



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

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

February 2017  
Lent begins Wednesday March 1

Dear friends,

Where do we start? We are a nation divided by such serious issues. In that nation, our communities are divided, our faithful are divided, and even families and friends are divided and grieving.

We seem to do best when we find some common ground – not, please notice, middle ground! On middle ground we find ourselves in the line of fire from both “sides” of the arguments.

What we need is common ground – a place where different people with different views can agree that there is something very, very important to do – a task to focus our attention. Something that gets us beyond our dividedness to hope, gratitude, and peace that blesses everyone.

Last night in confirmation class we were studying the book of Job – a book of the bible that tackles why innocent people suffer.

Job's friends have the unshakeable idea that if Job is suffering he **must** have done something to deserve it – so come on, Job, just confess and take your lumps and let's get on with life...

But Job has not done anything wrong – he has abided by all the rules, even trying to make up for possible hurts his children may have caused with extra sacrifices on their behalf – but all of his beloved children perish in the calamities that befall Job. And he is left sick, grieving, and in pain.

Job asks why? Why has this happened? It is so very unfair to lose the things that make life worthwhile and he prays that God will tell him why.

The three friends intend to comfort Job with their points of view, but they don't!

Job's friends never seem to listen to what Job says – they are so busy trying to make their points to him. They act as if they were certain that he is absolutely wrong and they are absolutely right.

By the end of the Book of Job, God has summarily disposed of their arguments as ridiculous, and one can't help but cheer.

And in the end, the only answer in the book of Job is to trust God in all circumstances – that God will bring life and good no matter what is happening. This side of heaven we may not understand all that happens, but we can trust in the one who is Good.

As a part of our class time, we talked about the good things and the awful things that people have said to us when we were hurt or sick or grieving.

And we practiced listening to each other. First, simply repeating back what the other person said – to learn to actually listen while they are speaking.

Then we practiced reflecting what the other person said – telling it back in our own words – to try to express that we did understand what they had said.

This practice is one I have encouraged couples getting married to practice regularly – to actively listen to the other person, especially in conflict, though it is important at all times! “I hear you saying \_\_\_\_\_.” Active listening honors the dignity and humanity of the other.

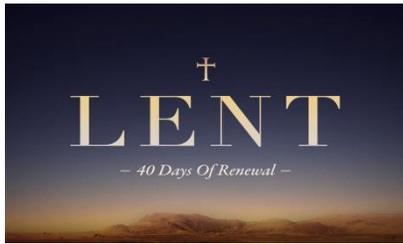
We Christians believe that God became a human being, Jesus Christ, to help us. When God listens to our prayers and our questions – God listens as the one who knows human sorrow and joy from the inside. God does understand.

When we listen to others as humbly and empathically as we are able – we reflect our humanity – a humanity made in the image of God.

Just like the book of Job – we don't have THE ANSWER to the Why? But we do have the Way, the Truth, and the Life of Jesus Christ. I believe it makes the difference we seek to make in this world and empowers the service we give in Jesus' name.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell





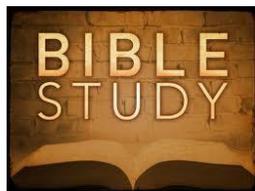
Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, Mar.1, 2017.

We will be gathering each Wednesday from that day until Holy Week for worship at 12 noon and 7 pm. We are working with Calvary Lutheran, Christ Lutheran and Our Savior's Lutheran to offer a Round Robin of preachers during Lent and our theme will be "Gifts of the Reformation" focusing on five positive reformations of our lives that make us new in Jesus Christ! Please plan to join us.

We will be gathering for a light supper at 6 pm each week from Wed March 8 to Wed Apr 5. We will have a sign-up sheet if you would like to help with supplying the meal. But plan to come for food and fellowship - you are welcome.

### *Bible Studies in February*

**Mondays 7:15 pm** – we are reading through the Gospel of Matthew – great discussion accompanied by a nice dessert.



**Wednesdays 12 noon** – we are enjoying the video study taught by Professor Craig Koester of Luther Seminary "Reading Biblical Literature: Genesis to Revelation" that uses the major stories of the bible to help us understand the 66 books of the bible together. But each segment can stand alone as a great study – so please join us and come whenever you are able! We enjoy a light lunch and coffee and tea.

Come and join us in studying God's Word!



### **Got Calendars??**

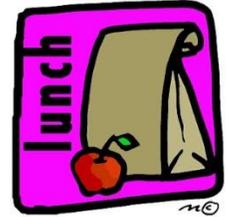
**Oshkosh Correctional** would like us to gather **calendars** for the inmates. Please bring them to church and we will get them to Pastor Kim Krogstad who is now a chaplain there!



## **Christian Action**

**Feeding the Children Program** – please come to the Christian Action Committee meeting **Tuesday, February 7 at 6 pm** to help us plan.

We are committed to trying to feed our hungry neighborhood children during the month of August this year when other school-based meal sites are



unavailable (between the end of summer school and the beginning of school in September). We hope to provide a lunch for each child who comes on Monday to Friday of those four weeks in August. We join our sister churches Our Savior's Lutheran, First English Lutheran and St Mary's Catholic in this effort.

### Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

February 19 – March 12, 2017

NEW hygiene and cleaning items for local homeless shelters and crisis agencies in our community are being collected. A box will be located near the Fellowship Hall doors for your donations. The most requested items include laundry detergent, garbage bags, dental and hair care items, diapers & baby care, tissue, etc. A complete list of needed supplies is on the Fellowship Hall bulletin board. Thank you!



### **Noisy Offering**

The **February 19** Noisy Offering is designated for the [Christine Ann Center](#), to help provide emergency shelter and counseling for individuals and families needing safety and shelter from an abusive situation.

Thanks to all who donated to January's Noisy Offering. The Day by Day Warming Shelter will receive \$159.18. Thank you for your generosity!

# Youth News

For more information on any of the following events, please contact Patty Koplitz at [pattykoplitz@gmail.com](mailto:pattykoplitz@gmail.com) or 920-420-5616.



## BYG (Beginning Youth Group) SPAM - Soda, Pizza, and A Movie Friday, February 24, 6 - 9 pm

Second graders through high school students are invited to join us for soda, pizza and a movie night! Come and see what the fun is all about!

### **BYG Retreat**

**March 31 - April 2**

This retreat at Imago Dei Village is for kids in grades 3 - 6. The weekend is filled with games, fun, worship, and God talk! Look for something in the mail - registration forms will be sent soon. Registration deadline is March 17, 2017. The cost is \$100 per student.

## Confirmation Students



### **JYG (Junior Youth Gathering)** **February 18 - 19<sup>th</sup>**

Gather overnight in Neenah where we meet with other middle school kids from the synod to learn, worship and play together. It is always a great time!

## YMT (Youth Ministry Team)

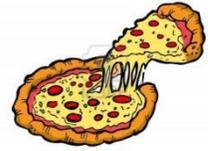
### **Summer Mission Trip Informational Meeting** **Sunday, Feb. 5, 10:15 am**

Come learn about the YMT's summer mission trip to Mingo County, West Virginia (<https://www.youthworks.com/trips/appalachian-mountains-mingo-county/>). This five day service trip is open to all students currently in grades 8 through 12. Please plan to attend our informational meeting on **Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, at 10:15 am** in the youth room. **A male chaperone and driver will be needed.**

## **Pizza Sale!**

### **February 19 - March 11**

The youth group will start selling pizzas on February 19<sup>th</sup>. This fundraiser helps with the summer trip and there are several ways to help. First, buy pizzas! Second, sell pizzas! Third, help make pizzas on March 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be more news coming about pizza-making day in the March newsletter. Last year the youth group sold and made 361 pizzas. This year they hope to do even better!



They are hoping to find a family who might be willing to take over the fundraiser in a couple of years. The Iversens have been doing it the last few years and are happy to help instruct someone in how to do it! Please consider this, and thanks again for all your support!

## **Prints of Peace: Pet Ministry**

### **Honoring Service Animals**

**Friday, Feb. 17**

**6:30 pm Fellowship**

**7:00 pm Worship**

All are welcome to attend Prints of Peace Pet Ministry on Feb. 17. All social animals are welcome to come with their people. We will begin with a short fellowship at 6:30 pm, to help our pets settle in, followed by a worship service at 7 pm.



Service animals and those in training will be honored. All pets will receive a token of appreciation for the important roles that they play in our lives. If you know of anyone with, or training, a service animal, please let them know of this event. You may also tell the office and we will send an invitation to them. Thank you!

## Annual meetings & Community ministries

Annual meetings for local mission are happening in our community and area – **Lutheran Campus Ministry at**



**UWO** has its annual meeting at Christ Lutheran Church beginning at 12:30 pm on Sunday, **February 26.**

**MEETING** Lutheran Campus Ministry provides The Gathering Place for fellowship, worship, meals, and great support for students at UWO. Their campus pastor, Connie Weiss, has completed her studies and preparation to be ordained in the ELCA very soon! We celebrate with them and support their great mission.

The Annual Assembly of **the Oshkosh Conference** of ELCA churches will be on Thursday evening, **Feb 16** at Grace Lutheran Church in Ripon beginning at 6:30 pm. Together we plan our joint missions with area ELCA churches.

Our thanks to those of you who represent us at these gatherings and help us to take part in area missions!

### **Epiphany 2017: Let's grow & go with Jesus**



In 2017 we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the reformation of the Christian Church. Jesus calls us into new action, new hope, new life!

Our faith in Jesus grows as we follow Jesus into the new missions and adventures wherever he calls us! As a congregation we venture into new strategies of faithfulness and action for God's sake in this community and this world! Let's challenge ourselves as individuals and as a congregation to grow and go with Jesus!

We invite you to support the mission and ministry of St Andrew's Lutheran Church. You may offer a gift 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:



Or you may go to our [standrewsoshkosh.org](http://standrewsoshkosh.org) – our website. You choose how your funds are given, frequency and method of donation. But please know that your gift does make a difference! We thank you for considering this partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ.



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

#### **Breakfast**

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St  
Saturday, Feb. 11, at 8:00 am

#### **Lunch**

Meet at Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson St.  
Tuesday, February 21, at noon

#### Art & Soul

**Saturday, February 25, 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!



#### **Christian Action Committee**

Tuesday, February 7, at 6 pm

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

Monday, February 13, at 4 pm

#### **Technology Committee**

Monday, February 13, at 1 pm

#### **Council Meeting**

Tuesday, February 14, at 7 pm

#### **Property Committee**

Thursday, February 23, at 6 pm

### **We are here for you!**

Visit our website: [standrewsoshkosh.org](http://standrewsoshkosh.org)

Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/standrewsoshkosh.org)

Email us: [office@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:office@standrewsoshkosh.org) (office)

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

Or: Call us on the phone!! (920) 235-6616