



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

Welcome to worship and life at St. Andrew's!

March 2018

Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

Lenten Wed worship March 6, 13, 20, 27 at 12 noon & 7 pm

Dear friends,

Last year on Mother's Day I just had to go see some wildflowers and I decided to drive up to Green Bay and check out the Botanical Gardens there.

As I was paying for my admission I asked if there were any wildflowers to be seen in the gardens and the cashier said, "Oh, I am sorry, no!"

Oh, well, I thought, it will still be nice to see all the tulips and daffodils! I walked out through the beds and came to a magnificent garden full of wildflowers blooming their hearts out! And then a wild turkey strolled by and made the day even better.

The Botanical Garden sends me newsletters (I am a member now) and the latest had a blog about "five (healthy) reasons we should garden this year."

- it boosts your immune system,
- it is a stress buster and mood booster,
- it keeps you in shape,
- it helps your heart,
- it gives you more veggies to eat.

I think I can make a similar case for coming to church for worship and fellowship!

- Practicing forgiveness and tending relationships faithfully does reduce the stress that hurts your health and well-being.
- faith gives you tools to live in a difficult and sorrowful world with courage and hope.
- singing, praising God, confessing our sorrows and sins – all of these boost our moods.
- we are well known to get up and down so much in worship that we keep in shape! (I can see you smile)
- the Lord tends our hearts in worship, in our prayers, and in all that he teaches in his Word.
- you may get excellent veggies at our potlucks!

And most important – tending the relationship you have with God blesses everything you do, and everyone you care for!

**"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"**

**Your face, LORD, do I seek.** (Psalm 27:8)

Seeking God is the heart of our faithful discipleship.

And, there is a lot more here at church than people know – sometimes even our own members don't know the amazing treasures to be found here in this place until they come one day to discover them.

Peace. Forgiveness. Freedom. A new beginning.

These treasures are God's gifts to you. God plants the seeds of faith in you and amazing fruits grow.

So, I invite you to step into God's Garden, into the holiness and healthiness of God's house!

Please come to worship – take part as you are able and, especially this Lent, I invite you to do some gardening of the soul. "*Cultivating and Letting Go*" will be the theme of our Sundays in worship and our healing services on Wednesday, March 27.

On Wednesdays we will welcome a round robin of guest pastors: Brad Dokken from Peace, Doug Holtz from Calvary, Jan LaVake from Our Saviors, and Connie Weiss from Christ Lutheran.

Our Wednesday worship theme is ***Living our Baptism: Five Gifts of Discipleship***. Our bible study at 12:30pm and our confirmation study at 6:00 pm will follow the same themes each week.

I am hoping this Lenten season will be enriching, enlivening, and healing for you and yours. Seeing what grows of our faith is as exciting as finding a wildflower offering its tender and original beauty to the world wherever it grows!

And speaking of "wherever" please lift in prayer our sister congregation, **Christ Lutheran Church**, pastored by Connie Weiss, as they move from their building on Church Avenue to a new location in the Hooper Building this month.

Their move takes great courage as they seek the best way to offer the fruits of their faithfulness in our community. May God bless them and you!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell



## 2019 Lenten Round Robin "Living our Baptism"

*This year's series focuses on five gifts of discipleship, begun in our baptism. Come consider God's special gifts given to you.*

March 6: (Ash Wednesday): Compassion: Serve others, following the example of Jesus. **Pastor Karen Jewell**

March 13: Worship: Hear the Word and Share in the Lord's Supper. **Pastor Connie Weiss, Christ Lutheran**

March 20: Making Peace: Strive for justice and peace: **Pastor Jan LaVake, Our Savior's**

March 27: (A brief pause in our round robin!) Healing prayer: Interactive prayers for healing will be offered today at 12 noon and 7:00 pm.

April 3: Sharing Good News: Proclaim the good news of God in Christ. **Pastor Doug Holtz, Calvary.**

April 10: Community: Live among God's faithful people. **Pastor Brad Dokken: Peace.**

*A joint project of Calvary, Christ, Our Savior's, Peace and St Andrew's Lutheran Churches in Oshkosh!*

### Wednesday Lenten Meals & Gatherings

Following midday Lenten worship (noon to 12:30 pm) feel free to gather for lunch and bible study. The potluck begins at 12:30 – All are welcome!



Preceding the evening Lenten worship (7:00 to 7:30 pm) we gather for a light supper at 6:00 pm. We hope confirmation families will be able to attend with their students but please know ALL ARE WELCOME!!!

**If you wish to bring food for the evening meal, or help prepare/serve the meal, you will find Sign-up sheets are by the office door.**

## Lenten and Holy Week Worship

Ash Wednesday (March 6)

With imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion, worship at **12 noon and 7:00 pm.**

Wednesdays in Lent (March 13, 20, 27, Apr. 3, 10): half hour worship at **12 noon and 7:00 pm.**

Sundays in Lent

(March 10 to April 7)

Holy Communion at **9:00 and 10:30 am.**



Palm Sunday (April 14)

Holy Communion at **9:00 and 10:30 am.**

Maundy Thursday

(April 18):

Holy Communion at **12 noon and 7:00 pm**

Good Friday (April 19):

Confession of sins, readings and prayers for Good Friday at **12 noon and 7:00 pm**

You are always welcome!

## 2019 Easter Altar Flowers



Flowers to enhance our Easter altar may be ordered now! Plants are ordered from House of Flowers and may be given to the glory of God, or in honor of a person or an event, or in memory of a person or people you wish to remember.

### Prices per plant:

Lilies	14.00
Hydrangea	33.00 (pink or blue)
Tulips	14.00
Daffodils	14.00
Hyacinth	14.00
Mums	15.00
Azaleas	30.00
Kalanchoe	19.00

Envelopes to order Easter altar flowers are available in the narthex hallway or you may call the office with your order at (920) 235-6616.

The deadline for ordering is **Sunday, March 31**. You may take your plants home after the 10:30 am Easter Sunday worship – or leave them for another week, if you wish. We thank you so much for considering this gift to St Andrew's!!!

## Easter's on its way!

As we order those lovely Easter altar flowers we can't help anticipating the joys of Easter Day – the mystery and wonder of Easter worship and a wonderful breakfast to share with friends and family.

Here is the schedule for **Sunday, April 21, 2019:**

7:00 am – Easter Sunrise worship

8:00 to 9:30 am – Easter Breakfast is served.

9:00 & 10:30 am – Easter Festival worship.

Please plan to come!

### 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 **\$20,047.01** as of February 22.

Thank you for your generosity!

### Daylight Savings Time begins

Sunday, March 10th

Our time "springs forward"

Please don't forget –

put your clocks ahead one hour!



### Help Wanted for our Celebration!

St. Andrew's will be 58 years old this year! We are planning an Anniversary celebration on **Sunday, April 28**. We would like to honor our charter members at the celebration. Please consider helping with the planning of this event. Contact the church office, (920) 235-6616, if you are interested.

## Christian Action News



### Feeding Hungry Kids 2019

Mark the date for an informational meeting for our summer Feeding Hungry Kids mission on **Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 PM**. Please join us if you want to volunteer or want to learn more.



### Snack Shack

## Snack Shack

We are collecting healthy snacks for Emmeline Cook School's Snack Shack. These snacks are used by those children who need an extra snack during the day for various reasons. A collection box can be found in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall. All items must be individually wrapped. Suggested items:

- Granola bars
- Pretzels
- Gold fish
- Cheez-its
- Crackers
- Graham crackers
- Animal crackers
- Mixed nuts
- Snack mixes

## Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

Through 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. A

complete list of needed supplies is in the Fellowship

Hallway. Thank you!

## Noisy Offering

The **March 17** Noisy Offering is designated for the [World Relief Fox Valley](#) working to welcome immigrants and refugees to ensure that families and individuals are thriving and integrated.

Thanks to all who donated to February's Noisy Offering. The [Christine Ann Center](#) will receive \$110.12. Thank you for your generosity

## Preparation for Holy Communion



**Saturday, April 6**

**9 am - 12 pm**

**Or contact Pr Karen to arrange  
an alternate time!**

We like to prepare our fifth graders and others who would like to explore and understand the meaning of Holy Communion. Our next class is scheduled for early April but we can arrange alternative times – *please call Pastor Karen (235-6616) for more information! Parents/mentors welcome to attend!*

**It is almost time for CAMP  
and it is definitely time to plan!**

Our Crossways camp fliers are here! There are programs for all ages: for kids and youth, for adults, for families, for YOU. Our confirmation campers (students who will be going into 8th grade in the autumn) are going to Waypost Camp June 9 to 14!



We need to get our registration in for all our confirmands, but all registrations received with a \$100.00 deposit on or before March 15 receive an early bird discount off of the camp fees.

Please see [www.crosswayscamps.org](http://www.crosswayscamps.org) to explore programs and talk with Pastor Karen if you would like more information. Please don't let cost be a barrier - we can always find scholarship funds to help!

## Youth News

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

### BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

BYG Camp

March 29 - 31

(Registration deadline March 13)

BYG Camp at Imago Dei Village is a retreat specifically for kids in grades 3 – 6. Come and join me for a wonderful retreat with kids from around the synod while we pray and play together. Registration deadline is March 13. The cost is \$110 per child. Please, remember that there are always scholarship funds available. Please go to

<https://www.crosswayscamps.org/youth-retreats.html> for more information and for registration. Make sure that you say that you are joining St. Andrews-Oshkosh. Let me know as soon as you have registered. I will collect all fees and submit them together. Make checks payable to St. Andrew's. Please contact me at [pkoplitz@standrews.org](mailto:pkoplitz@standrews.org) or call me at 920-420-5616. I will be needing a male chaperone, too. Let me know if you are interested in joining the fun! – submitted by Patty Koplitz

### YMT (Youth Ministry Team)



The pizza sale is under way! We will be taking orders through March 10, so get your pizzas ordered now! All proceeds will help kids attend camps, retreats, and support activities.

I would love to have your family help to sell pizzas, before and after both services. Or take an order form home with you and sell to friends and family.

We will be making pizzas on Saturday March 23. We will start at 9 in the morning and continue until we are done. Pizzas are usually available for pick up after noon. Please let Patty know if you will be able to help make pizzas!

### Electronic gifts and offerings

We invite you to support the mission and ministry of St Andrew's Lutheran Church. You may offer a gift electronically, if that is best for you! You may use your smart phone technology: 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](http://standrewsoshkosh.org) – our website.

### Holistic stewardship for Lent

For centuries Lutherans have observed Lent with passionate devotion and prayerful attention to spiritual disciplines. These faith practices strengthen our souls and open our hearts to the resurrected Christ at Easter.

Stewardship, of course, looks at how we use not just our financial abundance but all the blessings that God has given us – our health, our family and friends, our faith, our time, our intelligence, and so

on. When you examine your stewardship of these and all your gifts in dynamic interconnection with one another, you can find more meaning and purpose as a disciple of Jesus.

To get there, for the days of Lent focus on just five major categories of the blessings God has given you easily remembered by the shorthand word FAITH.

**Family** and friends – nurturing relationships.

**Abundance** -- finance and material possessions.

**Intelligence** – your mind and special talents.

**Time** -- living fully 24/7.

**Health** – physical and emotional wellness.

Spend 15 minutes every day to prayerfully ponder and meditate on these FAITH blessings. A prayer journal or notebook may help you process and connect.

\*\*Take stock of your blessings in each category, thanking God for them.

\*\*Reflect on how they interrelate to give you joy and purpose and meaning.

\*\*Ask God to help you use these gifts more wisely and fully for God's purposes.

\*\*Imagine God blessing and enriching your life as you learn to steward these gifts in a way that they will support and enhance one another.

This Lent, let holistic stewardship help you envision your gifts and life more fully in God's reality, the reality called the Reign of God. It's the Reign that Jesus preached and proclaimed, and that he brought to fulfillment with the victory over death that we celebrate at Easter.

--Rob Blezard, *Stewardship of Life Institute*  
[editor@stewardshipoflife.org](mailto:editor@stewardshipoflife.org)

### **Thrivent Dollars Amazon Smile**

Did you know that your gifts through Amazon Smile and Thrivent Dollars help us to do lots of good mission and ministry at St Andrew's? Your gifts have helped fund mission trips, youth activities, staff continuing ed and much more.

Thrivent members, please consider directing your Thrivent dollars to St Andrew's. Your Thrivent choice dollars must be directed by March 31, 2019. We are excited to share that St. Andrew's received \$541 in Thrivent Choice Dollars in 2018! Thank you to all who directed Choice Dollars to St. Andrew's.

To direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to St. Andrew's, call 1-800-847-4836 and say "Choice Dollars." If you have questions, call your Thrivent representative.

Members who purchase goods and books on Amazon - you get the very same prices on smile.amazon.com but Amazon will direct a portion of the money they make to the charity of your choice. Please consider St Andrew's as the recipient of the donation made from your purchases. St. Andrew's has received over \$125 from members who have chosen St. Andrew's as their beneficiary. Thank you!



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

#### **Breakfast**

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

#### **Art & Soul**

**Saturday, March 30, 10:30 am – 4 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.

### **Committee Meetings**

All members welcome!



#### **Worship & Music Committee**

Monday, March 4, at 4 pm

#### **Christian Action Committee**

Tuesday, March 5, at 6 pm

#### **Council Meeting**

Tuesday, March 12, at 7 pm

#### **Technology Committee**

Tuesday, March 5, 10:30 am

#### **Property Committee**

Thursday, March 28, at 6 pm