



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

September 2017

God's Work – Our Hands Sunday is September 10, 2017

Dear friends,

Thirty-three years ago I was functionally illiterate. I was living in a place where I could not read the street signs, newspapers, canned goods or medicine bottles. I could only speak the simplest phrases, and could barely manage to eat my meals with the manners expected of a child (think chopsticks!).

We had moved to Taiwan to serve as missionaries working with the Taiwan Lutheran Church. We lived in a 4th floor flat with beautiful marble-tiled floors that needed to be swept twice a day because of the dust and grit that flew in the window from the city's industries and mines.

One million people lived within a mile of our little flat; 19 million people lived on the little island of Taiwan. All of life was "up-close and personal."

We studied Taiwanese conversation and Chinese characters three hours a day on five days a week, but it was a very different language for me – and our teachers told us that English was a great stretch for them too.

My Taiwanese teachers often comforted us with a simple expression – *ban, ban a lai*. When we became frustrated with how slowly we progressed, or how great a challenge it seemed to begin to make sense as speakers and listeners, they would comfort us: *ban ban a lai*, that is, "little by little it comes."

I can hear their kind voices even today as we face a world full of crises and tragedies where we want to make a difference, want to make things better.

As I write to you the news is full of Hurricane Harvey that sits like a firehose pouring rains upon the Gulf Coast and Texas in particular.

The rescue phase there goes on and on, because the waters are still rising – four days after Harvey first made landfall.

Rescuers and relief workers keep working round the clock to help people still trapped in homes and nursing homes, and now filling the shelters.

Across the world a petty dictator sends missiles to threaten still more and greater disasters. And the rest of the world isn't doing so well either!

It can be so overwhelming, and so discouraging – and that is the problem. Such troubles take the heart out of us (*courage* is the strength described by an old word that means "heart.")

If we had to do it by ourselves, we couldn't. We just aren't able to address all the "worst cases" out there or in our own private lives!

But God is able and God is with us and God is good. God gives us faith – the Yes of the heart.

In a sermon in 1540 Martin Luther described faith: ***Fides ist ein herzlich jawort, das daruff stirbt.*** Faith is a heartfelt confidence (or *Yes*) for which one would die. Grace Adolphsen Brame translated it: ***Faith is the yes of the heart, a confidence on which one stakes one's life.***

In his preface to Romans, Luther says: ***Faith is a divine work in us which changes us and makes us to be born anew of God, John 1:12-13....Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace so sure and certain that the believer would stake his life on it a thousand times.***

Born anew in Christ, we find faith already given to our hearts to deal with what comes – that we may be there for neighbor (friend or stranger).

And my teachers' gentle encouragement sounds again – *little by little it comes*. Yes! By the grace of God – the Word rekindles the courage in our hearts and we find the Way opening to God's future for us all.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Karen Jewell

Highlights of Church Council Meeting

Tuesday August 8th, 2017

Present: Jane Martinez, Jay Klinger, Chris Ziegler, Jackie Kuhn, Rose Rivera, Warren Luce, Jakob Iversen, Ann Stephan, Pastor Karen Jewell

Excused: Linda Ellman, Matt Moore, Peg Olson

Treasurer's report: In Matt Moore's absence, Jackie Kuhn presented the July 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 the approve the July bills paid and the treasurer's reports.

Old Business:

Building Remodeling Update: The focus group for planning building additions/improvements will be contacted and have a meeting in Sept. - Oct. to set an outline of how the process will move forward. Warren Luce will be at that first organizational meeting, and then will excuse himself from the group's future meetings. Kudos to Steve Last and Jay Klinger for their work in getting the new hardware installed on the double doors and the new glass door leading to the courtyard.

Feed the Children Update: The program is now well under way, and it has grown from 9 children/guardians the first day to 45 served on Friday in the first week.

God's Work Our Hands Chili Cookoff – The council had been approached about having a team/teams participate in the Chili Cookoff. The council agreed to have both a men's team and a woman's team again this year and is extending the challenge to other committees and groups.

Trunk-O-Ween: Brenda Francis has expressed interest in holding a Trunk-O-Ween event at St. Andrew's on Sunday October 29th. This event would be for neighborhood children and their families to participate in a fun and safe Halloween carnival. There will be an initial planning meeting on Wednesday, August 16th at 6:00 at St. Andrews. Anyone interested in attending can just come that night.

New Business:

2018 Budgets: Jane Martinez distributed the timeline for council members to use as a guideline for preparing their narrative budgets for 2018. Final 2018 budget to be approved by December 26th to allow sufficient time for publication prior to the annual meeting.

Nominating Committee: Jane Martinez will send emails out to the nominating committee as elected at the annual meeting. The first meeting will be sometime in September.

Christian Action Report (Jackie Kuhn):

Our mission is in the second week and we are averaging 25 children/parents being served. Thank you to our awesome volunteers and donors! We have received more than \$6800 in cash donations and countless donations of food and supplies. We are truly Blessed!! We will continue to serve through Friday, September 1.

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser was an enormous success. We raised \$565.85 and had a wonderful time. We plan to repeat this fundraiser in 2018!

God's Work Our Hands – 9/10/17 – SAVE THE DATE!! We are looking for teams/individuals to enter our God's Work Our Hands Chili Cook-off which will be held on 9/10/17. Piggy Banks need to be picked up for the penny challenge. We will be collecting hygiene items for our local Helping Hutch and the Warming Shelter. We will assemble school kits and make fleece blankets. We are also going to be making dog treats. We plan to serve hot dogs and chili. We will be asking for people to bring desserts.

Noisy Offerings for remaining 2017

August – Quilt Tying Ministry

September – World Hunger

October – Humane Society

November – K9s for Veterans

December – Emmeline Cook School

Christian Action will meet again on Tuesday, September 5, at 6 PM. Please join us!

Congregational Life (Rose Rivera):

A motion was made and approved to accept a donation of a sofa and loveseat to be placed in the youth room. Report from Patty Koplitz: We are on our trip right now. Working hard, yesterday we went to Community Emergency Services in the morning. We did some yard work and then helped stock the food pantry shelves. In the afternoon, we went to a woman's home. Mowed, weeded, and edged her lawn. Monday, we are going to spend the whole day at Sojourners, a center for abused women. Encourage folks to search the hashtag #saymt2017 so you can see their work and travels.

Education (Linda Ellman):

Pastor Karen Jewell reported that a search has begun for a Sunday school superintendent and teachers. Sunday school classes begin September 17th. Confirmation orientation is Wednesday September 6.

Evangelism (Jay Klinger):

There will be a meeting Wednesday August 16th at 7:00 pm to talk about organizing a Trunk-O-Ween event at St Andrew's for the neighborhood families. Details will follow after the meeting.

Fellowship/Hospitality Report (Chris Ziegler):

There was a cake honoring our charter members on Sunday August 6th. There are 6 charter members remaining, and 3 are now out of state. Other cakes have been purchased in fellowship for Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, as well as honoring special birthdays. Look for more cakes to come.

Property Report (Warren Luce):

Officer Nichols of the Oshkosh Police Department will make a presentation on active threat training on the nights of August 15th and August 21st from 7-8 pm.

Stewardship/Discipleship Report (Ann Stephan):

No Report

Technology (Jakob Iversen):

Work continues on improving the delivery of information through "The Net" and the newsletter by including more information in the body of the email.

It was suggested to change the technology meeting time to noon in order to accommodate the schedule of committee members. A motion was made and approved for an additional hour of pay per month for the secretarial staff to attend the monthly Technology meetings.

Next Technology meeting will be Monday, September 11th at noon.

Worship & Music (Peg Olson):

Discussion:

"Orders for Worship Committee" documentation sheet developed – to help us track orders of music.
"Building bridges across all the differences that

divide us" - September 10 service will use an idea from 2017 Synod Assembly worship – to help illustrate our role in God's mission. Brenda shared insights and ideas from her continuing ed experience at the Augsburg Summer Music Clinic in Chicago and possible applications for St. Andrew's music - both choir and congregation.
Next meeting: September 11th at 4:00 pm

President's Report (Jane Martinez):

No Report

Pastor's Report (Pastor Karen Jewell):

Staff Evaluations: July 12, 2017 – Sandy Last (organist/accompanist), and Pastor Karen

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser for Feed Our Children July 24 from 4 to 8 pm

Tuesday, July 25 drove to St Paul for **continuing education**. July 26 to July 28 attended Luther Seminary's "Rethinking the Church" conference. Key note: Tod Bolsinger (Canoeing the Mountains) used the story of the Lewis and Clark expedition to teach adaptive leadership for times of swift and unpredictable change. Other excellent presentations by Kara Root and others who not only taught adaptive leadership but modeled it for us.

July 31 – began **Feed Our Children lunch mission** – just nine were fed the first day but over 40 the following Friday. Yesterday and today 20 and 29 came for meals. Continues to September 1.

July 23 – offered farewell for Sharon Gallagher and her son, and August 6 offered a fellowship to honor our Charter members. Only three live in Oshkosh anymore! The other three have moved out of state to live near their families. It is a watershed moment for our congregation.

August 6 commissioned our Youth Ministry Team as they went to Minnesota for an Urban Immersion Experience.

Upcoming:

August 27 – Bless the Pets 10:30 am worship

September 6 – confirmation orientation and first **choir practice**

Still working on our Combined Calendar for 2017 to 2018.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ziegler, Council Secretary



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Sept. 10, 2017



Confirmation begins

Orientation Wednesday, September 6
6:00 to 7:30 pm.

***Parents and students 6th, 7th, and 8th
grade – please plan to attend
orientation together.***

Classes begin Wednesday, September 13 at 6 pm!
See you there!

Sunday School and confirmation classes begin in September

We can't wait! Would you consider being a teacher, substitute teacher, class shepherd (not teaching but with our students), or helper in Sunday school or Confirmation?



Sunday school is in session most Sundays of the School Year. Our students come with families and teachers to the first part of our worship together at 9:00 am, and then leave for classes after the children's time. This year, children will return to worship after a short activity together. Confirmation meets on most Wednesday evenings in the school year from 6:00 to 7:30 pm (concurrent with Youth Ministry Team meetings).

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 Linda Ellman (Christian Education council liaison) and Pastor Karen Jewell (Confirmation program). Thank you!!!

A special thank you to all who provided special music for our worship services this summer. What a blessing you were to us, offering your talents to make worship so meaningful for us all.



You can be involved! Please note:

- **Chili Cook-Off** will be held on 9/10/17 at 10:00 am. The men of the St. Andrew's council have challenged the women of the St. Andrew's Council in the cook-off. The youth have entered at least one team. We are hoping for additional participation. The chili will ultimately be served during our picnic luncheon that day. Contact Jacki Kuhn or Carol Spiegelberg if you plan to enter your chili.
- After the chili cookoff, **mission projects** will begin. A **picnic** will be held after the second worship concludes (about 11:30 am) on Sept. 10. Please bring a dessert to pass. Enjoy!
- A **Penny War** is being held for Lutheran World Relief. Pick up a piggy bank (pigs or barns) in the narthex hallway if you wish. Bring your offering and put it in jars choosing where our joint offering should go. You may choose to "purchase" lambs, pigs, chickens, or cows for those in need. Which animal is going to be the most desired/helpful??
- We will be **collecting hygiene items** for our local Helping Hutch and the Warming Shelter. A box for donations can be found in the front hallway. Thank you!

Hygiene Items Needed

Kits will be assembled for our local Helping Hutch and [Day by Day Warming Shelter](#) on Sept. 10, 2017. Needed items:

- Anti-bacterial moist disinfectant wipes (individual packets)
- Chapstick
- Deodorant (men's and women's)
- Body wash
- Men's combs - new
- Disposable razors (men's and women's)
- Shaving cream (men's and women's)
- Q-tips
- Individual nail manicure sets
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Given to children living in refugee camps and other situations where they would not otherwise be able to attend school. You help children have a better future!



Each Kit contains:

- 4 70-sheet notebooks** (wide or college ruled) (no loose-leaf paper)
- 1 30-centimeter ruler**, or a ruler with inches on one side and centimeters on the other.
- 1 pencil sharpener**
- 1 pair blunt scissors**
- 5 unsharpened #2 pencils** with erasers: secured together with a rubber band.
- 5 black or blue ballpoint pens** (no gel ink); secured together with a rubber band.
- 1 box of 16 or 24 crayons**
- 1 2 ½" eraser**
- 1 sturdy drawstring bag**, cloth, backpack style, approx. 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (but no standard backpacks)

Feel free to bring what you wish to offer! **At this time we especially need sharpeners, crayons, rulers, pens and pencils.** We will assemble these kits on God's Work Our Hands Day (Sept 10).

Noisy Offering



The September 17 Noisy Offering is designated for [ELCA Good Gifts](#) to support the ministries of the ELCA and the world.

Last month's noisy offering of \$110.49 was designated for Covered in Hope, a blanket ministry for children in crisis. Blankets are made here at St. Andrew's and donated to area organizations for the children.

Future noisy offerings: October – Humane Society, November – K9 for Veterans, December – Emmeline Cook School.

The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry

is in a tough spot. The freezer needs replacing and we can help cover this big project with our gifts. You can give your gift to St. Andrew's and we will forward it or you can give directly to the OACP. Thanks for fighting hunger!

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.

YMT (Youth Ministry Team)

The Youth Ministry Team at St. Andrew's meets on Wednesday nights from 6 to 7:30 pm. This group of high school and college age kids meet to talk, play games, and listen to each other. We plan the lock-in, we plan trips, we spend time together, We vary in personality and looks. There is no "normal" here! We are all unique and loved by God!

We meet most every Wednesday night, even through the summer. Please, feel free to join us anytime. You are free to come as you can!

We are meeting for the first time this school year on September 6th. I hope to see you there! If you have any questions, feel free to call me at 920-420-5616.

BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

Any child from grades 3 on up are welcome to join us for BYG events! On scheduled Saturday afternoons, we will meet from 2 to 4 for Game Day! Two hours of playing cards, board games and hide and seek! On scheduled Friday nights, we will meet for Soda, Pizza and a Movie or SPAM! We will meet for the first time this school year on September 22nd at 6, and we will be together until 9 pm.

Look for the yearly schedule soon.

Autumn 2017: Reformation 2017



Do you know how fast the summer went? Well, that's nothing compared to 500 years of the Reformation!!

On Sunday, October 29 we will celebrate 500 years of reformed Christianity.

You are part of a family of faith that has made enormous contributions to the life of this world in Jesus' name. We have to celebrate!

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



with a Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, September 9, at 8:00 am

Lunch

Meet at Primo Restaurant, 2605 Jackson St.
Tuesday, September 19, at noon

Art & Soul

Saturday, September 30, 10:30 am – 4 pm
Meet in the "Creation Station" off the Fellowship Hall.



Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

Christian Action Committee

Tuesday, September 5, at 6 pm

Technology Committee

Monday, September 11, at 12 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, September 11, at 4 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 12, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, September 28, at 6 pm