

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

March 2016
Lenten Wednesday worship 12 noon and 7 pm (March 2, 9, 16)

Dear friends,



There is a snowdrop blooming behind my house. It is so very demure and humble – just barely an inch or so above the mostly frozen ground. But it is blooming in this sometimes mild, sometimes sharply colder winter weather.

The courage of that little flower draws me out the back door to see how it is doing each day. It cheers me that that little life is humble but very determined in the face of inhospitable conditions. And it is quite beautiful – a pearl white head nodding on a bravely green stem.

It is a symbol of deeply resilient life. The kind of life that manages to be filled with beauty in the face of very daunting conditions.

Human beings are very like that little snowdrop. We are resilient, courageous, and determined to make life work out.

Resilience is a huge quality – the kind of faith, courage, and character that keep on seeking life and doing the best we can in the face of the things that challenge us.

Resilient faith stands the tests and goes on being faithful. But how do we develop resilient faith? How do we cultivate it in our children, and in those who are seeking a new start?

There is a part of me that longs to believe that faith is something that we can make – some wonderful formula of practice and design. But that would fly in the face of the wisdom of our tradition.

We Lutheran Christians believe that faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit – not something we can manufacture or grow independently of God. And yet faith is not something that simply happens to us – like a bunch of snow falling off the tree branch and onto your head!

Faith resides at the meeting place between God and us. In our Romans bible study we learned that Paul thought of Jesus as the place where God and humanity meet. And that is the place where our faith lives.

Luther said that “Faith is the Yes of the heart.” God reaches out to us and we humbly and joyfully welcome the maker of all things.

Luther in his Preface to the book of Romans wrote this: *Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures.*

I hope and pray that in these days leading up to Easter and on into Spring you will find yourself meeting God again and again, so that your faith may be full and resilient and joyous.

May you know God's love, may you know God's peace, and may your heart say YES – whatever may be your situation in this crazy world. And may that YES bring forth beauty – tender, humble, unexpected and quite brave.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karen Jewell

Highlights of Church Council Meeting Tuesday 9th February, 2016

Present: Pastor Karen Jewell, Jane Martinez, Matt Moore, Chris Ziegler, Ann Stephan, Kristi Cutts, Peg Olson, Warren Luce, Linda Ellman

Excused: Jakob Iversen, Jay Klinger

Guests: Jayne Lindsay, Rose Rivera

Treasurer's report: Motion was made and carried to approve the January bills paid and current financial reports.

Elections: Nominations were made and approved to name Jane Martinez as President, Jay Klinger as Vice President, and Chris Ziegler as Council Secretary.

Old Business:

Feedback on Annual Meeting: It was discussed to try and keep the time limit of future annual meeting to under an hour if possible. Pastor Karen's salary, the debt to special funds, and the paying off of the mortgage are all topics that the council will have to discuss.

Office Staff Update: Thank you to all of the council members for getting all of the narrative budgets and committee reports to the secretaries for publication in time for the annual meeting. The new copy machine will be in the week of February 15th. Time & Talent sheets are being tabulated.

Constitution Update: Jane Martinez stated that the rough draft of the constitution is complete, and the next task is to finalize the by-laws. The committee will be hope to have an update by the March council meeting.

Emergency Preparedness: Matt Moore, Jane Martinez, and Jay Klinger will meet on Feb. 15th at 6:00 pm to finalize the employee handbook.

New Business:

Council Retreat: Set for Saturday April 16th. The time and location will be determined. Topics to be considered are: constitution review, mission statement revision, spiritual self care, devotions, building trust, setting goals for committees and council.

Committee Reports:

Christian Action - Kristi Cutts:

The Christian Action Committee met on Saturday 2/6/16. The Noisy Offering schedule for 2016 was set. The next meeting will be held Saturday, May 7, 2016 at 2:30 PM.

Fellowship/Hospitality Report - Chris Ziegler:

The volunteer schedule will be revised to accommodate the change in church council and counting teams. Volunteers are needed for ushering (especially second service) as well as coffee set-up and clean-up.

Property Report – (Gary Bruce) Warren Luce:

Carpet to be installed week of 2/22/2015 along with the hearing loop. Broken kitchen faucet will be replaced. Witzke to install better lighting for the choir and will

look at stained glass window light at the same time. Updating the women's restroom fixtures is in the works. Window for the kitchen will be installed in about 3 weeks. Ceiling tile (installed around 1986) in the lounge may need replacing as it is moving or shrinking. Next meeting, Feb. 25, 2016 at 6:00 PM.

Technology - Jakob Iversen:

We discussed merging the various Facebook pages. We created a new email account (donations@standrewsoshkosh.org) to be dedicated to Vanco communication. We also discussed best ways to communicate the opportunities to give electronically. A generous member has donated \$800 towards pastor's new computer. We have purchased long HDMI cables to allow for connecting computers to the TVs. Next meeting: Mar. 7 at 10:00AM.

Worship & Music - Peg Olson:

Youth helped with worship during the children's time twice in the last month: January 31, the YMT group helped teach prayer, and on Feb 7, scouts from our congregation taught about living their faith. Lenten supper and worship schedules were shared.

Pastor's Report - Pastor Karen Jewell:

“Donut know what we would have done without you” was held Jan 10th. and a drawing from T & T sheets on Jan 17th (Mike Martinez won the Chamber Certificate!) Monday evening bible study is continuing (Samuel Wells) *Be Not Afraid*, and the Wednesday noon bible study began a video based study of Paul's Letter to the Romans. I attended the Mid-Winter Convocation at Luther Seminary, St Paul, MN.

Upcoming:

Tuesday, February 16 – Oshkosh Conference

Assembly, Calvary Lutheran Church, Oshkosh

Sunday, February 21 – Lutheran Campus Ministry

Annual Meeting, 1 – 3 pm All Saints Lutheran

Tuesday, February 23 – Fox Valley Mental Health

Ministry Initiative (breakfast meeting)

Thursday, February 25 to Tuesday, March 1 –

attending my mother's memorial service in Florida (Feb 27th) Pastor Clarence Harms preaching and presiding at worship, Feb 28th.

Deep thanks for your expression of sympathy at the time of my mother's death. We will have a memorial service here at St Andrew's on Saturday, April 30th to greet and thank the folks who knew my mother and befriended her here!

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ziegler, Council Secretary

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

We have **two special opportunities** for you to share your talents:

Youth Fund Raiser Dinner

Do you have a heart for the youth, but are uncertain how to help? Patty Koplitz, Youth Leadership Facilitator, is looking for people who would be willing to help with a dinner and art gala planned for Friday, May 6th. Please **meet in the lounge on Tuesday, March 15th at 6 pm** if you are interested in helping gather and making baskets and/or soliciting donations for a silent auction.

Ushers/Greeters/Coffee Hour Hosts

Also, we are in dire need of ushers, greeters, and coffee hour hosts for our worship services. If you are interested in helping out and have not indicated on your Time and Talent sheet, please contact the church office (920-235-6616), or talk with Chris Ziegler.

Thank You!

Thank you to all the people who helped assemble the pizzas for the youth fundraiser on Friday and Saturday, February 26-27, 2016. 361 pizzas (an increase of over 100 from last year) were made!



Thanks you, as well, to all who supported the youth in their efforts! The money they have raised will go to help with all of St. Andrew's youth activities - Youth Mission Team, Beginning Youth Group, Soda Pizza And a Movie nights, mission trips, youth gatherings, etc.

Thanks, too to everyone who helped with the carpeting/hearing loop projects the week of February 21 to 28, 2016. A heartfelt thanks, as well, to all who contributed money so that the projects could be done. You all are the salt of the earth! Our sanctuary is beautiful and so welcoming to all who enter - members and visitors alike!



Lenten Wednesdays at St A's

March 2, 9 and 16, 2016

half hour worship at 12 noon and 7 pm.

12:30 – 1:30 pm Study of the book of Romans

(DVD based, accompanied by light lunch)

6:00 – 7:00 pm confirmation instruction

with a light supper – all ages welcome

During Lent we have been looking at the basics of our faith: the Ten Commandments, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion with the help of Martin Luther. He and other reformation pastors would revisit these building blocks of our faith regularly.

Please come and join us!



Preparation for Holy Communion

Saturday, March 12, 2016

9:00 am to 12 noon

(Alternate time: Saturday, March 19)

Come learn the biblical stories of the Passover and the Last Supper, learn from the Small Catechism about the sacrament and its meaning, and make flat bread that we will use in worship on Maundy Thursday. Wear clothes to bake in and learn about Lutheran practices and those in different Christian traditions!

Call Pastor Karen for more information! We encourage parents/mentors to attend! (235-6616)

Daylight Savings Time begins

Sunday, March 13th

Our time "springs forward"

Please don't forget – put your clocks ahead one hour!

HYGIENE DRIVE – "Help for the Homeless"

runs now through Sunday, March 13th

Needs include:

Soaps: Laundry, Dish, Bar, Soft, Shower Gel,

Shampoo

Disposable Razors

Diapers

Wet Wipes for babies

Deodorant (unscented)

Toilet Paper

Tampons

Toothbrushes & Toothpaste

Paper Towels

Please bring your donations in to drop off by Sunday, March 13th. Drop off box is in entryway by the Sunday School. Thank you so much!

Worship Schedule in Holy Week

Sunday, March 20th is Palm Sunday,
Palm Procession at 9:00 and 10:30 am



Thursday, March 24th is Maundy Thursday,
Holy Communion 12 noon and 7:00 pm.

Friday, March 25th is Good Friday,
Worship at 12 noon and 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 27th is Easter Sunday!!!
Worship at 7:00 am
Easter Breakfast from 8:00 to 9:30 am
Festival Easter worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Come and worship!
You are most welcome!



Easter Breakfast!

Sunday, March 27th from
8:00 to 9:30 am

This is one of our favorite
fellowship times all year!

Member families cook all your favorite breakfast foods, serve you before and after Easter worship and we have the chance to catch up with one another once again.

Would you like to help? Contact Chris Ziegler
ctiegle1@new.rr.com or call (920) 235-5194

Looking ahead to April...

Save Saturday, April 30th for the upcoming
Oshkosh Money Conference

April 30, 2016, Oshkosh West High School,
275 North Eagle Street,
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Programs: 8:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

(Registration & Breakfast begins 7:30 a.m.)

Adult Classes

Youth Classes (ages 6-18)

Child Care for ages 2-5 yrs (advance regis required)

Registration costs: \$2.00 for adults, and free for youth if pre-registered by March 28th, \$4.00 for adults and \$1.00 for youth on the day of the event. Registration includes breakfast, lunch, and a free copy of your credit report.

www.assetbuilders.org



St. Andrew's Men with Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast –

Meet at the Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St.
Saturday, Mar. 12 at 8 am

Lunch –

Meet at Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson St.
Tuesday, Mar. 15, at noon

Lutheran Adults for Fun and Fellowship

LAFF will NOT be meeting in the month of March.
Watch the newsletter and bulletins for future dates.

Art & Soul

Art & Soul **will not meet in March.** The next meeting will be April 23, 2016. Watch the April newsletter for details!

Notes & Meetings

All members are welcome.

Technology Committee

Monday, Mar. 7, at 10 am

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, Mar. 7, at 4 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, Mar. 8, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, Mar. 24, at 5:30 pm



March Noisy Offering

The March 20 Noisy Offering is designated for the [Oshkosh Area Humane Society](#), helping our beloved animals. Look for more information elsewhere in this newsletter.

Lent 2016: Create in me
a new
heart, life, beginning,
hope,...faith!



God took what was dust and ashes and breathed life into being. We take time in Lent to remember our "created-ness" so that we may turn in trust to our Creator. We remember how he took on our life as a human being so that we know God's love and mercy right where we live. We remember how Jesus took on our death to show us that God's promise means life in spite of all that opposes it.

We would like to thank you for your presence at St Andrew's in worship, and to thank you for your devotion to God revealed in ministry and mission. We invite you to consider supporting the mission and ministry of St Andrew's with your gifts.

Please feel free to make your gifts to St 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:



Church Staff

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