



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 2018
Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 10:30 am

Dear friends,

Happy New Year, 2018!

On Saturday, January 6, 2018 we finish the Christmas Season and on Sunday, January 7 we transition from Christmas to Epiphany.

Our Christmas décor will come down after the 7th and the paraments (altar hanging and ambo hanging) will be changed to Green.

Last night as the confirmation students and I reviewed the colors and stories of the Church Year, we talked about the Green season being a season of growth.

In our worship we will hear and think through the stories of the calling of the disciples – called to follow Jesus and grow in the faith.

So I asked our students what would be things that they would practice to grow their faith.

One student told us to **come to church** to be with people who also were growing in their faith. And another said it was important to be an encourager of others to come to church as often as possible.

The students told us to **pray every day** – and when I asked if it would be one certain prayer or different issues that mattered to the students, the student that volunteered said – different issues. I think he is so wise. There is a lot to pray about every day, isn't there?

A couple students volunteered that we **read the bible daily** – set aside a time to read – and then they told us the way they set aside their favorite time to read – early in the day or last thing before bed.

I was thrilled to hear how much they understand the process of growing as disciples.

We also talked about reformation as a process and the Protestant Reformation and how hard it is to change ones ways much less the ways of a whole church!

One of the key factors in being able to change something crucial to us is having a community that supports us and encourages us.

Just as one of our students said: “We can be encouragers of one another to come to church.”

Church is one of the few places in our whole culture where young ones can encourage their elders and elders can support the children and youth.

We are talking about stewardship – about caring for what God has entrusted to us.

In this case, we were exploring the stewardship of our faith – growing in this Green season of the church – and how to nurture that growth by the best practices possible.

And perhaps the very best practice is to **be with** others who can encourage, compare notes, laugh at the silly fixes we get into, and pray for us in the tough ones.

Perhaps the most important things that God entrusts to us are other people: family, neighbors, and the strangers we encounter along the Way. These are the people whom God entrusts to our care.

In the Green seasons we hear over and over how Jesus came to be with us – one of us and one with us in our humanity.

He came to show us the Way of being with, and the Truth, and the Life we have in him. Thank you for all the ways you live that life with us at St Andrew's. May God bless your New Year!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 28, 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.

Possible Building Renovation Cottage Meetings



The next meeting of the church renovation focus group is Thursday, January 4th at 6:30 pm. You are welcome to come with your questions and interests.

On Sunday January 14th the Focus group members will be available for "cottage meetings" to discuss the possibilities and considerations for potential renovation ideas with congregational members. The meeting times include: 8:15 - 9:00 am, 10:00 - 10:30 am, and 11:30 am -12:15 pm. Please come and share your ideas!

If you can't come that Sunday please plan to come to the focus group meeting on January 4th (noted above) or feel free to come to the property committee meeting on Thursday, January 25th at 6:00 pm. We appreciate your insights and feedback.

Noisy Offering

The **January 21 Noisy Offering** is designated for the [Day by Day Warming Shelter](#) here in Oshkosh, helping to provide a warm meal and a place to sleep during these cold months.

Last month's noisy offering of \$133.66 was designated for St. Andrew's Covered in Hope blanket ministry. Blankets are made by members and donated to area organizations for children.

Custodial Position

A part-time custodial position (currently 10-15 hours per week) is becoming available at St Andrew's as of January 1, 2018. Our current caretakers, Pat and Tom Coates, are retiring from this work at St Andrew's and we thank them for all the good care they have provided to our building. If you are interested in this position, please fill out an application (available through the Church Office) and the Executive Committee will contact you to discuss further details.



[The Gathering Place](#), the Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW-Oshkosh, has an opening for a 20 hour/week campus minister. For more information, see the bulletin board next to the office. You may also call our church office (920) 235-6616 and we will forward you the information.



January 2018: God is with us



Thank you for your offerings! Christmas has come when we celebrate the God who chose to be Emmanuel ("God with us"). May God's loving presence in your life transform and renew you in the New Year God gives us! Your gifts support this new year of mission.

Whether you give with a check or cash or an electronic gift, you have helped create a place to worship and grow Jesus' people who now move forward into a new year of faithfulness, service and hope.

Electronic gifts are welcome. Your electronic gifts may be given through smart phone technology or go to our website standrewsoshkosh.org. Here is the short URL: <http://bit.do/stagiving> and the QR Code:



You can choose how your funds are given, with what frequency and method of donation. Your gift does make a real difference! Thank you for considering this partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Youth News

Submitted by **Patty Koplitz, Youth Director**

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

YMT (Youth Ministry Team)



Our annual Pizza Sale is here! Pizza sales begins on January 14. See a member of our youth team by the fellowship hall to make an order. Pizza making will be February 3.



BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

SPAM - Soda, Pizza, and A Movie
Friday, January 26, 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!



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

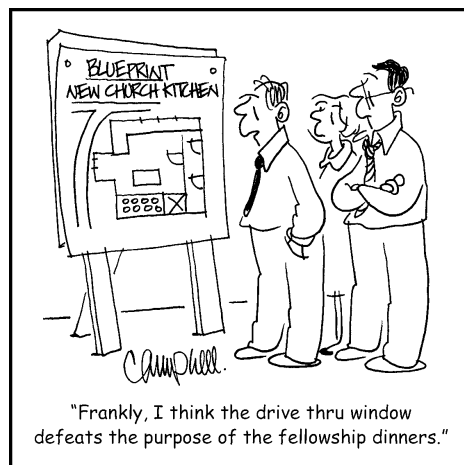
Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, January 13, at 8:00 am

Lunch

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

Art & Soul

Saturday, January 20, 10:30 am – 4 pm
Meet in the "Creation Station" off the Fellowship Hall.



Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, January 2, at 4 pm

Christian Action Committee

Thursday, January 4, at 6 pm

Technology Committee

Tuesday, January 9 at 12 pm

Council Meeting

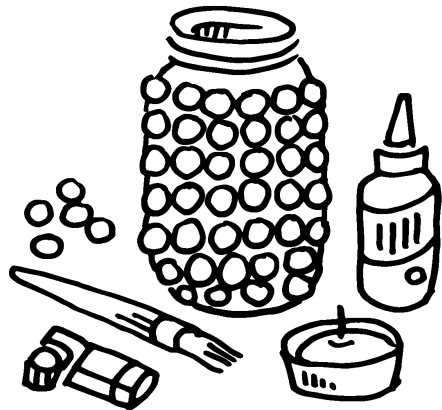
Tuesday, January 9, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, January 25, at 6 pm

MASON JAR nightLIGHT

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.



What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.

Fun for the Young -
and Young at Heart!



Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:  **A**  **E**  **I**  **O**

" _ _ M TH _ L _ GHT _ F

TH _ W _ RLD. WH _ _ V _ R

F _ LL _ WS M _ W _ LL N _ V _ R

W _ LK _ N D _ RKN _ SS."

J _ HN 8:12, NIV

Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV