



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

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

December 2017  
Advent Wednesdays (6th, 13th, 20th) noon & 7 pm

Dear friends,

Happy New (Church) Year!

May God use this new Church year to bless you with growing faith, expanding vision, and most of all, an abiding sense of the presence of God's love for you and all that you hold dear!

Just like the new calendar year, the new church year gives us a chance to re-form our faith life – add or renew faith practices that deepen us.

During Advent we have additional worship times – times to pray, sing and offer our praise to God; times to hear the stories and ponder the generous gift of Jesus Christ come among us as one of us.

We can light an Advent wreath, read bible passages and pray once a week or every day together with our family and friends. (We have a whole handout for you of prayers and readings if you would like them – just pick it up at church, or let us know if you would like us to send or deliver it!)

In Advent I encourage you especially to read the first two chapters of Luke's gospel and the first two chapters of Matthew's gospel – to get the whole story of Christmas and what leads up to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

Luke's story of Zechariah – the father of John the Baptist – reminds us that it is NEVER too late for God to act in our lives – to bring us new hope and new delight in this life and in this world.

Zechariah and Elizabeth, praying long and hard for a child, receive that amazing gift when they thought they were far too old. Zechariah can't believe it when an angel of God tells him the news!

When the baby is born, Zechariah bursts out with prophecy and song – promises of God that pertain to you and me as much as they pertained to the folks of 2,000 years ago:

*In the tender compassion of our God  
the dawn from on high shall break upon us  
to shine on those who dwell in darkness  
and the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

*(Luke 1:78-79)*

The way of peace – who doesn't want to walk that way?

God gives us so many avenues for communication – our worship together, our reading of the words and stories in the bible, our times of prayer – of the two way conversations with God, even the words of friends and strangers – when they give us some gift of encouragement that we didn't expect.

In our faith tradition, there are many more words to share that bring us the presence of God's goodness and guidance – our catechisms Large and Small, our many books of sermons, lectures and letters of Martin Luther and other reformers.

We have grown our library of Lutheran resources at church – in case you would like to explore more of these for your own faith education and development!

In addition to all of this, I would like to invite you to talk with me at a time that works for you about faith and our congregation and what you feel God is calling you to do or be in this new church year!

I thought a few set times would help. I will be here at church each Wednesday in Advent from 11 to 12 noon in the front Lounge to sit and talk with whoever comes. (That's Wed Dec 6, 13, and 20). But I would also be happy to meet with you at another time that is good for you. Please call (920) 235-6616 or email me:

[pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org)

so that we can set a good time for you! Please let's talk together about the things that matter to you! And have a Happy New (church) Year!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

## Highlights of Church Council Meeting

Tuesday November 14th, 2017

**Present:** Jane Martinez, Jay Klinger, Chris Ziegler, Matt Moore, Rose Rivera, Warren Luce, Jakob Iversen, Jackie Kuhn, Pastor Karen Jewell

**Excused:** Linda Ellman, Ann Stephan, Peg Olson

**Guest:** Jim Heidl

**Call to Order:** 7:08 pm by Jane Martinez

**Devotions:** Rose Rivera – Susan Vreeland – No matter where life takes you...

**Treasurer's report:** Matt Moore presented the October bills paid, the balance sheets, and the profit and loss statement for year to date vs budget & year to date vs previous year. **Jay Klinger made a motion** to approve the October bills paid, **Rose Rivera seconded** the motion. **Motion approved.** **Jay Klinger made a motion** to approve the treasurer's reports, **Jackie Kuhn seconded** the motion. **Motion approved.**

### **Old Business:**

**Building Remodeling Update:** Warren Luce reported that the Property Remodel focus group met. Corey Wallace did a short presentation outlining possible plans and elevations based on previous property discussions. A rendering of one plan option and elevation were put on a display board and will be set out in the Narthex for congregation members to be able to see what is being discussed. The next meeting of the focus group will be Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup>. Warren stated that they are hoping for a couple more members for the focus group.

**Feed the Children Update:** Pastor reported that the Feed The Children committee are putting together the final costs of the 2017 program to help be able to budget for possible operating costs for 2018, if the program is to be renewed for a second year. It is hoped to be able to discuss the costs and budgets at the December council meeting.

**Trunk-O-Ween:** Jay Klinger reported that the event was held on October 28<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 – 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. It was decided to hold the event indoors because of the cold and wet weather

predicted. There were an estimated 40 children that participated in the event along with parents and guardians. There were several different activities that the children could participate in to win candy and prizes. The games included basketball shooting, football toss, noodle floaties thrown through a hula hoop, bean bag toss, and a bucket toss. The Fellowship hall was full and everyone seemed to enjoy the activities and event very much. There was coffee, hot apple cider, and snacks for those wishing to take a break. At the end, each family was able to take home a large pumpkin for Halloween carving or decoration. Special thanks to Sue Jansen, Chris Ziegler, Rose Rivera, Pastor Karen Jewell, Brenda Francis Sandy Walth, and The Stephens (Ann, Nora & Faith). Without their help, this event would not have been possible, or such a success.

**Nominating Committee:** Jane Martinez informed the council that there would be another Nominating Committee meeting Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm. They are hoping to get the spots filled before the next council meeting.

**Church Cleaning Services:** Warren is hoping to have a price quote for services to be able to bring to the December meeting,

**Constitution:** Talked with the council regarding making copies of the proposed constitution revisions available for review in the Narthex and also online. It is possible also to email copies for any members that would prefer to receive a digital copy instead.

### **New Business:**

**Review of Time & Talent Sheets:** Ann Stephan was not present to discuss any possible changes to the volunteer sheet. Pastor Karen Suggested that each committee chair should review their section of the sign-up sheet and email the suggestions to Ann and the church office.

**Annual Meeting Agenda:** Jane Martinez asked the council what should be focused on during this year's annual meeting. The two known topics will be the 2018 budget and discussion of the proposed constitution changes. It was suggested to lift up the proposed missions for 2018 as well. Jane will get a draft of the agenda to the council via email for review and discussion.

## **Christian Action Report (Jackie Kuhn):**

### **Feeding the Children**

Thankfully, donations exceeded expenses for our Feed the Children effort. We currently have \$5608.38 remaining in that fund with a few expenses to be submitted. Discussed where to place the remaining funds. Options will be discussed at the next meeting.

**Thrivent Grant for meals** – we applied for and received a matching grant to provide meals to our community over the holidays. Those meals hopefully will include the **Fire Station, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Father Carr's, Christine Ann Center and the Oshkosh Community Pantry.** Committee will sponsor meals as funds allow. Donations are appreciated.

### **Human Trafficking**

Awareness training at All Saints took place on Saturday, November 11, at 8 AM

### **Winnebago Mental Health Institute**

St Andrew's will participate in the WMHI 2017 Christmas Project. We will set up a tree with requests for various items.

### **Noisy Offerings for remaining 2017**

November – K9s for Veterans

December – Covered in Hope

**Christian Action will meet again on Tuesday, December 5, at 6 PM. Please join us!**

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

The technology committee is looking into cost of installing and monitoring of a video remote entry security system at the Fellowship/Education entrance.

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

---Confirmation Classes began Wednesday, **September 13** at 6 pm. (14 students in 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> grades – began the year with 15 students, but one student moved away to Ohio. Peg Olson and Rose Rivera are the other two teachers.

---Thursday, Sept 14 – I attended the Synod Healthy boundaries workshop focused on Social media at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Appleton.

--week of vacation Sept 21<sup>st</sup> to 28th. Pastor Clarence Harms was our preacher/presider on Sunday, September 24.

--Wed Oct 4 Chaplain Monte Smith of Homme Youth and Family Services visited our confirmation classes.

---Synod Theological Conference -- Mon to Wed, **October 9 to 11**-- three days of continuing education. Preaching and Social Justice sessions plus ELCA future plans.

--Wed October 18<sup>th</sup> – two services of healing – interactive prayer stations, very well received.

--October 29<sup>th</sup> – celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniv of the beginning of the Reformation.

--Fri – Sat, November 3 – 4 – Took part in a Synodical congregational ministry review at another church in our synod – learning about how to redevelop the vitality and mission of a congregation. Really valuable experience!

--Nov 6<sup>th</sup> – Professional Advisory group meeting

---Executive Committee met to choose level of health care benefits for 2018. I completed my sign-up early this month.

--Friday Nov 10<sup>th</sup> – Regional Portico seminar in Wausau and also my 26<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ordination

### **Upcoming**

--Wednesday Nov 15<sup>th</sup> is my 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of beginning ministry at St Andrew's.

--Mon Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – Interfaith Festival of Gratitude 7 pm at Grand Opera House

--Wed Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – Joint Lutheran Thanksgiving Eve worship at Christ Lutheran, Church Ave

--Sunday Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> – Advent begins with a visit from Oshkosh West High School madrigal singers at 10 am

--Advent Wed worship Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> at 12noon and 7 pm each week.

--Sunday Dec 10<sup>th</sup> – Oshkosh North High School madrigal singers at 8:40 am

### **Devotion for Tuesday, December 12, 2017: Ann Stephan**

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM

Closing Prayer – Pastor Karen

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Ziegler, Council Secretary

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

## Christian Action



### Winnebago Mental Health Institute 2017 Christmas Gift Project

We will be setting out a **Donation box** seeking donations for the patients at WMHI. The following items would be greatly appreciated:

- Phone cards 60 – 120 minutes FROM A LAND LINE – available at Pick and Save
- Stationary (no wire)
- Chocolate bars
- Women's deodorant and body spray
- Squeeze lotion (no pumps)
- Shampoo (no pumps)
- Conditioner (no pumps)
- Women's body wash
- Store gift cards Wal-Mart, Target, Shopko, etc.
- Women's coin purses
- Journals (no wire)
- Women's winter hats (no scarves)
- Craft store gift cards (Hobby Lobby Michaels)
- Adult male and female winter gloves (no scarves)
- Children's items – please call for specifics 920-235-4910 X2311
- Large unit gifts – Wii games, DVDs, sports equipment
- Checks to *Patient Events Trust Fund #20*

Donations may be placed in the box in the hallway through Sunday Dec 17<sup>th</sup>! Thank you!

### **Holiday Meals for Folks in our Community**

We have received a **THRIVENT** matching grant to provide festive meals and food to people in our community over the holidays. Donations of food or meal items will be provided to the crews at our **Fire Station**, people coming to **Father Carr's Place 2 Be** and the **Oshkosh Area Community Pantry**. Financial donations, gift cards, or donations of turkeys or hams, non-perishable food, and canned goods are appreciated. Please bring them **by Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you!



## *Madrigals Singers* Christmas Joy

We are in store for a special treat that will be provided by the Oshkosh High School Madrigals Singers.

- On Sunday, December 3, the Oshkosh West Madrigals will sing for us at 10:00 am, after the first service.
- On Sunday, December 10, the Oshkosh North Madrigals will perform at 8:40 am, before the first service.

*These singing groups add so much to the holiday season, and we are doubly blessed this year by both high school choirs. Enjoy!*

### Advent & Christmas Worship Services



*Advent Worship Services on Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20, at 12 noon & 7:00 pm. We gather for a half hour of worship.*

*Thursday, December 21 - Blue Christmas worship at 12:00 noon and 7:00 pm - a peaceful and comforting service especially for those dealing with grief at the holidays.*

*Sundays, December 3 & 10 at 9 & 10:30 am  
Advent Holy Communion*

*Sunday, December 17*

*9:00 Holy Communion  
10:30 am Sunday School Christmas worship*

*Sunday, December 24, Christmas Eve*

*9 & 10:30 am Advent Holy Communion  
6:30 carols by request  
7:00 Lessons and Carols  
11:00 Candlelight Holy Communion*

*Monday, December 25, Christmas Day  
Holy Communion 10:00 am*

*Sunday, December 31, New Year's Eve  
9 and 10:30 am Holy Communion*

**You are welcome!**

# Youth News



BYG (Beginning Youth Group) Game Day  
Saturday, Dec. 9  
2 - 4 pm

Kids from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through high school age are welcome to come and play games. Bring a game to share if you like. And- be prepared for some Hid and Seek! See you then!

## Youth Candy Sale

The Amish candy that has been ordered through the Youth Group **will be ready for pickup** on Sunday December 17<sup>th</sup>. If you are not available that day, please feel free to stop by the office during office hours to pick it up. Thanks so much for your support of the Youth Ministry Team! We appreciate the help!

## Sunday School led Christmas Worship

December 17, 2017  
10:30 am

Come and celebrate with our children on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am** as our Sunday School offers a Christmas worship. Our children will be telling the Christmas story as found in their bibles.

(Dress rehearsal for our Sunday School worship is on Saturday, December 16 from 10 to 11:30 am.)



Don't forget, Confirmands: on Wednesday, December 27 – no class during the Christmas school break. On Wednesday, January 3, we resume studies!

## Stewardship



Thank you for worshipping with us at St. Andrew's and thank you for your support of God's mission at St Andrew's with your gifts of time, talent and treasure.

Did you know that you can make your gifts to St Andrew's electronically? If you would like to do so, you may use our secure webpage:

[standrewsoshkosh.org](http://standrewsoshkosh.org)

Or you may use the short URL

<http://bit.do/stagiving> or use the QR Code:



## December Noisy Offering



The December 17 Noisy Offering is designated for Covered in Hope, a blanket ministry for children in crisis. Blankets will be made here at St. Andrew's and donated to area organizations for the children. Thank you for considering this mission! (*Our August Noisy Offering was sent to Emmeline Cook School instead of Covered in Hope – so your Dec. offering will be used to fund for this project.*)

Last month's noisy offering of \$121.69 was designated for [K9 for Veterans](#) to help veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder.

## Volunteer Opportunities

Ascension Mercy Hospital has opportunities for volunteer callers to phone area churches between 8-10 am to inform them of patient admissions. Other opportunities also available. Contact Volunteer Services at 920-223-0225.



**St. Andrew's Men with a Purpose (STAMP)**

**Breakfast**

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St  
Saturday, December 9, at 8:00 am

**Lunch**

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

**Art & Soul**

**Saturday, December 9**

**10:30 am – 4:00 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.

**Committee Meetings**

All members welcome!



**Christian Action Committee**

Monday, December 5, at 6 pm

**Technology Committee**

Tuesday, December 12, at 2 pm

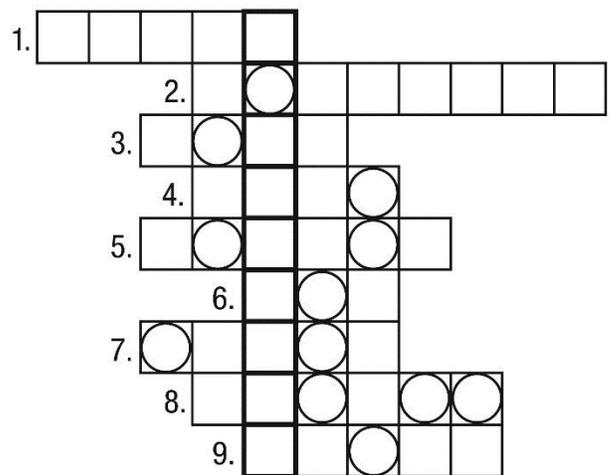
**Council Meeting**

Tuesday, December 12, at 7 pm



# Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks. Then write the word from the boldface vertical column. Also unscramble the circled letters to reveal a seasonal phrase.



1. Carolers and instrumentalists make this
2. What happens at malls
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to her
4. You'll find this under a Christmas tree
5. He was a carpenter
6. Joseph had to pay this in Bethlehem
7. The "ship of the desert"
8. Cattle eat out of this
9. Shepherds tend this

**Bold word:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Seasonal phrase:** \_\_\_\_\_

Answers: music, shopping, Mary, gift, Joseph, tax, camel, manger, sheep, Christmas, peace on earth

Looking Ahead...

To January

**Wednesday, January 3**, Confirmation resumes

**Sunday, January 7**, Sunday School resumes

**Sunday, Jan. 28**, 9 am Holy Communion

10:30 am Annual Meeting

(NO worship is offered at 10:30 am today)