



# 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 2016  
Advent Wed worship at 12 noon & 7 pm

Dear friends,

Welcome to Advent!

In the Church, Advent is a season of contrast: growing light in a time of growing darkness outside (at least up here in the Northern Hemisphere). One blue candle lights the wreath, then two, then three, and four as Advent weeks pass and we come to Christmas.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in a sermon for the First Sunday of Advent (in 1933), likened it to being a miner trapped in a mine disaster but straining to hear the rescuers coming to help him.

He notes: *The moment even the most courageous miner has dreaded his whole life long is here. It is no use running into the walls, the silence all around him remains....*

*But suddenly a noise that sounds like tapping and breaking in the rock can be heard. Unexpectedly, voices cry out, "Where are you, help is on the way!" Then the disheartened miner picks himself up, his heart leaps, he shouts, "Here I am, come on through and help me! I'll hold out until you come! Just come soon!" A final, desperate hammer blow to his ear, now the rescue is near, just one more step and he is free.*

*We have spoken of Advent itself.*

*(A Testament to Freedom, p. 235)*

I realize that this is a far different picture than that presented in the busy American life – where many folks are hanging lights and decorations, shopping, cooking, cleaning – dashing through the snow!

That's OK! Just when the daylight is headed to its shortest time for us, the Advent candlelight grows greater and greater. We opt for quieter, simpler worship in the face of busy and sometimes noisy celebration in the world. Advent does contradict the externals around us to help us with some of our "eternals" inside of us.

Can you see yourself as the miner – trapped by something in your life so that you long for relief and release?

The gospel texts this month will invite us to listen to John the Baptist, who called his people to a renewed relationship with God even as they languished in deep political misery as a conquered people.

We aren't a conquered people as Americans but we recognize the powers that bind us into ways of life that aren't life-giving, patterns of actions that harm us and others – in situations that our faith tradition identifies as sin.

So maybe we can see ourselves as the miner caught in the disaster – needing to hold on until rescue comes.

And it is surely coming – God has promised and God keeps promises. God promises in Jesus Christ to rescue us from sin and evil. And so we hope in the promise of God, to work our freedom from sin, and to bring us out *so that we might walk in newness of life.* (Romans 6:4)

And in that newness, we get to be part of God's rescue efforts for others – for our hungry neighbors, the one in nine people everywhere in this world who are hungry today, who don't have enough food or any food, today.

We are invited to be part of God's rescue for them, whether they live in Oshkosh or some other part of our world.

Thank you for being a people engaged in hope – the hope of Advent, hoping in the growing light, hoping in the promises of God, eagerly awaiting God's rescue and joining in the ongoing rescue of our brothers and sisters wherever they may be in God's creation. In Advent hope, may God's peace be yours!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

**Church Council Meeting**  
Tuesday 8th November, 2016

**Present:** Pastor Karen, Jane Martinez, Matt Moore, Chris Ziegler, Jay Klinger, Warren Luce, Kristi Cutts, Peg Olson, Rose Rivera

**Excused:** Jakob Iversen, Linda Ellman, Ann Stephan

**Call to Order:** 7:05 pm by Jane Martinez

**Devotions:** Peg Olson – All Saints – Paul's Letter to the Ephesians 4:11-13

**Treasurer's report:** Matt Moore presented the October bills paid, and the balance sheets were presented. Profit and loss statement for year to date vs budget & year to date vs previous year were presented. **Kristi Cutts made a motion** to the approve the October bills paid, **Rose Rivera seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.** **Kristi Cutts made a motion** to the approve the treasurer's report, **Peg Olson seconded** the motion. **Motion carried.**

**Old Business:**

**Grounds Security:** Warren Luce informed the council that Witzke Electric will start the installation and repair of the exterior security lighting this week. Accucom will look into scheduling the installation of door contacts for the pavilion building.

**Unlocked doors:** There have been no other noted incidents since Chris brought it to the council's attention at the September meeting.

**New Business:**

**Purchase of AED electrodes:** **Pastor Karen made a motion** to purchase a set of electrodes (used for training on AED procedures) to an amount not to exceed \$300 with the money to come from Memorial Funds. **Peg Olson seconded** the motion. **Motion approved.**

**Nominating Committee (update):** Kristi Cutts updated the council as to the progress of the nominating. The Nominating Committee member positions to be filled by outgoing council members were selected.

**FLSA (update):** Jane Martinez reported to the council a summary from "The Deacon's Bench" covering the classification and status of the various classifications of church employees and staff as it relates to overtime pay, etc. Any questions should be directed to Jane Martinez.

**Review of 2017 Budget: (discussion):** Matt Moore presented the first draft of the 2017 budget as determined by the finance committee. The council discussed the overall approach to the 2017 budget and identified areas that they wanted to focus on. Some changes were suggested, and a revised draft will be distributed to the council via email.

**Evangelism Advertising:** Jay Klinger discussed the advertising both for the phone book as well as the newspaper. Pastor Karen said that she would forward the information on to Jay when the renewal information becomes available.

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

The Christian Action Committee met on October 22, 2016. The committee developed a budget for 2017 and discussed plans for extending Christian compassion to all creatures in 2017.

It was decided to focus this work around 4 key themes:

- 1) **Children** (E. Cook, LWR School Kits, and Oshkosh Back to School Fair)
- 2) **Pets/Care of Creation** (Oshkosh Area Humane Society, K9, and Assistance Animals)
- 3) **Food** (Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, ELCA World Hunger)
- 4) **Shelter/Homelessness** (World Relief, Day by Day, Father Carrs, Salvation Army, Saint Vincent DePaul).

Details plans will be developed at future meetings. All are welcome to participate in this committee work.

**Property (Warren Luce):**

Warren Luce reported that the carpet and tile in the Narthex and hallway in front of the lounge will be done in two phases:

Phase 1: The carpet in front of the sanctuary should be completed before the holidays.

Phase 2: The tile in front of the sanctuary entrance and the hallway in front of the lounge will be done after January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Next Property Meeting: December 1<sup>st</sup> @ 6:00 pm

**Technology (Jakob Iversen):**

**Telephones:** Call quality is much better with the faster Internet connection, but there are still some issues. Sandy to check with TWC to have them test for signal strength and whether there's any interference. We are looking at getting either the narthex or kitchen phone working through Ooma.

**Alarm System:** Up and running again connecting over the Internet connection. Staff had a review of reset procedure on panic buttons earlier in the month. Current schedule for arm/disarm is 11:00pm – 7:00am.

**Budget for 2017:** Will be combining technology and office operations to get a fuller picture of church operations in one budget. This will include Ooma (phone), TWC (internet), Church Windows, Office 365,

office supplies, postage, and technology. Planning to have all expenses identified by Oct 24.

**Technology Priorities for 2017:** Desk printer for pastor. Replace secretary computer. Consider camera/video camera (but may ask for funding from Memorial).

**Social Media/Communication:** Pastor is meeting with group from UW Oshkosh on October 20 to discuss parameters for their project around social media and website. Website events and posts are outdated - looking at how to get things posted on a regular basis.

**Backup:** Look at putting in place a proper backup strategy to protect against ransomware and other potential disasters.

**Next Meeting:** November 7 at 10:00am

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

December 4th North HS Madrigals at 8:45

December 11th Men's choral group at 9:00 service.

Request for special music for Christmas.

Jakob Iversen will set up a Google Docs group for choir access.

Those interested in singing at the Grand during the November 21st Interfaith Festival are invited to practice November 17th at 6:30 pm at St. Andrew's. Sandy Last will accompany. Our Savior's and another church or two will join our group.

Advent services will be preceded by light suppers and focused on the Christmas Story figures.

Sunday School Children's service Dec 18 - "Hanging of the Greens" will be the focal point.

Blue Christmas will be December 21. Confirmation students and Youth Ministry Team will be involved.

Christmas falls on a Sunday; worship services will be at 9 and 10:30 as usual. Music is selected, poinsettias and candles have been ordered.

Prints of Peace:

Jim Papenfuss' therapy dog Prince has been honored for visiting Affinity Hospice patients. He also visits the Aurora surgery waiting area. A future Prints of Peace program will honor therapy animals.

Brief discussions:

- Christmas caroling and possible sites
- Ordering additional large-print hymns

- Easter candle needing to be watched for replacement
- Reactions to "quiet time" before services
- Pr. Karen will announce the importance of quiet time for Advent service reflection.

Next Meeting: December 5 - 4pm in the choir room

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

**Synod Webinar regarding new FLSA rules at 12 noon on Tuesday, Oct 18.** Basically we are exempt from this rule.

**Stewardship:** We still need to do an every member mailing detailing the variety of options both for communications and for supporting St Andrew's mission and ministry.

**Oshkosh Community outreach:** St Andrew's hosted October 27th meeting of ESTHER's Faith and Values meeting.

**Continuing Education:**

**October 10 to 12 is Synod Theological**

**Conference.** Attended and found both presenters' studies very useful for St Andrew's. Already used Reformation material in noon bible study.

**October 25 & 26 - Regional Internship retreat** in Rockford IL - attended as mentor to Peace Lutheran's intern pastor. Wonderful presentation on deepening relationships between congregational members to promote greater health for the congregation.

Third meeting of ***Faith Leader Mental Health Integration*** coming up **Thursday, Nov 10** to help understand and work with people who have dual diagnosis. Taught by leaders of NAMI and Samaritan Counseling.

Thanking God for my 25th anniversary of ordination Nov 10 and my 21st anniversary of beginning here at St Andrew's on Nov 15! Thank you for all the wonderful years working together.

**Devotion for Tuesday, December 13, 2016: Rose Rivera**

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Closing Prayer – Pastor Karen

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Ziegler, Council Secretary

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

*Advent Wednesday noontimes*

*12 noon to 1:30 pm  
Nov 30, Dec 7, 14 & 21*

Feel free to come to worship 12 noon to 12:30 each Wednesday as we get acquainted with the people who prepared the way for Jesus to be born!

Following worship we have a light lunch while we study some of the great biblical texts of Advent and Christmas carols. You are welcome to bring a food to share but need not bring anything to take part.

*Advent Wednesday evenings*

*6:00 to 7:30 pm  
Nov 30, Dec 7, 14 & 21*

Please join us on Wednesdays in Advent for a light supper at 6pm and an intergenerational lesson: we are learning the Christmas story in Luke 2 by heart.

The meal and lesson will be followed by a half hour Advent worship at 7pm. (Our confirmation students will help to lead these worship services).

Our goal is to be able to tell the Luke 2 story by heart with our own families on Christmas Eve! We will learn using story teller's techniques, as well as coloring pages and other creative activities.

Each Wednesday we will offer a light supper – you are welcome to bring a dish to pass if you are able, but please plan to come regardless! We are excited to see our storytelling and faith grow!!!

On the final Advent Wednesday, Dec 21<sup>st</sup> we will offer a slightly longer (approx. 45 minute) Blue Christmas worship at 7 pm. This is a quiet, candle lit, and gentle way to enter the Christmas holidays, especially for anyone who is experiencing grief at the holidays.

Don't forget, confirmands: on Wednesday, December 28 – no class during the Christmas school break. On Wednesday, January 4, we resume studies in the Psalms!



*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*

(Isaiah 11:1)

The prophet Isaiah looks back at the kingship of David – the son of Jesse. David was just a humble shepherd and the youngest of Jesse's sons when God chose him to become the King of Israel. And he would become a great king.

As Isaiah looks back at the history of David's kingdom, he also looks forward into the future that God promises – the future King that will be the shoot sprouting from the stump of Jesse. And that King will be filled with God's Holy Spirit – that King will be our Lord Jesus Christ!

In this season of Advent, we listen to Old Testament prophets in our worship and hear the hopes they had as they looked forward to Jesus' coming. It is a time of radical hope – looking to God to accomplish a rescue desperately needed, a rescue from powers that conquered and robbed God's people of freedom and well-being.

So it is for us, who look back at the year now ending and see how much we need God.

Advent is a season of repentance, a turning back towards the One who reaches out to us. God may reach you and me through prophets or through the sweetness of our children leading us in worship. Either way, God touches our hearts and brings forth new life.

God keeps on inviting us to turn around and reconnect with God. Advent is invitation, and gift, and in the face of discouragement and faltering strength, Advent is the season of radical hope that our God rescues, redeems, renews – even us!

# Youth News

**BYG SPAM Night**  
**Soda, Pizza, and a Movie**  
**Friday, Dec. 9, 6 - 9 pm**

**BYG (Beginning Youth Group)** invites kids from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 9<sup>th</sup> grade to join them for SPAM night on Dec. 9. Come and enjoy a movie and fellowship as you explore your faith with kids your age!



## **Youth Candy Sale**

The Amish candy that has been ordered through the Youth Group **will be ready for pickup** on the Sundays of December 11 and 18. Find the YMT near the Fellowship Hall for yours. This will be a great treat for the holidays!

## **HANGING OF THE GREENS**



**SUNDAY SCHOOL LED CHRISTMAS WORSHIP**

**DECEMBER 18, 2016**

**10:30 AM**

Come and celebrate with our children on **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am** as our Sunday School offers a Christmas worship. Our children will be hanging the greens – decorating the sanctuary and telling the meaning of the symbols.

(Dress rehearsal for our Sunday School worship is on Saturday, December 17 from 9 to 11 am.)

# 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:



Thank you so much!

## **December Noisy Offering**



The December Noisy Offering will be going to the [Oshkosh Area Community Pantry](#). At this time of year, more than ever, neighbors need our help. Thank you for your support.

## **Thanks!**

Thanks to all who donated to November's Noisy Offering. Wisconsin Veteran's Home at King will receive \$133.72 to provide a variety of support to our veterans.

**Wednesday, December 21, 2016**

**7:00 pm**

Join us for a **Blue Christmas** worship that is a quiet, peaceful and a gentle entrance into the Christmas season, especially for those who may be dealing with grief at the holidays.

All are welcome!

### **Ushers for Holiday worship services**

We are looking for volunteers to serve as ushers, acolytes, and lectors for the Christmas Eve worships at 7:00 and 11:00 pm. Your hospitality helps our visitors to have a great worship experience. This can be a fun family activity or something to do with a friend! If this is something you would like to try, please call the office, (920) 235-6616.

## *Advent & Christmas Worship Services*



*Advent Worship Services on Wednesdays, November 30, December 7, 14, 21 at 12 noon & 7:00 pm. We gather for a half hour of worship, except for the 7 pm Blue Christmas worship on Dec 21.*

*Wednesday, December 21 - Blue Christmas worship at 7:00 - 7:45 pm - a peaceful and comforting service especially for those dealing with grief at the holidays.*

*Sundays, December 4 & 11 at 9 & 10:30 am  
Advent Holy Communion*

*Sunday, December 18  
9:00 Holy Communion  
10:30 am Sunday School Christmas worship*

*Saturday, December 24, Christmas Eve  
6:30 carols by request  
7:00 Lessons and Carols  
11:00 Candlelight Holy Communion*

*Sunday, December 25, Christmas Day  
Holy Communion at 9:00 and 10:30 am*

*You are welcome!*



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

#### **Breakfast**

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St  
Saturday, December 10, at 8:00 am

#### **Lunch**

Meet at Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson St.  
Tuesday, December 13, at noon

#### **Art & Soul**

**Saturday, December 17, 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.

### **Committee Meetings**

All members welcome!



#### **Property Committee**

Thursday, December 1, at 6 pm

#### **Worship & Music Committee**

Monday, December 5, at 4 pm

#### **Council Meeting**

Tuesday, December 13, at 7 pm



**Sunday, Jan. 1, 9 & 10:30 am** -Holy Communion and Happy New Year!

**Wednesday, January 4,** Confirmation resumes

**Sunday, January 8,** Sunday School resumes

**Sunday, Jan. 29, 9 am** Holy Communion  
10:30 am Annual Meeting

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