

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

April 2016
Prayer Around the Cross Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00 pm

Dear friends,

Happy Easter!



At St Andrew's Easter Day was beautiful and fragrant, colorful and musical, delicious and very happy! Deep thanks to all who helped to prepare the sanctuary, to lead the worship, to offer the music and to welcome the worshippers. Deep thanks to all that happy crew in the Fellowship Hall, who came very early and whipped up the best Easter Breakfast ever. Deepest thanks to our loving God who created the occasion for our joyous worship and praise.

***Christ is Risen!
He is Risen indeed! Alleluia!***

I know I have told you before, but we don't stop celebrating – Easter season is fifty days long and only ends on Pentecost Sunday (May 15th this year). And then, remember? Every Sunday is a little Easter – all year long, all our lives long! Sunday is the day that Jesus rose from the dead and began the new Creation – the redemption of all that God has made.

Please keep coming to celebrate Easter – all year long – so that we may be together in God's Word.

Thank you for coming to celebrate all the promises kept by God. Thank you for seeking God's renewal of our life together – with forgiveness of sins, a baptismal bath, a meal of connection, the Word spoken and lived among us. Thank you for coming and coming yet again.

Please help each other **come** to worship – with encouragement, with rides, with warm greetings that welcome, with shared hymnals and shared coffee, with invitations, with a card at a difficult time, and a phone call to catch up on life.

Jesus is risen and has made us his Body – a group of souls who are linked by the love that God has poured out in fire and Spirit. We are shaped by the enlivening Holy Spirit into a congregation that acts with love to make life better, to feed and to teach, to comfort and to rouse to action.

If you are reading this, and never came before – PLEASE COME and be welcome. You ARE welcome, and God has put the yen in your heart to come and check it out!

And if you are reading this and it has been a long time since you were here (or somewhere in worship) and you wonder if you would be welcome, PLEASE COME and be welcome. You ARE welcome, and God is reassuring you that you are always welcome in God's own house.

PLEASE COME AND WORSHIP! You ARE welcome and the Easter party is just getting started and all our hearts are being renewed to celebrate yet again and even more the love of God given to us and to all the world in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karen Jewell

On Saturday, April 30th at 2 pm we will hold a memorial service here at St Andrew's in memory of my mother Joan Jewell. Our family wants to thank you for all you did to welcome Mom.

Church Council Meeting
Tuesday March 8, 2016

Present: Pastor Karen Jewell, Jane Martinez, Jakob Iversen, Matt Moore, Chris Ziegler, Warren Luce, Ann Stephan, Kristi Cutts, Jay Klinger, Linda Ellman, Peg Olson

Excused: Rose Rivera

Guests: Patty Koplitz

Devotions: Jane Martinez

Treasurer's report: Matt Moore presented the February bills paid and financial statements. Motions made and approved to accept treasurer's report.

Old Business:

Part Time Office Staff Update: Time & Talent sheets have been tabulated and were distributed at the council meeting. Any further changes or updates will be sent to the council members electronically.

Constitution: Deferred until April

Emergency Preparedness Review: Jay Klinger, Matt Moore and Jane Martinez created a guideline for emergency situations. Copies will be given to all Council members, Ushers/Greeters, Nursery Attendants, and all church staff. Copies will also be given to the Hmong Congregation, and normal meeting groups. Copies will be posted in several locations throughout the church. Motion made and approved to adopt the emergency preparedness plan as it was presented.

New Sanctuary Carpet: Jane Martinez wanted to give special thanks to all of the men and women who came together to make the carpet installation go so quickly and smoothly. There were over 30 volunteers, over several days, from both the St. Andrew's and the Hmong Congregations to help make it happen.

New Business:

E-mail Addresses for Council Members: Discussion was held to see if there were any concerns using work or personal email addresses in committee correspondences to the congregation. It was decided that it is up to the individual member as to whether they would prefer to use the Google email addresses that were set up on the standrewsoshkosh.org account.

Council Retreat: The council retreat discussed at February's council meeting is being confirmed for Saturday, April 16th

Approval of Council Minutes: Starting after the council retreat, all drafts of future church council minutes will be uploaded to the Church Council folder at the standrewsoshkosh.org account for council members to review online. The final draft will then be posted and council members will approve them online.

Recording of Anonymous Donations: Pastor Karen will create a form for council members and church staff to use in taking and recording anonymous donations. The form and the donation are to be given to the treasurer and financial secretary for recording.

Property Report (Warren Luce):

The new carpet and hearing loop have been installed. It is noted that cleaning of the new carpet can be done with water only or the warranty will be void. New spotlights are currently being installed to better light the altar area and to offer better lighting for the choir for when they are singing.

The new kitchen window and faucets will be installed soon. The spring clean-up date will be set for a Saturday in early May. The property committee is currently working on a list of projects and will prioritize them in matter of urgency and need. Next Property meeting will be Thursday March 24th (Maundy Thursday) at 6:00 pm.

Technology (Jakob Iversen):

The new copier is in! It works much better than the previous setup with copier and duplicator. Time to print and fold the newsletter went from about 2 hours to about 40 minutes. Printing the bulletin is also down about 1.5 hours per week. We are considering whether the use of personal email addresses is causing risks in terms of loss of confidentiality and loss of continuity when people leave a role. For example, should we have specific email addresses for treasurer, secretary, financial secretary etc. We might also consider an email address for each committee so a new committee chair would have easy access to old communication. This would probably require that people check their St. Andrews email address more frequently and/or use email forwarding.
Next Meeting: April 11 at 10:00

Worship & Music (Peg Olson):

Pastor Karen distributed a Holy Week Planning Grid and examples of Illustrated Children's Ministry coloring sheets. We discussed alternative ways of lighting candles in candle tables during communion by intinction. Servers will move to the front of the organ for the second group. We continued our discussion of replacing old end tables with new tables for funerals and other service and are requesting memorial funds for these tables. We also will look into purchasing several easels for funerals and other events and seeking funding next year for a new Christmas tree. Kathy and Peg shared a plan to request additional reflections from St. Andrew's members involved in church activities for the "Saints Alive" column in the newsletter. We will share the responsibility to follow up with everyone who signed up for Worship and Music area activities on the Time and Talent sheets. Motion made and approved to purchase the three nesting tables and one display table using memorial funds.

Youth Ministry Report (Patty Koplitz)

This past month we sold and made 350 pizzas. We had about 18 people help. I would like to thank everyone who helped, especially the adults who don't have kids in our group! Our Art Gala will be May 6th, Friday. We will be selling tickets and offer a plate supper, have silent auction baskets and other prizes. Please, feel free to join us at our meeting on March 15th at 6 in the lounge. I am inviting people to help with the dinner. Motion was made and approved the use of baskets containing alcohol for prize in the silent auction. We have 2 students, Bailey Beyer and Rebecca Iversen, signed up for Leaders in Training camp at Waypost this summer. We received an anonymous donation to provide scholarships for both kids. I had the opportunity to preach on Sunday for the Foundations of Biblical Preaching class that I am taking.

President's Report (Jane Martinez):

The Constitution/Bylaws committee will need to reschedule since no one was available for the last scheduled meeting. All

of the staff evaluations are finally completed. I have a thank you card for the Hmong congregation who so willingly helped with the removal and replacement of the pews was signed. I will be meeting with Pastor Karen to review the possible outline for our retreat.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Karen Jewell):

Church Office: New copier! Staff training and experimenting to streamline publication production

Worship and Education:

Wednesdays in Lent have focused on the five parts of the Small Catechism. Marcia Galica and others have worked hard to provide a nice meal at 6 pm before our confirmation instruction and the evening worship.

All went well during the carpeting process – thanks to Gary Bruce and others who arranged for our Wednesday worship with our portable sound system in the Fellowship Hall.

Thanks to all who helped with Carol Otto's funeral hospitality.

Deep thanks to work crews from both St Andrew's and the Oshkosh United Hmong Alliance congregation – our pews were removed on Sunday, February 21, carpeting replaced and hearing loop installed all within the week and all the pews back in place by Sunday, February 28th.

Two alternative times for preparing for Holy Communion:

Saturday, March 12 from 9 to noon and Saturday, March 19 from 9 to noon. Our students' first communion is planned for Maundy Thursday, March 24 at 7 pm.

We are preparing for Confirmation Sunday, May 15 at the 10:30 am worship.

Bible studies continue:

--Monday evening bible study – continuing (Samuel Wells) *Be Not Afraid*

--Wednesday noon bible study – video-based study of Paul's Letter to the Romans,

Attended:

Tuesday, February 23 – Fox Valley Mental Health Ministry Initiative (breakfast meeting)

Thank you for the opportunity to attend my mother's memorial service in Florida (Feb 27th) and assisting my sister with final disposition of her business.

Upcoming:

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, March 20th. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services at 12 noon and 7 pm. Easter Day worship at 7, 9 and 10:30 am.

Again, my deep thanks for your expressions of sympathy following my mother's death. We are planning a memorial service here at St Andrew's on Saturday, April 30th to greet and thank the folks who knew my mother and befriended her here!

Devotion for Tuesday, 12 April, 2016: Kristi Cutts

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ziegler, Council Secretary

A complete set of the council minutes can be found on the narthex bulletin board.

New Around St. Andrew's:

Our sanctuary is now equipped with an Induction



Hearing Loop! Connect to the PA system with T-coil equipped hearing aids/cochlear implants. Simply switch your hearing aid to T-coil. Please let us know if you have any issues or concerns.

St. Andrew's also has a new assist door opener at the front entrance to the sanctuary. This enables both of our front doors to be accessible to all. Look for push buttons to operate the openers on posts outside of the doors, and on the wall on the interior of the building.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Did you know St. Andrew's has an AED Machine?
(Automatic External Defibrillator)



The AED is located on the wall directly across from the coat rack and lounge in the main hallway.

Classes on the use of the AED are coming soon!!

Prayer Around the Cross Is Back!



Wednesday, April 13, 2016

7 – 7:30 PM

The worship is simple in form, quiet and meditative: prayers and readings are read, simple songs are sung. During the worship there is time to light a candle, say prayers, and share the peace. We have LED candles so that little ones can come forward too. Many find the worship healing. Please plan to join us!



Want to leave a mark in Luther Land?

St. Andrew's can be a part of the Luthergarten in Wittenberg, Germany! Luthergarten is a park-like setting of 500 trees being created to represent religious communities and denominations from around the world. The design recreates the shape of the Luther Rose.

In 2017, Wittenberg, Germany will be the center of the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. This park, sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation, will be a focal point for the celebration of the life and work of Martin Luther.

A tree will be planted in the Luthergarten in St. Andrew's name, with a plaque identifying it as "our" tree. A "companion" tree will be planted here at St. Andrew's representing our partnership with faith communities around the world. \$1200 is needed to purchase and plant the trees and plaques. Contributions may be made to the "Luthergarten Tree Fund" by check or on our website. Contact Sandy Last or Pastor Karen for more information. They visited the garden while in Wittenberg!

Sights at St. Andrew's



Even the turkeys are flocking to get in to St. Andrew's! This flock visited the courtyard the morning of Mar.17.

Our Men's Choir sang on Good Friday at noon. The men get together 2 or 3 times a year to sing a "oldie goldie" for worship. Join us next time! See Sandy Last if you are interested.



We Love Lutheran Campus Ministry!



In April we are gathering an **in-kind offering** to support the UWO Lutheran Campus Ministry called "the Gathering Place." We are partnering with Oshkosh Conference ELCA churches to gather these items:

- Bear Creek Dry Soup Mix (Potato, Chicken, Broccoli, etc.) or similar dry soup mix**
- Spaghetti Sauce**
- Boxed and bagged Rice and Noodle Dinners**
- Pasta (Lasagna, Penne, Spaghetti)**
- Candy (family size bags) Chocolates, Starburst, etc.**
- Snack mixes (Trail Mix, Chex Mix, etc.)**
- Creamy soups (family size cans)**
- Dawn Dishwashing Liquid**

All items will be gathered in at the ECSW Synod Assembly.
Thank you!

QPR Training
Monday, April 18, 6:30 to 8:00pm
Question, Persuade, and Refer

These are 3 steps that can help save a life from suicide. Come to this training to learn how to recognize warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. It only takes this one course to become a "gatekeeper." Come learn how to offer hope.

Pre-registration required. Please call Debbie Peters at (920) 230-4840 or email office@communityforhope.org to register for this free course. Co-sponsored by NAMI -Oshkosh and Community For Hope.

4th Annual Oshkosh Money Conference Saturday, April 30, 2016 Oshkosh West High School 375 Eagle St, Oshkosh 54902

7:30 am Registration and light breakfast
8:30 am to 1:15 pm program

including workshops on personal finance, lunch, and an inspirational message by Tracy Butz.

Open to all ages, conference provides free child care, a free credit report, financial planners who can answer your personal finance questions, door prizes, and great education in how to be a better steward of what God has given you. Please plan to come!

*(Early bird special: Under 18 free, \$2.00 for adults.
At the door: \$4.00 per adult, \$1.00 per student.)*

Call UW Extension at 920 232-1970 for more info.

April Stewardship

Benjamin Franklin once said, “In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.”

Our faith tackles the certainty of death by following the One who tells us, “I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life.” (John 14:6)

We just kicked off the great celebration of Easter and renew our embrace of Jesus’ gift of life as we delve into the resurrection stories throughout the Easter season.

We just came through Holy Week – an intense time of meditating on Jesus’ Passion – his willing walk to the Cross for our sakes. He has shown us there is nowhere we will go that he has not been, and that everywhere we find ourselves – he will be there with us.

To empower the telling of the story of Jesus’ Passion, we had choirs singing, beautiful instrumental solos and accompaniments – for which we want to give our deep thanks.

But there were also all those “behind the scenes” folks who prepared the sanctuary with the décor – with the cloth that hangs from the cross in Lent, the palms that evoke Jesus riding into Jerusalem, the delightful flat bread baked by our students making their first communion (this year with the help of our confirmation students!). And the people who dressed our entryways with beautiful flowers and banners to lift up the joy of the Easter season!

One group who works all year, in all seasons, is the altar guild. In our monthly worship assistants’ calendar they are simply listed as “**altar set up,**” “**between,**” and “**clean up.**” They are listed quietly at the bottom of that sheet but they are very important for all of us! They prepare the communion for us each Sunday and for special festival days in the year.

They keep the altar cloths lovely and white in honor of our Lord Jesus. They tend the candles and the brass. And they fill those chalices, cups, and other vessels to welcome you and me to the meal that Jesus hosts for us: Holy Communion.

This group is mostly invisible but so very generous – I just wanted you to know that they are among us, offering the hospitality that Jesus bids us to enjoy together, making sure that it is BEST.

They make our altar and our worship space beautiful by hanging the paraments – the lovely banners that hang from our altar and our ambo in the colors of each season with the symbols of our Lord’s life among us – just so we may embrace that life in all its richness! LIFE in the face of the threat of death, whom Jesus conquers for us!

Well, the other issue that Ben Franklin raises is the issue of taxes. All of us are aware of TAX DAY – usually April 15th except when a weekend may give us a day or two extra before the deadline.

Taxes and finances in general are challenging to most of us. As Lutherans we believe that everything we have is a gift from God. Our financial gifts deserve to be treated with respect and faithfulness, no less than any other aspect of our lives.

So we have a **great** suggestion for you – consider the Oshkosh Money conference being offered at Oshkosh West High School on the morning of Saturday, April 30th this year.

It will give you a money makeover! It will help you think through your personal financial issues with greater comfort and freedom. I have gone every year that I could and I have learned so much!

Several of our St Andrew’s members have helped provide the education that has been offered in past years, plus folks from all over the Fox Valley who specialize in helping people make the most of their money resources to live the best life, rather than to live in fear.

Age appropriate resources for younger children, and workshops for young adults and adults: about credit management, budgets, savings, and strategies to manage household costs – all with people who are eager to help us get more out of life and have a happier, healthier community. What a great goal for April as our life unfolds in God’s love! Hope to see you there!



St. Andrew's Men with Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast –

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

Lunch –

Meet at Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson St.
Tuesday, Apr. 19, at noon

Art & Soul

April 23, 2016, 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, Apr. 11, at 10 am

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, Apr. 11, at 4 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, Apr. 12, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, Apr. 28, at 5:30 pm



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:



Youth News

BYG Camp

Who: Any child in 3rd grade through 6th grade



What: A weekend camp at [Imago Dei Village](#) for kids throughout our synod. It offers the opportunity to see what camp is like and to play, worship, and work together with other kids who love God as much as they do!

When: April 22-24, 2016 (Meet at St. Andrew's Friday, April 22 and drive up together. Please make sure your child is fed supper. We will return on Sunday about noon.)

Cost: \$100 per child. Please do not let cost be a deterrent, scholarship funds are available. Talk to Patty Koplitz or to Pastor.

Interested? Registration forms are available in the office. Please complete and return with the \$100 fee to the office by April 7, 2016.

YMT's

(Youth Ministry Team)

Serving Sinners and Saints Supper and Art Gala

Friday May 6th at St. Andrew's

We will be selling tickets for the supper, have silent auction items and prizes will be raffled. We will also be debuting our video! More information available and tickets on sale soon!

April Noisy Offering

The April 17 Noisy Offering is designated for the ELCA Synod Offering. The offering will be given at the [East Central Synod of Wisconsin Synod](#) Assembly, May 20 and 21, used to support the ELCA World Hunger Fund and the Bishop's Resource Fund.