

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

June 2016

Dear friends,

You have probably heard the recorded message:
"your call is very important to us, so please..."

For a little while you will have to hear that from St Andrew's as we sort out some new problems with our phone system.

Matt Moore's company Accu-com is generously covering our phones with an answering service when no one can be in the office to pick up – because our phone system is going to a strange tone instead of to our voice mail when calls come in that are not physically picked up in our office.

If I can be of help, please feel free to call me at home, where my voice mail can take your message! I will be checking messages there as often as possible. My home number is (920) 232-8287.

The statement *"Your call is very important to us"* shows that someone wants to listen! It is a deeply felt need in our day and time. So many folks feel cut off – distanced from others – alienated and isolated.

And that issue was a crucial part of our synod assembly this year – learning how to listen well, listen deeply, and then respond with Christ-like compassion and companionship.

The theme for our synod assembly was: *"We are Church: Listening deeply to the voice of the other."*

Our bishop, Gerald Mansholt, preached about the power of being listened to – the power of someone really hearing YOUR story. You know how in grief and in recovery and in regular fellowship we need to tell our stories, and be heard with compassion!

Bishop Mansholt mentioned how we have more methods than ever before to connect with other people yet we have never before felt so polarized.

Among the others we most need to listen to are those who seem different from ourselves. We tend to fear those who look different, sound different, or act differently from what we expect.

The result of our fear is often to avoid the others, to turn away from listening to them, but sometimes (and much worse) to distrust or even hate the others – quite the reverse of our calling as Christian people. *Love one another as I have loved you.*

So a portion of the assembly addressed racism and the hidden inequities of life that rise from our fears of the other. And our breakout sessions addressed many issues that could help us overcome the terrible effects of our dividedness, our racism, and our culture's crippling inequities.

It was just a start but it really opened my eyes to things I thought I had already understood and addressed, when truly there is so much more to learn and do.

I encourage you to talk with Jane and Mike Martinez and with me about the Synod Assembly and the things we learned about listening deeply to the other. We each came away from Synod Assembly feeling it was very worthwhile! And we want to share that worth with you.

One thing to ponder and take away today was something Bishop Mansholt also shared in his sermon: *that God shows up in others* – God is the Most Holy Other that we are called to listen to – and God shows up in Word and Sacrament in our worship and in our devotions, but also in people around us – and we must not discount the people around us who may bear God's word to us!

He said, "Listening for the voice of the Most Holy Other – leads into God's future for all people."

May this summer grant you daily opportunities to listen for the loving voice of God in all those you meet.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

Highlights of Church Council Meeting

Tuesday 12th April, 2016

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

Excused: Ann Stephan, Jakob Iversen

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

Old Business:

Part Time Office Staff Update: Pastor Karen reported that a new process was established to track and record donations that happen outside of the normal Sunday offerings.

Constitution: The drafts of the constitution and by-laws have been completed and uploaded/distributed to all council members for input.

Process for Counting Offerings: Jane Martinez led a discussion detailing the processes and responsibilities of the council captains on the offering teams

Council Retreat: The scheduled retreat will be postponed until sometime in the fall.

Online Approval of Meeting Minutes: Jakob Iversen will hold an instructional training meeting on May 10 from 6:30-7:00 for interested council members on accessing and approving minutes.

New Business:

Mutual Ministry: Tabled until the May meeting.

Fellowship/Hospitality Report (Chris Ziegler):

Thank you to all of those people that with the Easter Breakfast. Volunteers included: Gary Bruce, Sandy Walth, Tom & Marcia Galica, Christine Monroe, Jim & Sue Zinth, Jeff & Linda Ellman, Jay & Adam Klinger, Sue Jansen, Matt & Beth Moore, Marni, Katie, Rachel & Meghan Ziegler. It is always a great time for food, friends & family, and fellowship.

The revised volunteer schedule will be distributed to all of the listed volunteers on a quarterly basis as the new calendars are developed. We have called on all those that volunteered on the time & talent sheets.

Property Report (Warren Luce):

The spring clean-up date is set for Saturday May 14th. Upcoming projects that are being discussed are:

Redoing the pew cushions in the sanctuary

Replacing/redone the retaining wall on the South side of the Fellowship/Education addition

Hallway carpet down the East side of the sanctuary

ADA bathroom feasibility study

Technology (Jakob Iversen):

Technology Committee met on April 11. We discussed the description of the committee for the bylaws. We plan to expand the committee responsibility from technology to also include office operations and communications standards and means. We have several people now interested in managing social media, which will be a major focus of discussion at or next meeting. Next meeting: May 10, 5:30-7:00pm at St. Andrews.

Worship & Music (Peg Olson):

Discussion of choir seating, lighting, Sunday School exiting. Acolytes will be asked to open the door for the children. It was noted that the flow of people for candle lighting at the candle boxes during intinction has improved. We will continue to request interviews or written statements from congregation members for the "Saints Alive" newsletter column. A process for contacting volunteers on the Time and Talent Sheets to thank them and provide dates for training sessions will be developed before the next meeting. Discussion of outdoor service with cookout in July. Next Meeting: May 17 - 7pm. A motion was made and approved to replace a communion chalice for \$300, and for the purchase of soft hymnals for \$250, with the money coming from the memorial fund.

Youth Ministry Report (Patty Koplitz)

This past month we had a lock in for the high school kids. On Friday May 6 at 6pm we are having Serving Sinners and Saints. This is a fund raising dinner and art gala to support the youth summer trip as well as scholarships for camps. A raffle and silent auction will be held. In a couple of weeks I will be attending BYG camp with 3 girls and 2 boys. We will continue to meet through the rest of the school year and possibly through the summer.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Karen Jewell):

Church Office: Wonderful progress with the help of staff and the Technology Committee gave us the most minimally stressed Holy Week ever! Thank you to Sandy, Kay, and the volunteers who helped with special chores.

Christians in Action

Worship and Education:

Thank you to the special Good Friday men's choir, the Easter décor folks inside and outside the building, the Easter Breakfast crew, the choir, our wonderful staff, and all who assisted in leadership and behind the scenes. (*Marathon* – in the ten days leading up to Easter Sunday – we held nine worship services, two funerals and one wedding.)

Confirmation classes end on May 11, 2016 with the 8th grade students presenting to younger classes and family, then class photos, and rehearsal.

Confirmation will be on Sunday, May 22, 2016 (10:30 am worship).

Patty Koplitz preached the second of her sermons for her biblical preaching class at the 9:00 am worship on Sunday, April 3rd. Great job!

Events:

Tuesday, April 5 – Election Day – thank you for the hospitality and thank you to Peg Olson for opening up before 6 am.

Tuesday, April 12– Oshkosh Conference meeting was held at the Lutheran Campus Ministry Gathering Place in Oshkosh, with an excellent program about Millennials and the Church.

Upcoming:

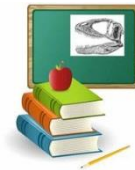
Again, my deep thanks for your expressions of sympathy following my mother's death. The memorial service here at St Andrew's will be on Saturday, April 30th at 2 pm to greet and thank the folks who knew my mother and befriended her here! Final choir piece will be offered on Sunday, May 22. East Central Synod of WI Synod Assembly is May 20 and 21 in Green Bay. Jane and Joe Martinez, and Pastor Karen will be representing St Andrew's as voting members.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Ziegler, Council Secretary

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

The 19th Annual Community Back to School Fair will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at Oaklawn Elementary School. Our congregation is again participating in this



mission to help meet the needs of over 1000 lower income families with children in our school system.

You can help, if you wish! Watch for the Christmas tree in the narthex decorated with paper ornaments suggesting items and sizes needed for children. Cash donations are also appreciated (checks made out to "Community Back to School Fair"). Bring items back to church and place them under the tree unwrapped. Thank you so much for considering this mission - you will be giving a gift that will mean so much to a child.

"Calling All Green Thumbs!"

Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW-

Oshkosh is gearing up for the annual plant giveaway for incoming freshmen. Please consider planting some easy-grow houseplants now to be ready by the beginning of September.

More details are available on the narthex bulletin board.



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God's Work – Our Hands

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016

Save the date now! Opportunities will be available for you to get involved on this special ELCA day of service, such as a Penny War for the Heifer Project, LWR School Kit assembling, and a Fleece quilt project – just to name a few. Watch for more details coming in the near future.



St. Andrew's Men with Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast –

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

Lunch –

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

Art & Soul

June 18, 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.



Technology Committee

Monday, June 13, at 10 am

Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 14, at 7 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Tuesday, June 14, at 4:30 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, June 23, at 6 pm

June Noisy Offering



The June 19 Noisy Offering is designated for [Lutheran World Relief School Kits](#). To the children who receive LWR school kits, the supplies mean the difference between getting an education or not. Though public education is free to these children, many families cannot afford even a few required supplies, like pens and paper. And, when parents can only afford to send one child, boys get priority.

Thank you for considering this mission!



Summer Schedules at St. Andrew's

We know that vacation, kid's camps, family reunions, and other summertime responsibilities will create scheduling conflicts with your participation at Church. Sometimes we get calls to take you off of schedules for a season. First of all, we thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and for offering to help!

Almost all of our schedules are already made for at least the season we are in. Please forgive us if you are assigned on a Sunday when you cannot take part. But here are a few things that you can do to help us even if you cannot take part on a given Sunday.

You can try to find a substitute for your date. If you are counting or ushering, you can let someone know on your team that you cannot attend so that they are prepared to carry on. You can phone the office and leave a message so that we are prepared to ask others to help.

If you are going to be away for a period of time, you can use electronic giving to keep your offerings moving the mission forward through the year.

Finally if your absence is due to illness or some other major life issue, please let us know so that we may pray for you, visit you (if you wish it), bring you communion or otherwise be of help to you. Thank you so much for your presence and your generosity as members of St Andrew's. May God bless you – this summer and ALWAYS!