

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

(920) 235-6616

May 2015
standrewsoshkosh.org

Dear friends,

We have been working hard to expand the ways we can connect our congregation – to God, to one another, and to the community and the world where God blesses us to be a blessing to others!

This is the last newsletter that will be mailed to everyone on the old mailing list. New postal rates and regulations are kicking in right now. From now on we will abide by the choices you have indicated to us – to continue to receive the newsletter by mail, to receive it by email, to pick up your copy at church, or to use the website to view or download the newsletter.

We have updated our phone messaging system – the old one was giving us some **real** problems and Matt Moore's security company stepped in generously to help us with an answering service until we could assess our technology. Now we have a voice mail that can be retrieved and updated in the church office, but we thank Matt and his company for their gracious help in the interim!

In our church office, Sandy Last and Kay Procknow have been working diligently on two **BIG** projects. One will enable us to offer e-giving opportunities to folks who would like to support our congregation and mission, but don't carry cash and don't use checks anymore.

The other project will gather into one data base all of our church membership information – to streamline our communications with one another. It will help us do a better job of keeping up with your changes – of address, phone, email address and other information.

The goal is connection that blesses and empowers each one of us to be a blessing!!!

In the Sunday readings at the beginning of May (May 3) we hear Jesus describe himself as the true vine:
I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. (John 15:5)

We need to be connected to Jesus Christ – the true vine – whose life flows into us and through us.

In the Scriptures, the people called Israel heard themselves described as a vine that God tended, and as a fruit tree that God grew – with the goal that they would “bear fruit,” that is, be people through whom God worked to bless this struggling world.

Those blessings include justice and mercy, help and hope, patience and generous love.

We are also the people called Israel. By adoption through our baptism into Christ's family, we are also the ones through whom God works and blesses others.

As our season rolls on into times for travel and many other activities that take us away from our usual places and habits, I invite you to remain **rooted** in Jesus Christ. It may take a bit of planning, but we would be happy to offer you some resources to help.

Our goal is to be rooted in the Word of God.

You know I will always invite you to read your bible (and we have those Taking Faith Home bulletin inserts to support you in this). But also know that Martin Luther encouraged us to seek the ***Living Word of God*** – it isn't merely the words in the bible, but the voice of God that comes to us through the reading and our worship.

Luther said that knowing the good news of Jesus wasn't knowing doctrines and commandments: “***...but only when the voice comes that says, 'Christ is your own, with his life, teaching, works, death, resurrection and all that he is, has, does, and can do.'***” Knowing the good news is living in the connection we have to the True Vine! This connection Jesus offers us without fail!

May God bless all of your endeavors this Spring! Please connect with us in the ways you find best, so that we can share the good news with you and continue with you to be blessed to be a blessing in Jesus' name!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

St. Andrew's Council Meeting Highlights

March 10, 2015

Present- Jane Martinez, Chris Ziegler, Peg Olson, Michael Anderson, Jakob Iversen, Jay Klinger, Kristi Cutts, Patty Koplitz, Pastor Karen Jewell, Gary Bruce, Melissa Last

Excused- Ann Stephan, Beth Moore

Guests- Jayne Lindsay, Candace Anderson

Devotions: Kristi Cutts

Financial Reports-

Motions were made and approved to accept the financial reports as presented. Our cash flow is a concern.

Old Business

Education Chairperson- Melissa is still looking for someone willing to be the chairperson for the education committee while she is the secretary for the council.

Online Giving- Pastor cannot be the finance person for this company. This person needs to be available during the day to go through training and be available to work with this company.

Taping of Sermons- We are working on a way to record the sermons rather than have Pastor doing it while she is giving them on Sunday. Technology committee will work on this.

Window Treatments- It was moved and approved to use \$375 of Thrivent Funds to purchase 6 window blinds for the education wing windows.

Sanitizer- Gary Bruce shared 3 different non-alcohol foam options of hand sanitizer that we could use to replace the alcohol based sanitizer we are using now. The alcohol is wrecking the varnish and cloth.

New Business

Counseling Services- Candace Anderson shared that some people in the community will no longer be able to be seen by qualified therapists due to insurance issues. Candace would like to open up group counseling services for the community through our church during daytime hours. Billing would be handled with the Integrity Counseling. Council has concerns. The executive committee will make the decision once all the questions are answered.

Secretary Opening- Interviews are being set up with the executive committee.

Fellowship volunteers- Office will send out the updated tabulation of the Time and Talent information to council members.

Phone System- We will be signing up with Time Warner for voice messaging system for the office.

Crossways Annual Meeting- Crossways issued a list of each camp's needs. Kristi Cutts asked to have these needs brought to the Christian Action meeting on April 19th after the second service.

Community Gardens- We have a request from a neighborhood committee to plant some community gardens. Council asked Gary to go back to the committee to get more details.

Sharing of Goals- (*keep in mind the church's Mission Statement and Constitution*).

Worship and Music- Prints of Peace and worship forms that might be more intriguing to youth and coming more involved in their lives.

Education - Finding an Education Chairperson

Church Windows- This web-based program would make a single database for membership information. An amended motion was made and approved to purchase the new Church Windows program with \$820 of Thrivent funds for this year and be put into the budget for coming years.

Committee Reports

Christian Action- All are welcome to attend a meeting on April 19th to develop plans on how to achieve the mission of this committee. Currently an in-kind collection is underway for the Help for the Homeless campaign (hygiene items). Arlene Shultis has organized a collection to support the Oshkosh Area Humane Society as they move into "kitten season."

Education- Looking for a chairperson

Fellowship- The new schedule is out for the greeters/ushers/counters/coffee for the second quarter of 2015 (April - June). Adjustments will be made when the tabulations from the Time & Talent sheets are received. We could still use people to volunteer to usher 2nd service, and to assist with coffee set-up/ clean-up. The initial stages for Easter Breakfast planning is under way. A committee is being put together to discuss and plan out the Fellowship events for 2015. If anyone would like to be involved, or has any ideas, please contact Chris Ziegler or Jayne Lindsay.

Property- Two trees will have to be removed on the south side for better sign visibility, and the flat roof over

the narthex needs to be resealed. We are planning spring clean-up May 16th, with May being clean up month. Starting to plan on carpet/tile replacement of sanctuary, and will try other types of light bulbs in sanctuary for use when the 100 watt bulbs are on longer available. There are 100 watt equivalent dimmable CFL's. We will look into portable display boards for use throughout the facility. Money has been donated to replace the 3 windows on the west side of the courtyard. The windows have been ordered. Property's next meeting is March 26, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

Technology- Meeting March 16th at 9am in the lounge.

Worship and Music- Jane and Pastor Karen described the recent synod workshop on mission and goals; committee discussed involvement of children and youth. A planning retreat in early to mid-July 2015 and spiritual formation retreat in Fall, 2015 were discussed. Lenten services and activities were discussed. An Assisting Minister gathering will be held Feb. 21. The next meeting is March 17 at 7 pm.

Youth- Pizzas will be made on March 14th at 9 am. We are preparing for our Pentecost Art Sale. We still need recipes for the cook book. Information for BYG Camp will be out soon

Pastor's Report- We have a candidate for church secretary along with the 2 candidates for these past few months. Pastor will be taking vacation to see her mother April 16-22. Church council to think about taking on part-time intern of Connie Weiss (put on the April agenda). We would not need to do any housing.

April's devotions: Jakob Iversen

Respectfully submitted,
Melissa Last, Council Secretary

A copy of the complete council minutes is available on the hall bulletin board near the office.

2015 Synod Assembly Service Project (Synod Assembly is **May 15 and 16, 2015**)

We have three wonderful Lutheran camps in our Synod: Imago Dei Village in Clintonville, Pine Lake in Waupaca, and Waypost on Mission Lake in Hatley. They are staffed and run by Crossways Camping Ministries.

At this year's synod assembly we will support Crossways Camping ministries through donation of supplies as gifts- in-kind. Crossways staff has carefully compiled a wish list of items needed for this coming year. We will bring those supplies to the Assembly.

Oshkosh conference churches are encouraged to gather: **Waterfront or Office Supplies:** canoe paddles, sand toys, vest life jackets, flip chart paper, easel, white or color copy paper, HP 12A, 15, 78, 56, 57, 96 printer ink, file folders, stamps, post-it notes, gas cards for canoe trips.

We will gather the gifts-in-kind in the entry way at church in April and the beginning of May. We had a noisy offering for Crossways in February this year!

Information for priority projects for 2015 may be found at <http://www.crosswayscamps.org/connect> NEEDS LIST. If you would like to participate in supporting Crossways through one of these projects, please contact Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer, Executive Director of Crossways Camping Ministries – jake@crosswayscamps.org or 920-882-0023.

PRINTS of Peace **Pet ministry news**

PRINTS of Peace will be meeting on **Saturday, May 30th at 6:30 pm.** Please join us for a prayer walk with our pets around the neighborhood. All social pets are welcome to join in. After the walk, we will have an ice cream social and fellowship at our Picnic Pavillion (in the back yard of our church) to celebrate our first year of this new ministry.

This will be the last PRINTS of Peace gathering for this season. Please watch for information on future events.



St. Andrew's Men with Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast –

Meet at the Delta Restaurant 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, May 9, at 8 am

Lunch –

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

Lutheran Adults for Fun and Fellowship

Lunch-

Meet at Hot Rod Willy's Restaurant
2010 West Ninth Ave, Oshkosh
Thursday, May 21, at 11:30 am

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

Art & Soul

Saturday, May 23, 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, May 12, at 7pm.

Technology Committee

Tuesday, May 26, at 10 am

Worship and Music Committee

Wednesday, May 6, at 6 pm

Spring Clean Up

Sat, May 16, 8 am – 12 noon

If you can rake flower beds, pick up branches, wash windows, or do any other cleaning duties, please join us in helping keep St. Andrew's looking good. You do not have to be an adult to join in these activities, as we have tasks for all ages! If you can't make the Saturday event and wish to help out during the week of May 10th, please call

YMT Art Show – Beginning Sunday, May 24

Come and see beautiful pieces created by the youth, for you! Items will be available for purchase throughout June. All money earned will be used to help send our youth to the National Youth Gathering in Detroit this July.

May Happenings

Egg Roll Sale – Sat, May 9

The Hmong Congregation will again be having an egg roll sale. Help support their congregation and enjoy some egg rolls! Order yours soon!

Friday, May 15 to Saturday, May 16, Synod Assembly at the KI Convention Ctr

"Spirit Led, Spirit Shaped – a Journey Together"
Pam Nemmetz, Peg Olson and Pastor Jewell will be our voting members at this annual gathering. For more info please see ecsw.org/assembly.

Confirmation – Sunday, May 17, 10:30 service

Our eighth grade confirmands will be confirmed on May 17. Please pray for our students to continue in faith as they become adult members of our congregation. Plan to attend the 10:30 worship service and celebrate this milestone in their lives.

Bible Studies at St Andrew's

Monday evenings in May from **7:15 to 8:45 pm** join us in the Lounge for bible study. We will be reading First and Second Corinthians. Bring your favorite bible or use one of ours! All are welcome.

Wednesdays at noon in May and June we will be studying the Lord's Prayer with the help of Walt Wangerin's video. Please join us for a light lunch and study from **12 noon to 1:30 pm in the Lounge**.

St Andrew's Newsletters for you...

This is the **final** bulk mailing of our newsletter due to changes in the postal regulations and rates. Next month we will send out the newsletter as you have instructed us to do – by mail, by email, or let you read it via our website (www.standrewsoshkosh.org) You may always pick up your copy of the newsletter at church or call the church office to receive one (920) 235-6616. If you prefer to pick yours up at church, let us know and we will set one aside for you with your name on it. Thank you so much for all your help with this – we want to keep in touch with you!!!