



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 2017
coming soon: July 9, 2017 Picnic vespers and fellowship

Dear friends,

The long slow Spring has been a time for memories for me. The smell of lilacs, the burst of redbud color like a magenta cloud, and the sweetness of the lilies of the valley have really called me home to the place where I grew up.

It was a small farm when my great grandfather bought it, and when my grandparents raised my father there. They grew vegetables and fruit, canned, and survived the Depression.

Somewhere in that time they had to sell off most of the orchards and just a couple acres remained when my Dad brought my Mom there and raised my sisters and me, but it was more than enough!

The inside of the house was bursting with books (are you surprised?) and the gardens were bursting with blooms and fruit. I didn't know it at the time but I grew up in a little garden of Eden that my grandparents had planted on the outskirts of our town.

I write that assuming you know what I mean by comparing my childhood home to the Garden of Eden. But many in our community of Oshkosh would not necessarily know of that place nor where our bible tells of such a place.

How do our neighbors conceive of God? Or what God has made? How would you explain your faith in the God who has made lilacs and fruit trees and such a wondrous array of greens in springtime that we run out of words to distinguish them?

The last part of the verse in I Peter 3:15: *Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you;*

Sometimes our neighbors would like to know why and how we Christians have hope. Peter in his letter strongly encourages us to be prepared to answer such questions.

Martin Luther gave us some straightforward answers to help us. He had a pesky four year old at the time – the sort of kid who is always asking WHY?...

So as Luther was addressing the faith questions in his day he wrote his explanation of our faith in the Small Catechism and provided his answers to the pesky questions of faith (shaped by fatherhood).

In the Apostles Creed, Luther shared this:
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. *What does this mean?* I believe that God has created me together with all that exists. God has given me and still preserves my body and soul: eyes, ears, and all limbs and senses; reason and all mental faculties.

In addition, God daily and abundantly provides shoes and clothing, food and drink, house and farm, spouse and children, fields, livestock, and all property; along with all the necessities and nourishment for this body and life. God protects me against all danger and shields and preserves me from all evil. And all this is done out of pure, fatherly, and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness of mine at all! For all of this I owe it to God to thank and praise, serve and obey him. This is most certainly true.

Luther encouraged everyone (and especially pastors!) to study the catechism every day – study it like a small child. Do we ever grow beyond our childlike need for God's loving answers? I don't think so.

Meanwhile so much challenges us in this garden of Eden where we live. I hope you will continue to spend time in worship, in prayer, in the bible, and in service of other folks as you travel through this slow spring into summer.

Don't forget – God is with you. And you bring that understanding to the neighbors who don't yet know of the love that will never let them go!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

Highlights of Church Council Meeting

Tuesday May 9, 2017

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

Excused: Peg Olson, Linda Ellmann, Jackie Kuhn

Treasurer's report: Matt Moore presented the April bills paid, the balance sheets, and the profit and loss statement for year to date vs budget & year to date vs previous year were presented. **Jakob Iversen made a motion** to the approve the April bills paid, **Rose Rivera seconded** the motion. **Motion approved.** **Ann Stephan made a motion** to the approve the treasurer's reports, **Jakob Iversen seconded** the motion. **Motion approved.**

Old Business:

Church Security Up date: Warren is still waiting on quotes for installing a new door with a panic bar into the courtyard across from the Fellowship/Education entrance.

Building Remodeling Update: Warren and Jakob have developed a questionnaire to survey the congregation regarding what they feel the priorities are for church wants and needs. A diverse cross section of all church members and visitors will be sought to ensure a fair evaluation of all projects considered.

Bike Rack: Warren will be placing the order for the bike rack by the next council meeting.

New Business:

Lutheran Campus Ministries: Pastor Karen shared with the council a request from Lutheran Campus Ministries for assistance in replacing the roof on their building. They will receive matching funds from any donations received. **Jakob Iversen made a motion** to donate \$370 to Lutheran Campus Ministries to assist in paying for their roof replacement with monies to come from the Thrivent TBD Fund. **Rose Rivera seconded** the motion. **Motion approved.**

Confirmation Camp Assistance: Pastor Karen approached the council with the possible need for money to help offset the cost of confirmation camp for two individuals' families. **Jakob Iversen made a motion** to allocate up to a total of \$670 to assist two families in covering the cost of member attending confirmation camp this summer with the monies coming from the Thrivent TBD Fund. **Rose Rivera seconded** the motion. **Motion approved.**

Congregational Life (Rose Rivera):

Rose passed on the Summary from the Youth Leadership Facilitator (Patty Koplitz):

This month of May will see the last of the BYG events for the summer. They will start back up

again in September. They will end with Game Day on May 20th

Thank you to Irene Snyder for bringing her hats to church. What a beautiful sight to see so many hats in church. Irene surely is a blessing to the Youth Group.

The fund-raising efforts continue. Friday May 12th will be the Serving Sinners and Saints dinner. Adult tickets are \$15 and children are \$7. There is still time to buy tickets to enjoy a great meal and support the Youth Group.

YMT will decide if they will continue to meet throughout the summer. The group did in 2016, but Patty would like input from the group.

Thank you to all that helped in the cleaning of the carpets, including in the youth room. The youth were so grateful and impressed that they came back and cleaned and reorganized the cabinets and cupboards.

Patty will be gone two Wednesday nights, but she will find someone to lead the groups and may find a different place to meet for those two nights. That will all depend on the person that will be in charge.

Thank you to all for the continued support of the Youth Group and their ministries.

Evangelism (Jay Klinger):

Evangelism will be supplying a cake to recognize and show appreciation to all mothers On Mother's Day, May 14th

Fellowship/Hospitality Report (Chris Ziegler):

Thank you to all the individuals and families that helped make the Easter morning breakfast to be such a wonderful and enjoyable time for all. Attendance was up slightly from last year, and the donations covered all the expenses associated with putting on the event.

Property Report (Warren Luce):

The carpets were cleaned, and the floors were polished and waxed. Thank you to all that helped in the moving of all the furniture out of the way, and back again, for both the carpets and the floors.

Worship & Music (Peg Olson):

The minutes of the April 3rd meeting were approved. We reviewed the Palm Sunday Holy Week services. A Taizé-style baccalaureate service will be held Wednesday, May 17 at 6 pm for confirmands and their families. A 6:30 dessert reception will follow, with Confirmation rehearsal at 7:30.

We reviewed the plan for communion distribution on Confirmation Sunday, May 21. We will have

communion by intinction at the 9 am service and full communion at the 10:30 Confirmation service.

Pastor Karen confirmed the plan for a joint summer Vespers service with other ELCA churches on July 9, 2017, with Vespers at 5:00 pm followed by a picnic potluck supper at 5:30 pm. We will contact Chris Ziegler in regard to this event.

Brenda announced that the choir gathering will be May 21st at the Pizza Ranch at 1:00 pm. The congregation is invited to attend.

On Sunday, May 28, Brenda will provide cards and markers for making thank you notes for area school crossing guards. The congregation will be invited to stay for coffee after the services to make the cards and deliver them as is convenient.

Brenda shared a flyer for a performance of the African Children's Choir concert on Wednesday, May 31 at 7 pm. The concert will be held at the Alberta Kimball Auditorium.

Discussion of Abel Scholarship recipient's offer to play the piano for the congregation. Peg will contact her to ask if she and possibly others in her studio group would be available June 11. The congregation will be invited to get coffee at the end of the service and return to the sanctuary if interested in the short concert.

Discussion of worship settings for the summer.

Pastor Harms will be the guest preacher/presider on June 4.

Discussion of the Sending portion of Sunday services: how best to conclude the worship.

Discussion of additional acolyte or assisting minister robe purchase.

Worship and Music will meet June 26 at 4 pm in the choir room to plan the July 9 service.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Karen Jewell):

Confirmation camp – Sunday, June 18 to Friday, June 23 at Pine Lake Camp

Need to request camper scholarships up to \$670.00. Total cost of camp is \$435.00 per student. Our church has paid \$100.00 per camper to help – this is budgeted in the Education budget each year. Some families are deeply in need. One member already contributed \$135.00 to assist one of our campers. I am still trying to get word back from some of the families how much they will need. If they need full camperships the total needed would be \$670.00. May we use Thrivent TBD funds or should it be Discretionary funds?

Confirmation Sunday will be May 21. The baccalaureate worship time and dessert honoring our students completing confirmation will be **Wednesday, May 17.** All are welcome. Worship at 6:00 pm, dessert (Sundae bar) at 6:30 pm, worship rehearsal for the 8th graders at 7:30 pm.

I have been meeting with each 8th grader in a final interview together with one of their parents or grandparents as they reflect what they have learned in the past 3 years. 3 interviews completed, 3 interviews still to go.

Staff Evaluations: I helped conduct four staff mutual ministry evaluations on Tuesday, May 2. I am still writing up the interview notes. Jay Klinger and Chris Ziegler took part in the staff evaluations. We met with Patty Koplitz, Sandy Last (re: office work), Brenda Francis, and Kay Procknow. We still have Sandy Last's accompanist position and mine to evaluate.

I am planning to attend **two continuing ed events – both on May 18** – the morning session in Appleton on Mental Health in older adults for faith leaders offered by the Samaritan Counseling Center, and the evening event is a Pre-Synod Assembly event about being a Lutheran. **Synod Assembly is May 19 & 20** in Green Bay at the KI convention center. I am attending with Brenda Francis and Pam Nemmetz as our two lay voting members elected at our Annual meeting.

At our Oshkosh Conference meeting today two projects were brought forward for your consideration.

First, The **Lutheran Campus Ministry house** is in dire need of a **new roof**. The Board of LCM is asking if each conference congregation could help them with a financial gift to meet a matching grant. Can we help them with a financial gift – how would you like me to pursue this?

Second, there will be a **Lutheran-Catholic Prayer service** in commemoration of the 500th anniversary of the reformation **at Calvary Lutheran church on Tuesday May 23 at 6:30 pm**. It was planned for later in the year but had to be moved up as Father Doug LaCaptain, the priest at St Raphael's, is being moved to a parish in Manitowoc this summer. All are welcome. We were also given resources to help the refugee crisis in South Sudan and a brand new Lutheran Church that is being founded there in the midst of the crisis by youth who were rescued, educated, became pastors (Lutheran and Anglican traditions) and want to go back to help their people.

Finally, I would like to take vacation days from Thursday, June 1 to Thursday, June 8. I am driving to meet my sisters in Ann Arbor, Michigan to commit my mother's ashes there. Pastor Clarence Harms is preaching and presiding June 4 and I will ask local pastors to cover St Andrew's for pastoral care emergencies.

Respectfully submitted, Chris Ziegler, Secretary

A complete set of minutes is available on the bulletin board next to the office.

**Report on the 2017 [East Central Synod of Wisconsin](#)
Assembly**

May 19 & 20, 2017

Respectfully submitted by Pam Nemmetz

I had the honor of representing our congregation, along with Pastor Karen Jewell and Brenda Francis, at the Synod Assembly in Green Bay. I was also able to attend a Thursday evening session with our guest Rev. Martin Lohrman, an authority on Martin Luther.

Our theme for the gathering was “We are Lutheran: Building Bridges Across all the Differences that Divide.” This theme was woven throughout the assembly presentations. Rev. Martin Lohrman spoke about how we can bridge the 500 years since the Reformation by using the teachings and insights of Martin Luther today.

Luther struggled to reconcile God’s mercy with God’s justice. A devoted and gifted scholar and monk, Luther was very critical of himself. In coming to terms with this, through his studies of the scriptures, religious experts and the works of the ancient philosophers, Luther developed the seeds of what would become the reformation. Key to Luther’s understanding and conclusions were “Grace alone, Faith alone, Christ alone.”

The core teachings of the Good News tell us that God’s mercy through Christ frees us from sin. We receive this gift through faith and are freed to serve others. As we serve others we become bridge builders, however small and humble we believe our efforts to be.

Because we are human and will fail despite our best intentions, Luther advises us to repent or turn back to God again and again as needed. In his first of 95 theses, he states that the entire life of a Christian is meant to be one of repentance and returning to God. He further states in volume 32 of his written works “We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way. The process is not yet finished but it is actively going on.”

In the spirit of the assembly theme, our guest preacher at the opening service was the most Reverend David L. Ricken, Bishop of Green Bay Diocese. He spoke of the bridges that have been built in understanding and

cooperation between Catholics and Lutherans during the past 50 years. In the spirit of continued reconciliation, the Catholic Church will celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with the Lutheran Church.

Subsequent sessions with Rev. Lohrman covered the topics of sharing our Lutheran faith with others and what citizenship means to Lutherans. Revisiting our catechism with fresh eyes can reacquaint us with its accessibility. Presented as it is in a simple question and answer format in the small version, the answers to the questions “Who is God?” “Who am I?” and “Why are we here?” can be found. In challenging political times, Rev. Lohrman suggests that as we trust that God can do good things through broken people like us; we as Christians should be willing to engage in the hard work of shaping good government.

Several resolutions were presented during the business portion of the assembly. Of note was a resolution to educate members to be hunger advocates and to support ELCA World Hunger Relief and Global Barnyard initiative. A resolution to stand with children in poverty and hunger in Wisconsin was passed. The East Central Synod churches will be supporting the Lutheran Campus Ministry with gifts so that they can repair their facility’s roof. Also adopted was resolution to stand with refugees seeking legal entrance to the United States by supporting the federal government’s non-discriminatory screening and settlement procedures. We are also encouraged to welcome newcomers to our communities and support the work of organizations like World Relief Fox Valley and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

Other highlights of the assembly were a Healing of the Nation’s service and a Resource Center dedicated to Luther and the Reformation. Attendees were welcomed by “stone” arch castle walls into a large room filled with unique interactive displays depicting Luther’s life and the Reformation.

I heartily recommend participation in the synod assembly. Next year we will be meeting on May 18 & 19 at the Best Western Premier in Oshkosh. I was inspired and grateful to be a part of the 2017 Assembly. Thank you for the privilege of representing you.

Abel/St. Andrew's Performing Arts Scholarship

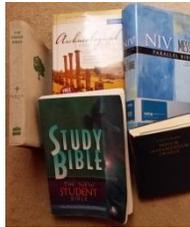


Hannah DCamp is the recipient of this year's Abel/St. Andrew's Performing Arts Scholarship. This scholarship was endowed by the Abel family with the understanding that St. Andrew's will collaborate with the College of Letters and Science at UW - Oshkosh to facilitate the process.

Hannah, a Junior at UWO, is a pianist and a resident of Oshkosh. She has expressed an interest in visiting St. Andrew's and playing the piano when arrangements can be made.

Come grow in faith

Please join us for our bible studies this summer. We meet most Mondays at 7:15 pm and most Wednesdays at 12 noon.



Because of summer holidays, vacation time, and other events our bible studies will occasionally not meet on a given Wednesday or Monday. Please check the calendar so that we don't disappoint you!

Our Wednesday noon group is working through Dr Craig Koester's Reading the Bible as Literature video series – through the Old Testament and the New with all sorts of wonderful insights that enrich our reading. The Monday night bible study has been working through Matthew's gospel chapter by chapter.

Our faith tradition treasures bible reading and listening for God's loving word. Please come and join us as you are able! You are welcome.

From the Evangelism Committee:

Something to Know

If you were unable to attend worship service, or know of someone who cannot attend a service:



St. Andrew's has Pastor Karen's sermon downloaded on both our website, <http://standrewsoshkosh.org/> and on [Facebook](#), for you to listen to, along with the readings for each corresponding

Sunday Worship Service.

Follow us on Facebook and stay connected with upcoming events!!!

A word from the Christian Action Committee:



We are looking for volunteers to assist with distributing flyers advertising our Feeding the Children in August effort. We plan to distribute them from 3 pm until our picnic service at 5 pm on July 9. We expect the deliveries to take a couple hours at the most. Once the flyers are distributed, we hope everyone would return and join us for hotdogs and talk about our experiences. We are looking for adults and youth to walk door-to-door in a designated area. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex.

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

Please join us in volunteering at the Pizza ranch on Monday, July 24, 2017, from 3:30 – 8 PM.



We will be assisting with serving food. Proceeds will be used to support the Feeding the Children in Oshkosh program. Sign-up sheets to volunteer will be placed in the Narthex.

Please contact Carol Spiegelberg or Jackie Kuhn if you have questions about either of these events.

June Noisy Offering



The June 19 Noisy Offering is designated for [Lutheran Campus Ministry](#), a faith-based ministry for students of UWO that reaches out in service and fellowship to fellow students and also communities beyond the UW-Oshkosh campus. This summer they are re-roofing the Gathering Place house and our gifts will help them meet a matching grant!

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.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the *Serving Sinners and Saints* dinner a wonderful success! I appreciate everyone who helped and attended. I look forward to next year! - Patty



Do you need yard work done? House cleaning help? Give Patty a call at 920-420-5616. I will bring kids to come and help at your house for a free will offering to the Youth Ministry team.

BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

BYG has come to an end for the summer. But look for the calendar to come out in August! Thanks to everyone who attended this year.

YMT (Youth Ministry Team)

Wednesday nights may have ended for confirmation, but we continue on! We keep meeting on Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:30 PM. Feel free to join us, anytime - especially if you are heading into high school, in high school, or in college. I look forward to seeing you!



Summer Mission Trip

Prayers are appreciated as we go to Urban Immersion August 6 through 12, 2017. Offerings for support are still appreciated!

Confirmation Camp

Pastor Karen and five of our confirmation students will be attending Crossways confirmation camp at Pine Lake during the week following Father's Day. Please pray for us, fellow campers and counselors - for deepening faith, growing, learning, and fun!

Summer 2017: What will it mean to follow Jesus?



In the days after Pentecost the early church explored how to use the gifts of the Spirit to share their faith and serve others in need. Their faithful love spread the good news to the world. Now an estimated 2.2 billion people follow Jesus!

During our summer together we will be listening closely to the stories that Jesus teaches and seeking the guidance of God's love into new adventures in faith.

If you wish to support the mission and ministry of St Andrew's Lutheran Church, we invite you to make a gift to St Andrew's. Electronic gifts are welcome. You may use smart phone technology or go to our website standrewsoshkosh.org. Here is the short URL: <http://bit.do/stagiving> and the QR Code:



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



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!



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

Breakfast

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, June 10, at 8:00 am

Lunch

Meet at Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson St.
Tuesday, June 20, at noon

Art & Soul

Saturday, June 17, 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!

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, June 26, at 4 pm

Christian Action Committee

Tuesday, June 6, at 6 pm

Technology Committee

Monday, June 26, at 10:30 am

Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 13, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, June 22, at 6 pm