



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

December 2018

Advent Wednesdays (5th, 12th, 19th) noon & 7 pm

Dear friends,

I invite you to think of one of your favorite teachers. I learned in Seminary what I wish I had known always – that what we learn most memorably from our teachers is not the facts or figures of a subject, but rather how they treated us.

Our teachers start off with faith in us – a quality of love that makes them oh so ready to celebrate what we learn. It also makes them vulnerable to disappointment borne of the things that block us from learning. But they don't give up – they keep trying to find a way. And that helps us learn.

In this our best teachers are good examples of the way that God loves us. God starts with faith in us and does not give up.

As Christians, we seek to reflect God too in whatever walk of life we practice and in our life together as a worshipping, serving community.

As a Christian congregation we begin our new year in faith a whole month before the practicalities of the calendar year and the fiscal year begin.

That is a great example for us – when our life together as the church begins first of all in the faith that God has loved us all along and is constantly working to bring us to new life, renewal, blessing, and well-being in a life WITH God.

As we get ready to begin 2019 we prepare our hearts in a season called Advent – when the brokenness of the world meets the whole-hearted love of God and we are charmed and blessed once again by the story of the birth of a miraculous baby whose life will change the world.

In Advent we pray.

We talk to God about how things are going. We ask God to help us with the things that are NOT going well.

We let the story of the Christmas family (Mary, Joseph, and Jesus) for whom many things did not go well – we let their story comfort us and encourage us in our life together.

In this Advent season (December 2 to December 24 this year) would you please include in your conversations with God the mission and members of St Andrew's?

This little group of neighbors called St Andrew's Lutheran Church has been together for almost 60 years in this place. Our role in the neighborhood and community changes as our world changes.

Our basic charter is that of all Christian churches – to share Jesus' love – to teach and preach what he has taught us and invite others to know the deep faithfulness of God.

As a congregation and as a council of leaders of the congregation we need the guidance your prayers and your particular hopes and dreams to shape the mission and ministry of our congregation as we go forward into the new year that God gives to us.

Would you please pray that God will inspire members to step into leadership roles and supportive roles – in worship, on council, as teachers and helpers for Sunday School and Confirmation classes, in mission activities and in the never-ending surprising ways that God calls upon us to act in faithfulness?

And finally, would you please talk with God about the folks who have helped us down the road to this point? Thank God for the leaders and the quiet behind-the-scenes folks who make this life together not only possible but wonderful?

May God give you a blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas! Thank you for helping to pray us into a blessed New Year – God's faithful gift to us in Jesus.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

Please note: There are no Nov. council minutes due to meeting cancelation.

Update on the Accessible Restroom project



Your gifts continue to come in and grow our needed amount (\$40,000.00) to create the accessible restroom near the sanctuary. Thank you so much. Our total stands at \$12,640.00 as of the end of November. Thank you for your generosity!

Madrigals Singers

We are in store for a special treat that will be provided by the Oshkosh North High School Madrigals Singers.

On Sunday, December 9, the Oshkosh North Madrigals will perform at 8:45 am, before the first service.

These young singers add so much to the holiday season. Enjoy!



Youth Candy Sale

The Amish candy that has been ordered through the Youth Group **will be ready for pickup on Sunday December 16th**. If you are not available that day, please feel free to stop by the office during office hours to pick it up. Thanks so much for your support of the Youth Ministry Team!

Sunday School led Christmas Worship

December 16, 2018

10:30 am

Come and celebrate with our children on **Sunday, December 16th, at 10:30 am** as our Sunday School offers a Christmas worship. Our children will be telling the Christmas story as found in their bibles.

(Dress rehearsal for our Sunday School worship is on Saturday, December 15 from 9 to 11 am.)



Blue Christmas worship at St Andrew's

December 20, 2018 at 7 pm

We offer a simpler, quieter Blue Christmas worship, especially for folks who are experiencing grief at the holidays or need a more meditative worship. We sing Christmas carols, hear the Christmas story from the bible, and pray gently. It is a peaceful, candlelit time. Please know that you are welcome!

Christian Action

Deep Thanks to St Andrew's and the Oshkosh Community!



On Giving Tuesday, November 27, the members of St Andrew's and several other churches helped with a Thrivent Financial-sponsored matching fund drive to help six area hunger-fighting ministries. Thank you to all who stopped in and contributed, thank you to all who contributed on-line! Thank you to all the volunteers who watched over the table and made sure that folks received those great cupcakes! We should hear early in December the total donated and the total matching gift. St Andrew's share will help with next year's Feeding Oshkosh Children in August!

On Wednesday, November 28, during our usual confirmation study time, students, their families, our wonderful Youth Ministry teamers, Sunday School students and several of our Christian Action members enjoyed wonderful pizza and then worked together on a project to help nearby schools! We were joined by Office Kate Mann of the Oshkosh Police Department who has the greatest ideas for helping our community! Then we worked together to sort and pack donations of socks, pants, outerwear, underwear, books, stuffed toys, and snack foods. We had five teams who gathered, packed, and prayed for the children and the schools receiving the boxes of supplies. And when we were all done we went into the sanctuary and sang Christmas carols together. Thank you to everyone and especially to Carol Spiegelberg and the Christian Action committee who got us on track!

(Both of these events have photo albums at our "St Andrew's Oshkosh" FaceBook page.)

Noisy Offering

December's noisy offering is designated for the [Take 5 Club](#) of Oshkosh providing clothes, shoes, jackets, haircuts, and more for local kids.

Last month's noisy Offering of \$86.07 was designated for [Vietnam Veterans of America #437](#), designated to help when the V.V.A. #437 serves a meal at the Day by Day Warming Shelter.

Advent & Christmas Worship Services



Advent Worship Services on Wednesdays, December 5, 12, 19, at 12 noon & 7:00 pm. We gather for a half hour of worship.

Thursday, December 20- Blue Christmas worship at 7:00 pm - a peaceful and comforting service especially for those dealing with grief at the holidays.

Sunday, December 2 - Advent season begins. Come help us light the light that leads to Christmas! Holy Communion at 9 & 10:30 am

Sunday, December 9 - ONHS Madrigal Singers sing to us at 8:45 am followed by Advent Holy Communion at 9 & 10:30 am

*Sunday, December 16
9:00 Holy Communion
10:30 am Sunday School Christmas worship*

*Sunday, December 23 at 9 & 10:30 am
Advent Holy Communion*

*Monday, December 24, Christmas Eve
6:30 carols by request
7:00 Lessons and Carols
11:00 Candlelight Holy Communion*

*Tuesday, December 25, Christmas Day
Holy Communion 10:00 am*

*Sunday, December 30
9 and 10:30 am Holy Communion*

You are welcome!

Youth News

Submitted by Patty Koplitz, Youth Director

For more information on any of the following events, contact Patty Koplitz at PKoplitz@standrewsoshkosh.org

BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

SPAM - Soda, Pizza, and A Movie
Friday, December 14, 6 - 9 pm



Second graders through high school students are invited to join us for Soda, Pizza and A Movie night! We will play Hide and Seek afterward!



BYG Game Day
Saturday, Jan. 19
2 - 4 pm

Kids from 2nd grade through high school age are welcome to come and play games. Bring a game to share if you like. And- be prepared for some Hid and Seek! See you then!

YMT - (Youth Ministry Team)

The YMT will be doing the pizza fund raiser again this year. The Iversen family has graciously helped for the last 5 or 6 years. They are doing it again this year, but would like to pass on the torch. Is your family willing to help? The Iversens will give you the tools needed to be successful. I am looking for a family that is committed to the youth and well organized. Please consider this gift to the youth! Let me know if you are interested. If you have questions, please email me at pattykoplitz@gmail.com or catch me at church!

Special thanks to the Youth Ministry Team

members and Patty Koplitz for offering such a fun Middle School Retreat and Lock-in. It was a blast! Very little sleep but a lot of fun was had by all. (p.s. Our confirmands and middle schoolers are aces at the games we played!)



Don't forget, Confirmands!
 There will be no Wednesday
 Confirmation classes on December 26 or
 January 2. We resume studies on
 Wednesday, January 9!

Committee Meetings

All members welcome!



JOIN US!

Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 11, at 7 pm

Worship & Music

Tuesday, December 3, at 4 pm

Christian Action Committee

Not meeting in December,
 next meeting Tuesday, Jan. 8 at 6 pm

Property Meeting

Not meeting in December,
 Next meeting Thursday, Jan. 25 at 6 pm

Technology Committee

t.b.d.

Stewardship



Advent 2018

Thank you for your offerings to
 St Andrew's! Your gifts send us
 into a new year of mission.

Whether you give with a check
 or cash or an electronic gift, you have helped
 create a place to worship and grow Jesus' people
 who now move forward into a new year of
 faithfulness, service and hope. Thank you for
 considering this partnership in the gospel of Jesus
 Christ.

Electronic gifts are welcome. Your electronic gifts
 may be given through our website
standrewsoshkosh.org, at
<http://bit.do/stagiving> or by using the
 QR Code:



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

Breakfast

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

Art & Soul

Saturday, December 8, 10:30 am – 4:00 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.

Looking Ahead...

To January

Wednesday, January 9, Confirmation
 resumes

Sunday, January 6, Sunday School resumes

Sunday, Jan. 27, 9 am Holy Communion

10:30 am Annual Meeting

(NO worship is offered at 10:30 am today)

