

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

May 2016
Prayer Around the Cross Wednesday, May 18 at 7:00 pm

Dear friends,

The Day of Pentecost this year is Sunday, **May 15**. Please feel free to wear something red – the color that symbolizes the energy of the Holy Spirit given to Christ's Body – and that's **us!**

Another potent revealing of the Holy Spirit was the gift of tongues – of the ability to speak in other languages so that believers could share the wonderful news of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ to all others – no matter what language they might speak! You can read the story for yourself in Acts, chapter 2.

Becoming a Lutheran pastor involves language study – to try to understand the biblical texts in their earliest expression in Hebrew and Greek and then to use those expressions to offer the good news of Jesus Christ in the clearest and most potent form.

But lately I have been thinking about other languages and asking the Holy Spirit to help me learn more.

They say that our children are “digital natives” – that is, they grew up freely communicating with digital means. I will always be a non-native in the digital universe no matter how much I try to learn, because I did not grow up there, but in a truly different world.

So I am trying to learn what Paul modeled for us when he said in First Corinthians 9:22:
I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some.

I am trying to learn to communicate the gospel in the digital universe, and be respectful of the way folks communicate there.

If we insist that all the digital natives must learn what seems to them a different language, they will only have so much curiosity and energy to seek Jesus in a different world.

Before Pentecost (May 15) comes a day in the church calendar called Ascension Day – ten days ahead – so it is always a Thursday. This year we are transferring the readings to the Seventh Sunday of Easter so that we can celebrate the Ascension.

On that day, Jesus made himself available to all people at all times in all places. When we follow him as his Church, we try to be people who will offer his good news at all times in all places – so that everyone has a chance to know him and trust him – so that everyone has a chance to know the good news of the God who loves, who saves, who is **GOD WITH US!**

So I am mindful that our church seeks to serve digital natives and those who are native to other ways of communicating.

And I am mindful that our church and all churches are in the midst of a huge transition in the way that we offer the good news.

But the good news is good news – Jesus isn't leaving our universe, whatever it may sound like!

Instead, he chooses a Way to be with us wherever we live, however we may speak and think. And he promises to be with us always.

I hope you will always find that St Andrew's is involved in God's mission for you, for your children, for your neighbor, and for all. I hope you will always find God's love is spoken here in myriad ways to reach and bless – bless with Jesus' love.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karen Jewell

On Friday and Saturday, May 20th and 21st our East Central Synod will gather for the yearly Assembly. Please pray for us to be guided into the mission God equips us to do in this time and place. Thank you so much!

Saints Alive!

Reflections from members who have contributed their time and talent in a variety of ways.



Almost anytime you are at St. Andrew's, whether for worship services, special activities or helping out with the myriad of things that need to be done, you are bound to bump into one of the Galicas - or most likely both! I spoke with Tom and Marcia a few weeks ago about all they do to help make St. Andrew's a great place to be.

Marcia and Tom Galica have served St. Andrew's since they were married 45 years ago! When talking with them about their commitment to St. Andrew's they told me they consider their offering of time and talents a calling. Marcia says, "It comes from the heart." Tom and Marcia started contributing during Pastor Luebke's time by cleaning the building once each month and shoveling snow whenever. They now participate in many regular and special activities, including Christmas and Easter sanctuary decorating, the Christian Action Committee, preparing and serving Lenten Wednesday meals, and assisting with funeral lunches. Marcia oversees Worship and Music's flower committee, making sure flowers are provided for special seasons.

Tom and Marcia are strongly supportive of children and youth, always taking time to look at Sunday School artwork and occasionally getting into trouble (Tom) when chasing children down the hallway! Tom smiles as he says the Sunday School kids "brighten your life." Tom is concerned that the youth may not realize how important they are to the St. Andrew's community, and he consistently reaches out to them, sometimes "giving them a hard time," but in a way that they know he sees and cares about them. So many young adults returning at holidays or for special services ask about the Galicas, often saying how much it meant to them that Tom and Marcia had been here for them.

Tom reflects on the friendships they've developed over their many years of attending services and participating in projects and fellowship events. "It's like a family - you see kids grow up, marry, have their own kids... and part of it are the funerals, too. You see the closeness of family members, and you meet the people who knew their loved ones."

Both enjoy the "amazing Sunday fellowship hours" when they come together with others to discuss faith, family, health and any number of other topics. "We'd be lost without it." Marcia especially enjoys working in the kitchen because of the window - she loves watching wild turkeys on the lawn and people walking their dogs. She also loves the on-demand water heater under the kitchen sink and having both hot and cold water in the sink!

The daily connections among congregation members are most important to Marcia and Tom - this is evident by their smiling faces and welcoming words. At the end of our talk they encouraged everyone to become involved in St. Andrew's programs or projects, "If you don't, you're really missing something!"

—submitted by Peg Olson

Watch future newsletters for more reflections of our fellow members and their involvement at St. Andrew's.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

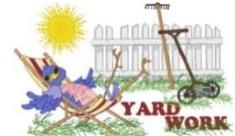
**Did you know St. Andrew's has a
FIRST AID KIT?**



The FIRST AID KIT is located in the kitchen down the hall from the restrooms!

Spring Cleaning

Need help with lawn work?
Raking? Washing windows?
Contact Patty Koplitz (420-5616) and she will be happy to send some of the youth your way! Any offering to the youth fund is appreciated!



Flower Donations



We want to let you know that the cost of donating altar flowers each Sunday will be going up as of June 1, 2016. The new cost will be \$33.00 per week. We were informed that they were now including a small delivery fee, which explains the jump to \$33.00.

The altar flowers are always such a lovely addition to the church services, and we want to acknowledge and thank those of you who have contributed to the flower fund. We also want to inform you that you can now go online and contribute to the flower fund, or you can certainly continue to use the envelopes provided. Thank you!

Become part of the volunteer team at Mercy Medical Center! Volunteers must be at least 14 years old, and willing to work approximately four hours per week. For more information on volunteer opportunities, please contact Mercy Medical Center Volunteer Services at 920-223-0225 or www.affinityhealth.org/Affinity to volunteer.

Confirmation Dessert, photos and rehearsal

Wednesday, May 11 beginning at 7 pm

Our final evening gathering for this school year for all our confirmation students is **Wednesday, May 11**. That night we will all **gather at 7:00 pm** for dessert, and the presentations by our 8th graders of their special verses and vocational statements.

Then at 8:00 pm we will **photograph** our 2016 class. This year our photographer will be Ashley Klatkiewicz, who comes highly recommended by our former photographer, Donn Lord, who has retired from this work. Photo order forms will be sent out to the class but also will be available in the Church Office.

Following the photography we will hold our **worship rehearsal** for the Confirmation worship. Please call (920) 235-6616 for more information.



Confirmation Day is May 22, 2016!

Our students will have completed three years of study in the Bible and the Small Catechism of Martin Luther. We will be confirming our students at the **10:30 am worship** service on Sunday, May 22. Please come and celebrate with us. As our students complete their preparations to declare their adult faith in Jesus Christ among us, please pray for them. Thank you!

Summertime and the music is SPECIAL!

In summer we give our choir a little Sabbath time to renew and rest, and we would like to say: *Thank you so much, choir members, for your wonderful music from autumn 2015 to spring 2016, and for the leadership of Brenda Francis, choir director, and for the accompaniment of Sandy Last.*



St Andrew's loves music offered in worship. There are lots of Sundays to choose from! If you would like to offer some special music please consider signing up for a summer Sunday. The sign-up sheet will be located on the bulletin board beside the door into the office.

We would enjoy solos or ensembles, we would appreciate your vocal or instrumental music. Please sign up or speak to Brenda Francis, Sandy Last or Pastor Karen, if you would like to offer music to the glory of God and to the delight of the congregation! Thank you!

Synod Assembly In-Kind Offering for Lutheran Campus Ministry (UWOshkosh)

(Please donate through Sunday, May 15)

As our congregation is part of the Oshkosh Conference of our Synod, these are the supplies that we are trying to provide to the LCM:

Bear Creek Dry Soup Mix or Comparable
(Potato, Chicken, Broccoli, etc)

Spaghetti Sauce

Boxed and Bags of Rice and Noodle Dinners

Pasta (Lasagna, penne, spaghetti)

Candy Family Sized Bag

(chocolates, starbursts, tootsie rolls, etc)

Snack Mixes (trail, chex, etc.)

Creamy Soups (family size cans)

Dawn Dishwashing Liquid

Synod Assembly is in Green Bay at the KI May 20 and 21, 2016

Jane and Michael Martinez and Pastor Karen Jewell will be representing St Andrew's congregation at this year's Synod Assembly – voting on church issues and mission actions for 126 congregations and 85,000 baptized members of our Synod. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us into the mission of God and gift us for the work in our area!

Pre-Synod Event at the KI Center Thursday, May 19th from 5 to 9 pm

“We are Church: Listening to Black voices of the past, present, & future”

Lead speaker: Nicholas Hoffman, Chief Curator, History Museum at the Castle, Appleton

Come, deepen your understanding of diversity and participate in a conversation that will help guide us into the future. \$35.00 includes dinner, registration and program. Registration forms on-line ecsw.org or available at church.

For pastoral visits at hospital and at home-- Please call!

Pastor Karen is happy to visit you or your loved ones in the hospital, nursing facility, or at home. Due to special information privacy laws, the hospitals and most other health care facilities may not contact pastors to let them know if you are in hospital or otherwise desiring a visit. Please feel free to call the church office (920) 235-6616 or Pastor's home (920) 232-8287 if you would like a visit, communion, prayers, or have another pastoral need.



St. Andrew's Men with Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast –

Meet at the Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St.
Saturday, May 14 at 7:30 am

Lunch –

Meet at Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson St.
Tuesday, May 17, at noon

Art & Soul

May 21, 2016, 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, May 7, at 2:30 pm

Technology Committee

Tuesday, May 10, at 5:30 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 10, at 7 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Tuesday, May 17, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, May 26, at 7 pm



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:



You may also use our secure webpage to make your offerings online: standrewsoshkosh.org.

Youth News



The last day of Sunday School for this school year will be Sunday, May 22. Teachers are planning special activities for the day. Hope to see all the children and send them off to a fun summer!

YMT's

Serving Sinners and Saints Supper and Art Gala

Friday May 6th at St. Andrew's

Tickets: \$20 adults, \$10 for children 13 and younger

Come and join us for supper, art, a silent auction, and raffles. Enjoy the food and friendship and watch the video debut by the Youth Ministry Team.

This supper is helping us raise funds for the Youth of St. Andrew's. It will provide scholarships for summer trips, camps and gatherings of kids in grades 2 through young adult. Hope to see you there!

May Noisy Offering

The May 15 Noisy Offering is designated for our St. Andrews' Youth. The youth appreciate the continued support of the congregation. All offerings received support the youth in a variety of things – helping pay for summer service trips, scholarships for summer camp, as well as for the Junior and Senior Youth Gatherings. This summer we have 2 teens attending Leaders in Training at Waypost Camp, a two week camp where the teens have the chance to do bible studies, learn leadership and problem solving skills, and serve campers! We have had the privilege to send other teens to this camp and it is always life-changing.

All the opportunities available to the kids help to build a solid faith foundation. They become equipped to be faithful servants out in a world that doesn't always teach them to honor God.

The kids and I thank you again!
Patty Koplitz