



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 2017
Dinner, May 12 – Youth Ministry Team serving Saints & Sinners

Dear friends,

April was such a roller coaster of a month here in Oshkosh – warm & cold, wet & dry, windy & calm, foggy & clear! We even had snowflakes falling on the spring blooms at the end of the month!

It was a huge roller coaster in our life together as a congregation – going through the end of Lent and the Passion of Holy Week to the bright, shining beauty of Easter!

The first gospel story in May keeps us on the roller coaster! It is the story of the two disciples leaving Jerusalem confused and feeling forlorn. They heard that Jesus had reportedly been raised from the dead and was alive – but what did that mean? (Besides, it was only women who had reported back – not credible witnesses in that day!)

So they were headed out of town (and maybe back home?), out of Jerusalem – the place where in one week Jesus had ridden in and been welcomed in triumph and then, just a few days later, had been taken out to be tortured and killed on a cross.

Their hopes were dashed and they felt dejected and sad. And they try to explain to a stranger who has overtaken them on the road why they are feeling so down.

We know what they will discover as they invite the stranger to join them for supper – that this is Jesus who walks with them, Jesus who has specifically found them to help them and comfort them. Jesus alive and with them and for them even when they don't know it.

From this time, as Luke tells us in the gospel (Luke 24:35), Jesus will always be made known to us personally in the breaking of the bread – in the gift of Holy Communion. It is to be a reminder as well as a meal – that he is with us, that he cares for us, and that he connects us when we feel disconnected and forlorn, even when we don't see it right away!

When we eat and drink those gifts of communion, the Spirit works one more amazing miracle. Not only is Jesus with us and for us, but we become his Body in this world.

We are gathered up – forlorn or forging ahead – into One who shapes us to be there for others. We are remade into the Body of Christ.

In the story in Luke 24, Cleopas and his companion are so renewed by the gift of Jesus that they jump up and walk all the way back to Jerusalem that night (and back into the danger) to share what they have been given by Jesus with the other disciples.

That is one part of what our congregation is here for – to offer the meal of forgiveness and renewal that we call Holy Communion, so that we can be formed into the Body of Christ.

We share that communion together so that we have strength to live into our real life – to encourage one another in the calling to be there for others, as Jesus Christ is always there for us...

In late April I had the chance to visit my family in New England and step back from work for a few days. It simply made me so eager to return to you and to work side by side with you.

I thank you for the honor of the call to serve as your pastor, to be here to offer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Communion, and to preach and teach the Word of Jesus Christ in the midst of this congregation.

With you I am so excited to share the love of God in our community – and I look forward to the miles we get to walk side by side with Jesus Christ as we care for this community and the world God has made.

Thank you so much for being here at St Andrew's, and thank God that Jesus is right here with us.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Karen Jewell

Highlights of Church Council Meeting

Tuesday April 11, 2017

Present: Pastor Karen, Jane Martinez, Jay Klinger, Chris Ziegler, Warren Luce, Peg Olson, Rose Rivera, Ann Stephan, Linda Ellman, Jackie Kuhn

Excused: Matt Moore, Jakob Iversen, Ann Stephan

Treasurer's report: Chris Ziegler presented, for Matt Moore, the March 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. Motions made and approved to approve March bills paid and treasurer's reports.

Old Business:

Alarm System: Chris Ziegler informed the council that the security alarm went off around 11:45 pm this past Sunday. It had a back door open code. The center door to the courtyard was standing open, but was still locked. It appears that the door may not have been pulled tight until it latched. Warren will be soliciting bids to replace the existing door with a panic bar style similar to all of the other exterior doors.

Building Remodeling Update: Tabled until the May council meeting.

Feed The Children Update: Jackie Kuhn reported that a trial meal for Feed the Children was held on March 22. It was very successful and we learned so much from this event. Thank you for joining us and for your suggestions!!

Able Scholarship Update: Peg Olson informed the council that the money that was sent to UW-O will be awarded to a student meeting the criteria this fall. The money for awarding a scholarship in fall of 2018 will be sent this summer at a date yet to be determined.

New Business:

President's Evaluation: Jane Martinez asked the council for input as to how her performance has been as president. She received very positive feedback, and the council did not see the need to go through a formal evaluation process.

Crossways Counselor Scholarship: Motion made and approved to send \$250, from the Thrivent TBD fund, to Crossways to help offset the cost of one counselor for 2017.

Christian Action Report (Jackie Kuhn):

The committee met on 4/4/17. The following topics were discussed:

a) Synod Assembly collection – Determined that a box for requested donations will be made available on 5/7/17 and 5/14/17. A tray will also be set out for in-kind offering on 5/14/17.

b) Noisy Offering schedule for 2017 continues to be a work in progress.

c) St. Andrews sponsorship of a South African counselor to our Crossway's camps. Our global synod mission team is intending to sponsor Boitumelo Phetoe from our companion synod. This will be the 37th counselor we have sponsored and has been a blessing to all our campers and staff. We have approved supporting Boitumelo Phetoe in the amount of \$250 from Thrivent funds.

d) Feeding the Children Update: A trial meal for Feed the Children was held on March 22. It was very successful and we learned so much from this event. Thank you for joining us and for your suggestions!!

Sign up forms for assisting with Feeding the Children have been placed in the Narthex. We will review our donations as the date approaches and update our request for specific items. Our local businesses have really stepped up with donations. They are donating items as well as cash donations which are already \$1806.22 of our \$3500 goal. ONHS students have a project where they can produce banners. We are contacting them to create banner for us to advertise Feeding the Children.

CPR and nursing training will be held on two dates in June.

We are in the process of creating a flyer to be distributed in July on a date to be determined. We will have sign-up sheets available if you would like to volunteer to distribute flyers in our designated locations. Adults are encouraged to assist.

Those interested in getting involved with the Feeding the Children effort can contact Carol Spiegelberg for more information. Deadline to sign up to assist with Feeding the Children during the month of August is July 1st so we have time to complete background checks before the program begins.

Christian Action Committee will meet again on May 2, at 6 PM. Feel free to join us at any of our meetings which take place on the first Tuesday of the month at St. Andrew's at 6 PM.

Congregational Life (Rose Rivera):No Report

Education (Linda Ellman):

The education committee is in the works of planning for two day long Vacation Bible School events. One day will be planned in both July and August. More details will be forthcoming.

Evangelism (Jay Klinger):

The Evangelism Committee has drafted and sent an "Invitation Letter" to the newly listed non-active members. In conjunction with Pastor Karen, those members were invited back to St Andrew's and asked if there was anything that could be done to assist them and welcome them back to worship. There was also a "Welcome" cake supplied for Fellowship after the Palm Sunday service.

Fellowship/Hospitality Report (Chris Ziegler):

Preparation has begun for the Easter Breakfast event. Set-up will happen on Saturday April 15th, starting at 9:00 am. Final set-up and the preparation of food will begin at 6:00 am with breakfast running from 8 – 9. Clean-up will begin immediately following the close of breakfast. Anyone wanting to volunteer for set-up, cooking/serving, clean-up can contact Chris Ziegler. Anyone wishing to bring a special dish to serve is welcome, and encouraged to have it to church by 7:00 am Sunday.

Property Report (Warren Luce):

Volunteers are needed April 20th @ 6:00 pm for assistance of clearing the Fellowship Hall and classrooms to prepare for the stripping and waxing of the tile floors.

Stewardship/Discipleship Report (Ann Stephan):

No Report

Technology (Jakob Iversen):No Report

Worship & Music (Peg Olson):

Our committee met April 3rd. We discussed Palm Sunday/Holy Week services and Confirmation Sunday.

We will have communion on May 21 by intinction at the 9 am service and full communion at the 10:30 Confirmation service. We are planning a May 17 Baccalaureate/Prayer Around the Cross service for confirmands. Confirmation is Sunday, May 21.

Pastor Karen discussed the possibility of a joint summer Vespers service with other ELCA churches on July 9, 2017, with Vespers followed with a picnic supper.

We will ask parents for names of students completing high school and college studies this spring and offer prayers for them on Mother's' Day, May 14. 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.

Pastor Clarence Harms will preside and preach on Pentecost Sunday, June 4.

Pastor Karen discussed the Noisy Offering recipients for the rest of the year.

Worship and Music will meet May 1 at 4 pm in the choir room.

President's Report (Jane Martinez):

I met with Pastor Karen and Sandy regarding the organist job description and contract. The recommendations for changes have been made and forwarded to the Executive Committee for review. Warren Luce attended the last Executive meeting March 30th and had some concerns about the Custodian job

description. The expectations for keeping the building clean have changed as our building use has increased and will be even busier once Feed the Children starts. Warren will provide further discussion at council. The Choir Director's job description has been sent to Brenda Francis for her input. It is time for employee job evaluations. The Executive Committee approved minor changes in the Self Evaluations as well as the Mutual Ministry Review.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Karen Jewell):

Membership: Still compiling a list of members who are not currently active, to place on our Responsibility List, i.e., people we hope to encourage to become active again in their faith life with us or with some other Congregation.

Continuing Education:

February 25, attended the fourth *Building Bridges Synod Event*, discussed the missional directions of "feeding and equipping leaders, listening deeply to others, building bridges across the difference that divide us, and collaborating with partners in ministry."

March 9, attended final session on of the *Faith Leaders Mental Health Integration Class* offered by Samaritan Counseling and NAMI Fox Valley

May 18, I will attend their half day class on *Mental Health in Older Adults*

March 18, I will be attending the Synod's **EPIC (Equipping People in Congregations)** event

May 18, I will attend the pre-Synod Assembly event with our other two voting members, Pam Nemmetz and Brenda Francis. But all are welcome to take part in "*We are Lutheran: What does this mean?*" presented by Martin Lohrmann at the KI Center. (see page of info)

Community:

Feb 16: Oshkosh Conference Assembly -We were represented by Greg Egner and Annette Resop.

February 26, I attended the Annual meeting for Lutheran Campus Ministry of UWO.

March 4, Rose Rivera, Patty Koplitz and Ann Stephan attended the Crossways Camping Ministry Annual Meeting.

March 13, Peg Olson, Brenda Francis, and I were voting members attending the Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh Annual meeting along with our members Sharon Gallagher, Kathy Bellaire and Marilyn Hughes. LHO revealed their new brand: *Miravida Living*.

Lenten Round Robin for Wednesday worship in Lent continues.**April 1**. I get to take part in the ordination of Connie Weiss to the ministry of Word and Sacrament. She has a call from Christ Lutheran. *Synod Assembly* for the East Central Synod of WI will be Friday and Saturday, **May 19 & 20**.

Respectfully submitted ,Chris Ziegler, Council Secretary

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

ECSW: [Synod Assembly](#)

“We Are Lutheran: Building Bridges Across All the Differences that Divide”

**KI Convention Center, Green Bay
May 19 and 20, 2017**

Pam Nemmetz, Brenda Francis, and Pastor Karen Jewell will be representing St Andrew’s 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 18th from 5 to 9 pm
KI Center, Green Bay**

“We are Lutheran: What does this mean?”

Lead speaker: Rev. Dr. Martin Lohrmann
Come, deepen your understanding of faith’s big questions. Also explore what it meant to “be Lutheran” in the Reformation and what it means today. \$35.00 includes dinner, registration and program. Registration forms on-line ecsw.org or available at church.

Synod Assembly Offerings

The 2017 Synod Assembly will be May 19-20, 2017. This year’s assembly welcomes offerings of money and also gifts in kind. The money offerings will be split:

50% is going to **The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) Schools**. These schools educate approximately 2,500 students between the ages of 3 and 18. The schools have always enrolled both boys and girls, Muslims and Christians. Of these students, approximately 55% are boys and 45 percent are girls. Although Palestinian Christians constitute less than 2% of the population in Palestine, 60 percent of the students in the Lutheran schools are Christian and 40 percent are Muslim. For more information <http://elcjh.org/ed/people/>.

The other 50% is going to the **Bishop’s Assistance Fund** - provides church professionals in our synod with emergency help.

If you wish to make an offering of money, please make it to **St Andrew’s Lutheran Church** with a memo: for **East Central Synod Assembly**. There will be special envelopes at church or you can use our electronic giving site.

Synod Assembly In-Kind Offering for Safe-Haven—domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Center in Shawano County.

(Please donate through Sunday, May 14)

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

- Wide packing tape
- Glue sticks
- Legal pads
- Copy paper
- 100 watt light bulbs
- File folders
- Deodorant
- Clipboards
- Infant Tylenol
- Flexible ice packs
- Diapers, sizes 4 & 5
- Pull-ups, size 6 and up
- Gas cards (\$10 and \$20)

A word from the Christian Action Committee:



St. Andrew’s will be contributing \$250 to the sponsorship of a South African counselor to our Crossways camps. Our global synod mission team is intending to sponsor Boitumelo Phetoe from our companion synod. This will be the 37th counselor our synod churches have sponsored and this exchange program has been a blessing to all our campers and staff. St. Andrew’s is planning a picnic and Vespers serviced on July 9 and we are hoping the South African counselor can attend and meet the community!

Noisy Offering

The **May 21** Noisy Offering is designated for the August 2017 Feeding the Children Ministry here at St. Andrew’s. We will be offering lunches to children in need July 31 - Sept. 1 during the school district’s hiatus.

Thanks to all who donated to the April Noisy Offering. The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry, serving families in need, received \$158.26. Thank you for your generosity!



Easter Bonnets

This is a friendly reminder from Irene Snyder to those who enjoyed the use of her Easter bonnets and have yet to return them. Please drop them off to the church office at your earliest convenience. Thanks go to Irene for the lovely addition of color and fashion these bonnets gave to us!

From the Property Committee:



The hard-surfaced floors in our building have been cleaned and waxed, the carpeted areas in the education wing have been shampooed, and all look stunning!

We ask for your cooperation in keeping our facility looking so nice. Please leave the building looking just as you found it – wipe up spills, clean up after yourself, and put things back where they belong. If you are the last person out, please ensure that all doors and windows are locked, as well.

If you are moving anything to PLEASE LIFT AND CARRY – PLEASE DON'T DRAG across the floor. Thank you for helping to preserve the floors, and thank you to all who have given A LOT of time and effort into moving furniture and boxes so that this project could be completed.

Thank you for being such good stewards of our building. We appreciate your help.



Spring Clean - Up

The annual Spring Clean – Up is scheduled for Saturday, May 20, 2017, at 8 am. Please join us to clean our campus both inside and out and for some great fellowship!



Confirmation Day Sunday, May 21, 2017

Join us as we confirm our third year students at the **10:30 am worship** service on Sunday, May 21. Our students study the bible and the small catechism of Martin Luther for three years. Please pray for our students as they complete their studies to declare their adult faith in Jesus Christ among us. Thank you!

Confirmation Baccalaureate, Dessert, and rehearsal –

Wednesday, May 17 at 6 pm.

On our final evening of confirmation classes for this school year we would like to **invite the family and friends of our 8th graders** to attend as well as our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders. We will gather for prayer for our students, then for dessert and refreshments when our 8th graders will share their special bible verses and their understanding of what God is calling them to do and to be.

At the end of the evening, the 8th graders will rehearse their parts in the Sunday (May 21) Confirmation worship. Please call (920) 235-6616 for more information.

2nd Annual

Serving Sinners and Saints Dinner

When: Friday, May 12, 2017

Fellowship begins at 5:30 pm

Dinner served at 6 pm

Where: St. Andrew's Fellowship Hall

Admission: \$15 per adult

\$7 per child

This dinner is a fund raiser for the various youth groups of St. Andrew's. There will be baskets to be purchased in the silent auction, service work by the youth will be raffled off, and dinner will be served! Come and see the art project that the kids have worked on. It's called..."The Image of God."

We welcome all help for this fund raiser. We can use baskets to auction off, help with cooking, setting up and cleaning up. Thank you ahead of time for all of your continued support!

Sponsored by the Youth Ministry Team.

More info: Patty Koplitz 920-420-5616



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 2016 to spring 2017, and for the leadership of Brenda Francis, choir director, and for the accompaniment of Sandy Last.*

If you would like to offer some special music please consider signing up for a summer Sunday. St. Andrew's loves music offered in worship. We would enjoy solos or ensembles, vocal or instrumental music. Please sign up (The sign-up sheet will be located on the bulletin board beside the door into the office) 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

Youth News

For more information on any of the following events, please contact Patty Koplitz at pattykoplitz@gmail.com or 920-420-5616.

BYG (Beginning Youth Group) GAMEDAY!!

Saturday, May 20, 2017
2 - 4 pm



Come join us from 2 until 4 pm for some fun, games, and some hide and seek. Kids from second grade on up are welcome to join us! Hope to see you there!



Easter 2017: Alleluia! Christ is Risen!



We Lutherans are Easter people and in baptism our lives are transformed by Easter's good news. We receive the gift of new life and ponder living as faithful disciples of Christ. Both here at home and in the larger world this year promises new adventures in

faith for us! Feel free to join in the adventures!

If you wish to financially support the mission and ministry of St Andrew's Lutheran Church, you may offer your gift in cash, by check, or electronically, if that is best for you! For smart phones here is the short URL: <http://bit.do/stagiving> or the QR Code:



Or you may go to standrewsoshkosh.org. You choose how your funds are given, with what frequency and method of donation. Your prayers, your faithful hands, and your financial gifts make a difference! Thank you for your partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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

Breakfast

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, May 13, at 8:00 am

Lunch

Meet at Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson St.
Tuesday, May 16, at noon

Art & Soul

Saturday, May 20, 10:30 am - 4 pm

Meet in the "Creation Station" off the Fellowship Hall.



Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, May 1, at 4 pm

Christian Action Committee

Tuesday, May 2, at 6 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, at 7 pm

Technology Committee

Tuesday, May 16, at 10 am

Property Committee

Thursday, May 25, at 6 pm