

# *St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

## *Newsletter*

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

August 2016

August 7 10:00 am tree planting & mortgage burning

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Dear friends,

I can remember lying in the curve of my father's arm and telling him very seriously (at about age 3 or 4) that I was going to go to college. I don't know what put it in my head at that age but it was my dream from tiny on!

And when my turn came to start school at age 5 I was so excited I couldn't sleep the night before. I had a new dress and I would be getting on the school bus with my big sister! And I loved it!

So school has always been such a joy – such a treasure. In late July, all through August, I am feeling those great back-to-school feelings.

And so, I would like to thank you, St Andrew's friends and members, thank you as someone who was given the tools and the education to help my dreams come true. And I would also like to thank you as a teacher who has taught children overseas who had nothing but the room they gathered in and the chalk in my hand as school supplies for their learning.

I would like to thank you for supporting the Oshkosh Back to School Fair that provides basic needs for over 1,000 children in our community who are not able to go back to school without the help of their neighbors in Oshkosh!

And I would like to thank you for supporting St Andrew's drive for the Lutheran World Relief school kits that provide basic needs for children who are refugees of disasters, both natural and human-made. They are transformed by your gifts and your support.

It has been a delight to work side-by-side with the folks at St Andrew's who make this one of our mission efforts – to help children go to school and be equipped to enter their best dreams and make them reality. Do you know how you have helped make the world a better place for them and for us all?

I am proud that as Lutherans we support children, youth, and adults in their ongoing life-long learning. Martin Luther worked for years with his friends, especially Philip Melancthon, to make education accessible to many more people than before, so that they could make intelligent decisions, read the bible for themselves, and become the people that God was calling them to become.

You are right in line with their efforts which our Lutheran tradition has embraced now for 500 years! Thank you.

And finally, I would like to ask you to lift up in your prayers the unsung heroes in our midst – the teachers of our children, youth, and adults.

It was never an easy job – to be a people person, to figure out the multiple intelligences even before we had heard of that concept! To be evaluating and then offering education to folks with varied capacities and varying commitment to learning. To become a guide, demonstrator, lecturer, mentor, cheerleader, coach, and sometimes comforter.

It has not gotten easier in this time of rapidly changing technology, wide ranging opinions and directives about discipline, content, and outcomes.

Teachers are one of the chief ways God blesses each of us. Please ask God to bless them, as they prepare for a new autumn with all its challenges. Please remember to thank God for them as they bless us and our families once again.

And thank you!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

We would like to offer a blessing for school backpacks on Sunday, **August 21**, at both worship services. If you would like yours blessed, feel free to bring your backpack to worship!

## **Church Council Meeting Highlights**

Tuesday 12th July, 2016

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

**Treasurer's report:** Matt Moore presented the financial statements. Motions made and carried to approve reports.

### **Old Business:**

**Phones:** Jakob Iversen updated the council as to the status of the new internet phones.

### **New Business:**

**Council Retreat:** Jane Martinez discussed the council retreat on Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at St. Andrew's from 10:00 – 12:00. The council will then reconvene at Lutheran Homes from 12:00 – 3:00.

### **Christian Action Report (Kristi Cutts):**

The Christian Action Committee met on Saturday July 9, 2016. Discussed: Missionary Pilot visit 7/24 and the EAA meal for missionary pilots on 7/31. Plans are continuing for God's Work, Our Hands Day, 9/11/16. We plan to have a Chili Cook Off, and a variety of missionary projects for the congregation to participate in. Our next meeting is Aug. 13 at 2:30 PM. New committee members are always welcome.

### **Congregational Life (Rose Rivera):**

No Report

### **Education (Linda Ellman):**

No Report

### **Evangelism (Jay Klinger):**

No report

### **Fellowship/Hospitality Report (Chris Ziegler):**

On Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>, there will be a fellowship event scheduled for between services, and continue after second service. A ceremony will be held to plant a sister tree to the one our congregation is sponsoring in the Luthergarten in Wittenberg, Germany. The hole will be dug by the youth group, and the tree will be prepared for planting. Anyone from the congregation that is interested in attending the ceremony is encouraged to bring a small amount

of soil from their own garden to bless the new tree. There are bags available at the base of the display for you to bring your garden with you. Immediately following the tree planting ceremony, we will have a symbolic "Burning of the Mortgage". We will bless the tree with the mortgage ashes as well. After the "burning", there will be brats and chips served in the Fellowship Hall along with some German root beer and a special Lemonade type drink. A cake honoring both events will be served following the meal. Any members that would like to bring a salad or side to share are encouraged to do so.

### **Property Report (Warren Luce):**

Warren met with the Hmong congregation representative to discuss wants and needs that their congregation has. They are more than willing to help achieve those goals in any way. Property is currently discussing options for the installation of the hallway carpet on the east side of the sanctuary. The remnants will not be sufficient to cover the entire hallway. With a recent and generous donation to property projects, the committee will move forward with the repair/replacement of the retaining wall in front of the Fellowship Hall as well as repairing holes in some exterior walls.

### **Stewardship/Discipleship Report (Ann Stephan):**

No Report

### **Technology (Jakob Iversen):**

The new phone system (Ooma) has arrived, but the actual phones needed to be swapped out. Testing should start around July 20 when the correct phones arrive. Pastor's new computer has arrived and will be set up and configured on July 26. Jakob to explore any issues involved in signing up for Office 365 as a non-profit. Actual sign-up will occur after we have an official church credit card. Facebook posts are becoming more common. Be sure to check out and Like the page. Next month, we will discuss switching to an opt-out permission system for photos, as well as a revised policy for taking pictures during services. Once Pastor's computer is set up we will explore replacing the desk printer. Next meeting: August 9 at 8:30am

### **Worship & Music (Peg Olson):**

July liturgy will use the gospel acclamation for Lent. Pastor Clarence Harms will preside on Sunday, July 17. July 31 worship will incorporate requested hymns throughout the services. .

Reminder - Bless the Pets is set for August 28 at late service. Volunteers are needed to set up outdoor service on August 28. Peg will ask Council members. Choir members will help with food collection and chili cook-off on God's Work/Our Hands Day September 11.

**President's Report (Jane Martinez):**

I have been working on the Choir Director, Organist, and Financial Secretary job descriptions. Drafts have been sent to the staff currently holding these positions for input and finalization. The Constitution revisions have been completed. We will check later this fall to see if any further changes to the constitution are needed based on the ELCA recommendations. The constitution will then be presented to the congregation at the next annual meeting. The Employee Handbook is completed. Copies will be made available to each council member as well as staff as soon as they are printed and collated.

**Pastor's Report (Pastor Karen Jewell):**

**Members:** As soon as the phones are installed we plan to contact all members who did not pick up a membership packet and invite their feedback – make sure they are connected with us or encouraged to connect with a congregation and active faith life, if possible.

**Congregational life:** A time of many acute and severe illnesses among our members. Prayers have never been more appreciated! Thank you to members and prayer chain members for your faithfulness.

**Worship and Education:** developing the basic outline of the Combined worship, education and committee calendar for August 1, 2016 to October 1 2017.

**Community:** St Andrew's will be the site of the October meeting of ESTHER's Faith and Values meeting.

**Upcoming:** Retreat and vacation days: July 13-14 vacation, **Courage and Renewal retreat** July 15-17, vacation July 18 to 21, 2016. **Continuing Education in Family Faith formation:** – Sept 29 to October 1, 2016

LifeLong Faith Associates (John Roberto)

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Ziegler, Council Secretary

*A complete set of minutes is available on Narthex bulletin board.*

## *Saints Alive!*



I met Helen Mueller in June, 1998, at a worship service in the courtyard when my mother and I were welcomed as St. Andrew's members. A picnic followed, and two delightful couples immediately sat down with us - Helen and Dick Mueller and Edie and Kermit Johnson. We knew right away that this was a special community that "just happened" to be in our new neighborhood. When asked about her extensive service to St. Andrew's and the Oshkosh community, Helen says, "Because God says when we're blessed, we have to give back to the community. I was brought up that way, and my husband and I tried to set an example for our kids. How else would they learn?"

Helen's own parents and grandparents modeled service to others from "way back." Helen's maternal grandmother, who lived with Helen and her parents, started a home for the elderly in Milwaukee. Even earlier, her grandmother's family had taken in children whose parents had died of disease. Helen's mother served two terms on the Wauwatosa library board. "They did a lot of good."

Helen and Dick Mueller have done "a lot of good, as well." Helen and Dick were instrumental in the establishment of Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh, beginning with Bethel Home in the 1960s and continuing with LHO's development of additional facilities for long-term, memory, and assisted care, independent living, and rehabilitation.

Lorraine Negendank says that after her own husband died, Helen invited her to join UWO's Learning in Retirement organization and Helen's PEO group. "Helen is a true Christian who never misses church - she's always been active at St. Andrew's and continues to serve on the recording team."

Helen also has served on the Altar Committee, the Intern Pastor Committee, the Back-to-School Fair, and many other areas. She has a meaningful tradition she would like to share with others - every year on January 1st, the first check she writes is to St. Andrew's.

By Peg Olson

## Luthergarten Tree Planting



THANK YOU to all for supporting our Luthergarten project! As you know, we have met our goal, and a tree will be planted in the Luthergarten, Wittenberg, Germany in St. Andrews' name on August 8, 2016. The garden is being created to represent religious communities and denominations from around the world in honor of the life and work of Martin Luther as part of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

A "companion" tree will be planted here at St. Andrew's representing our partnership with faith communities around the world on **Sunday, August 7, between worship services at 10 AM.** Please join us!



To symbolize our thankfulness and partnership with our fellow believers around the world, we are asking for you to also **bring a small amount of soil** from your home to plant our tree in. Plastic bags are available in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall for you to use. We will all be blessing the tree together in thankfulness of our fellow believers around the world!



## Mortgage Burning

We are thrilled to be able to announce that our mortgage will be paid off as of August, 2016! Praise the Lord, and thank you for your generosity! To celebrate, we will have a **mortgage burning along with the tree planting on Sunday, Aug. 7** – and bury the ashes with the tree. Please plan to attend!



## Brat 'n Root Beer



Our tree planting/mortgage burning will be followed by a "rolling" **brat 'n root beer meal beginning at 10:30 am and "rolling" through the noon hour.** 10:30 am worshippers can join in the fun and enjoy their meal after worship. Brats n' Root Beer, lemonade and cake will be provided. Please plan to attend and bring a salad or side to share.

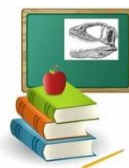
## **Tone Chime Choir** **Sunday, August 21, 2016**



All are welcome to sing and/or play tone chimes for both services on Aug. 21. We will then go to Eden Rehab to sing a few songs for the residents. No music reading is necessary. Songs will be known hymns. We will have a brief rehearsal on Wednesday, Aug. 17, at 7 pm. Questions? Contact Brenda Francis, 920-267-2383, or [brenda\\_at\\_standrews@yahoo.com](mailto:brenda_at_standrews@yahoo.com)

## **Oshkosh Back to School Fair 2016**

(& our Christmas in July Tree in entryway)



The Back to School Fair takes place on **August 11, 2016** from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m at Oaklawn Elementary School, 112 Viola Ave. It helps 1,000+ area students get ready to go back to school with school supplies, clothing, haircuts, and hygiene items.



St Andrew's Christmas tree in our entry way is loaded with tags to suggest needed items that we can collect and provide to support this community effort. Thank you for taking part! The items can be left at the tree, (unwrapped) and will be collected through Sunday, August 7, before the Fair.

## August Noisy Offering



The August 21 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.



# God's work. Our hands.

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016  
10:00 am

Please plan to join us!

Projects you can get involved with:

Chili Cook-Off, making fleece blankets for Children's Hospital, collecting food from the neighborhood for the food pantry, making cards for homebound folks, penny challenge (bring back the Good Gift piggy banks), donate items for the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry food backpack program and for nursing homes.

See lists below for donations needed. Contact Carol Spiegelberg for more information.

## God's work, Our hands projects

### Items Needed:

Thank you in advance for any donations you may help with.

Fleece fabric, 4 yd. pieces or 2- 2yd pieces (needed by Aug. 21)

#### Nursing Home Items:

Body spray, lotion, wash (men's and lady's)  
Deodorant and lip balms  
Small bags of chips, Cheetos, etc.  
Crossword and jigsaw puzzles  
Pens  
Bead necklaces  
Headbands and ponytail holders  
CDs  
Hard candy

#### OACP Backpack needs:

Tuna in a pouch  
Jars of peanut butter  
Jif peanut butter and applesauce on the go  
Jelly  
Fruit, jello, and pudding cups  
Instant oatmeal  
Small boxes of cereal  
Microwave macaroni  
Crackers and saltines  
Granola bars  
Chef Boyardee microwaveable meals

## Lutheran World Relief School Kits

The school supply sales have begun! It's a great time to take advantage of the sales and to consider contributing items for our LWR school kits.



Children around the world will be so blessed with your kindness. Donations may be placed in the designated box near the Fellowship Hall Door. Items needed for one kit are:

- four 70 notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper
- one blunt scissors (safety scissors with imbedded steel blades)
- 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 stick ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- one eraser (approximately 2 1/2" long)
- one box of 16 or 24 crayons

## Looking ahead to September



**Sept 11 – 10 am Sunday School registration** (find us in the Fellowship Hall)

**Sept 11 – 10:00 am - 1:00 pm God's Work, Our Hands day** (find us in the Fellowship Hall to help with our missions – more info elsewhere in this newsletter)

**Sept 18 - 9 am Sunday School begins** (Begin in worship with your family, then meet your teacher!)

**Wed Sept 7 – 6 pm Confirmation orientation** – please come with your student.

**Wed Sept 14 – 6 pm Confirmation classes begin!**





## Stewardship

Technological stewardship is on our minds a lot these days. People often comment on when it is appropriate to receive or send a phone call, to be playing games, to be texting or checking texts and to be conducting other technology-based communications (e.g. please not during Confirmation class!).

At Synod Assembly this year, a break out session encouraged us to encourage our members to bring their phones with all attendant technology to worship! They said it can be a time of sharing with others what you have experienced (and hopefully been blessed by) in worship, so God blesses them.

But just like any power we have: **with great power comes great responsibility** (just ask SpiderMan!)

So when we bring our technology to worship, we want it to function without interrupting or impeding our neighbor's worship or our own. Likewise, in every home we need to think about how to use it, when not to use it, and consider how it is affecting our relationship with others.

In worship it is a no brainer that technology should be silent. And there are better times to use it if we do, so that it doesn't interrupt our communing with God and our communications with each other.

It is always a great idea to ask God to help us with our powers, and to guide us in our relationships. On the internet there are at least two covenants (statements of mutual promise and responsibility) that are meant to help families with digital conduct.

If you are interested here are the sites and we will have copies at St Andrew's for you to pick up.  
[http://www.digitalkidsinitiative.com/files/2012/01/family\\_covenant.pdf](http://www.digitalkidsinitiative.com/files/2012/01/family_covenant.pdf) and [http://stickyjesus.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/FNL\\_SJ\\_FamGrndRules.pdf](http://stickyjesus.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/FNL_SJ_FamGrndRules.pdf)

Blessings be on all your relationships with God and each other. Blessings on your stewardship!



## St. Andrew's Men with Purpose (STAMP)

### Breakfast –

Meet at the Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St.  
**Saturday, August 13 at 8:00 am**

### Lunch –

Meet at Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson St.  
**Tuesday, August 16, at noon**

### Art & Soul

**August 27, 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.

### Christian Action Committee

Saturday, August 13, at 2:30 pm

### Technology Committee

Tuesday, August 9, at 8:30 am

### Worship & Music Committee

Monday, August 8, at 1 pm

### Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 9, at 7 pm

### Property Committee

Thursday, Aug. 25, at 6 pm

