



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

February 2019

Dear friends,

February – a strange month – only 28 days long most years. Why do the rest have 30 or 31 days?

Maybe we are in a hurry to get through this month when our wintry pursuits are no longer novel and winter weather is starting to wear everyone out.

But at the heart of February is Valentine's Day. And one sees hearts everywhere! Hearts that say in myriad ways – I love you.

Appropriately enough, our readings on February 3 include the beautiful chapter about love in Paul's first letter to his friends at Corinth, Greece.

Paul writes: *Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.*

(I Corinthians 13:4-8a)

We hear this bible passage read at weddings – in churches and in courthouses or wherever the wedding may be held.

And though scholars will argue that Paul's verses about love are not focused on romantic love but on godly love – they still hold a vast amount of meaning for all intentional relationships of love – such as marriage and friendship and family ties, and beyond to civic loyalty and good citizenship.

One of the things I like to talk about with couples as they are getting ready to be married is to help them consider what the marriage promise (vow) really is.

When a couple makes a marriage vow, each says to the other – **I will be there for you.** The promise is about dependable relationship.

But how can we make such a promise in this terribly uncertain world?

We make it based on the love of God, who is completely and forever dependable. We can make such a promise when we rely on God to give the gift of dependable love – faithful love.

Rowan Williams, a wonderful British theologian, writes in **Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life**, pp.26-27: *If my relationship with the living truth is initiated and sustained by God's faithfulness not mine, it is dependable. But recognizing that requires me to step back from confidence in my own resources.*

... the faith we as Christians proclaim will need to be not a clever system but the possibility of dependable relationship. We need to point quite simply to the God who does not let go, to the Christ who does not run away. And (here's the rub) we ourselves need to be dependable people – people in dependable relationship, who are there for those who feel abandoned and those who don't know who and where they are....

So there's the challenge: ...we are being nudged in the direction of understanding faith afresh in terms of dependable relation. We are drawn into it with God; and we are summoned to embody it and to offer it, as Christ's disciples.

"I will be there for you" – we say in marriage vows and in a million other ways. We can only say it because our God has already said it to us.

We say it in the power and certainty of God's love for that person entrusted to our relationship – as spouse, family, neighbor, and especially the vulnerable stranger who needs help.

Thank you for the partnership and dependable faithfulness that has created and sustains our life together at St Andrew's Lutheran Church.

May God bless and speed our discipleship during this littlest of months and all our days with God's dependable love and mercy.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

Highlights of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2019 - 7:00 PM

Present: Matt Moore, Jackie Kuhn, Jim Heidl, Peg Olson, Jakob Iversen, Warren Luce, Rose Rivera
Excused: Pastor Karen Jewell, Ann Stephan
Absent: Teri Rucinsky
Guests: Encore Representatives Deb Madel and Emily Loper, Sandy Drexler, Marcia Galica, Candy Luce, Tom Galica, Carol Spiegelberg

Financial Reports: Matt Moore presented the December financial reports, Motions carried to accept reports. ADA restroom is \$15,270, as of December 31, 2018.

Old Business

Encore! Representatives discussed the rehearsal space needs. They initially rehearsed at First Presbyterian Church until they outgrew that space. Since then, they have been rehearsing at Christ Lutheran. They are looking for a permanent rehearsal site due to the unknown future of their current rehearsal site. Encore! passed out a handout which specifically discusses the type of space they are seeking. Encore! presented council with a copy of the current contract that they have in place. Encore! invited the council to attend a rehearsal on a Thursday night to get a better idea of their needs.

Christian Action Guests: St. Andrew's will be presented with a check in the amount of \$2548.33 from Giving Tuesday on January 22, 2019 at Barrel 41 in Neenah. Check is designated for Feeding the Children program. Meeting with the three churches: Our Saviors, St. Andrew's and First English. Discussed food truck to deliver food. Have a truck in mind and will advertise with one of our banners. OK as long as council approves. Last year asked us to do four meals to include congregation. Agreed to two meals from Christian Action and two meals from Fellowship. Christian Action ended up doing three meals. We want to do first meal on Fat Tuesday (March 5). We would ask Fellowship to do two meals once new Fellowship leader is appointed. Stove is still on hold. Some funding for these meals may come out of stove funds. Christian Action needs about \$4000. Some businesses donate great amounts of food. Without them budget would be higher. With additional

funds will have roughly \$5700. Christian Action will also be collecting calendars through the end of January for Oshkosh Correctional Institution.

Oven status. Kitchen was never designated as kitchen. Would like to clear this up with the city. Warren will meet with Corey Wallace to help work with building inspectors. Unsure what we will encounter with city.

Preparation for Annual Meeting January 27, 2019 – discussed the 2019 budget to be presented to the congregation. Narrative budgets status discussed.

Nomination Committee Report

Met one week ago and discussed potential new council members and two members who have agreed to stay on for another term if nominated. If someone goes to synod assembly should go to conference meeting. Still working on nominating committee for next year.

New Business

Tom Galica asked for guidance on handling hazardous waste. Warren to check into.

Pastor's Report – No report

Committee Reports

Christian Action, See above (Carol Spiegelberg)

Congregational Life, Rose Rivera

Working on Charter Member Recognition

Education, Teri Rucinsky, No report

Evangelism, Jim Heidl

Received letter from Brenda Francis: Murdock Monster Mash report many thanks to all who contributed: bakers, those who brought decorations, supplied candy, adult and youth volunteers, Piggly Wiggly (which donated bags) community volunteers, and all those who attended! A special thanks to the members of St Andrews for taking on this event. It was a huge success approximately 50 children attended, plus the adults who brought them. We had six games, the popular basketball free play area, coloring station, prizes and food. A light lunch of hot dogs, baked beans, chips, cheese and

crackers, and carrots with dip were offered. There were also many desserts available. Things went smoothly with a check-in table to get a bag and ticket to exchange for a goody bag. This helped us track how many children attended. There were three levels of prizes designated by colored tickets. These small changes compared to last year helped out greatly. Volunteers and guests gave positive reviews including, "glad it was inside", and they liked the time of the day, and the lunch. A member of the community neighborhood association recommended we make it a joint event to get the community more involved. A few things can be tweaked for next year. We definitely need more planning time, more volunteers and a better system to make sure children are only winning one prize per game. We ran out of prizes because a few were playing over and over and receiving tickets versus one ticket per game (then they could play again for fun.) A photobooth opportunity like last year was missed by a few. I suggest we seriously investigate the opportunity to work with a neighborhood association. Thank you for supporting this event - Brenda Francis.

Property, Warren Luce, No report.

Stewardship/Discipleship, No report

Technology/Office, Jakob Iversen, No report. Next meeting is Feb 6 at 10:30.

Worship & Music, Peg Olson

Lenten midweek worship services were discussed. A healing service will be held on Wed. March 27 at noon and at 7 pm. We will use all gluten free bread for the Easter communion worships this year – at the 9 and 10:30 services and use wafers at the Sunrise service. Next meeting: Monday, Feb. 4 at 4 pm.

President's Report:

Drafted agenda for annual meeting and submitted president's report.

Next Council Meeting Tues, Feb. 12, 2019, 7 PM

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

Membership Materials Available to pick up

(or let us know how you wish them to get to YOU!)



Our 2019 membership materials are ready for you! If you have not yet received yours, please stop in the office and pick them up, or if it is more convenient, let us know and we can mail or deliver them to you. We are happy to help. (920) 235-6616.

Available are:

- giving envelopes and estimate of giving forms
- Annual report for the year of 2018
- Time and Talent forms for 2019



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019

On Ash Wednesday we offer the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 12 noon and again at 7 pm. Then we will be gathering each Wednesday from March 13 until April 10, for a half hour of worship at 12 noon and 7 pm. We are taking part in a Lenten Round Robin with Calvary Lutheran, Christ Lutheran, Our Savior's Lutheran and Peace Lutheran to offer a series focusing on five gifts of Living our Baptism, and readings from the Letter to the Philipians.

We will be gathering for a light supper at 6 pm each week from Wed, March 13 to Wed, April 10. We will have a sign-up sheet if you would like to help with supplying the meal. But plan to come for food and fellowship – you are welcome.

Hope you can join us!

Update on the Accessible Restroom project



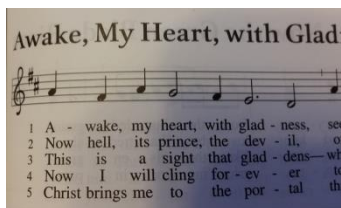
Your gifts continue to come in and grow our needed amount (\$40,000.00) to create the accessible restroom near the sanctuary. Thank you so much. Our total stands at **\$18427.01** as of January 18. Thank you for your generosity!

Annual Assembly of Oshkosh Conference of ELCA Churches

The Annual Assembly of the **Oshkosh Conference** of ELCA churches will be on Tuesday evening, **Feb 5** at Grace Lutheran Church in Ripon beginning at 6:00 pm. Together we plan our joint missions with area ELCA churches.



Our thanks to those of you who represent us at these gatherings and help us to take part in area missions!



Notes from
Brenda Francis,
our choir director

The Choir invites you to join them in a Valentine's potluck on Sunday, February 17. All are invited.

Please bring something to pass as you are able. The potluck will begin shortly after second service ends (at approximately 11:30 am).

After lunch please join us as we go to a local nursing facility for a sing-along. Carpooling will be available.

We are here for you!

Visit our website: standrewsoshkosh.org

Like us on [Facebook](#)

Email us: office@standrewsoshkosh.org (office)

pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org (Pastor)

Or: Call us on the phone!! (920) 235-6616



Christian Action News

Christian Action Committee members continue to meet with representatives of other churches in Oshkosh to discuss and plan the August mission to Feed Oshkosh Children during the school lunch hiatus. Through partnership we hope to make the summer program even more helpful to our school children and their families. **Our deep thanks to Thrivent - Lakeside Associates** who provided a \$2544.66 grant to St Andrew's for this mission through their Giving Tuesday challenge!

Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

February 17– March 10, 2019

NEW hygiene and cleaning items for local homeless shelters and crisis agencies in our community are being collected.

A box will be located near the Fellowship Hall doors for your donations. The most requested items include laundry detergent, garbage bags, dental and hair care items, diapers & baby care, tissue, etc. In 2018, generous community members donated \$411,000 worth of items to our local crisis programs!

Thank you for helping!



Noisy Offering

The **February 17** Noisy Offering is designated for the [Christine Ann Center](#), to help provide emergency shelter and counseling for individuals and families needing safety and shelter from an abusive situation.

Thanks to all who donated to January's Noisy Offering. The [Day by Day Warning Shelter](#) will receive \$138.35. Thank you for your generosity!

Youth News

For more information on any of the following events, please contact Patty Koplitz at pattykoplitz@gmail.com or 920-420-5616.

BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

SPAM - Soda, Pizza, and A Movie
Friday, February 22, 6 - 9 pm

Second graders through high school students are invited to join us for soda, pizza and a movie night! Come and see what the fun is all about!



YMT (Youth Ministry Team)



Pizza Sale

We will start taking orders for our annual pizza sale on February 24th! This sale

supports the youth going on the summer trip. We will be making pizzas on March 23rd and they will be available for pick up on that day. Thanks always for your support.

High Adventure Trip **June 23 - 28**

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

If you have a desire to learn more, please contact Patty at pkoplitz@standrews.org or call 920-420-5516.

February Gifts



February highlights love for others.

Jesus said, "Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:2)

As Christians we learn all our lives how to love and care for others.

The bible calls us back to that study again and again. The church provides ways and means to carry out our love with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Thank you for supporting the mission and ministry of St Andrew's Lutheran Church! Thank you for your love for others expressed so faithfully.

If you would like to give an offering electronically here is the short URL: <http://bit.do/stagiving> or the QR Code:



Or you may go to our standrewsoshkosh.org – our website. You choose how your funds are given, frequency and method of donation. But please know that your gift does make a difference! We thank you for considering this partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Learning good news by heart

Did you know that in the earliest days of our Church, most people could not read at all? The estimate was that only 1 to 5% of people in the Roman Empire were literate.

But that did not stop the Church from spreading and sharing the gospel. Messengers sent by Paul to the other churches he mentored would memorize his entire letter and then deliver it by heart when they reached the other churches.

As a faith formation practice, you don't have to memorize an entire book of the bible, but you could pick out a verse or passage that really speaks to you and work to memorize it so that it can live in your heart! Which verse or story would you like to keep tucked in your heart today?

Write it down, post it somewhere you will see it, and read it aloud as often as possible – see how quickly it stays with you! God bless!



*LOOKING
AHEAD*

The May meeting of Art and Soul will be moved due to the dates of Synod Assembly. We will have a special art day on Sunday, May 5.



St. Andrew's Men with Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, Feb. 9, at 8:00 am
Bring your spouse, if you would like!

Art & Soul

Saturday, February 23, 10:30 am – 4 pm
Meet in the "Creation Station" off the Fellowship Hall.

Looking forward to Fat Tuesday!

Fellowship meal on Tuesday, March 5.
More details coming soon!

Committee Meetings

All members welcome!



Worship & Music Committee

Monday, February 4, at 4 pm

Christian Action Committee

Tuesday, February 5, at 6 pm

Technology Committee

Wednesday, February 6, at 10:30 am

Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 12, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, February 28, at 6 pm