



## St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

December 2019

Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

Many special worship services – please check our special

Dear friends,

I was going out of church one night – the parking lot damp with a freezing drizzle from earlier – I turned to one of our members and said, “It smells like snow.”

She responded, “I never heard of that – what does snow smell like?”

I was busy thinking and I didn't know how to answer her.

The scent of snow is hard to describe. All through my life there have been times when I could “smell” the snow on the air. And I thought about our conversation and wondered if I were making something up – but when I looked I found out that there are poems out there about the scent of snow.

In the old farmhouse that was our home growing up, my sister and I had the northwest corner bedroom upstairs. Our windows were old enough that you could see the slow tears of the liquid glass rippling down the panes.

The top window facing north was latticed into smaller squares of glass. I remember sleeping in the top bunk with my head as close to our front window as I could be, because one small pane of glass had cracked and would let in the air from outside.

When it was very cold I loved that scent of snow that came in – fresh and challenging.

Remembering this, I think I finally have my answer – the scent of snow smells like *promise*.

Promise of white scallops like icing on the tree branches, promise of fresh air blowing your hair and bathing your face. Newness.

I don't have words for the freshness and promise that actually capture the scent itself – just the promise it evokes in my heart.

The bible doesn't talk about the scent of snow but it does have a wonderful passage about the scent of water:

*There is hope for a tree, if it is cut down, that it will sprout again and that its roots will not cease. Though its roots grow old and its stump dies in the ground, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth branches like a young plant. (Job 14:7-9)*

This is a comment by Job himself, trying to defend his life and prove to his not very comforting friends that all the calamities that have fallen upon him and his family are not his fault.

Job is feeling very low – as if he had less hope than a tree that has been cut down. In the end of the Book of Job, he is finally able to put all his doubts, fears, and life back into God's hands.

The scent of snow is somehow a promise of newness. In Advent – beyond all our struggles with the disappearing daylight and all it seems to symbolize of loss and sorrow – in Advent, Christ comes to be our Light and our Life.

The promise, the scent of water that somehow awakens even the deadest of tree stumps, the promise of new life comes to us in Jesus.

It isn't logical to expect new life in the midst of a season where everything seems to be dying, including us. It isn't logical but it happens to be true.

Jesus comes like the scent of snow, like the whiff of water in a dry place, and brings life again – renewal for those of us living this side of heaven and eternal life for those of us already gathered into God's kingdom. Jesus revives us to life and hope.

And that is my prayer for you: May this season bring you renewal, promise and hope!

In Jesus name, Pastor Karen Jewell

Church Council Meeting  
Tuesday, November 12, 2019

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

Financial Reports

Matt Moore presented the financial reports. At the end of October the ADA Restroom project funds stood at \$29,337.01. Matt Moore presented the October bills – income was \$10,842.61; expenses were \$11,665.21. Current liabilities are \$133,759.35 while the money market is \$49,095.61. We owe ourselves \$84,663.74. Motion made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's Reports and Bills to be Paid. Motion approved.

Dwelling in the Word (Re-imagining the Church)

We conducted a spiritual practice to listen for a word or phrase that stands out and listen to what God is saying in what we do here. What's God up to and how can we join in? Exercise with council: We read Acts 16:6-15 (twice) and reflected upon the questions (twice); 1. What words, phrases, ideas captured your attention? 2. What stirred your imagination? 3. Where do you think the Spirit of God might be nudging you?

Old Business

Narrative Budget Progress The narrative budgets are due now.  
Annual Reports – due December 1<sup>st</sup>.  
January Congregational Meeting – January 26<sup>th</sup>.  
2020 Budget Discussion. Discussed that committees are fantastic with budgeting and use of funds but we need to cut expenses somewhere or increase revenue to allow for us to maintain our mission. Catching up Campaign – two members have offered to match funds of operational offerings on one specified Sunday. Council chose Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, for this wonderful Catch up Campaign donation. Teri suggested Sunday School children become involved. They will pass out Thank you notes to congregation.

New Business

Special Gift to be used at Council's discretion – Motion approved to move money to Memorial fund.

Nominating Committee for 2020 is getting started on 2020 positions.

Fundraising request – member asked to have a bake sale to support her granddaughter's wrestling future. Discussed options for her.

Pastor's Report

**New Membership:** Motion made and approved to accept Deborah Gall as new member.

**Departing members:** The Rev Dean and Renee Desilet (now at All Saints Lutheran Church where Pastor Dean was just called as their permanent pastor!)

**Continuing Education:**

Completed studying the book *Canoeing the Mountains*

Re-imagining Church – continuing to meet with our leaders, our coach, and the first and second year pastors.

Synod Theological Conference, Oct 28-30, "The Gospel at the Margins" was excellent!

**Catch up Campaign:** (working with Ann Stephan and Chris Ziegler)

First letter sent to members with 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter statements regarding our catch up campaign.

Next letter later this month to announce the matching funds Sunday.

Suggest a third letter go out with final 2019 statements in January to say thanks, indicate progress made, and hopes for new year.

**South Africa visitors next June**

We are on track to welcome two people from our sister congregation in South Africa to stay with us next year when the SA delegation comes to visit (June 17 to 30). David and Colleen Olson very kindly will provide lodging and more of us can take on the chauffeuring and other hospitality opportunities!

**Larger Community**

We are helping an E Cook family after a fire partially destroyed their home.

Committee Reports

Christian Action: (Carol Spiegelberg)

Synod would like to establish a network of Hunger Leaders from each congregation. It was decided to have St. Andrew's be involved. If you would like to be on this new committee, or would like more information contact Carol Spiegelberg.

Books for Emmeline Cook School, E. Cook is holding a 'book swap " with their students. We will be asking our members to donate new or gently used books.

Reimagining Church will be holding another meeting on Nov 17th after first service in the lounge. Please join us.

Christian Action would like to sell Fair Trade coffee and tea at the second service of each month. Funds should be given to counters each time this occurs so the money can be appropriately designated to Christian Action.

#### Congregational Life -No report

#### Education (Teri Rucinsky)

We have started rehearsing for our "Hanging of the Greens" Christmas Program on December 15th @10:30. We will also have rehearsal on the 14th @9am. All Sunday School students received their own offering envelopes recently. If your child did not get theirs, please contact Teri Rucinsky. All children are still welcome to join!

#### Evangelism (Jim Heidl)

Monster Mash went well. A number of volunteers set up on Friday. Lots of kids, lots of prizes. All had fun. Number of games.

#### Fellowship (Dave Olson)

Mission statement: We seek to engage all people that they may connect with God and each other in fellowship.

#### Recent activities

- STAMP breakfast on November 9th was very nice. The discussion involved everyone's genealogy, amongst other things! Our next breakfast will be on December 14th at 8:00am at Delta Restaurant. All are welcome! We open with a prayer and then talk about "life".

- On November 10th, our quarterly speaker from the community was Colleen Olson from Disability Rights Wisconsin(DRW).. Our committee served a nice lunch after the 2nd service which approximately 25 people enjoyed. Thank you to all who assisted in this event, with a special thank you to Colleen for sharing information about DRW.

- Our committee served at Tom Coates' funeral luncheon. Thanks to the group who helped with this! We all felt it was our privilege to do this for Tom and Pat! It was a wonderful celebration of Tom's life!

- Our next Reimagining discussion will be November 17th after the 1st service. All are welcome to join us on this journey which is guiding us into the future. I personally have become a much better listener, which has done wonders in my personal life, my professional life, and my walk with God. I encourage everyone to keep an open mind and consider joining us in a future discussion!

- November 17th - we will be honoring our veterans in church.

- December 8th - we are hosting at Christmas potluck!. Bring a dish to pass. Details on a "white elephant gift exchange" will be forthcoming.

- we will be setting a date for our next quarterly speaker. Keep an eye on the monthly newsletter for details.

- additional discussions on the February dinner for confirmands are forthcoming. We are working with Pastor Karen to initiate a mentoring program that we feel will bring these young people in contact with a member that can help and support them in their faith journey.

- after listening to members during our Reimagining discussions, we are exploring a small food pantry, alternative ways to welcoming visitors, and supporting the worthy causes that are ongoing on in the Christian Action Committee.

Next Fellowship meeting is January 14, 2020, 6pm

#### Property (Warren Luce)

ADA grant was submitted. Should find out this month whether we will get the grant. Redesign of project may change actual price to \$35,000. ADA grant would give us full \$40,000 that we need to include carpet, wall hangings, paint, etc. Goal to start after Christmas and be done by Easter.

Lighting project continues, should have electricity savings. We are on stage four with lower wattage bulbs in entrances to offices and fellowship hall. Expect rebate of

\$323 for this project, hope to have it go back into capital improvements. Motion made and approved for \$650 to finish stage four for narthex and hallway lighting conversions from capital improvements. Gratitude expressed to Warren Herwig for doing such an amazing job on this project

Stewardship/Discipleship (Ann Stephan)

Anticipate that VANCO site will reflect new envelope design on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Technology Pastor Karen)

Narrative budget request will go up slightly in 2020. We hope to have Time and Talent sheets and giving categories available on the website

UWO contacted us, Pr Jim Gleason will invite students to work with us again. If chosen, will ask for suggestions for expanded social media (Twitter, Snapchat, etc.) to relay our mission.

Video camera to capture for website will likely be needed. Will ask for memorial funds to purchase.

Next Technology meeting January 8, 2020  
10AM

Worship (Peg Olson) No report

President's Report (Peg Olson) No report

Next council meeting is December 10th at 7 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Kuhn, Council Secretary

*A complete set of minutes can be found on the narthex bulletin board.*

### Youth Candy Sale

The Amish candy that has been ordered through the Youth Group **will be ready for pickup** on Sunday December 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are not available that day, please feel free to stop by the office during office hours to pick it up. Thanks so much for your support of the Youth Ministry Team!

## Advent & Christmas Worship Services



*Advent Worship Services on  
Wednesdays, December 4, 11, 18,  
at 12 noon & 7:00 pm. We  
gather for a half hour of  
worship.*

*Thursday, December 19- Blue Christmas  
worship at 7:00 pm - a peaceful and  
comforting service especially for those  
dealing with grief at the holidays.*

*Sunday, December 1 - Advent season  
begins.  
Come help us light the light that leads to  
Christmas! Holy Communion at 9 & 10:30  
am*

*Sunday, December 8 -  
Advent Holy Communion at 9 & 10:30  
am\*\*  
ONHS Madrigal Singers sing to us at 10:20  
am*

*(\*\*Our second worship will begin  
when the Madrigal singers conclude)*

*Sunday, December 15  
9:00 Holy Communion  
10:30 am Sunday School Christmas  
worship*

*Sunday, December 22 at 9 & 10:30 am  
Advent Holy Communion*

*Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve  
6:30 carols by request  
7:00 Lessons and Carols  
11:00 Candlelight Holy Communion*

*Wednesday, December 25, Christmas Day  
Holy Communion 10:00 am*

*Sunday, December 29  
9 and 10:30 am Holy Communion*

*You are welcome!*

## 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 October 31, the ADA Restroom project funds stood at \$29,337.01. Thank you for your generosity!



### Re-imagining Church

#### Re-imagining Church

Our next Re-imagining Church coaching session is December 9. These sessions are guiding us into the future and working on two questions: Where do we see God? How do we join in God's mission? We are learning to hear God's story, our members' stories, and our neighborhood stories.

*I personally have become a much better listener, which has done wonders in my personal life, my professional life, and my walk with God. I encourage everyone to keep an open mind and consider joining us in a future discussion! – Dave Olson*

For more information, contact Carol Spiegelberg or Dave Olson.

### Madrigal Singers

*We are in store for a special treat that will be provided by the Oshkosh North High School Madrigal Singers.*

*On Sunday, December 8 the Oshkosh North Madrigals will perform at 10:20 am, between services.*

*These young singers add so much to the holiday season. Enjoy!*



## Sunday School led Christmas Worship

December 15, 2019

10:30 am

Come and celebrate with our children on **Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am** as our Sunday School offers a Christmas worship. Our children will be telling the Christmas story as found in their bibles.

(Dress rehearsal for our Sunday School worship is on Saturday, December 14 at 9 am.)



### Blue Christmas worship at St Andrew's

December 19, 2019 at 7 pm

We offer a simpler, quieter Blue Christmas worship, especially for folks who are experiencing grief at the holidays or need a more meditative worship. We sing Christmas carols, hear the Christmas story from the bible, and pray gently. It is a peaceful, candlelit time. Please know that you are welcome!

## Christ Child Society Craft Sale Sunday, Dec. 8

The Oshkosh Chapter of the Christ Child Society is sponsoring a craft and vendor fair on Sunday, December 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Boys & Girls Club, 501 E. Parkway Ave. Admission is free. The event will feature creative handmade items, popular products, and a bake sale from more than 30 crafters and vendors—a wide selection of items perfect for holiday gifts.

The Christ Child Society provides layettes to area hospitals and organizations for infants in need. Since the chapter's founding in 1997, over a thousand layettes have been given to newborns in the Fox Valley area.

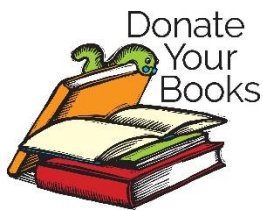
**From our  
Christian Action  
Committee:**



**Hunger Leaders** -Our synod would like to establish a network of Hunger Leaders in each congregation. It was decided that St. Andrew's would have a team for hunger. This team will communicate ELCA programs to combat hunger and local opportunities help hungry neighbors. If you are interested or would like to be on this committee, contact Carol Spiegelberg, 920-420-7832.

**Books for Emmeline Cook**

Emmeline Cook is holding a Book Swap with their students. They bring in a book and swap it with a new or gently used book. However, many students don't have books to swap with. We are asking you to donate either new or gently used books. The school is mostly in need of chapter books geared toward 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade level. There is a box across from the church office for donations.



**TAKE 5**

The December Noisy Offering is designated for the [Take 5 Club](#) of Oshkosh. Take 5 uses your donations to shop for Oshkosh area children in need by providing clothing, shoes, haircuts and more.

Many of us remember a time when we or a friend of ours didn't have new clothes for the first day of school or a jacket for extra warmth in the winter. All of us know that something as simple as a new outfit or haircut can make a lot of difference in how we feel about ourselves.

Thank you for considering this mission.

**Noisy Offering**

December's noisy offering is designated for the [Take 5 Club](#) of Oshkosh providing clothes, shoes, jackets, haircuts, and more for local kids.

Last month's noisy Offering of \$190.12 was designated for [Vietnam Veterans of America #437](#), designated to help when the V.V.A. #437 serves a meal at the Day by Day Warming Shelter.

**From our  
Fellowship  
Committee:**



***Christmas Potluck***

***Sunday, December 8, 11:30 am***

Join us for fun and fellowship at a Christmas Potluck. Bring a dish to pass. As part of the fun, we will have a white elephant gift exchange. Let's begin Christmas with a time of friendly fellowship!



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

**Breakfast**

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St  
Saturday, December 7, at 8:00 am

**Art & Soul**

Saturday, December 14, 11 am – 4:00 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.

Don't forget, Confirmands!  
There will be no Wednesday  
Confirmation classes on December 25 or  
January 1. We resume studies on  
Wednesday, January 8!



**Submitted by Patty Koplitz, Youth Director**

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

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

Due to the busy holiday season, there will be no  
BYG even this month.



January 11th is Game day  
for all kids from 2nd grade  
through high school! Come  
and join us from 2 to 4 and  
play games! Bring a game to share if you would  
like. See you there!

### **Confirmation students and middle school students:**

Coming soon is the Junior Youth Gathering. Feb  
15th and 16th in Manitowoc. Put it on your  
calendars now and plan to join us for an  
overnight stay in a hotel, games, fun worship, a  
dance and so much more. Look for more  
information to come!

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

**Special thanks to the Youth Ministry Team**  
members and Patty Koplitz for offering such a  
fun Middle School Retreat and  
Lock-in. It was a blast! Very  
little sleep but a lot of fun was had by all.  
(p.s. Our confirmands and middle schoolers are  
aces at the games we played!)



## **Stewardship**

### **Catch Up Campaign 2019 Matching Funds Sunday, Dec. 8**

As a part of our Catch Up Campaign in 2019,  
two members have offered to provide  
matching gifts for our offering gifts given  
on Sunday, December 8. The match will be  
made for gifts given to support the general  
mission of our church, that is, the offerings  
for CURRENT EXPENSES or UNSPECIFIED  
on your giving envelopes. Your gift is so  
helpful as we are trying to fully support our  
church as we follow the Lord into God's  
mission in this place. Thank you for  
considering an extra gift!

If you prefer to give an electronic gift, we  
will be adding a "Catch up Campaign" line to  
our e-giving web portal that you can access  
through our website [standrewsoshkosh.org](http://standrewsoshkosh.org),  
or at <http://bit.do/stagiving> or by using  
the QR Code:



Thank you so much for your  
support of St Andrew's!



## Committee Meetings

All members welcome!



### **Council Meeting**

Tuesday, December 10, at 7 pm

### **Worship & Music**

No meeting in December

Next meeting Monday, Jan. 13 at 6 pm

### **Christian Action Committee**

Tuesday, December 3, at 6 pm

### **Property Meeting**

No meeting in December,

Next meeting Thursday, Jan. 23 at 6 pm

### **Technology Committee**

No meeting in December,

Next meeting Weds, Jan 8 at 10 am

## Looking Ahead...

### To January

**Wednesday, January 8,** Confirmation resumes at 6:00 pm

**Sunday, January 5,** Sunday School resumes

**Sunday, Jan. 26,** 9 am Holy Communion

10:30 am Annual Meeting

(NO worship is offered at 10:30 am today)



# birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.



### **What you need:**

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

### **What you do:**

1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.