

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

Welcome to worship and life at St. Andrew's!

Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

July 2016

July 10, 2016 10:30 worship outside (weather permitting)

Dear friends,

I hope that you don't mind but I would like to pick up the thread of my letter to you in June.

At the Synod Assembly in May we focused on the theme of "*We are Church: Listening deeply to the voice of the other.*"

Last month I touched on Bishop Mansholt's sermon and this month I wanted to keep my promise to share some practical insights from one of our breakout sessions: a session called "Hear Here: the listening ministry."

We faced each other in rows of chairs and talked one on one. At first we were told to try to talk to our partners while they looked at their watches, checked their phones, and crossed their arms restlessly. Then we reversed the process!

In the face of those actions it was hard to talk, when they were manifestly not interested in listening to what we were trying to say! Not surprising, of course, but how often have we found ourselves doing the same things while others talk?

Our teachers, Karin Olson and Pastor Kimberly Stowell, encouraged us to check our internal and external activity when listening: suspend judgment, don't hurry to respond, don't be thinking about what we would like to say in response – for example, the story that their words have suddenly triggered in our memory.

Instead, our teachers encouraged us to recognize that this is a sacred moment and a sacred job of listening – listening carefully and respectfully to what this person seeks to express.

We are simply more open to hearing the other when we seek to put ourselves in the speaker's world, try to be fully present to them and with them.

Our teachers invited us to commit ourselves to the process of listening and focus on the speaker.

They promised that this workshop would change every conversation we had going forward and it has!

While I thought I was a good listener, I have caught myself over and over not listening carefully with the discipline that the teachers invited – most often I have found myself eager to share my insight or my story that was similar to what the speaker was trying to share. In that eagerness to say my piece I am not listening deeply and hearing well!

In Isaiah 50:4 the prophet writes:

*The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he awakens –
awakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.*

I think I finally begin to understand that verse!

In our workshop we were encouraged to listen carefully and to realize that we don't always understand it all. That it is OK (and necessary) to ask for clarification or definitions that your speaker assumes you know. That our non-anxious and respectful listening will result in far greater mutual understanding.

If we listen to each other in this intentional and respectful way, won't we be working peace in our noisy, contentious world?

So often we worry about having something significant or comforting to say – as at a funeral. So often we say the wrong thing! What if we realized it is simply crucial to listen in such a way that the speaker knows you have heard what the speaker desperately needed to say?

The goal is grace – the gift of your listening, that affirms the speaker and respects their message. And by the way, thanks for listening!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

Highlights of Church Council Meeting

Tuesday 10th May, 2016

Present: Pastor Karen Jewell, Jane Martinez, Matt Moore, Chris Ziegler, Warren Luce, Rose Rivera, Kristi Cutts, Jay Klinger, Linda Ellman, Ann Stephan, Jakob Iversen

Excused: Peg Olson

Treasurer's report: Financial reports were presented and motions made and approved to approve the reports.

Old Business:

Constitution: All council suggestions have been added to the revised constitution and by laws. There are two committee additions to be added/revised, and then the final drafts can be voted on by the church council and approved.

Process for Counting Offerings: Jane Martinez wanted to review and clarify counting captains procedures and responsibilities one last time to make sure that all things were being done correctly.

New Business:

Mutual Ministry: Pastor Karen discussed the establishment of the Mutual Ministry committee as it is outlined in the revised constitution/by-laws. The executive committee will suggest members of the congregation to sit on a committee where employees and staff can come to discuss issues or concerns that may occur with between staff members or with the congregation at large. Please refer to the by-laws for more information of the establishment and purpose of the Mutual Ministry Committee.

New Members/Confirmands: Pastor Karen requested that the council approve two new members (Susan Zabel and Karyn Schmitz), five confirmands, and three member transfers out (Charles Vanevenhoven, and Lee & Marcie Wilson. Motion made and approved to accept the membership changes as requested by Pastor Karen.

Christian Action Report (Kristi Cutts):

The Christian Action Committee met on Saturday 5/7/16. Items worked on during this meeting included:

1) Review of Christian Action Committee description in our church by-laws. 2) Planning for a service opportunity to provide a meal to missionary pilots at EAA on 7/31/16. 3) Planning for God's

Work Our Hands on 9/11/16. We will continue planning on 7/9/16 at 2:30PM. We will have a regular committee meeting on 9/17/16 at 2:30PM. All are welcome to join our committee and participate in "extending Christian compassion."

Congregational Life (Rose Rivera):

Youth Ministry Report (Patty Koplitz)

We had our Serving Sinners and Saints dinner and it was a huge success! I am so grateful for the youth and the Iversens, Ellman's, Jenell Erickson and others for all the help. Carol Spiegelberg was so generous and helped us to get a \$250 grant from Thrivent which helped pay for a majority of the food. Please, take a look at the artwork still in the fellowship hall and at the pieces in the hallway in this wing. We also made a video for the supper. It needs a little editing and then we will be posting it to our website and YouTube. We now have the mission trip paid for, or will soon. But we are still taking requests for yard work!

Education (Linda Ellman):

The education committee would like to recognize and thank the Sunday School teachers for doing such a wonderful job with gift certificates.

Fellowship/Hospitality Report (Chris Ziegler):

The new volunteer schedule covering greeters, ushers, coffee, and counting has been published for the second quarter of 2016. Adjustments will be made and the 3rd quarter schedule will be published before the end of June. The snacks served at "coffee time" between services and after second service will be by volunteers. Members having birthdays, or other special events that they would like to recognize, are encouraged to set out snacks if they so desire.

Property Report (Warren Luce):

There will be a Property meeting on Thursday, May 26th 6:00. They will discuss upcoming projects for the calendar year, and set priorities for both this year's projects as well as future ones.

Technology (Jakob Iversen):

The Technology Committee met at 6:00, before the council meeting, and established the definition of the Technology Committee to be included in the constitution by-laws. A training was then had at 6:30 for those council members that wanted to

receive instruction of their Google account.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Karen Jewell):

Church Office: Question for Exec Comm members – as Technology committee is becoming Technology and Office Operations – then the office staff should attend as they are able, making that time part of their work time and compensated. Would appreciate clarification if needed.

Worship and Education:

Confirmation – all 8th grade final interviews completed. Submitting five Confirmands for council to recognize as adult members with voting privileges.

Confirmation concludes: Wednesday May 11, 2016: final night: dessert, special verses, photos, rehearsal. Confirmation Sunday, May 22, 2016 (10:30 am worship).

Events:

East Central Synod of WI Synod Assembly is **Friday, May 20th and Saturday, May 21st at the Green Bay Convention Center.** Jane and Michael Martinez, and Pastor Karen will be representing St Andrew's as voting members.

Upcoming:

Continuing Education in Family Faith formation – Sept 29 to October 1, 2016

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ziegler, Council Secretary

A complete set of minutes is available on Narthex bulletin board.

Highlights of Church Council Meeting
Tuesday 14th June, 2016

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

Excused: Linda Ellman

Treasurer's report: May financial statements were approved to be paid.

Old Business:

Constitution: All council suggestions have been added to the revised constitution and by laws. The final drafts will be sent out prior to the July meeting for final review and approval.

Process for Counting Offerings: Jane Martinez wanted to review and clarify counting captains' procedures and responsibilities one last time to make sure that all things were being done correctly. The final checklist was approved. Matt Moore will review it with Jayne Lindsay to see if anything was inadvertently omitted. The list will be set out in the finance room for counting captains to be able to use as a reference.

New Business:

Update on Synod Assembly Meeting: Jane Martinez summarized her experience at The Synod Assembly Meeting. The book titled "The Sacred Art of Listening" by Kay Lindahl was lifted up for discussion. The book teaches how to move beyond hearing to actually listening. The book guides you through forty practices of deep listening to our Source, to ourselves, and to each other. The book demonstrate that the key to healthy relationships and spiritual transformation can be as basic as practicing the art of listening. Jane has offered to lend the book to anyone that would be interested in reading it. Jane then went on to review all of the resolutions voted on during the meeting.

New Members: Pastor Karen requested that the council receive Greg Egner as a new member of St. Andrew's.

Phone System: Jakob Iversen explained the problems with the current phone system and informed the council that they will be looking into a Voice Over IP solution. The technology committee will evaluate the option.

Christian Action Report (Kristi Cutts):

We will be holding a project meeting on Saturday, July 9 at 2:30 pm to continue planning for God's Work Our Hands Day. We will have a regular committee meeting on 9/17/16 at 2:30PM. All are welcome to join our committee and participate in "extending Christian compassion."

Congregational Life (Rose Rivera):

Youth Ministry Report (Patty Koplitz)

Summer is underway! We are continuing to meet on Wednesday nights, per request of the kids. I am planning some fires for s'mores and some church dinners or Soul Food. Last week we did our first church dinner at Taco Bell. We prayed, read scripture, talked about it and ate. We shared lows and highs and then came back to church. It was awesome. The kids prayed aloud in public! I plan on doing it again.

The summer trip is coming up quick. Please, keep us in your prayers. We have 7 of us going as well as a friend of mine and her son. We are all getting very excited about it. We leave on July 3rd at 8 am and will return July 8th about 9pm.

Property Report (Warren Luce):

The hallway carpet on the east side of the Sanctuary should be completed by the end of the month.

The installation of a dishwasher is tabled for the time

being as options for the ADA bathroom is being investigated. There may be a need to change plumbing as far as the kitchen, and we do not want to install something now just to have it torn out with the bathroom installation.

Next property meeting: June 23rd @ 6:00 PM

Technology (Jakob Iversen):

Due to a problem with the settings with our web hosting firm, we didn't pay for webhosting and our website was taken offline for about two days. After we paid the bill, the website came online again. We have taken steps to ensure that settings are appropriate for the next time. The phone system is causing problems. So we started looking at ways to improve the phone system in short order to ensure a good working system. We will order new laptop for Pastor and will sign up for Microsoft Office 365, which is \$2/month/user. Social media team is becoming active. Sandy Last has been made administrator on the Facebook page and has started posting. The team will start looking at best practices for posting to the Facebook page. The next meeting is Monday, July 11th at 10 am.

Worship & Music (Peg Olson)

One communion chalice is again scratched and needs re-plating c/o Stemper in Milwaukee for repair. There has been \$275 Memorial money already designated for the re-plating. It was approved to take additional money needed for re-plating from Memorial funds. We will work to re-train altar guild members cleaning altar ware to prevent this recurring problem. The new tables in the sanctuary were well received and very helpful.

We are working to involve youth and other adults in special music during the summer. Volunteers include confirmation students and men's choir. We will approach the youth ministry team and other adults and continue to announce opportunities for members to share their music talents.

Summer outdoor services will be July 10 (10:30 am) and Aug. 28 (10:30 am) for the Bless the Pets service. We need volunteers to help set up for outdoor services.

Peg Olson has been interviewing more folks for the "Saints Alive" newsletter articles.

Upcoming liturgies planned. We will continue "Now the Feast" for June, and offer simplified liturgy for July and August. September and October offer Harvest/Global. "Now the Feast" in November, as liturgically this time of year is focused around the culmination of the kingdom and the feast where all the saints are gathered. We have begun using Hymns by request in our worship on Sundays. This has been well received.

Next meeting is scheduled for July 11th at 12 noon.

President's Report (Jane Martinez):

The incident report form has been made available in the side hall of the sanctuary and in the church office.

Jane is currently working on job descriptions for current staff/employees.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Karen Jewell):

New members: Greg Egner is joining St Andrew's.

Worship and Education: Confirmation – May 22, 2016. Wonderful day! Sunday School concluded school year also.

Community: Met with Barb Kuhn of ESTHER and Congregation B'Nai Israel. They would like to have a rep from our congregation who would attend ESTHER meetings. St Andrew's will be the site of the October meeting of ESTHER's Faith and Values meeting (October 25th potluck here at 6 pm)

Events: East Central Synod of WI Synod Assembly was **Friday, May 20th and Saturday, May 21st at the Green Bay Convention Center.** Jane and Michael Martinez, and Pastor Karen represented St Andrew's as voting members. Theme: Listening deeply to the other.

Upcoming: Retreat and vacation days: July 13-14 vacation, Courage and Renewal retreat July 15-17, vacation July 18 to 21, 2016. (Rev Jan Veseth of Our Saviors covering emergencies and Rev Clarence Harms supply preacher and presider on July 17th) Continuing Education in Family Faith formation – Sept 29 to October 1, 2016

LifeLong Faith Associates (John Roberto

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ziegler, Council Secretary

A complete set of the council minutes can be found on the narthex bulletin board.



Stewardship

Summertime is upon us. Our church still worships at the same times each week, but other people's schedules change as school ends. We thank you for continuing to support the mission and work of this congregation with your gifts of time and money! We hope to be here for you and others whatever the schedule may be!

Please feel free to make your gifts to Saint Andrew's 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 go to our secure webpage to make your offerings online: standrewsoshkosh.org.

Sabbath time – Summer time

(Stewardship of time)

We may not achieve it very well at all anymore, but we often think of summer time as a time for rest, renewal, recreation and vacation. We would like to learn to rest and find refreshment, but it seems harder than ever to do it. How does our faith help?

Sabbath comes from the Hebrew word for “rest” as in “on the seventh day God rested.”

Sabbath came to be the name of the seventh day of the week for the Israelites who were called by the fourth commandment (*Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy*) to remember the Sabbath of God and to practice resting in God’s grace.

In Deuteronomy 5:12-15 the fourth commandment recalls slavery in Egypt. Sabbath was a day when one did not work, because one was no longer a slave to a heartless task master (Pharaoh), but one was **free** to rest.

Walter Brueggemann, the Old Testament scholar, wrote a provocative book called ***Sabbath as resistance: saying NO to the Culture of Now.*** He tells of how the practice of Sabbath is rest on one day that changes how one lives in all seven days in the week.

He writes: *Sabbath is not simply the pause that refreshes. It is the pause that transforms. Whereas Israelites are always tempted to acquisitiveness, Sabbath is an invitation to receptivity, an acknowledgment that what is needed is given and need not be seized.* (p. 45)

The rest that Sabbath gives us is a rest that permits us to be human beings without having to justify our existence by how much we produce!

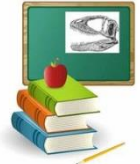
It is a great faith practice, because we are showing by our lives that we trust God to provide for us, and are not caught up into the world’s anxiety that we MUST produce, acquire, and consume all the time.


Perhaps Brueggemann’s book would make a great beach read? Or simply something to read devotionally as we seek to embrace the gift of our merciful God – the gift of life free of anxious striving – the gift of Sabbath rest in the arms of our loving God! May God’s peace be with you!

Christians in Action

Oshkosh Back to School Fair 2016 (& our Christmas in July Tree in entryway)

The Back to School Fair takes place on **August 11, 2016** from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m at Oaklawn Elementary School, 112 Viola Ave. It helps 1,000+ area students get ready to go back to school with school supplies, clothing, haircuts, and hygiene items.



 St Andrew’s Christmas tree in our entry way is loaded with tags to suggest needed items that we can collect and provide to support this community effort. Thank you for taking part! The items can be left at the tree, (unwrapped) and will be collected through Sunday, August 7, before the Fair.



Save the date! July 24 we will have Natalie Waters here to visit. She’s coming to us from Liberty school of Aeronautics in Virginia. She will be at EAA with hundreds of other missionary aviators, and will be with us to share about her ministry. She will be at both services for temple talks, with presentations and discussions afterward. Looking forward to seeing you there!

July Noisy Offering



The July 17 Noisy Offering is designated for Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots ([LAMP](#)). LAMP provides spiritual witness and nurtures faith in communities in northern remote areas of Canada. Each year over 5,000 children, youth and adults are impacted by the ministry of LAMP. Thank you for considering this mission!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Did you know St. Andrew's has Fire Extinguishers?
(Just in case of a fire)

- One is located at the main West entry doors facing Murdock Street.



- One is located in the hallway by the mail boxes, next to the doorway to the kitchen.



- Others are located in the hallway running on the west side of the sanctuary, in the boiler room, and in the furnace room.

Please be aware of their locations in case a fire emergency arises!

Youth News

Youth Ministry Team

Camp Amnicon – our Youth Ministry Team (YMT group) is taking a Christian adventure canoeing trip – paddling a 34' canoe in the Apostle Islands of Lake Superior – July 3 to July 8! Please pray for their safety, deepening faith, fun, and fellowship. Thank you for helping them have this marvelous experience!



Leader-in-Training Camp Summer 2016

Two of our high school youth will be taking part in Crossways Camps Leader-in-Training, a two week camp program that builds skills and experience working with other youth and children.

Thank you for supporting our youth activities with your gifts – you help send our youth to enriching programs that build their faith and empower them to help others in Jesus' name!



A Prayer as Summer begins...

Heavenly Father,
thank you for the glories of Summer.
In lush green you dress our landscape
in the colors of the Pentecost season.

Fill us with light and grace
so that we may sow your seeds of love
and compassion
in the sad and fearful places of this world.

The growth and blooms we leave to you,
the great gardener of souls.

In Jesus' name. Amen.
(Offered by Pam Nemmetz)



St. Andrew's Men with Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast –

Meet at the Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St.
Saturday, July 9 at 8:00 am

Lunch –

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

Art & Soul

July 16, 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.

Notes & Meetings

All members are welcome.



Christian Action Committee

Saturday, July 9, at 2:30 pm

Technology Committee

Monday, July 11, at 10 am

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, July 11, at 12 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 12, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, July 28, at 6 pm