

St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

Welcome to worship and life at St. Andrew's!

October 2016

Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

Dear friends,

On Easter night Jesus said "Peace be with you " to a roomful of anxious disciples. His resurrected love began a whole new life for them that reaches down through all these years to us and blesses us to be a blessing.

Years ago at another church in another community I learned from a member family a great rule of thumb: ***I have a right to feel safe.***

It was a phrase being taught to their children in school to help the children be prepared if someone was acting in a threatening manner.

The parents laughed at the unexpected way they learned about it from their grade schooler when they were engaged in a noisy argument one night and their child came out of bed to tell them, "I have a right to feel safe! I don't feel safe when you are fighting like that!"

Needless to say the noisy argument ended and they all went on to work things out more peaceably (and with a smile). And that peace would guide them in future disputes.

That rule of thumb ***I have a right to feel safe*** has stayed with me to guide me when confirmation classes have covenanted their behavior towards each other and through our classroom covenant have come to consider their manner of engaging others in the world at school and at home.

What starts as the practice of respect for the other student's person or ideas or belongings can become both a considerate manner toward others and a proper self-respect.

I think that is because Jesus' "peace be with you" can become both "I have a right to feel safe" and "I have a responsibility to act toward others so that they may also feel safe."

On Easter night, Jesus' friends were about to tackle a very unsafe world that would not always welcome nor understand the faithfulness and ethics of Christian folk. He tells them twice "peace be with you," and then breathes on them the Holy Spirit and gifts them with forgiveness. (John 20:19-23)

Earlier in the same upper room on what would be Jesus' last night before the Cross, Jesus had prepared them for the coming Passion. Jesus tells them, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27).

They would be terribly troubled and afraid as he went through his Passion and Crucifixion. But he was telling them, you have a right to feel safe and now I will show you why you can feel safe! And through the Cross and Resurrection he did just that for us all.

In this amazing power of Jesus' peace we engage our neighbors, who have a right to feel safe. This gift speaks to the refugee crisis, to the movements and struggles in which black lives matter, police lives matter, and every disenfranchised, marginalized, and suffering life matters.

"Peace be with you," said Jesus. And he is!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karen Jewell

Church Council Meeting

September 13th , 2016

Present: Pastor Karen Jewell, Matt Moore, Chris Ziegler, Warren Luce, Rose Rivera, Kristi Cutts, Jay Klinger, Linda Ellman, Peg Olson, Ann Stephan, Jakob Iversen

Excused: Jane Martinez

Treasurer's report: Matt Moore presented the August bills paid, and the financial sheets were presented. Motion made and carried to approve the bills paid. Motion made and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

Old Business:

Council Retreat: Jay Klinger led a brief discussion as to feedback from the retreat on September 10th. Possible topics were discussed for a future retreat.

Grounds Security: Warren informed the council that he has received a quote for installing security and motion lighting in key areas around the church. He is waiting for a second quote before proceeding.

Chili Cook-off: Jay thanked all members from council that participated in the chili cook-off competition on September 11th as part of God's Work Our Hands.

Treasurer/Financial Secretary Job Descriptions: All feedback on the revised job descriptions are due to Jane Martinez by 9/20 for final approval.

Able Scholarship Update: UW-O has selected a recipient for the \$500 scholarship for a student to be awarded for the Fall 2016 semester. Peg Olson will get the proper information to Matt for payment.

New Business:

Pastor's Pension Funding: Ann Stephan had raised a question as to how the pension was calculated. Matt Moore was going to get more information.

Unsupervised Minors at Church: Pastor Karen distributed a form that needs to be completed by parents of minors, giving them permission to be in the church without a parent or guardian, and the form would contain the parent's/Guardian's contact information and any emergency information. There was discussion as to the possibility of providing a bike rack for bikes to be able to be locked. Discussion was had as how to set up a lockable location to keep purses and other valuables for volunteers and visitors. Talk was had about contacting the liaison officers of the local schools as well as making contact with the Police Sargent that is assigned to St. Andrew's district. The goal of all of this is to establish a safe haven for all people that enter the church.

Hallway & Kitchen Phones: Matt informed the

council that the new phone system cannot allow for a phone in the hallway across from the lounge, or in the kitchen area. There was talk of possibly adding on an additional number to allow for another phone. Technology is looking into the options.

Christian Action Report (Kristi Cutts):

The Christian Action Committee has largely focused its recent work on the God's Work, Our Hands Day of Service that was held on Sunday, September 11, 2016. Carol Spiegelberg chaired this event and crafted a wonderful experience for all. (*Outcomes of this project are published elsewhere in this newsletter.*) We hope everyone had fun tasting the 5 different chili creations that were generously donated by: 1) the Men of Council, 2) Choir Chicks, 3) Women of Council, 4) Christian Action, and 5) Jeff and Linda Ellman. Thanks to all of the volunteers that made this event a success. The Christian Action Committee will be meeting in October (date TBD).

Congregational Life (Rose Rivera):

No Report

Education (Linda Ellman):

No Report

Evangelism, (Jay Klinger):

No Report

Fellowship/Hospitality Report (Chris

Ziegler):

No Report

Property Report (Warren Luce):

Next Property meeting will be September 22nd at 6:00 pm.

Stewardship/Discipleship Report (Ann Stephan):

Ann will be meeting with Pastor Karen to discuss some exciting ideas for the 2016-2017 campaign.

Technology (Jakob Iversen):

Internet connection has been upgraded to 25/3 Mbps to improve the telephone connection. With the new phone system, it is no longer feasible to have hardwired phones in the kitchen and narthex. The alarm system will be converted from phone line to internet connection week of Sep 12. We started looking at 2017 budget, and will ask other committees and council for input on what technology might do to improve their missions. Pastor is working on getting us registered with Amazon Smile to receive donations. It won't cost you anything extra, and Amazon works just as it always has while you support St. Andrews.

Pastor expressed that attendance and giving over the summer has been more steady. This is attributed to our communication efforts through the newsletter, The Net, and social media as well as the growing number of members who donate online.

Next meeting: October 10, 8am.

Worship & Music (Peg Olson):

We reviewed the September 11th worship services and God's Work/Our Hands. We'd like to thank the Stephan family for their special music and Pam Nemmetz for cooking the choir's entry in the chili cook-off. The choir kicked off their new year by leading the congregation in new hymns. Sandy Last suggested asking confirmation students to sing or play instruments during worship services. Pastor Karen discussed suggestions for more connected, periodic worship and mission events with opportunities for members to become acquainted with each other. She also shared that the new large print hymnals have been well received. Pastor Karen will dedicate the Lutheran World Relief school kits on September 25. The next healing service will be held October 16, with the laying on of hands coordinated with communion. The committee will meet October 6 at 4 pm.

President's Report (Jane Martinez):

No Report

Pastor's Report (Pastor Karen Jewell):

Members: I have spoken with one new family about baptism, one new family about church membership, and we had two more new families visit on God's Work Our Hands Day (Sept 11). One younger family who have moved out of our area will be transferring out soon.

Congregational life:

We assisted several families with crises in late August and early September – thank you for the compassionate support you give to fellow members and folks in the larger community. Two weddings – end of August and beginning of September!

Worship and Education:

Bless the Pets, August 28th, went very well. Thanks so much to all who helped us set up and take down our outdoor worship so that people and pets were comfortable in our courtyard!

Confirmation orientation night, September 7, went well and classes begin Wednesday, **September 14**, from 6 to 7:30 pm.

Community

Carol Spiegelberg, Tom Galica and I met with reps of Our Savior's to discuss a plan to feed hungry children during the hiatus between summer school finishing and school opening next August (2017). More members are interested in helping. It looks

like a very promising mission for St Andrew's to partner in!

I have begun attending a class for faith leaders to better equip us and our communities to meet the needs of people dealing with mental illness.

Upcoming:

Continuing Education in Family Faith formation

– Thursday, Sept 29 to Saturday, Oct 1, 2016.

(Pastor Clarence Harms will be preaching and presiding at St Andrews's on Sunday, October 2)

Synod Theological Conference – Monday, October

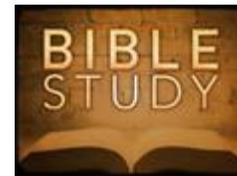
10 to Wednesday, October 12. **Siebert Foundation**

Change or Die Conference – Thursday, October 13

at Pewaukee, WI Theme: "Building Vital Faith Communities"

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ziegler, Council Secretary

A complete set of minutes is available on the Narthex bulletin board.



October Bible Study

On **Wednesdays at noon** we gather in the Lounge for a light lunch and bible study until about 1:30 pm. On **Oct. 5** we will conclude our video study of Revelation by Professor Craig Koester. (On Oct. 12 Pastor Karen will be at the Synod Theological Conference through early afternoon - so no class meeting that day.) Then, on **October 19 and 26** we will be learning about the bible from Martin Luther's writings!

On **Mondays at 7:15 – 8:45 pm** in the Lounge we are completing our reading of ***Be Not Afraid: Facing Fear with Faith*** by Samuel Wells. Oct. 3, Oct. 10, and Oct. 24 – Pastor Karen will be away and we will not be meeting. **Back to it on Oct. 17 and Oct. 31!!!** Please feel free to come try it out. Each session is meant to stand alone and be useful. Bring your favorite bible or use one we have here!

Youth News

Little Farmer Trip

Sunday, Oct 2, 12 - 4 pm

All ages, youth and families, are welcome to join the YMT for a trip to The Little Farmer. We will leave church at noon. Please contact Patty Koplitz, (920) 420-5616, if you are planning on attending so that ride arrangements can be made.



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BYG SPAM Night

Soda, Pizza, and a Movie

Friday, Oct. 14, 6 - 9 pm

BYG (Beginning Youth Group) invites kids from 2nd grade through 9th grade to join them for SPAM night on Oct. 14. Come and enjoy a movie and fellowship as you explore your faith with kids your age!



Middle School Lock-In

Fri-Sat, Oct. 21-22, 7 pm - 7 am



The Youth Ministry Team is hosting a lock-in for middle school (grades 6 - 8)

students. Bring your sleeping bag and a snack to share while spending the night at church locked in. Be ready for some fun, faith forming activities! Contact Patty Koplitz at (920) 420- 5616.

Sunday School

We are still in need of adult mentorship! Would you consider being a teacher, substitute teacher, class shepherd (assisting teacher), or helper in Sunday school or Confirmation? Your help is extremely valuable and meaningful service when you encourage a child or a youth to have faith! Please feel free to check out the possibilities with Michele Hawley (Sunday School superintendent) and Pastor Karen Jewell (Confirmation program). Thank you!!!



FAITH. HOPE. LOVE.



Christian Action News

God's Work, Our Hands Day of Service, held on Sunday, Sept. 11, was a wonderful experience for all. Outcomes of the Service Projects:

- 109 Lutheran World relief School Kits made
- Numerous school items donated to local schools
- 21 items collected for the nursing home
- 16 fleece blankets tied for Children's Hospital
- Numerous cards made for St. Andrews' shut-ins
- Penny Wars: A total of \$181.18 was collected for The Heifer Project. Chickens won!!
- Food donation to Lutheran Campus Ministry
- 100 lbs. of food donated to the Oshkosh Community Food Pantry
- 26 pounds of food donated to the Children's Backpack program at the Community Food Pantry
- Chili Cook-Off won by Greg Behling and John Shultis
- 29 Pet Enrichment Boxes were made and donated to the N.E.W. Zoo in Green Bay

Thank you to all who participated and donated items!

Thanks and blessings to all who contributed to last month's Noisy Offering. We were able to send \$134.95 to [Lutheran Disaster Response](#), bringing God's hope, healing, and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.

October Noisy Offering



The October 16 Noisy Offering is designated for our neighborhood partner school, Emmeline Cook Elementary. Our offering will help students in a variety of ways. It may be to provide snacks for those who do not get breakfast, school supplies or clothing for those in need, or perhaps classroom supplies/libraries. Thank you so much for helping our neighborhood children.

Feeding the Children Planning

Meeting

Tuesday, Oct. 4, at 7 pm

Our Savior's ELCA

1860 Wisconsin St, Oshkosh



Come to help plan for providing meals for hungry children in August of 2017 - between the end of summer school and the beginning of the school year when no school lunches are available.

Esther – Fox Valley

Potluck Dinner and Discussion

Thursday, Oct. 27 at 5 pm

Here at St. Andrew's!

You are invited to join the Esther Group for a potluck dinner followed by a community conversation discussing fairness, justice and equity. For more information, please call Esther-Fox Valley, (920)- 843-8083. Visit www.Esther-FoxValley.org for more information regarding community issues addressed by Esther.

Did you know?

When you shop online at Amazon Smile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to St. Andrew's. Visit <http://smile.amazon.com> and select St. Andrew's as your charitable organization! Thank you!



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

Breakfast

Meet at the Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St

Saturday, October 8, at 8:00 am

Lunch

Meet at Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson St.

Tuesday, October 18, at noon

Art & Soul

Saturday, October 22, 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

Thursday, October 6, at 4 pm

Stewardship Committee

Saturday, October 8, at 9 am

Technology Committee

Monday, October 10, at 8 am

Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 11, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, October 27, at 6 pm

Do you know of anyone who would like to receive our newsletter?

Please ask them to contact the office (920-235-6616 or office@standrewsoshkosh.org) and ask to be added to the mailing list.

They may choose from 4 options for delivery: pick a copy up at church, receive it via email, receive it in the U.S. Mail, or go to our website: standrewsoshkosh.org. Thanks for helping!