

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

Dear friends,

Unsung heroes are working hard for you and for your church. I am thinking of our wonderful council members and staff members, who are jumping into all sorts of work to support and improve our life together.

At the last council meeting we looked over our finances and began the process of developing narrative budgets for the upcoming year of mission and ministry.

Our council and staff will submit the narrative budgets to the finance committee in September so that they can compile our overall budget for 2016. This will be the budget you will vote on at the Annual Meeting in January.

It is easy to get quite worried about our finances whether it is at home or at church. You know how we all work up close with the numbers and try to wring the most out of each penny we spend or invest.

But that view can make us short-sighted or even blind to the miracle present before us.

Take our church finances. We struggle to balance and carefully steward the costs of staffing, equipping and maintaining our congregation and our physical campus. All done to support worship, education and outreach.

We always run into worrisome days in the summer when our income drops along with the drop in attendance at worship. (Members travel and are busy elsewhere!)

But when we get worried, we need to **look back** and **look up** to see the miracle of our very existence!

This congregation is housed in a building and on land that was purchased, cleared, built and maintained by the blood, sweat, tears and gifts of people.

Look back at the initial work of the mission-developer pastor that was funded by gifts of money given by people who would never even see St Andrew's!

September 2015

God's Work, Our Hands Day is September 13!

We received a pastor, capital, blueprints and plans to get it all started! The gifts touched so many hearts that families and individuals organized the initial congregation and worshipped in the basement of the Shoreview Lanes bowling alley for two years until they could build their first church building here.

You know it wasn't only money that built us up – but also the care given to toddlers, to the faithful teaching of children, youth and adults, to the gathering in choir, fellowship and mission.

I like to share with new members that every drop of paint, every brick, every bible and every hour of worship have been given to us by others in Jesus' name!

Looking back helps us find a balance again – restores our confidence when diminished financial resources might make us worry. Look how far we have come!

We also need to **look up** daily to the one who inspired all the gifts that formed this congregation and built the house we gather in. A house that is not ours but has been entrusted to us by God through the love of those who came before us.

We look up and reconnect with the grace that makes each day full of life. All of our yesterdays, every moment of today, and all of our tomorrows are sheer GIFTS from the one who gives faithfully and abundantly.

We look back and reconnect with the gifts that brought us this far, we look up and reconnect with the grace that makes life beautiful each day, and that restores our vision.

Now we may look beyond our fears in faith. We can see the places where we are called to act faithfully, love generously, and inspire others to turn in trust to the Lord Jesus Christ – our Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our final home.

Thank you for the gifts you bring in Jesus' name.

--Pastor Karen Jewell

St. Andrew's Council Meeting
July 14, 2015

Present- Jane Martine, Matt Moore, Pastor Karen Jewell, Kristi Cutts, Mike Anderson, Jay Klinger, Chris Ziegler, Jakob Iversen, Patty Koplitz.

Excused- Ann Stephan, Melissa Last, Gary Bruce

Guests- Jayne Lindsay, Sandy Last

Financial Reports-

Monthly Bills and Financial Reports - The June monthly bills and reports were presented and approved.

Closing of the Anchor Bank on Main Street.

Matt thanked Jayne Lindsay for the work she did researching alternative banks. We will be switching over to US Bank August 1, 2015.

Old Business

Part time Office Secretary Position - The full time secretarial position shared by Kay and Sandy ended July 4th. Both ladies have agreed to split the part time position so each will work 10 hours a week. The sick time and vacation time will be divided between them. The holiday pay will be given to the person who would have worked that day.

Luther Garden Tree - Last fall the idea of sponsoring a tree in Germany in the Luther Garden was tabled until spring. Sandy brought this forward at this time. The congregation could sponsor a tree to be planted in the Luther Garden representing our church. A similar tree could be planted on our grounds in honor of the sponsored tree. The total cost is approximately \$1000 for both trees. The motion was made by Peg and seconded by Kristi for the council to support efforts to raise money for this endeavor.

Building Safety/Security - Pastor brought forward several instances in which church doors were not closed and/or locked, windows left open, lights left on and in one case an oven was left on for over a day. These are major concerns for building safety and security. All council members were asked to be especially diligent in securing the building when leaving. Matt indicated that for a small fee an alarm system could be added that would alert if someone enters the building between a set time (e.g. 12 midnight and 6 AM). Matt was asked to bring a proposal to the August meeting for further discussion.

New Business

Sharing of 2015 Goals - Each council member gave a brief report on their 2015 goals and their progress toward reaching those goals.

2016 Goals - Jane suggested that council members begin engaging their committee members in the development of the 2016 goals and Narrative Budgets now. Narrative

Budget discussions will begin at the September 9th meeting.

Revising the Constitution and Bylaws - Jayne Lindsay, Jakob and Matt have agreed to work with Jane on the revision of our current Constitution and Bylaws.

Replacement TV A motion was made and approved that a new TV be purchased to replace the broken TV on the VCR cart.

Sexuality and the Church - Pastor shared that a homosexual couple has approached her to perform a wedding ceremony. The ELCA has ruled that such ceremonies can be conducted with the support of the church. She also shared that we have always been a welcoming church and accepted same sex partners into our congregation. Before agreeing to officiate over any wedding all couples must demonstrate they are in a committed relationship and that they hold Christian values. She is willing to officiate over a same sex ceremony but is asking for the support of the church council leadership. After discussion the motion that the council support Pastor in officiating same sex weddings was carried by a unanimous vote. After further discussion the motion to allow same sex marriage ceremonies to be performed in the church was approved.

Committee Reports

Education- Looking for a Chairperson

Technology- Sermons are being recorded and put on the website, as well as a packet created with the week's bulletin and a CD with a recording of the sermon for Pastor to take to homebound members. The next steps in creating a web/social media committee were discussed. A new internet router has been installed. Next Meeting: September 1, 2015 at 10:00 AM

Worship and Music- An agenda was created for the August 4 (9 am – 4 pm) committee retreat.

President Report: - Jane is reviewing our current insurance policy and obtaining quotes from other vendors. Jane has developed a policy on hiring to be reviewed by the Executive Committee prior to presenting to the Council. She will also be working with Pastor and the Custodian on development of a job description. Eventually all paid positions will have a job description.

Pastor's Report: - A motion made and carried to accept Brian and Sherri Wolc as new members.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Martinez, Council President
Melissa Last, Council Secretary

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

Jesus said: *If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free.*

--John 8:31-32

Back to School Time!!!

Let's share our faith, Let's read our bibles.

We feel excited for all those who are beginning and returning to school. Even those of us long out of the direct experience of school days can find excitement in a new notebook and a freshly sharpened pencil!

Lutherans love the bible and we are life-long learners so we are always encouraged to go “back to school” and study our bibles.

But how will we do it? It can seem daunting to jump in and begin. And do we have to do it alone?

Never! God promises the guidance of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, for our bible study, our prayers and all of our living!

ASAP: Always Say A Prayer.

We can begin by praying that God will light our way into this new study, and grant us understanding of the bible words that we read. Take a deep breath and ask for God's help.

O God, heavenly Father, we thank you for the Word you give us in Jesus Christ. Help us to open our bibles with understanding, to hear your love speaking to us, and to see how we may live your truth in our lives today. We ask this humbly in Jesus' name. Amen.

Some people like to read the bible from cover to cover beginning with the book of Genesis and ending with the Book of Revelation.

It is rather like reading all the books on a shelf from one end of the shelf to the other – because the bible has 66 books between the two covers.

So you may want to start with one of the books that tells an adventure story – the Book of **Jonah** which

begins with a whale (or great fish) and ends with Jonah on a hilltop above Nineveh, hoping for fire and brimstone to rain down from the sky. It is only four chapters long but it is very humorous and has helped people for long years not to take themselves too seriously!

Or perhaps you would like to read a lovely romance with a very happy ending: the Book of **Ruth** tells in four short chapters the story of a foreigner who shows faithfulness to her mother-in-law and her God and so becomes a part of Jesus' family tree.

Perhaps you could set yourself the goal of one psalm per day – there are 150 **Psalms** in the prayer book at the center of the bible: prayers and songs that run the gamut of all our faith quandaries and all our human emotions! Psalm 23 is well-known even to folks who have never read the bible!

I like to recommend that we start with a gospel – you have four to choose from: **Matthew, Mark, Luke** or **John**. Each tells the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, sharing his words of teaching and encouragement, his stories and his disciples' questions for him. Reading a gospel is a great way to get better acquainted with the Lord we try to follow day by day.

If Pastor Karen can be of any help – with your reading of the bible or your faith questions, please ask. We have copies of the bible to share, and many great resources for your studies.

For Christians bible reading is like brushing your teeth – when you brush regularly your teeth will serve you for life! So also brush up your faith!

Luther wrote this to encourage us to read the bible: *These are the Scriptures which make fools of all the wise and understanding, and are open only to the small and simple, as Christ says in Matthew 11:25. Therefore dismiss your own opinions and feelings, and think of the scriptures as the loftiest and noblest of holy things, as the richest of mines which can never be sufficiently explored, in order that you may find divine wisdom which God here lays before you in such simple guise as to quench all pride. Here you will find the swaddling clothes and the manger in which Christ lies.* -- Martin Luther, Luther's Works, vol. 35: Prefaces to the Old Testament, 236.



St. Andrew's Men with Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast –

Meet at the Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, Sept. 12 at 8 am

Lunch –

Meet at Jansen's Restaurant, 344 Bowen St.
Tuesday, Sept. 15, at noon

Lutheran Adults for Fun and Fellowship

Lunch-

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

Meet at Noodles & Company, 1560 S. Koeller St.
Thursday, Sept. 24 at 11:30 am

Art & Soul

Saturday, September 26, 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, Sept. 8, at 7 pm

Finance Committee

Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 6 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, Sept. 24, at 6 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, Sept. 21 at 4:30 pm

September Noisy Offering



The Sept. 20 Noisy Offering is designated for the Christ Child Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to service to children in need, for love of the Christ Child. See Ann Stephan for more information.



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

We have been receiving some very positive feedback from congregation members who have chosen to donate to St. Andrew's through electronic giving. We are so very grateful for the benefits that e-giving has provided to some of our members. Please feel free to use the short URL: <http://bit.do/stagiving> or sign up for Simply Giving at our website: <http://www.standrewsoshkosh.org> if you would like to begin offering electronically. Your gift will support the mission of God through St. Andrew's.

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

Looking ahead to October



Sat, Oct. 3 – YMT Lock-In
Here at St. Andrew's

Sat, Oct. 10 – Hmong Congregation Egg-Roll Sale
Help support our friends in their missions.

Fri, Oct. 23 – Confirmation Retreat
Here at St. Andrew's, planned by the YMT.

Sun, Oct. 25 – We celebrate Reformation
We celebrate the 498th year of Luther's work!

Invitation to [Sunday School!](#)

Sunday, **September 20** 9:00 am worship – join us as we bless the children and commission our teachers. They begin their first classes today!

Your Sunday School Registration Form and photo release form are available on-line or at church.

Thank you for filling out the forms – you help us provide bibles and materials for each student and teacher and help us serve our families better.

Questions about Sunday School? Please talk with Michele Hawley, Sunday School Director or call the church office (920) 235-6616.

[Confirmation Orientation](#) Wednesday, September 9, 2015 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

6th, 7th, and 8th grade students attend with their parents/mentors tonight for orientation to the new year of study.

St Andrew's offers a three year confirmation program studying the Small Catechism, the Old Testament and the New Testament in the successive years. We build our lessons on the *Here We Stand* curriculum. In 2015 to 2016 we will study the **Small Catechism.**

Note: **if your student is new to our program, please call Pastor Karen** (920) 235-6616, so that she can order the study bible for your student. All questions welcome!

Classes are 6:00 to 7:30 pm and begin Wednesday, September 16!

Choir rehearsals begin! Wednesday, September 9 at 7:30 pm

We are directed by Brenda Francis. We welcome you and encourage everyone to try it out and see if you like it!

We meet in the choir room at the end of the hallway to the north of the Fellowship Hall – just listen for the sound of laughter and music and you can't miss!

QPR: Question, persuade, refer **Planning mtg** **Tuesday Sept 15 @ 7:00 pm**

QPR Gatekeeper Training is a 2 hour program that equips people in our community with the tools they might need to talk to someone about suicide.

Suicide is the most often psychiatric emergency and the 11th leading cause of death in America. Suicide is preventable!

Help me to provide a Gatekeeper Training to St. Andrew's and the community beyond our doors.

Let's meet on September 15th at 7pm to plan a training session. If you cannot make this meeting, but would like to help plan this event, please, just let me know.

-Patty Koplitz (920) 420-5616
Youth Leadership Facilitator

[BYG: Beginning Youth Group](#)

Beginning Youth Group is for 3rd grade through 6th grade kids. Confirmation and high school kids are always welcome to come and help!

Saturdays we have game days to just....play games! Bring one to share or we will play cards or hide and seek!

Friday nights we have SPAM! Soda, pizza and a movie! Join the fun! The weekend retreat to Imago Dei Village is a great way to experience God at camp!

Coming up in September:

Saturday, Sept 19th: Game day 2:00 to 4:00pm

Safe Child Policy

Did you know that St Andrew's has a Safe Child Policy? All of our members and staff who work with the children and youth at St Andrew's events and take part in education and mission activities with children or youth are required to have background checks.

We train our staff, teachers and other volunteers to use safe techniques in working with our children and youth. Thank you!

[YMT: Youth Ministry Team](#)
(High school through College age)

Youth Ministry team meets on Wednesday nights from 6 until 7:30. We meet during confirmation times. This is a time for fun, fellowship, some silly talk and some serious talk.

The high school and college age people plan fund raisers, leadership opportunities and social times to be together. Feel free to come when you can!

Coming up in September:

Wed, Sept 2nd Campfire worship and s'mores

Wed, Sept 9th: Welcome confirmation students to orientation

Sunday, Sept 13th: God's Work Our Hands. From 10 am to noon, we will have mission opportunities. All Church fellowship meal at noon.

Wed, Sept 16th: meeting in youth room

Wed, Sept 23rd: meeting in youth room

Wed, Sept 30th: We will be talking with the confirmation students about our mission trips.

[September Bible Studies](#)

Mondays at 7:15 pm in the Lounge – bring your favorite bible or we can supply one! We are finishing *Second Corinthians* early in September. Then, we will begin studying the bible with the help of Martin Luther!

Wednesdays at 12 noon in the Lounge – we will be learning about faith formation from a video series *Keeping the Fire Alive: navigating challenges in the spiritual life*, taught by Albert Haase.

Join us as you are able! You are always welcome.

THANK YOU

To everyone who helped with the fundraising to help pay Brenda Francis' medical bills. Thank you for items donated for the silent auction – the totals are still being tallied, but we believe the auction alone raised over \$800.00. Thank you for taking part in the noisy offering and for the special gifts given to help defray those costs! You are a blessing to a friend in need.

Christian Stewardship

God gives and we receive – breath, life, food, water, perhaps a home, a job, but always a way to give beyond ourselves to others. God gives – not just to us but through us.

Stewardship is the word that helps us see that God entrusts things to us – not to keep but to use, to enjoy and most of all to share.

You and I have chosen to follow Jesus Christ and we have gathered here to worship under the roof of St Andrew's building to be the congregation of St Andrew's Lutheran Church.

Our financial gifts to St Andrew's go to work: equipping our worship with leadership and music, educating people of all ages to grow in faith and become resilient, generous members of our larger community, and working for the common good in our city and our world.

Thank you so much for all you do to make the mission happen, to offer hospitality to all comers and to reach out with the love of Jesus Christ.

What do Lutherans believe?

We are excited to begin the **Year of What Lutherans Believe** – offering you the opportunity to ask questions and delve into the special gifts that the Lutheran tradition has to offer the greater Christian Church and the whole world. We would like to gather **your questions** and begin to share them, pursue them, and perhaps answer them in our worship and life together.

This year our confirmands will be studying the Small Catechism of Martin Luther. He designed it with a question and answer format, so that parents and elders would have a great resource to answer the basic faith questions of the children and youth for whom they were responsible. This will be just one of the resources we would like to offer to you.

And there is much more to our Lutheran confessions and resources! Please start pondering and sharing the questions you always wanted to ask. Feel free to ask, write, email, call, and pose your questions! Let's wade in together!



God's work. Our hands.

Sunday, September 13, 2015

Would you like to put your hands to do something that will help others? Have we got a Sunday for you!!!

Along with our brothers and sisters in many ELCA churches, we will celebrate **God's Work, Our Hands Day** with mission activities suitable for all ages.

Our national church, the ELCA, has challenged all of us to work together *"to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: That all of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life – flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace."*

We will be assembling and **packing Lutheran World Relief School Kits** for children displaced by wars and natural disasters.

We will also **pack hygiene kits** with basic comforts for folks in the homeless shelter.

We will be **tying fleece blankets** to distribute to people in need.

We will design and **create greeting cards** to connect with our homebound members.

We will hold a scavenger hunt for **food items to donate** to the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry (OACP).

We will be **building Leopold benches** to welcome our greater community to enjoy our beautiful church grounds.

And we will be gathering soups, dinners, and food to **feed the students at the Lutheran Campus Ministry at UWO.**

You may take part in any activity that calls to you! These mission activities will be available from **10 am to noon** so that you can attend your favorite worship time (either 9 or 10:30) and still take part in our mission activities!

At noon we will break for a **soup and sandwich meal** together with time to talk. It will be a great time to get better acquainted – so we hope that **you** can take part!

If you would like to bring an item to donate to these mission activities please see the lists on the back of this sheet of **needed items.**

Or you may **scavenge your own cupboards** for a dried good or canned food item to contribute to the OACP.

And if you are unable to be with us, but would like to help – please feel free to bring an item to church on another day or donate a gift card or chamber certificate. We will turn your gift into materials for these mission activities.

Whether you can join us on that Sunday or not, please know that we are so grateful for your presence and participation in our worship and life together!

Thank you for considering this – it is wonderful to **explore** our mission and ministry in Christ **TOGETHER!**

Deep thanks to the members of the **Christian Action Committee** who have worked hard to create and coordinate this special day of mission! And thank you to **Thrivent** for providing seed money.

Feel free to choose
a mission activity to support
or
an item to contribute...

Hygiene items
needed for the homeless kits

Shopping list – all items still needed

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

Trial size or bath size welcome!

**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**

Notebooks, scissors and crayons are most needed as we go to print, but all items are welcome and we will not waste anything you donate! Your gift will help a school child in need!

**Lutheran Campus Ministry
Foods to donate**

For Freezing or as frozen item:

Ground Beef	Bocca Meat
Chicken	Shredded Cheese
Hot Dogs	Brats
Pizzas	Lasagna
Family Dinners	Ice Cream

Dry goods:

Canned Soups	Boxed Dinners
Noodles	Rice
Spaghetti Sauce	Chips
Mixes	Candy

Please bring your food item to the Kitchen – we will be transporting all the donated foods to Lutheran Campus Ministry at 1 pm on Sunday, Sept 13. If you make a family dinner, please make it in a pan you don't need returned to you. Thank you!

**Scavenger Hunt for the Oshkosh
Area Community Pantry**

Canned Vegetables & Fruit	
Cereals	Tuna
Mac 'N Cheese	Pork 'N Beans
Canned Soups	Pasta
Tomato Sauce	Pasta Sauce
Toilet paper	Diapers
Feminine Hygiene Products	
Laundry Detergent	Pet Food

(Please no foods in glass jars)

What does your heart feel drawn to do? That's the mission that God has given YOU!