



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

June 2019

Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

worship with healing prayers on Sunday, June 23

Dear friends,

There is so much to tell you from our Synod Assembly (May 17 & 18 in Appleton.). Our guest speaker was the Rev. Sunitha Mortha who is the Director of Mission Formation for the ELCA.

Pastor Sunitha Mortha is a third generation Lutheran pastor – her father and grandfather Lutheran pastors as well – and she was raised for part of her childhood in India and part in the US.

She has a wonderful knack from bridging two worlds and she helped us begin to see the amazing blessings of receiving the gifts and expertise of the world into our life together as the church.

She used her warmth and sense of humor to make us aware of our native biases, and to begin to see how over the years we from the USA have engaged in mission from a sense of superiority that was not helpful nor faithful.

She opened our eyes and hearts without making us ashamed and wounded and it was such a wonderful new vision for our life as a church reaching out to meet others from around the world.

The team of musicians came from diverse backgrounds as well and they were delightful. They led us through beautiful global and local music (hence their name “glocal mission team”) and they shared their faith stories that warmed our hearts and brought us tears and laughter.

And that was only a part of the Synod Assembly experience. I would like to tell you about one more event that really moved me and made me wish to bring it home to you.

We had several worship services during our time together but in the middle we had a Healing worship that was very similar to what we have offered at St Andrew's – usually on an evening during the week or on Sunday night.

The prayers invited us into a safe place to touch our own woundedness and grief and then there were stations for laying on of hands for healing – which means people ready to ask us what we needed to have prayed for and then gently laying their hands on our heads they prayed for each one of us.

There were 300 of us at the Assembly and I think most took part in this – and most of us were gently crying because of the weight of all that is going on in our lives, in our churches and in our world.

It was a truly healing worship. And I would like to offer something of the same opportunity on Sunday morning – which is most accessible to most of us – and so we will have healing prayers incorporated in our worship on Sunday, June 23.

I hope you will be able to take part and I hope it will be a time of grace for you.

This year has been filled with so many crises and disasters and simply BAD news for so many. I think what moved us in that Assembly hall was having a safe space to acknowledge what has been on our hearts and minds, but has had no outlet in our life together – until then.

I am hoping these healing prayers will be an experience of God's grace for you, God's deep awareness of your hurting and unswerving love and presence in the midst of it all – to bring you healing and peace.

Meanwhile, may God bless your June with all sorts of opportunities for renewal and delight.

Thank you so much for being part of St Andrew's Lutheran Church. God loves you and we are so grateful for your partnership in such GOOD news.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Karen Jewel

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
Highlights of Church Council Meeting Minutes
May 14, 2019 - 7:00 PM

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

Financial Reports: Matt Moore presented the April financial reports. Motion approved to accept. (ADA restroom is \$21,847.01, as of April 30, 2019.)

Old Business

Crossways Camping Ministry Campaign – passed out forms for pledges for the campaign. Encourage council to make their pledges in advance. Can be used as examples for Pledge Sunday on June 2.

New Business

Guests from the Winnebago County Literacy Council. Family literacy class up to 15 moms come to class with children. Provide childcare so moms can have their class. Refuge group learns to advocate for children. Group requests to use space for community meetings 12:30 to 2:30. Summer 1- 3. Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Our service is free so we don't want to turn people away. Volunteers have to be 18. Would pay no fee to use building. Discussed questions regarding insurance if something happens while they are here. How do they handle scheduling conflicts like voting, funerals, etc? Council decided to continue discussion with Literacy group.

Valley Christian Preschool They have grown beyond facility and are visiting churches to get a fit for the school year. 3k 4k program. 7:30 – 4 teachers Handle their own food. Hope to be able to accommodate the 3k and 4k groups in a couple years through building. Was told insurance follows the kids to their location. Provided by the school. Discussed when Valley Christian was here in the past. Council decided not to pursue.

Pastor's Council report

On Thursday, May 2, Sandy Last, Kay Procknow and I attended the evening session of **Culture of Poverty workshop** offered by Al Rolph of the Salvation Army, through Fill the Gap mission at Christ Lutheran Church. It was excellent and applies to our outreach in the community.

Saturday, May 4 was Eastern **Lay School** graduation day - I completed my year of teaching Systematics and it was very enriching.

Brenda Francis, Greg Egner and I will be representing St Andrew's at the **2019 Synod Assembly** in Appleton, May 17 to 18. Our conference assembly that was cancelled in February because of bad weather will take place at the Friday lunchtime at Synod Assembly so that conference news and decisions can be made this year.

Sunday, May 19th is **Confirmation Day** for three of our students – Andrew Bartels, Christian Larkpor, and Katlyn Sharratt! **Sunday School** wraps up for the school year with the help of Patty Koplitz who has been anchoring Sunday School for the last few Sundays. Deepest sympathies to Rose Rivera who is mourning her mother's recent death.

Our **Confirmation camp** session has been moved to Pine Lake Camp, June 9 to 14.

I will be out of town Saturday, **June 1 through Monday, June 3**. Pastor Kim Krogstad will be our supply pastor for Sunday, June 2.

We named our **council members in worship** on May 5 to help members know you and connect your name and face and area of interest. We will do it again on Sunday **June 9**.

Committee Reports

Christian Action, Carol Spiegelberg

Feeding Hungry Kids posters are made. They will go out to schools now that we have approval from school board. Giving Tree is put up. We are asking for gift cards from Piggly Wiggly and for needed food items. The sign-up sheets for volunteers are ready and are on the table across from the office. On July 16th, we will go out with the Literacy Truck from Emmeline Cook to introduce the truck to the neighborhood. We will give out sack lunches. St. Andrew's, First English and Our Savior's have applied for a grant for \$5,000 from "Women Who Care". Will split \$5000. Applied for grant for bike helmets. Tomorrow meet with WI farmers and hope to get milk and cheese from them.

Congregational Life, Rose Rivera – no report

Education, Teri Rucinsky

It's Christmas in July! Our theme for the 2019 VBS has finally been released, and it is... "Go Tell it on the Mountain" where we will be learning about Christmas and the birth of Jesus! Join us, in the spirit of giving, for our mission-based Vacation Bible School held right here at St. Andrew's July 15-17. What has God gifted you with? Tell us your talent, and we'll plan our VBS rotations around you! Complete this VBS Volunteers Survey or contact: Teri Rucinsky via email at trucinsky@standrewsohskosh.org If you'd like to help plan VBS, there is another planning meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 21st @4:30.

Congratulations to our students who are celebrating their First Communion and Confirmation this month. Confirmation Sunday is May 19th @ 10:30.

May is teacher appreciation month, and we couldn't do it without our wonderful Sunday School teachers! Thanks to those who have stepped up to fill the teacher role for our children. We appreciate you.

Evangelism, Jim Heidl

Dave and I met to discuss a path for both of our committees. (Fellowship and Evangelism). We talked about a number of ideas to make our committee's functional.

Some ideas for Evangelism were:

1. How to use the internet/ do we think it is a productive use of time
2. What types of neighborhood outreach we could do. Who to connect with and in what way to connect.
3. Making a list of / and how to approach contacting and connecting with inactive members.
4. Forming an actual committee of members that can help with the duties of the committee.

If anyone wants to help with Evangelism or has any ideas please contact me. Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Fellowship, David Olson - Just wanted to touch base on a couple of items tonight:

1. I will share Chris Ziegler's Easter breakfast report. Report summary: attendance was up from previous years, 98 people served. Fellowship Hall was full. Thank you to all who set up, cooked and served.

2. Thank you to those who helped organize and serve for the 58th anniversary celebration and the Art and Soul workshop.
3. Met with Jim Heidl from Evangelism. We have some specific questions we need help with:
 - a. We received the new members list. I reviewed on 5/13/19. Will reach out in May to newer members.
 - b. Time/talent sheets. Open discussion. How do we get people to fill them out? E-mails - how do we get them? Best way to communicate to assure total membership gets message?
4. Will have my committee in place by June. Will have them over to my house for 1st meeting (coffee and pie).
 - a. How do we continue to support current fellowship activities?
 - b. What other activities can we do to engage more of our congregation in fellowship?
5. Jim to touch on his items for evangelism.

Property, Warren Luce

Parking lot resurfacing. Doing routing and crack filing and based on weather will do sealing. Spring landscaping work in progress to be announced.

Stewardship/Discipleship, Ann Stephan

Have committee and haven't had to do too much. Chomping at the bit to start to work.

Technology/office,

Vanco has arranged with ELCA for a better cost to use program. May save us funds on using this service. We are also working on doorbell. Using it well. Trying to figure out protocol with those visiting the church.

Worship & Music, Peg Olson

Worship & Music Committee Meeting – no meeting this month.

President's Report: Attended a Miravida Living board meeting and want to stress to the public that Lutheran Homes is now Miravida Living. There is a restaurant at the rehab facility. They would like the public to visit there. It is a great organization.

Next Council Meeting
7:00 PM

Tuesday, June 11, 2019,

A full set of minutes is available on the bulletin board outside the office.

Congratulations and Blessings!

We celebrate with three young adults and their families and godparents their affirmation of baptism celebrated on May 19th this year.

Andrew Oliver Bartels
Christian Mark Larkpor
Katlyn Nickol Sharratt

May God bless you and continue to deepen your faithfulness as you follow the Lord Jesus Christ!



Update on the Accessible Restroom project



Your generous gifts continue to come in and grow our needed amount (\$40,000.00) to create the accessible restroom near the sanctuary. You are working together to provide the best hospitality for all who worship here. Thank you so much. Our total stands at 21,847.01 as of April 30.

Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you!

Deep thanks to the folks who care so tenderly for the flowers and decorations of church and yard so generously. Please come and enjoy the peace and beauty of our courtyard, picnic shelter, and benches!



Deep thanks to Brenda Francis and Greg Egner who represented us as voting members along with Pastor Jewell at the 2019 East Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly May 17 & 18. Please ask them about the actions of our larger church and their thoughts on the special speaker Rev. Sunitha Mortha, Director of Mission Development.

Bible study gatherings in June 2019



In June we meet on selected dates due to overlap with Confirmation camp and other events. Please check our June calendar, so that you can take part!

Mondays at 7:15 pm on **June 17** and **June 25**, we will be reading the Letter to the Galatians together. At enterthebible.org they describe the book this way: *Galatians achieves its goal when those who read it are enabled to hear the good news that God has called each one of them by the grace of Christ. All are justified and made right with God by faith in Christ and not by doing the works of the law. That we are children of God according to God's promise in Christ is not just wishful thinking; it is the promise that in the cross of Christ we are really a new creation--freed, transformed, and empowered by the Spirit's leading for loving service of the neighbor.* We share light refreshments as we read and discuss the bible verses.

Wednesdays at noon on **June 5, 19, and 26**— we continue our series of studies on Prayer and Prayers in the Bible. We enjoy a light potluck lunch during this study. We hope you feel free to join us as your schedule allows.

A few words from the Christian Action Committee:



June Noisy Offering

The June 17 Noisy Offering is designated for the [K9 Unit of the Oshkosh Police Dept.](#)

Thanks to all who donated to the May Noisy Offering. The August 2019 Feeding Hungry Kids ministry here at St. Andrew's received \$99.93. Thank you for your generosity.

Feeding Hungry Kids

July 29th – Aug. 30th



**Needed: Volunteers –
3 opportunities to help:**

We have different ways to volunteer:

1. Help prep meal
2. Help make up sack lunches
3. Serve the hot meal
4. Help kids carry their food trays and also wipe off tables (fellowship area)
5. Welcome the families (greeters)

Sign-up sheets to volunteer are located on a table outside the office. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old.

Extra dates we need help with:

- We will be walking in the Oshkosh July 4 parade. We hand out flyers informing folks about Feeding Hungry Kids.
- We will be delivering flyers to the neighborhood on Sunday July 14. Your help would be appreciated.
- We will be assisting with serving food at the Pizza Ranch on Monday, July 22, 2019. Proceeds will be used to support the program.

Please contact Carol Spiegelberg 920-420-7832 if you have questions about any of these events.

VBS HELP NEEDED

What has God gifted you with? Tell us your talent, and we'll plan our VBS rotations around you! Complete this [VBS Volunteers Survey](#) (copies also available on table in narthex) or contact: Teri Rucinsky via email at trucinsky@standrewsoshkosh.org.



**Vacation Bible
School
July 15- 17**

It's Christmas in July!

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Youth News

BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

BYG has come to an end for the summer. But look for the calendar to come out in August! Thanks to everyone who attended this year.

YMT (Youth Ministry Team)

YMT will also take a break for the summer. Keep watching the newsletter for future meeting dates and activities!

Confirmation Camp



Pastor Karen and three of our confirmation students will be attending

Crossways confirmation camp at Pine Lake June 9 - 14. Please pray for them, their fellow campers and counselors – for deepening faith, growing, learning, and fun!



June 2019: Develop a heart of generosity

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to

receive." **Acts 20:35b**

Pastor Rob Blezard writes: A friend who regularly volunteers to serve meals to the needy illustrates the truth of Jesus' teaching. "It's so rewarding to help," she says, explaining that the time and hard work is worth it. "I think get more out of it than they do."

It feels good to give, but we are blessed with so much more when we give generously. The act of giving truly blesses us by shaping our personalities and developing our character. That's a truth affirmed by research.

Generous people tend to be the kind of good folk we want as friends and neighbors. We often think of generosity only in terms of financial giving, but generous people go way beyond that, embodying generosity with all they have and all they are. They are not merely generous, they are *generous-hearted*.

Anyone can develop a generous heart, or a *more* generous heart. Begin by deepening your relationship with God, seeking guidance and wisdom in daily prayer. Then simply begin to pour yourself out for the sake of others, giving generously as a spiritual exercise and discipline. Here are five action steps:

Give smiles. Smile at everyone you see. You may be surprised at how it changes your outlook.

Give nice words. Say something nice to everyone – family and friends, coworkers, parishioners, store clerks, folks in an elevator.

Give courtesy. Hold a door open for the person behind you; stop for pedestrians; let someone go ahead of you in line.

Give your time. Serve people *face-to-face*: tutor schoolchildren, serve meals, visit a shut-in, teach ESL, volunteer at a homeless shelter.

Give your resources: Slowly increase your giving to God's ministry. Make tithing a long-term goal.

Jesus said it is more blessed to give than to receive. When we give our time, talents and possessions, God blesses us by developing in us a generous heart.

--Rob Blezard

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If you would like to support the mission and ministry of St Andrew's Lutheran Church, we invite you to make a gift to St Andrew's. Electronic gifts as well as offerings of cash or check are welcome. 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:



Your gift makes a real difference!
Thank you for supporting this partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ.





Summer Schedules at St. Andrew's

We know that vacation, kid's camps, family reunions, and other summertime responsibilities will create scheduling conflicts with your participation at Church. Sometimes we get calls to take you off of schedules for a season. First of all, we thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and for offering to help!

Almost all of our schedules are already made for at least the season we are in. Please forgive us if you are assigned on a Sunday when you cannot take part. But here are a few things that you can do to help us even if you cannot take part on a given Sunday.

You can try to find a substitute for your date. If you are counting or ushering, you can let someone know on your team that you cannot attend so that they are prepared to carry on. You can phone the office and leave a message so that we are prepared to ask others to help.

If you are going to be away for a period of time, you can use electronic giving to keep your offerings moving the mission forward through the year.

Finally if your absence is due to illness or some other major life issue, please let us know so that we may pray for you, visit you (if you wish it), bring you communion or otherwise be of help to you. Thank you so much for your presence and your generosity as members of St Andrew's. May God bless you – this summer and ALWAYS!



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

Breakfast

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

Art & Soul

Saturday, June 29, 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!

Christian Action Committee

Tuesday, June 4, at 6 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Wednesday, June 5, at 4 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, June 20, at 6 pm