

ST. ANDREW'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

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

November 2018

Thanksgiving Eve worship at 6:30 pm, Wed. Nov 21

Dear friends,

Did you ever braid ropes or strings as a kid? At camp we learned to make lanyards, and all sorts of wonderful things from many colored strands.

Life lately seems to be a braid, woven of bright and dark colored strands, pulled together so tightly that one hardly knows if one is happy or sad, scared or hopeful.

There is great beauty in the colors of autumn – still those luminous yellows and greens that seem lit from within.

There is great sorrow as people try to face the wave after wave of violent attacks on peaceful people – in the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, and in schools, in homes, in parks, in churches.

Here at St Andrew's we have celebrated baptisms of tiny tots and grown adults with great joy, and it seems that in the next moment we have commended into God's hands (with tears) dear friends and neighbors as they leave this life and begin their lives in God's kingdom.

Writing about Baptism, Rowan Williams says that baptism does not confer a status of being "superior to the rest of the human race, but to claim a new level of solidarity with other people. It is to accept that to be a Christian is to be affected – you might even say *contaminated* – by the mess of humanity. This is very paradoxical. Baptism is a ceremony in which we are washed, cleansed and re-created. It is also a ceremony in which we are pushed into the middle of a human situation that may hurt us, and that will not leave us untouched or unsullied." (*Being Christian*, p. 6)

Williams went on to explain about this strange new life with Jesus:

"We are in the middle of two things that seem quite contradictory: in the middle of the heart of God, the ecstatic joy of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; and in the middle of a world of threat, suffering, sin and pain. And because Jesus has taken his stand right in the middle of those two realities, that is where we take ours. As he says, 'Where I am, there will my servant be also' (John 12.26)." (*Being Christian*, p. 7)

In a month where we say thanks for so much, I would like to say thanks to you – for being with each other here at St Andrew's, for facing the struggles of community with courage that invites hope, with commitment that invites confidence and trust, with hospitality that creates a place to be fed and cherished by God.

You fashion worship and also tend to safe and welcoming spaces, you feed wondering hearts and also combat physical hunger here.

We say thanks to God for your faith, because faith is a gift from God. And we say thanks to you for using it – using your faith to worship God, and to pray, to help, to accompany, to listen, and to love others.

And the braiding of all the strands in our lives comes together in the presence of the One who heals, who helps, who makes meaning, who empowers and who loves us without pause.

So thank you for living your baptism in this gathering of the saints of God – people of faith in our laughter and in our tears. Thanks for wading into the messiness and finding joy in Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

Highlights of Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, October 9, 2018

Present: Matt Moore, Jackie Kuhn, Pastor Karen Jewell, Rose Rivera, Jim Heidl, Teri Rucinsky, Warren Luce, Ann Stephan, Peg Olson

Excused: Jakob Iversen

Guest: Carol Spiegelberg

New Business

Financial Reports

Matt Moore presented the September bills paid, the balance sheets, and the profit and loss statement for year-to-date vs budget, and year-to-date vs previous year. Motions made and carried to approve the September bills paid and the treasurer's financial reports.

Old Business

Council Communication

- Reminder: invoices should be given to the office to track and disburse to committee chairs. We still need to revise the envelopes to allow for more clarity.
- Coffee cart – the program will be suspended unless we can find someone to take on the role of administering the sale of the coffee.
- Counting update – seems to be running smoothly.
- Founding members' plaque suggestion – tabled for now
- Signature cards - tabled for now
- Narrative budgets – Matt presented a tentative budget for 2019 based on the narrative budgets he received. Current budget calls for a deficit of nearly \$12,000. 2019 will mirror this deficit if we continue as we have been.

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New Business

November 11 - Observation at the 10:30 am worship service – Citizens of Oshkosh want all Oshkosh churches to ring bells at 11AM on Sunday, November 11. As you know, St. Andrew's doesn't have a bell but we are looking at alternative ways to ring bells here.

Pastor's Report

Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams commenting on the Letter to the Hebrews

From an address he gave at the 14th Lambeth conference (retreat) July 17, 2008

The leadership of Christ especially as presented in Hebrews 10:19-25:

Jesus has opened a new way for us....So leadership, if you want to use that word here, is quite literally about leading, clearing the way, making it possible for us to go where otherwise we could not. It is clearing the way to the cross, the way to God the Father. Once we have understood the centrality of this image---Jesus leading by clearing the way---then we understand (and it is really devastatingly simple) that the only way Christians lead is by following - following Jesus' way."

....asking God to show us (though it may be with blinding difficulty) where we have to go to follow where Jesus has led: **That** is leadership in mission. If that is how we understand our leadership in mission, we have, I suppose to realize that we are called here to **embody** meaning and hope; not necessarily to get the structures right all at once and not necessarily to get the ideas clear all at once but in our witness with Jesus, walking to the cross, embodying in our own selves the meaning that God purposes.

...as Hebrews says ...There **is** a way which God has opened.

Committee Reports

Christian Action

Carol Spiegelberg discussed the need for a new stove for the kitchen. The need is more apparent during Feed the Children. Regular stoves are between \$700 - \$800. Commercial grade stoves are about \$1000. Received estimate of \$300 for converting the existing kitchen cabinets to fit a commercial stove. We also need to install an exhaust fan. Christian Action is willing to give \$1000 from their budget but also have another idea, as follows:

Giving Tuesday is set for November 27 at the Oshkosh Convention Center. This is an opportunity for six churches to advertise and work together to raise funds for area churches. Thrivent will match the funds up to \$20,000 at 50 cents to the dollar. If we (all six churches) are able to raise \$20,000 we would be able to split \$30,000 including the matching funds between the six churches. Please watch for more information at a table being set up near the fellowship hall on Sundays, 11/11 and 11/18.

Congregational Life (Rose Rivera)

We are considering an incentive idea to create a system where youth are given a "share" of what they help fundraise to save towards their Confirmation camp fees, youth gatherings, and trips. Funds won't leave the church but would be applied like a scholarship towards their expenses. This is similar to how the scouts share fundraising dollars. We are working on the details of how to implement this process.

Education (Teri Rucinsky)

Sunday school is off to a great start! Thank you to our leaders for starting out our students strong. Many students are registered, but it is not too late to join us! Parents, don't forget that you are always welcome to utilize the nursery. It's a great place for your child to meet other young children of faith! If you are interested in helping with the nursery or Sunday School, please contact the office and fill out the required background check. We are always looking for extra hands.

We also had our first Fellowship Family time on Sunday, Sept. 30th. We hope all the families enjoyed the refreshments and the resource for parenting with faith. We look forward to the October Sunday gathering that falls on Reformation Sunday. All are welcome to join us for this faith booster!

Evangelism (Jim Heidl)

Trunk-O-Ween has been resurrected as the Murdock Monster Mash, October 27, 11am-1pm. Planning meeting is set for Thursday, October 11. Need volunteers to make treats and run games.

Property (Warren Luce)

Emergency tree removal, ash tree is split and may cause harm if it falls. Cost of \$800 will be absorbed in Property budget. Capital improvements for replacement of lap siding/staining has begun and flat roof repair will be happening this fall yet or spring. Materials have been purchased.

Future capital improvement projects: Sanctuary roof will need to be re-shingled. No more than five years left on it. Parking lot will need to be recoated and cracks filled in the next year.

Floor and carpets will have to be cleaned and refinished after election. Cost the same at \$650. Election will be on Tuesday, November 6th.

Emergency lighting system may have a broken circuit board. We are having a problem finding parts for it. Parking lot light has been fixed. Timer reset. Lighting will come on earlier due to daylight saving time. Stewardship/Discipleship (Ann Stephan) – Meeting held, full report to be submitted.

Worship and Music Committee (Peg Olson):

Upcoming special worships: Healing Service, Wed. Oct 17, 7 pm; Oshkosh Festival of Gratitude is Monday, Nov. 19, with a potluck meal at Mosque 5 pm and festival at the Grand Opera House, 7 pm.

Sunday, Nov. 11 is Veteran's Day. We will include ringing of bells during worship.

St. Andrew's is hosting this year's Thanksgiving Eve joint gathering for Oshkosh ELCA congregations on Wed, Nov. 21 at 6:30 pm. Worship will be followed by a pie fellowship. Help of any kind is appreciated. Please let the office know if you are interested in donating pies or in set-up, serving, or clean up. Thank you!

Changes in present robing procedures will be made to honor Child Safe policy for youth preparing to acolyte on Sundays.

Next Worship comm meeting: Monday, Nov. 5 at 4 pm

President's Report (Peg Olson) - I had a trip to mountains and hiking adventure. Wonderful time, trails are so well marked. Got off the trail and climbed over a big rock. Got back on the trail but realized that it is so important to have someone guiding you and leading the way. Got to see stars at night. Did better hiking than I thought I did.

Reminders:

Wednesday, October 17: Healing Service scheduled.

Thursday, December 20: Blue Christmas service.

Sunday, April 28, 2019: St. Andrew's anniversary observation.

Devotions for next meeting: Jim Heidl

Next council meeting is Tuesday, November 13 at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Kuhn, council secretary

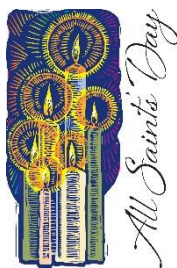
A complete set of minutes can be found on the narthex bulletin board.

Special Days in November

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 4, 2018

We continue our tradition at St Andrew's of writing the names of our loved ones who have died on outlines of butterflies so that they may be mounted on the wall around the cross in our Sanctuary.



The butterflies remain for the rest of our Church year (through Sunday, November 25th) and remind us of the promise of the Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting that we confess each week!

Christ the King Sunday

Sunday, November 25, 2018



On this Sunday that concludes the Church year, we celebrate in anticipation of the completion of God's good plan for Creation – for all of us! Please join us as we worship the King of Glory!

Day Light Savings Time Ends

Sunday, Nov. 4



Remember to set your clocks back one hour! - OR - Arrive at church one hour early for some great fellowship

before worship! 😊

Christmas Poinsettia Orders Due by Sunday, November 18th



Ordering envelopes are located by the flower chart. Plants may be given in memory or honor of our loved ones, friends, or special occasion.

Choice of colors: Red, white, pink, monet, or marble. Six-inch pot, \$14.00 each. These will decorate our Christmas altar area. We thank you!

Oshkosh Festival of Gratitude

**Monday, Nov. 19 – 7 pm
at the Grand Opera House.**



Representatives from our diverse communities will share thoughts on gratitude. Proceeds from the freewill offering benefit the 2019 Unity in Community Event.

This year's festival will be preceded by a potluck at the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community's Mosque at 300 N. Eagle Street, beginning at 5:00 pm. People are encouraged to bring a dish to share that is special to their faith or ethnic group. Plates, utensils and beverages will be provided. Guests are asked **not** to bring dishes that contain pork or alcohol. Come for a very special community experience this Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving Eve 2018

Our sister Lutheran congregations are hosting a joint Thanksgiving Eve worship with us on Wednesday, **November 21, 2018, at 6:30 pm** here at St. Andrew's. The worship will be followed by a pie fellowship. You are invited to take part!



If you would like to donate a pie for the fellowship, please inform the office (920) 235-6616, and bring the pie to church that Wednesday, Nov. 21 by 2 pm so that it can be plated and ready to go for our fellowship time.

You are welcome to sing in a joint choir for the worship. Please join in the rehearsal at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, November 21 here at St Andrew's.

We also would like to ask for volunteers who can help us cut the pie and have it ready to serve. Would you like to help? Talk with Pastor Karen. Thank you!



A better welcome!

At our May 6th Special Congregational meeting, St Andrew's members approved a plan to add an ADA bathroom to our facility near the worship space. Thank you! This will make worshipping so much more comfortable for members and guests.

A fund has been started and to date we have \$11,260 given towards this project. An estimated \$40,000.00 is needed to complete the remodeling. We are making progress in raising the funds – thank you so much!

You may use the special envelopes in the pews or give electronically to this project. We thank you for considering your support of this project and all the ways you contribute to St Andrew's hospitality!

Noisy Offering

The November 16 Noisy Offering is 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.

Last month's noisy offering of \$89.37 was designated for the [Oshkosh Area Humane Society](#) helping enhance the quality of lives of animals in need.



Future noisy offerings: December

Special music in December!

Your musical offering is always welcome throughout the year, but especially at the holidays. Please let Brenda Francis, Sandy Last, or Pastor Karen know by Dec. 2 so that we can include you in our worship. THANK YOU!



Wanted:

High Chair for use in our Fellowship Hall so that we can be more welcoming to families with young children when dining here at St. Andrew's. Gently used is great! Please call the church office, 920-235-6616, if you are able to help us!

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.



Annual Middle School Lock In!

Friday, Nov. 2nd

Come and join us for the annual middle schoolers' lock in! This is hosted by our Youth Ministry Team and is always a wonderful time.

You may drop your child off at 7 pm on Friday Nov. 2 and pick him/her up on Saturday at 7 am.

Children should wear comfortable clothes, and bring a sleeping bag and pillow. A movie to watch and a snack to share is helpful! If your child would prefer not to spend the night, they are most welcome to be picked up at midnight.

What is a lock in, you ask? We will be doing activities to help us to get to know each other better, play games, laugh and giggle, and worship. It is important for kids to know they have another "family", a faith community that they can count on.

Sleep is always optional at our lock in. We have designated quiet spaces so that sleep can happen.

As always, additional adult help is needed for the evening! Please consider helping.

Please contact Patty Koplitz, youth director, with any questions at 920-420-5616 or at pattykoplitz@gmail.com.

BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

Game Day



Saturday November 17, 2 - 4 pm

Calling all kids grades 2 through 12!
Come and join us for games and lots
of fun. Hope to see you there!

Annual Amish Chocolate Sale

Place your order now

for Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers!
See a YMT member near the Fellowship Hall.

Orders will be available for pickup on starting
Dec. 16

Profits raised help kids attend summer mission
trip, summer confirmation camp and other
gatherings and retreats.

Thank you for your support!

Giving Tuesday -

November 27th, 2018

St. Andrew's was excited to be among six churches in Oshkosh and Neenah chosen for a special fund drive by Thrivent to help fight hunger!

Thrivent is hosting a site in the Oshkosh Convention Center atrium on **Giving Tuesday, November 27, from 8 am to 6 pm** to invite donations from our community to support the fight against hunger.

Thrivent will match 50 cents on a dollar up to \$10,000 dollars and if we are able to raise \$20,000 we will receive the full grant and the six sites will each receive \$5,000 dollars towards the needs of providing food for hungry neighbors - at St Andrew's it will help with Feeding Our Children next August!

We will have a information table set up at St. Andrew's on Sundays, November 11 & November 18 for more information. Thank you so much for considering this!

Confirmation and Sunday School Students and Families Service Project

On Wednesday, November 28th the Sunday school children, confirmation students, YMT-ers, and their families and any church members that would like to help are going to assemble donations for our local schools, and make friendship bags for friends, and enjoy pizza and great conversation together as we pack up the gifts.

Our special guest will be Officer Kate Mann of the Oshkosh Police Department to help us learn about community support. All the children and youth attending will receive a T-shirt, so please help us get the right sizes for your children to us at Sunday School or at confirmation class!

We would like to invite the whole congregation to donate items for our support of children at Oaklawn, Emmeline Cook, Merrill, Washington and Webster-Stanley schools.

Needed items:

Socks

Underwear - kids' sizes 6 - 12

Leggings - girls' sizes 6 - 10

Sweatpants - boys' sizes 6 - 10

Hats

Mittens/gloves

Boots - kids' sizes 12 - 4

Food items:

Gold Fish snack crackers in Large boxes

Other Snack Crackers, including Peanut
butter and Cheese

Breakfast bars

Gently used books

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Autumn 2018: Giving Thanks



[Psalms 9:1](#) - I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

In this autumn season of harvest and thanksgiving, we see how God is blessing us with beauty, with crops, with work accomplished and fulfillment of promises. It is simply time to give thanks!

We invite you to support the mission and ministry of St Andrew's Lutheran Church through a gift to St Andrew's. Electronic gifts are welcome, as are cash or checks. Your gift makes a difference. Thank you!

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.



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

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, November 10, at 8:00 am

Art & Soul

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



Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

Christian Action Committee

Tuesday, November 6, at 6 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 13, at 7 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, November 5, at 4 pm

Looking Ahead to December

Advent 2018 begins Sunday, Dec.2



Wednesdays in Advent –
We worship at 12 noon & 7:00 pm

Christmas 2018

Sunday, December 16, at 10:30

am is St. Andrew's Sunday School
Christmas worship!

On Thursday, December 20, at

7:00 pm, we will celebrate with a [Blue Christmas](#) worship – a quieter worship for those who feel grief at the holidays.

On Monday, December 24, we will

worship at **7:00 pm (Lessons and Carols)** and **11:00 pm Candlelight Communion**.

We also worship on **Tuesday,**

December 25, Christmas Day, at

10:00 am – Festival Worship with Holy Communion!



Christmas Worship Schedule

Please come to worship the new-born Christ when you and your family are able to attend. If you need information on sister churches where you are traveling, please talk with Pastor Karen about how to connect with ELCA churches wherever you are visiting.