



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

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

September 2019

Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

God's Work – Our Hands, Sunday, September 8, 2019

Dear friends,

I happen to love mountain tops. Years ago, my wonderful Girl Scout leader, Mrs. Dice, took our high school troop to Maine.

We stayed on an island in a lovely old home – no electricity, no running water – perched on the edge of Acadia National Park. We loved it!

We swam in a nearby pond. We ate clams that we dug, lobster that we helped pull into the lobster fisherman's boat, and sang silly girl scout songs to the ocean – we called this giving “rock concerts” because we sat on the rocks beside the sea.

Then we went inland to Mt Katahdin, the northern anchor of the Appalachian Trail, and hiked to its top.

I was amazed by the moose that waded the lakes below us. As big as they are they looked tiny from the arête – the knife's edge of the mountain top carved between two glacial bowls.

It was thrilling to hike the arête. You are on the top of the mountain and on either side the rocks slope steeply down. Most places the path is only a few feet wide. You stay on the path because every other thing in the world is down!

To this day, the experience of the arête sticks with me. I can picture that place in my mind and the very memory centers me in the midst of all sorts of other distractions.

In this time and place, when so much distracts us, deflects our energy, drains our focus, and simply challenges our lives, I invite you to consider – what is the core for you?

In City Slickers' terms (if you recall that wonderful Billy Crystal movie!) what is the “One Thing” that the old cowpoke Curly teaches the others to seek?

Sometimes we go through a rough stretch of life, and in the midst of it, everything becomes clear.

In City Slickers, Billy Crystal's character finds his One Thing struggling to save another living creature while they are both swept down a rushing river.

Has that been your experience – to find your one most important focus in the midst of a crisis?

St Paul preaches to a curious crowd of seekers in Athens, speaking to folks who regularly argued with each other over what their One Thing truly was.

He quotes their ancient Greek poets to describe our God in terms they might understand, as the One in whom “we live and move and have our being” and that we are God's “offspring.” (Acts 17:28)

I think Paul's whole life became one of inviting people to find the One Thing in Jesus Christ.

As I get ready to jump into the autumn with all my energy, hope and love, I am trying to strip down my distractions, and focus on the One Thing.

I am exploring what helps me focus, what reduces distractions, and what keeps me centered in the One Thing – the love and mercy and truth of Jesus Christ our Lord.

And maybe there is also wisdom simply in the description of what we seek – what is the One Thing we will try as we seek to live our faith anchored in our Lord Jesus?

May God invite you through the examples of your own brothers and sisters in Christ to a lovely mountain top – where everything distracting falls away and the very best of life becomes your path in the love of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Karen Jewell

## Highlights of Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

**Present:** Carol Spiegelberg, Ann Stephan, Peg Olson, Dave Olson, Matt Moore, Warren Luce, Jackie Kuhn, Teri Rucinsky

**Excused:**, Rose Rivera, Pastor Karen Jewell, Jim Heidl

### Financial Reports

Matt Moore presented the Profit & Loss Budget – Better off than we were last year however have not been able to pay synod benevolence. At the end of July the ADA Restroom project funds stood at \$23,632.01. Matt Moore presented the July bills – income was \$13,515.66, expenses were \$15,038.79. Motion approved to accept.

### Old Business

Offering envelopes – discussed simplified design – tabled until next meeting or email approval.

### New Business

Alarming door from 11pm until 5:30 am each day is in process.

Approval of memorial funds for worship sound technology – tabled until next meeting

Abel Scholarship distribution

Discussion: UW-Oshkosh would like to apply \$500 each semester rather than \$1000 total. Recipient from last spring offered to sing for us between services. Motion approved to distribute Abel Scholarship for \$1000

Meeting minutes approvals:

Brief discussion on how best to address approving the minutes in a timely manner. Decision: Jackie Kuhn will email the minutes to council members in a text format instead of through Google Doc. Council members can respond with their approvals or should send edits as one line corrections. Entire documents will not be accepted with corrections unless corrections are obviously highlighted. Will see if this method speeds up the approval process.

Continuing Education Funds

Office Secretaries have requested a check for \$210 plus salary for their replacements for continuing education to go to a church staff conference in Oshkosh. Motion approved to provide funding out of Thrivent TBD to cover this expense.

### Pastor's Report

I have been working with staff, council members, and other leaders for autumn programming.

Attended the Faithful Innovations Summit in Minneapolis at the end of July.

Began reading *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger with Pastor Connie Weiss of Christ Lutheran Church – we are reading one or two chapters each week and discussing it in our congregational contexts.

I enjoyed helping with the Pizza Ranch Fundraiser on Monday July 22. Their contributions and freewill gifts by diners added up to over \$800.00 in funds raised for Feeding Hungry Kids!

Attended the 20<sup>th</sup> gathering of Interfaith folks at the Fox Valley Islamic Center for speakers, conversation and a great meal on Sun. Aug. 4.

### Committee Reports

*Christian Action* (Carol Spiegelberg):

We are heading into our third week of Feeding Hungry kids. Our first day we had 17 kids for the truck and 27 for the hot meals. We are now serving 50 kids a day. We've had Officer Mann in for helping tie dye shirts and the fire Dept. came and showed the kids the truck. This week we have the bike rodeo, showing the kids bike safety, and each child will receive a bike helmet. Served 52 on Monday and 19 from the truck.

Officer Falk of the Oshkosh Canine Unit brought in service dog, Odum.

Coming on Sept. 8th we will have God's Work our Hands, starting with the chili cook off. We have 3 teams, 2 from council and a team from Christian Action. Still looking for a couple more

teams. The service projects will start after the chili contest.

*Congregational Life* (Rose Rivera): No report

*Education* (Teri Rucinsky, via Pastor Karen): Sunday School Registration kicks off soon! We will have our registration day on God's Work Our Hands Day (Sept 8) with the first day of classes kicking off on Sept.15.

The Education Committee meets on Weds 8/14 @12 to discuss the new school year!

We had a successful Menominee Park Zoo enrichment activity on 8/11. Families created Lemur and Otter foraging boxes between services, and then delivered them to the zoo after second service.

*Evangelism* (Jim Heidl): No report

*Fellowship* (Dave Olson):

1. As Pastor Karen pointed out in the August newsletter, we had a very nice gathering at our house in July to discuss the future fellowship activities that our church can offer. I salute all of the people that are currently working to feed the children in our community! I would like to thank all of the members who contribute their time and effort to making our church a loving place of worship!

2. Out of this meeting, we agreed that our church, like many others, has to look at all ways in which we can have fellowship events (traditional and new), that reach as many members as we can with the good news of Jesus Christ!

3. Action items that came out of our discussion:

- a. our next fellowship meeting will be September 19th at 5:30 pm. We will finalize our thoughts on our 'mission in fellowship' and what current and new activities we should lead and or support!
- b. We are looking for several members that will be interested in the Re-Imagining initiative that Pastor Karen discussed in our August newsletter.
- c. I will be one of the people who will visit our people that cannot attend church. I am looking forward to this!

If there are any church members who would like to have input, or be part of our committee, please contact me at church, or 267-0768.

*Property* (Warren Luce):

Had meeting with Jackie Shonag, grant writer, who is helping us with writing a grant for the ADA restroom. Asking for \$15,000 so we can get started. Discussed the length of time it may take to approve the grant, which shouldn't be long. Cost of the project may have changed.

Current capital improvement balance is \$32,500. Will have to request funds for a tree that has to be removed. It is compromising the building. Will also need funds for lighting project. Motion approved for \$1700 from the Capital Improvement fund to remove the tree and stump. Additional \$300 will come from the property budget.

Lighting – improving energy conservation and visibility in our facilities with LED lighting. Motion approved for \$1200 for East side of East (Education) Wing.

*Stewardship/Discipleship* (Ann Stephan):

Will scan and email new offering envelope to us. Finishing up final mailing for Crossways campaign. Motion approved to allow Christ Child Society to sell raffle tickets for their fall fundraiser this fall.

Discussed having another shorter pew for mobility issues on the other side of the church. Warren stated that was a project scheduled for this fall.

*Technology*: no report

*Worship* (Peg Olson): No report- no meeting

*President's Report* (Peg Olson): No report

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Kuhn, council secretary

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

## *Saints Alive*

Matt Moore, St. Andrew's Treasurer



Matt Moore joined St. Andrew's in 1990 when he married his wife Beth, a member of the congregation. Beth also has served as Treasurer. Matt thanks Beth "for all she helps me with, not only at church, but also at home." When asked how he became involved as a council member, Matt says, "Same as everyone else – Jayne Lindsay." (Jayne, who has moved away from Oshkosh, was the ultimate cheerleader for the council for many years.)

In addition to his primary role as Treasurer, Matt regularly serves as an usher, greeter, picnic coordinator, and, with his extended family, organizes and serves the annual Easter Breakfast. Matt is glad he's able "to give back to St. Andrew's for all it's given to me." He looks at his service and feels good about "how I fit in with the scheme of things." Matt has witnessed many changes at St. Andrew's since 1990, including changes in pastors and congregation members.

Matt owns ACCU-COM (Security Solution), a second-generation family business he bought in 2000 from his father. Council Member Carol Spiegelberg, knew Matt's father and says she sees him in Matt's smile. She worked with Matt and Beth's two sons in Sunday School and Confirmation classes and speaks very highly of their parenting.

Matt commented with great enthusiasm about the "fantastic" St. Andrew's congregation. He spoke of the positive atmosphere, the programs offered, and congregation members' generosity. "It's a very giving church, that makes my job easy. I appreciate all their giving – past, present, and future."

By Peg Olson

## 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. As of August 16 the ADA Restroom project funds stood at \$28,632.01. Thank you for your generosity!



## Bible Studies & More



Lutherans are life-long learners and this emerges from our faith practices. We believe in

listening to God every day – by reading the bible, in daily prayer, in worship, and in song. We believe that the words of those who love us are filled with the Word of God who loves us!

When was the last time you tuned your heart to hear God's Word to you? You are welcome to take part in the active practices of faith – in worship at church and in devotions at home, by teaching others, by learning from others, by gathering with fellow faithful ones to discuss the challenges of this world in the Light of the one who rescues this world.

Please consider how you will learn this year to listen for the One who has promised to be with you always! Some opportunities:

- Sunday School – 9:00 am on Sundays
- Confirmation – 6:00pm to 7:30 pm Wednesdays
- Youth Ministry Team – 6:00pm to 7:30 pm Wednesdays
- Monday Night bible study – 7:15 to 8:45pm
- Wednesday Noon bible study – 12 noon to 1:30 pm

How about a new group at a new time for you?



## Confirmation begins

Orientation Wednesday, September 4  
6:00 to 7:30 pm.  
Parents and students in 6th, 7th, and 8th  
grade – please all plan to attend  
orientation together.

Our Classes begin Wednesday, September 11 at 6 pm!  
See you there!

## School Registration

Registration forms are available on-line or in the church office. Please come for a day when all generations work together – God’s Work Our Hands Day on Sunday September 8. There will be mission activities for every age.



## Sunday School begins Sept. 15!

Children ages 3 through fifth grade are welcome to join us. We are excited to begin a new year learning, enjoying music, and creating projects together as we explore our faith.



Sunday School

Sunday School begins at 9 am in worship together with our families. After the children’s message we move to the classrooms and continue learning and having fun. Parents may pick up their children after worship has concluded. Come and check us out!



Sunday School and confirmation classes are set to begin! We could still use your

help as a teacher, substitute teacher, class shepherd (not teaching but with our students), or helper in Sunday school or Confirmation.

On most Sundays of the school year, Sunday school meets just after the children’s time in the 9 am worship, so our students begin worship with their families and teachers and then go to classes.

Confirmation meets on most Wednesday evenings in the school year from 6:00 to 7:30 pm (concurrent with Youth Ministry Team meetings). We can use your help for the whole year or for a season. Please feel free to talk with Teri Rucinsky (Christian Education council liaison) and Pastor Karen Jewell (Confirmation program). Thank you!!!



We have been so blessed with special music this summer! Thank you so much! We’ve had all ages, families, individuals and small choirs.

As summer winds down, the special music doesn’t need to. Let us know how we can support you and your musical gift throughout the year. Maybe you need help getting a group together. Maybe you’ve never “performed” in front of people yet. Maybe you play the accordion, but never thought it would fit into a church service. Well, we’ve been given gifts, and we’ve been given people to help us and opportunities to share. The next step is to be bold and grab those opportunities. Your Worship and Music staff members are ready for you!

*“Begin the music, strike the tambourine, play the melodious harp and lyre.” Psalm 81*

A word from  
the Christian  
Action  
Committee:



## Noisy Offering

The September 22 Noisy Offering is designated for [Emmeline Cook Elementary School](#), helping provide supplies and other needed items for the school community.

Last month’s noisy offering of \$96.79 was designated for [ELCA Good Gifts](#) – gifts that grow the church, fight hunger, and transform lives. Thank you for your generosity!





# God's work. Our hands.

Sept. 8, 2019

St. Andrew's will soon engage in service work right here in our community. We are one of over 9,000 congregations participating in "GOD's Work Our Hands". We will be making a positive change in our community. We hope you can join us on Sept. 8.

We will start the morning off with a Chili Cook Off right after the first service. We have 3 teams signed up so far, if you love to make chili and have a special recipe that you would like to make, sign up yourself or a team of 2.

After the chili contest we will start our Mission Projects, we could use your help with the following projects.

1. Assembling hygiene kits for Emmeline Cook School
2. Collecting Kleenex, Ziploc Bags (any size), and Clorox Wipes
3. LWR School Kits (for donations needed, see items list in next article below)

To help us complete the first two projects **we are in need of the following:**

Kids toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, brushes, deodorant, hand soaps and hair ties.

Kleenex, Clorox Wipes, Ziploc Bags (any size)

For donations needed to put in the LWR school kits see the next article below.

A box will be set up on the table by the Fellowship area for your donations.

## Lutheran World Relief School Kits

Given to children living in refugee camps and other situations where they would not otherwise be able to attend school. You help children have a better future!



### Each Kit contains:

- 4 70-sheet **notebooks** (wide or college ruled)  
(no loose-leaf paper)

1 30-centimeter **ruler**, or a ruler with inches on one side and centimeters on the other.

1 **pencil sharpener**

1 pair **blunt scissors**

5 unsharpened #2 **pencils** with erasers: secured together with a rubber band.

5 black or blue **ballpoint pens** (no gel ink); secured together with a rubber band.

1 box of 16 or 24 **crayons**

1 2 ½" **eraser**

1 sturdy **drawstring bag**, cloth, backpack style, approx. 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (but no standard backpacks)

**Feel free to bring what you wish to offer!**

**Donations may be placed in the designated**

**box near the Easel in the entryway. We will assemble these kits on God's Work Our Hands Day (Sept 8).**

From our  
Fellowship  
Committee:

**Faith &  
Fellowship**

1. As Pastor Karen pointed out in the August newsletter, we had a very nice gathering at our house in July to discuss the future fellowship activities that our church can offer. Colleen and I enjoyed serving many of our members who do a lot of the heavy lifting in our church. I salute all of the people that are currently working to feed the children in our community! I would like to thank all of the members who contribute their time and effort to making our church a loving place of worship!

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c. I will be one of the people who will visit our people that cannot attend church. I am looking forward to this!

If there are any church members who would like to have input, or be part of our committee, please contact me at church, or 267-0768.

Thanks, Dave Olson, Council Liaison for Fellowship



### **Submitted by Patty Koplitz, Youth Director**

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

### **BYG (Beginning Youth Group)**

BYG is for all kids that are in grades 2 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Middle school and high school students are welcome to attend all BYG events. We try to have an event once a month for BYG. One month it's going to be Game Day. That's always on a Saturday and is from 2 to 4 pm. And we just play games! Kids are welcome to bring a game to play or we have some here, as well as cards and there is always hide and seek! The other month it will be SPAM! That stands for Soda, Pizza and a Movie night. We meet on a Friday night, do a little activity and then eat pizza and watch a movie!

This year we are starting with a SPAM night on September 13<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 pm. Feel free to bring a friend!

On October 19<sup>th</sup> we will have Game Day from 2 to 4 pm. Meet us in the youth room. Bring a game and bring a friend!

### **YMT (Youth Ministry Team)**

All high school and college aged young adults are welcome to join us for YMT. We meet on Wednesday nights 6 to 7:30 pm.

As a group, we do fun activities, go to youth gatherings sponsored by the synod and plan activities for the NYG kids and confirmation students. High school students help to provide leadership and guidance to the younger kids. This year we will be "branding" ourselves, individually and as a group. I'm pretty excited about this! Kids are welcome to come as often as they can. YMT is starting Wednesday, September 4 this year.



## **Autumn 2019: We are Church!**

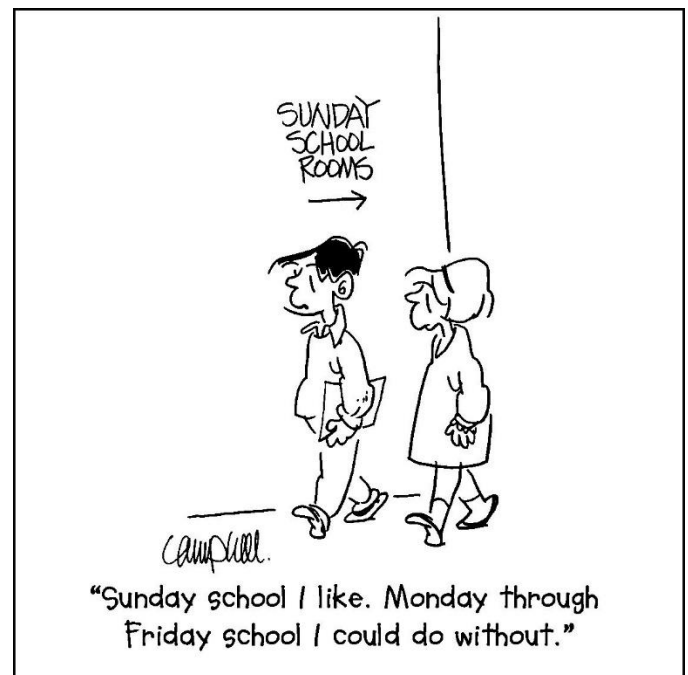
We are St Andrew's Lutheran Church! What does this mean? We belong to Jesus Christ, and in him we live, and move, and have our being. As we worship him and follow him, we become a living presence to others of Jesus' own mercy and love.

We invite you to support the mission and ministry of St Andrew's Lutheran Church. Your gifts make possible the our presence and Christian action in the Oshkosh community.

Your time, your talent, and your presence make a difference to so many in this community and in our world. Electronic gifts are welcome. You may use smart phone technology or go to our website [standrewsoshkosh.org](http://standrewsoshkosh.org). Here is the short URL: <http://bit.do/stagiving> and the QR Code:



Your gift does make a real difference! Thank you for considering this partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ.





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

**Breakfast**

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St  
Saturday, September 14 at 8:00 am

**Art & Soul**

Saturday, September 28, 10:30 am – 4 pm  
Meet in the "Creation Station"



**Committee Meetings**

All members welcome!

JOIN US!

**Christian Action Committee**

Tuesday, September 3, at 6 pm

**Worship & Music Committee**

Tuesday, September 9, at 4 pm

**Council Meeting**

Tuesday, September 10, at 7 pm

**Technology Committee**

Thursday, September 12, at 10 am

**Fellowship Committee**

Thursday, September 19, at 5:30 pm

**Property Committee**

Thursday, September 26, at 6 pm



*Grandparents of the Old Testament*

Can you name these biblical grandparents? If you get stuck, find an Old Testament family tree in your Bible or online.

Directions: After filling in the crossword, unscramble the circled letters to complete Psalm 145:4, NIV.

**ACROSS**

- 2. David's grandfather
- 5. Jacob's grandfather
- 6. Esau's grandmother

**DOWN**

- 1. Judah's grandmother
- 3. Joseph's grandfather
- 4. Solomon's grandfather
- 7. Jesse's grandmother

One G \_ N \_ \_ \_ \_ N commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts. Psalm 145:4, NIV

Answers: ACROSS 2. Obad, 5. Abraham, 6. Sarah; DOWN: 1. Rebekah, 3. Isaac, 4. Jesse, 7. Ruth. Generation