



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

July 2019

Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

July 14, 2019 Picnic vespers and fellowship

Dear friends,

It is the end of June – and the summer weather is just arriving. We are all good at flexing around the changes each moment seems to bring, but I have heard so many folks mention that it is nice that summer has finally arrived.

Summer used to “arrive” for me when I got out of school. And I remember one year when my family actually picked us up (with the station wagon all packed) as the last day of school let out. We drove out of town immediately on vacation to go visit my Grandpa and Aunt in Virginia!

Mostly summer to me meant walking barefoot (carefully) over the gravel drive behind our home to get to the cool green grass and, well, summer freedom!

Are you having a little more freedom during these summer days?

For some of us the pattern of life shifts with the end of school but the busy-ness doesn't quit. There may be a new rhythm to the days but it is still a quick march to all that needs to be done!

When in the end of June, we will hear St Paul tell us “*For freedom Christ has set us free*” (Galatians 5:1) what will that freedom mean to us?

We celebrate Independence Day on July 4th every year in the US – to celebrate the moment our nation became free of unjust oppression and started life as an independent nation. Will that independence (freedom) impact our life together here and now?

Even though I mentioned the busy patterns of life, I realize freedom is much more than managing time to have “free time” in our schedule!

Walter Brueggemann, an Old Testament scholar, writes a lot about **sabbath** in our contemporary lives. He takes a look at the sabbath commandment and sabbath practices.

The Third Commandment is ***Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy***. Luther emphasizes it as a time to hear God's Word in worship so that we may keep and treasure what God says to us.

But Brueggemann revisits the conditions that made God's people slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt and sees sabbath as a time when one is NOT a slave – when one does not have to prove one's worth by earning something or working for something.

According to the commandments, six days of labor were followed by one day of rest – the seventh day, therefore the sabbath day – named for “seven” in Hebrew.

Sabbath is freedom from oppression by those who demand we prove our value by turning out some product or service for which we are “valued.”

Brueggemann says: ***Sabbath, in the first instance, is not about worship. It is about work stoppage. It is about withdrawal from the anxiety system of Pharaoh, the refusal to let one's life be defined by production and consumption and the endless pursuit of private well-being.*** (Sabbath as Resistance)

He writes: ***Sabbath is taking time ... time to be holy ... time to be human.*** (Sabbath as Resistance)

That sounds like freedom to me!

My hope and prayer for you (and me) in this summertime is that we will find sabbath – time to be free.

May sabbath give you time to remember who it is who loves you and needs no proof or product to establish your value.

God simply loves you! May it free you to delight and renewal! Have a blessed summer!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

The June 2019 Council Meeting minutes are not available at press time. When available, a full set will be posted on the bulletin board outside the office. If you would like a copy, please contact the office and we will email or US mail you a copy when they become available. Thank you for understanding.

**A word from
the Christian
Action
Committee:**



**Sunday, July 14, Vespers and Picnic
with our sister churches in Oshkosh
5:30 pm Vespers
6:00 pm Picnic
At St Andrew's!**

On Sunday, July 14, we will be gathering with folks from our sister ELCA churches for Holden Evening prayer at 5:30 pm in the courtyard followed by hotdogs and picnic supper at 6 pm.

We hope you can come and join in the fun!

Our churches have divided up responsibility for the refreshments and our church is providing the site and the hot dogs, buns and condiments.

Please come and meet and worship with your sisters and brothers in Christ from Oshkosh area ELCA churches! Rain or shine! See you there.

Feeding Hungry Kids News

We are thrilled to be able to offer hot meals to our neighborhood children July 29 – Aug. 30 from 11 AM to 12:30 PM. Did you know there are other sites in Oshkosh also offering meals to the children during that time? Our Savior's Lutheran Church, and First English Lutheran Church are also helping. "Feeding Hungry Kids" would not be possible without our entire community's help. The mission has truly been a partnership of many – businesses, community members, and churches. We are so thankful for all input.



Volunteers are still needed to help with providing the meals for the children. It is not too late to sign up! Check the hallway near the Fellowship Hall doors for more sign up information.

It is approaching fast! **We need every volunteer to submit a background check form.** (forms available from our office).

We are looking for volunteers to assist with distributing flyers advertising the Feed Our Children mission. We plan to distribute them on Sunday, July 14. We expect the deliveries to take a couple hours at the most. We are looking for adults and youth to walk door-to-door in a designated area. Youth must be accompanied by an adult. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the hallway, as well.

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 21,867.01 as of March 31.



Thank you for your generosity!

CHEER US ON

in the Fourth of July parade! Look for the yellow truck!



On July 16th and 22nd we will have trial runs for the food truck "Andy's Dragon Lunch Wagon", serving sack lunches only. During the Feeding Hungry Kids program the lunch truck will be on the corner of Evans and Greenwood Streets on Mondays from 11 am to 12:30 pm serving sack lunches.

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser

Please join us at the Pizza Ranch on Monday, July 22, 2019, from 4 – 8 PM.

Christian Action folks will be assisting with serving food! (And it's fun!)

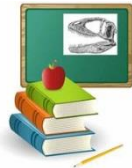



Please come and enjoy a meal if you are able. Pizza Ranch is donating a portion of the cost of each meal served during that time to St Andrew's Feeding Hungry Kids program.

Sign-up to volunteer if you wish. Sign-up sheets are on a table in the Fellowship hallway. For more information, or if you want to help, please contact Carol Spiegelberg at 920-420-7832.

Oshkosh Back to School Fair 2019

The Back to School Fair takes place on **August 15, 2019** at Oshkosh North High School, 1100 West Smith St. Oshkosh. It helps 1,000+ area students get ready to go back to school with school supplies, clothing, haircuts, and hygiene items.



 St Andrew's Christmas tree in our entry way is loaded with tags to suggest needed items that we can collect and provide to support this community effort. Thank you for taking part! The items can be left at the tree, (unwrapped) and will be collected through Sunday, August 11th before the Fair.

Please call Teri at 920-966-1200 for more information.

July Noisy Offering

The July 21 Noisy Offering is designated for the [K-9 Unit of Oshkosh](#) Police Department. The shelter provides safe, temporary shelter, food, and supportive services for adults. Thank you for considering this mission!

Thanks to all who donated to the June Noisy Offering. [The Lutheran Campus Ministry](#) received \$98.33. Thank you for your generosity!

Come Grow in Faith



Feel free to join us in worship this summer whenever you are able.

We worship every Sunday at 9 and 10:30 am. We offer communion every Sunday morning at both services except for Bless the Pets – this year held on Sunday, August 11 at

10:30 am.

Our summer readings center on the Gospel of Luke, a gospel of mission. Our Lutheran faith tradition treasures bible reading and learning God's loving Word – come let it fill you and heal you!

You are welcome to join us in worship as you are able! May God bless your summer!

Sunday School Youth Vacation Bible School



Vacation Bible School

July 15- 17

8:30 – 11 AM

It's Christmas in July! Our theme 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, 8:30 – 11:30 AM. Registration forms available in the church office or by clicking [here](#).

Youth News

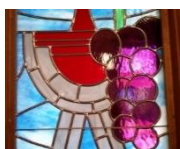
For more information on any of the following events, please contact Patty Koplitz at 920-420-5616 or pattykoplitz@gmail.com

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!



Stewardship of our civic freedoms

As Americans celebrate the birthday of our nation, we give thanks for our civic freedoms of speech, religion, assembly, due process, a speedy trial, voting and many more. Our freedom has made us the envy of much of the world.

But as with any valuable gift, our civic freedoms can be abused, neglected or underappreciated to the point where, if we aren't careful, they hardly matter anymore. Lutherans are guided by Martin Luther's insight that we are simultaneously called to be responsible citizens of "two kingdoms" – first, of God's spiritual realm, and second, of earthly governments of people and laws. The synergy of our "dual citizenship" directs us to be good stewards of our civic freedoms.

Freedom of speech: Yes, even hateful speech and lies are protected under our Constitution, but Christians avoid them in obedience to Jesus' command to love our neighbor as ourselves and by the Eighth Commandment, which Luther explains in *The Small Catechism*: "We should fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations." We steward this freedom by speaking honestly and insisting others do, too.

Freedom of religion: Millions of people across the globe, including Christians, face persecution and discrimination because of their faith. We dare not take our freedom for granted, but exercise it with joy and defend the rights of others to follow their own consciences.

Freedom from illegal prosecution: Our guarantees of due process in legal, criminal and civil proceedings uphold justice and guard against government misconduct. It works imperfectly, as do all human

systems, but as good stewards we fight for justice and the rights for all.

Freedom of self-governance: With its interconnected checks and balances, our three-branch system of government provides stability, accountability and flexibility for change. It's a great system, but it requires us to be informed and involved. We steward this freedom by participating in political processes, voting and insisting on honest government that works for our interests.

This month, as citizens of both God's spiritual realm and the United States of America, we renew our commitment to be good stewards of the freedoms we are privileged to have.

--Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2019, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.

Pastor Blezard works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org and serves as an assistant to the bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com.



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

Breakfast

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, July 13, at 8:00 am

Art & Soul

Saturday, July 13, 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

Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

Christian Action Committee

Tuesday, July 2, at 6 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, July 8 at 4 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 9 at 7 pm

Technology Committee

Tuesday, July 18, at 10 am

Property Committee

Thursday, July 18, at 6 pm