



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

January 2019
Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 10:30 am

Dear friends,

Another new beginning: New Year's 2019.

I heard that American astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson tweeted humorously: *Not that anybody's asked, but New Year's Day on the Gregorian Calendar is a cosmically arbitrary event, carrying no Astronomical significance at all.*

I understand that from some perspectives New Year's Day is just another day, but I think culturally the first day of the new year is a major moment for most of us.

Did you celebrate? Did you make resolutions?

Did you feel a sigh of relief as the old year 2018 – so tumultuous for many of us – was done and then put up a prayer that 2019 would be happier, healthier, or more peaceful?

On New Year's Day my neighbors and I were out clearing away the 7.5 inches of snow and making it possible to get out to work and school the next day.

It felt peaceful, and this snow fall was such a beautiful one – festooning the tree branches the way an expert baker decorates a cake.

As I write, the back yard of the church is a perfect winter postcard – with pure blue shadows cast by the church and the trees falling across brilliant white snow.

A new beginning – all fresh and undisturbed.

It is what we need, and God knows it.

At Christmas we celebrate how God became a human being, the Word made flesh (John 1:14), come to “dwell” among us. (Literally the Greek words mean he pitched his tent in our midst!)

God came to be right here with us to help us.

Humanity, mired in all sorts of misery and brokenness, hopeless in the sameness of our sin – humanity was desperately in need of a new start.

So God became a human being to show us how a human being may be humane. Jesus the teacher and healer was compassionate, and often tender and gentle in his interactions with others.

And God became a human being to show us that God in human flesh remains good and merciful and truthful in the face of whatever hateful and hurtful things we may choose to do.

God in Jesus Christ never surrendered his humanity no matter what we did to him – even on the Cross.

Finally, in the resurrection, God showed us that God would not take Death's NO for an answer and would not take our broken meanness as the final verdict upon us or upon God.

God gave us and God gives us a new beginning in Jesus Christ.

The love of God has all the purity and beauty of the New Year's snowfall.

When we realize we need it, God's love stands ready to forgive us and to help us and to heal us.

And when we don't even realize yet that we need it, God's love is already there quietly working new beginnings, healings, and rescues.

I hope and pray that this year is happier, healthier and more peaceful for you and yours.

I believe that in Jesus Christ this New Year will be best because he is here. His name is Immanuel which means “God is with us.”

May his presence shine for you wherever you may be in this moment. Happy New Year!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

Highlights of Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Present: Matt Moore, Jackie Kuhn, Pastor Karen Jewell, Peg Olson, Jakob Iversen, Teri Rucinsky, Warren Luce, Ann Stephan

Absent: Rose Rivera, Jim Heidl

Financial Reports

Motions made and approved to approve the treasurer's financial reports. ADA restroom is \$12,680 as of November 30, 2018.

Old Business

Reviewed and discussed 2019 proposed budget. Council members need to get their narrative budgets and summaries to the office and Matt as soon as possible.

Signature cards – Peg Olson and Jackie Kuhn need to go to US Bank to sign the signature cards. Pastor Karen can stop in and sign to access the Safe Deposit Box.

Anniversary observation – tabled until next meeting

New Business

St Andrew's Council Standing Committees Booklet: distributed, reviewed and discussed the booklet to be given to new council members as a resource and to briefly explain the duties of each committee chair.

Council member nomination discussion – nominating committee will meet as soon as possible after Christmas. Four positions will be vacated in 2019 so we are praying for new council members to step forward with their gifts.

Pastor's Report

Giving Tuesday on November 27th - will receive \$2500 from Thrivent Matching challenge! Funds will be used for Feed the Children.

Discussed Give Plus as a new way of giving electronically. Discussed which categories of St Andrew's funds should be listed on the Give Plus screen.

At Our Savior's Lutheran Church on Wisconsin: Visiting nurses and volunteers will be offering

respite care to caregivers to give them breaks from care duties of family members with dementia. Can give two hours of respite to caregivers twice monthly (3rd and 4th Tuesdays of the month). Next summer we may change the name of "Feed Our Children" to "Feeding Oshkosh Children" so it describes who we are feeding more accurately. Looking into food truck to deliver food to same route as literacy coordinators in summer. Some churches offering summer meals served fewer children last summer while St. Andrew's attendance at meals increased.

Committee Reports

Christian Action - No report

Congregational Life - No report

Education - Teri Rucinsky

Sunday school students, Confirmation Students, Youth Ministry Team members and families gathered Nov 28 to organize gifts for students at local elementary schools.

The month of December is a busy one for our students! Coming up this Friday, Dec. 14, from 6-9 pm is the Beginning Youth Group's SPAM (Soda, Pizza, And a Movie) Night. All kids grades 2 -12 are welcome! The BYG Game day is coming up on Jan. 19. YMT Pizza Fundraiser is in need of help! If you're interested, contact Patty Koplitz.

Parents/Guardians of Sunday School Children - There will be a dress rehearsal for the Christmas Program on Saturday Dec. 15, 9 -11 am with the Sunday School led worship on Sunday, Dec. 16, at the 10:30 am worship. Youth Group Candy Sales will also be available this Sunday (Dec 16) for you to pick up and it will be a noisy offering, so bring your change!

No Confirmation classes Dec 26 or Jan 2. Classes resume Jan 9. No Sunday School Classes on Dec 23 or 30. Classes resume Jan 6.

Evangelism - No report

Fellowship/Hospitality

Property – Warren Luce

Request from Christian Action for new stove to potentially altering some of the kitchen. While addressing an issue has arisen with the city and we may have other code requirements.

Encore Handbell Choir is looking for a place to practice since their current location is in the process of being sold. Discussed potentially giving them a new home at last Property Meeting. They need a place to lock their equipment. Finding enough space is a huge issue. They give concerts in lieu of paying rent. Hat is typically passed and the proceeds are given to their home. Practice weekly.

Stewardship - Ann Stephan

Crossways is conducting a capital campaign. They have a suggested level of offering to support their campaign. Thrivent Action Team Activity will help pay for mailer, suggest making a committee, setting a goal, talk to congregation, 6-7 weeks, short drive, goal with date set, templates for drives. A lot of the Crossways techniques are ideas that we can use as a congregation.

Technology/Office - Jakob Iversen

Student group from UWO is working on new website. Computer in office acting up. Motion made and approved to request up to \$1000 from Memorial Fund to replace secretary's computer.

Worship & Music - Peg Olson

We request a \$75.00 honorarium for the Madrigal singers for the December 9 performance at the early service.

We also request that a check from the Thanksgiving Eve offering be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response.

President's Report

Nothing additional

Next Council Meeting January, 8, 2019 @ 7 PM

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

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 **\$12,785.00** as of the end of December. Thank you for your generosity!

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 27, 2018 10:30 am

We will reflect on our life together at our upcoming **Annual Congregational Meeting**. Please join us to celebrate what we have accomplished together in the past year and plan what we would like to tackle together in our new year.

We will have **only one worship** at 9:00 am and then our Annual Meeting will begin at 10:30 am after some fellowship and refreshments.

Christian Action



A **BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped work on Giving Tuesday and to all those who donated.

Between the six churches involved we raised \$10,068. With the Thrivent Match each church will receive \$2,548.33. The money raised for St. Andrew's will go toward our Feeding the Children of Oshkosh program. Thank you so much!

Calendars

If you have extra 2019 calendars, would you consider donating them to the Oshkosh Correctional Institution for the inmates? We will be collecting until the end of January. A box for donations is near the church office.



Thank you for considering this mission!

Noisy Offering

Last month's noisy offering of \$97.69 was designated for the [Take 5 Club](#) of Oshkosh providing clothes, shoes, jackets, haircuts, and more for local kids.

Don't forget, Confirmands!

There will be no Wednesday Confirmation classes on January 2. We resume studies on Wednesday, Jan. 9!

Don't forget, Sunday School Students!

We resume classes on Sunday, January 6! See you then!

Youth News

Submitted by Patty Koplitz, Youth Director

For more information on any of the following events, please contact Patty Koplitz at PKoplitz@standrewsoshkosh.org or 920-420-5616.

BYG (Beginning Youth Group)



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

Come and play for a couple of hours. Board games, cards and hide and seek. Everyone is welcome, grades 2 and up. Hope to see you there!

Attention all middle school kids!

Youth Gathering

Junior Youth Gathering
Feb. 16 - 17



Join Patty for a weekend of fun Feb. 16 through 17 in Manitowoc. The Junior Youth Gathering is a weekend filled

with fun games, workshops, a dance, swimming pizza and worship that will get you on your feet! We will spend our time with kids from the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. The cost will be \$80 (this includes hotel). The deadline to register for the gathering is January 23 -please let Patty know if you are interested. There will be more information coming soon!

YMT (Youth Ministry Team)



We need your help: The Iversen family has graciously organized the pizza sale for the last 5 or 6 years. They are doing it again this year but would like to pass on the torch. Are you or your family willing to help? The Iversens will give you the tools needed to be successful. Please consider this gift to the youth! Let Patty know if you are interested.

High Adventure Trip **Informational Meetings**

Jan. 16 or Jan. 23 after confirmation class

Are you ready for a high adventure trip? Are you going into high school or just entering college? You are eligible for his trip of a life time! We are going down the Mississippi in a Voyager Canoe for five days and five nights. This is an adventure filled time out in nature and the elements. And God is constantly present. He is visible everywhere!

We will be canoeing during the day and making camp on the sand islands in the Mississippi River. I have done



CANOE TRIP this trip once before and those people still talk about that trip. It was our best trip ever. I want you to experience that.

We will have a meeting for families to find out more about the trip and to plan fund raising. The trip will be June 23rd through June 28th. You only need to attend one meeting. The first meeting will be January 16th right after confirmation class and the second meeting will be on January 23rd, again, right after class. If you are unable to make either meeting but still have a desire to learn more, please contact me at pkoplitz@standrews.org, or call me at 920-420-5616.

Stewardship

January 2019: Beginning again!



Stewardship is everything I do after I say "I believe..." (Charles Stoughton)

Because we belong to God, everything about us belongs to God: ourselves...our time, our relationships--even our possessions. In light of that, how do those people who belong to God regard our belongings? (Rolf Jacobson)

We thank you for all the different ways you support St Andrew's in ministry and mission. Would you please take time to consider what you would like to do this year?

We appreciate that your time, your presence here, your gifts of money and service are precious statements of faith in action. Thank you!

For several years we have been able to receive your financial gifts in different ways – by cash, by check, and through e-giving. Electronic gifts are welcome. Your electronic gifts may be given through smart phone technology or go to our website

standrewsoshkosh.org.

Here is the short URL:

<http://bit.do/stagiving>

and the QR Code:



Whatever you choose to offer, your gift does make a real difference! Thank you for considering this partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ with the rest of the congregation of St Andrew's.

If you wish to have a box of giving envelopes for 2019 the boxes will be available in the entry way beginning Sunday, January 6, 2019. Would you please check to make sure that our record of your address and phone number is accurate so that we may communicate with you. Drafts of the current directory will be available near the boxes of envelopes for you to check and correct your information. Thank you!



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

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, January 12, at 8:00 am

Art & Soul

Saturday, January 19, 10:30 am – 4 pm
Meet in the "Creation Station" off the Fellowship Hall.

Committee Meetings

All members
welcome!



Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday, January 2, at 6:30 pm

Christian Action Committee

Thursday, January 8, at 6 pm

Technology Committee

Tuesday, January 3 at 10:30 am

Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 8, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, January 24, at 6 pm