



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

January 2017
Annual Meeting January 29 at 10:30 am

Dear friends,

The New Year of 2017 is here and we are poised on the edge of new adventures.

Our Christian Action group is exploring providing lunch meals for children in the month of August, when all the school based resources are closed for the school break.

We were invited into the process of exploring and developing this mission by our sister congregation, Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Wisconsin St.

And they were excited by the program that was offered by Christ Lutheran (on Church Ave) for the last few years. And we heard that St Mary's Catholic parish is also developing a site for lunch meals during August

So a wonderful chain of hope has begun, that is attempting to address one facet of the problem of hunger among our children in Oshkosh.

Deep thanks go to those who are organizing and inviting. Deep thanks to God for inspiring and empowering us to take part in this new mission!

In the meantime, we are tackling communications with a renewed emphasis on our social media and website – to try to do a better job of equipping you, our Saints at St Andrew's, with the opportunities for mission and education and worship.

Jane Martinez and others of our leaders have just completed a very needed revision of our constitution and by-laws for the congregation to bring it up to date with our national and synodical ELCA constitutions and by-laws.

And when you look over our Annual report for 2016 you will not only see how much was accomplished last year, but also some of our hopes and dreams for this year!

What are the hopes and dreams you seek for this year? What would you like to accomplish, begin, renew or explore?

Our God is all about inspiring you with hopes and dreams and empowering you for the life you are meant to live!

Martin Luther believed that we each have many callings – for example, we are called to be in relationship with the family we have been given by God's grace: as a child, and perhaps as a spouse or sibling or parent.

Then there are the callings of work, citizenship, interests and passions, all given us by God to pursue and find delight in – to God's glory.

Our chief calling is as a child of God. We Christians see it as a calling to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in pathways of service to others.

This helps us understand and carry out the work we do and the relationships that we have in this life. This helps us find the meaning in life that we seek.

Sometimes we need to get a new start. The New Year reminds us of all the things we want to do better, do over, or start doing.

When you need to start from SQUARE ONE, and begin all over again, don't forget that you are a child of God.

If you start from that place in the center of God's love and mercy, you start with all the powers of the Spirit to help you on your way.

We remember, as Luther liked to say, that we have been BAPTIZED – and that gives us a clear place to begin and begin again. So go for it! Begin anew!

May God bless you in this New Year – and always.
--Pastor Karen Jewell

Highlights of Church Council Meeting

Tuesday 16th December, 2016

Present: Pastor Karen, Jane Martinez, Matt Moore, Chris Ziegler, Jay Klinger, Warren Luce, Peg Olson, Rose Rivera, Jakob Iversen

Excused: Kristi Cutts, Linda Ellman, Ann Stephan

Guests: Tom & Marcia Galica, Arlene Shultis, Carol Spiegelberg

Treasurer's report: Matt Moore presented the November 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. Motions made and carried to approve all reports.

Old Business:

Feed the Children: Carol Spiegelberg updated the council as to the progress that the Feed the Children committee has made since the idea was presented to the council at the November meeting. It was decided that it would be best if St. Andrew's could host its own program. This would keep the meals close to the neighborhoods that we are reaching out to, and keep from having to cross a main arterial road. Funds have already been sought through Thrivent, and the committee is currently seeking additional donations of money, supplies, as well as food, from local businesses and local groups. If you want to know more, or would like to volunteer/donate, please contact Carol. Motion made and approved to allow the Feed The Children committee to continue to pursue donations and establish St Andrews as a location to feed the local children, in the area, that are in need of meals during the month of August. This will include the setting up of a "Giving Tree" to allow the congregation to donate needed items if they so desire.

Grounds Security: Warren Luce informed the council the new lighting and light repairs/adjustments have been completed. Staff and volunteers have diligently monitored the doors and windows before leaving, and there has not been any additional occurrences of doors/windows being left unlocked.

Nominating Committee: Jane Martinez relayed the information that she had received from Kristi Cutts regarding filling the positions that will be voted on at the annual meeting. All positions are filled except for two of the council member positions. The nominating committee will meet again and try to find volunteers for the two upcoming vacancies.

AED Electrodes: Jane Martinez informed the council that she will be making the purchase of an additional set of AED electrodes, to be able to be used for training purposes, within the next week or two. The purchase of the electrodes was approved by the council at November's meeting, and the money is to come from memorial funds.

Review of 2017 Budget: (discussion): Matt Moore presented the second draft of the 2017 budget as determined by the finance committee. The council discussed revised budget, and discussed raises for employees and staff. The council agreed that they wanted to include a 1% merit raise in the budget, and still present a surplus budget to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January. Motion made and carried to approve the budget with the addition of the 1% merit raise.

New Business:

Worship & Music Committee Requests: Peg Olson asked if the cost of a third large print hymnal and the purchase of a new music stand for the choir room be made using memorial funds. Motion made and approved.

Committee Reports:

Christian Action Report (Kristi Cutts):

No Report

Congregational Life (Rose Rivera):

No Report

Education (Linda Ellman):

No Report

Evangelism (Jay Klinger):

No Report

Fellowship/Hospitality Report (Chris Ziegler):

Fellowship coffee for 2017 was ordered from the Equal Exchange Fairly Traded website and a 20% discount was given through Thrivent. We are looking into getting one or two volunteers to start bringing out the "coffee cart" during Fellowship hour to let people order and purchase the coffee products.

The volunteer schedule for Jan. - Feb. is done and distributed to the volunteers. The schedule is likely to change once more Time & Talent sheets return and are tallied. Counting teams will also likely change after the elections at the Annual Meeting. A revised schedule will be sent at a later date.

Property Report (Warren Luce):

Carpeting and tile will begin after January 1st. The outlets along the North wall of the Fellowship Hall were installed at the same time the security lights were done. This will allow for easier set-up and serving during special dinners, funerals, and other events.

Stewardship/Discipleship Report (Ann Stephan):

No Report

Technology (Jakob Iversen):

No Report

Worship & Music (Peg Olson):

The December 4th North High School Madrigal performance was wonderful. Nearly all Advent and Christmas services have been planned. Discussed feasibility of inviting musician Marty Haugen for "Lenten Weekend of Gratitude and Grace". Brenda discussed possibility of printing postcards for pet loss.

The next Prints of Peace worship/fellowship will focus on therapy animals. Next Meeting: January 9 – 4 pm.

President's Report (Jane Martinez):

The synod came out with modifications and revisions to their constitution. The Constitution committee met to go over the changes and the revised constitution will be sent to the council prior to it being published for the Annual Meeting.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Karen Jewell):

Oshkosh Conference meeting Dec 13: met with Pastor Jean Davoll-Donaldson re: missional churches and re-committing to growth as a congregation.

Worship, Stewardship, and Education:

Confirmation & Special worship: In confirmation during Advent we are doing a special weekly intergenerational gathering and attempting to learn the Luke 2 Christmas story by heart. Weekly Wednesday noon Advent worship and bible study time together, Nov 30 to Dec 21.

Preparing Christmas worship services:

Blue Christmas on Dec 21

Lessons and Carols and then Candlelight communion on Dec 24

Christmas Holy Communion on Dec 25 (9 & 10:30)

Oshkosh Community outreach

Continuing to offer special worship at Northpoint Rehab monthly on Wednesday morning, occasional Vespers at Evergreen, and monthly night on call at Mercy Medical Center.

Took part in the Community fellowship potluck at the Mosque and then the Interfaith Festival of Gratitude at the Grand Opera House on Monday, November 21. Deep thanks to our choir, Brenda Francis and Sandy Last, who all contributed to the music for the festival.

Helped sort out the Abel scholarship that was temporarily lost in the system at UWO.

Continuing Education:

Third meeting of ***Faith Leader Mental Health Integration*** was Thursday, Nov 10. Learned about the challenges of a dual diagnosis (other mental health issue in addition to addiction).

Office work and Communications: Several meetings with two students from UWO in the use of social media. It was very productive and helpful, learning techniques to improve communications and reach more of the community with our mission and worship activities. Sandy Last and I will be attending the final presentation on campus Thursday, Dec 15 of our special consultants.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ziegler, Council Secretary

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

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 29, 2017

10:30 am

(there will be no 10:30 worship that day)

Please join us to help make important decisions about our mission and life together here at St. Andrew's.

Membership Materials Available to pick up

(or let us know how you wish them to get to YOU!)
See our "membership table" in the entryway!



--**giving envelopes and estimate of giving forms** are in alphabetical order by our last names on a table in the entry way for you to pick up.

--**2017 draft of our congregational constitution** with needed updates and corrections marked in color are on the back table beside the entrance to the Sanctuary. We will be discussing this at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29, 2017 at 10:30 am.

--**Annual report for the year of 2016** – will also be available on that back table for you to pick up. This includes the report of the past year and our mission plans detailed in the Narrative budgets for committees.

--**Time and Talent forms for 2017**

It is not too late to indicate your interests on our Time and Talent forms – pick them up on the back table by the Sanctuary and fill in your information and please return.

--**Our most current directory**

Always feel free to update your information with the office.

If you need us to mail or deliver the materials please let us know! We are happy to help! Please call the office at (920) 235-6616.

HANGING OF THE GREENS



SUNDAY SCHOOL LED CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

JANUARY 8, 2017

(postponed from Dec. 18 due to weather)

10:30 AM

Come and celebrate with our children on **Sunday, January 8th, 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, January 7 from 9 to 11 am.)

Altar Flowers

Our altar is adorned EVERY SUNDAY by generous donations! Beginning this month, January 2017, there will be a small increase in the cost of flowers to \$33. If you are interested in honoring a loved one, sign up on the Flower Chart in the narthex. Envelopes are also available there for designating your remembrance. Thank you!



Noisy Offering

The **January 15 Noisy Offering** is designated for the [Day by Day Warming Shelter](#) here in Oshkosh, helping to provide a warm meal and place to sleep during these cold months.

Thanks to all who donated to December's Noisy Offering. The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry will receive \$85.92. Thank you for your generosity on a very cold and blustery winter day!

Thank you, St Andrew's members and friends!

2016 -- a great year in mission!

Among the highlights: we held a penny war in September to raise money for farm animals that help people have food for their families and a stake in a better life. Our kids raised:

Chickens -- \$61.72 Sheep -- \$49.38

Cows -- \$39.93 Pigs -- \$30.15

The total was \$181.18. Hurray for all the kids who helped!

St Andrew's helped many important local and global efforts this year through special offerings and drives.

We gathered funds and/or needed items for:

Oshkosh Area community pantry,
Children's Hospital (Fox Valley)
Oshkosh Day by Day Warming Shelter
Milwaukee Rescue Mission
Northpoint Medical & Rehab. Center
The Christ Child Society
Lutheran Assoc of Missionary Pilots
Lutheran Campus Ministry (UWO)
World Hunger Appeal (ELCA)
Emmeline Cook Elementary School
Lutheran Disaster Relief
Veterans Home at King, WI
Peace Lutheran Teacher's Closet
...and even more!!!

We thank you for your partnership in the Gospel of Jesus Christ that brings new life to each one and empowers us to reach others in their need, that they may know the God who loves them and offers new life. Merry Christmas to you and a very Happy New Year!



Christmas 2016: God is with us!

Christmas has come and we celebrate the God who chose to be Emmanuel ("God with us"). May God's loving presence in your life transform and renew you!

As a congregation, St Andrew's folk seek to be transformed as we follow Jesus Christ. We celebrate God in our worship and serve God in our help for our neighbors. If you would like to help us accomplish God's mission, you are welcome to take part, and your gifts are welcome to help us accomplish this mission together.

Please feel free to make your financial gifts to St Andrew's electronically, if that is best for you! If you would like to do so here is the short URL: <http://bit.do/stagiving> or the QR Code:



You may also use our secure web page where you can make your offerings online. Please go to standrewsoshkosh.org. You choose how your funds are given, with what frequency and method of donation. Thank you. Your gifts matter!

Youth News

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



BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

Saturday, January 14, 2 - 4 pm

BYG invites kids from 2nd grade through high school to join them for Game Day. Bring a game to share if you like! And let's play hide and seek!

Confirmation Students



JYG (Junior Youth Gathering) is coming up soon, **February 18 - 19th**! This is an overnight trip to Neenah. We meet with other middle school kids from the Synod to learn, worship and play together. It is always a great time! More information will be coming to you, soon!

YMT (Youth Ministry Team)

Summer Mission Trip Informational Meetings

It's that time of year to start planning the summer mission trip to Mingo County, West Virginia for five days of service.

[\(https://www.youthworks.com/trips/appalachian-mountains-mingo-county/\)](https://www.youthworks.com/trips/appalachian-mountains-mingo-county/) This life-changing experience is open to all students currently in grades 8 through 12. **A male chaperone and driver will be needed.**

Two informational meetings will be held. Please bring your calendars so that we can set a date! We will meet on **Wednesday, January 25th at 7:30 pm, and on Sunday, February 5th, after first service, around 10:15 am** in the youth room.

There is a possibility of a side trip to Gettysburg, PA, to see the battlefields of the Civil War, as well.



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

Breakfast

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, January 14, at 8:00 am

Lunch

Meet at Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson St.
Tuesday, January 17, at noon

Art & Soul

Saturday, January 28, 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, January 26, at 6 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, January 9, at 4 pm

Technology Committee

Monday, January 9, at 10 am

Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 10, at 7 pm