service, please see the Sign Up Sheet on the bulletin board outside the office. When doing so, please do so at least 2 weeks in advance if you need to be accompanied, so that there is ample time for preparation and practice. Thank you!

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.

