



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

Welcome to worship and life at St. Andrew's!
Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

February 2020
Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26

Dear friends,

Do you have a touchstone or some keepsake that somehow helps you feel more like yourself?

My grandfather took a small flint piece out of the ground he was plowing – it had once been an arrowhead for some hunter in our part of Michigan.

Years later my grandfather put it on a chain and gave it to me – knowing I was passionately interested in native American history and crafts.

Then my neighbor, Dr. Jelinek (an archeologist at the university), saw me wearing it one day and asked if he could look at it. He turned it over in his hands and told me more of its story.

He said that when the tip had broken off of the arrowhead the thrifty hunter, or perhaps his spouse, reshaped the end so that it would be a good scraper for animal hides. It helped prepare leather for moccasins or pouches or clothing.

Eventually it had been lost in the soil behind my grandfather's home where he would dig it up while plowing the south field for planting.

My dad and mom bought the remnant of that farm and that's where I grew up. The back field retained the feel of a corn field for some time even after my grandfather had ceased to plow it, and the little flint scraper still speaks to me of my memories of running in that field, and my grandfather's love.

It helps me be me – even just in remembering it. It is a treasure that centers me. Can you think of a touchstone that helps you be you?

I like to help our confirmation students look for verses that become touchstones for their lives.

Many of our older members have a bible verse that they chose or that was given them for their

confirmation day. For many, it remains a powerful word to them throughout their lives.

Some of us cling to powerful stories in the bible that help us have courage or resilience in the face of trouble. What is your favorite story? What gives you courage or patience or moves you from anger to mercy and forgiveness?

One thing is certain – God, whose Word lives among us as Jesus Christ, wants you to have a touchstone – something that centers you in God's love for you.

One of my touchstones in the Word of God is:
I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)

We find these touchstones in many ways – sometimes they are given to us by another person as a gift – just as my grandpa gave me that flint scraper. Sometimes we discover those special keepsakes as we read the bible, or worship, or sing a spiritual song.

This month, I invite you to be looking for and thinking about the special words that God speaks to you. And I invite you to consider sharing your special words with someone else: to encourage them or to invite them to know peace or hope in a difficult moment. Or simply to know you better as a friend in Christ!

The psalmist sings:
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer. (Psalm 19:14)

When God gives us those touchstone words they are more than acceptable – they are words that bring hope, healing, courage and comfort.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

*Highlights of Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 14, 2020*

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

Financial Reports

Matt Moore presented the financial reports. At the end of December the ADA Restroom project funds stood at \$29,687.00. Matt Moore presented the December bills – income was \$47,067.99; expenses were \$30,875.54. We finished 2019 with a positive net income of \$6,889.17. Current liabilities were \$135,946.78 while the money market was \$69,099.73. We owe ourselves \$66,847.05. Motions approved to accept financial reports..

Old Business

January Congregational Meeting – January 26th Reviewed draft agenda for meeting.

2020 Budget Discussion – Matt thanked Jackie, Dave, Chris Z. and Jay Klinger for meeting to hash out the final budget to be presented to the council. Discussed budget, budget reductions and possible ways to generate funds to continue paying at the 2019 level. Motion approved to approve 2020 budget as presented.

Nominating committee presented slate of 2020 volunteers. Approved for presentation to the congregation.

Staff reviews – to be held as soon as possible.

New Business

Discussed groups who use the fellowship hall. We need to educate them on cleaning up after themselves.

Pastor's Report

Worship:

Thank you to all who decorated, hosted, sang, and led the Advent and Christmas worship services.

Continuing Education:

Re-imagining Church – I meet with our leaders, our coach Connie Morgenstern, and also the first and second year pastors in this process. Elements of the Re-imagining Church spiritual practices were part of our Advent Wednesday worship services and worshippers seemed to find it edifying! We need to continue to explain this process so all of our members may benefit. Essential questions for us: *What is God up to? How can we join in?*

Catch up Campaign: (working with Ann Stephan, Matt Moore, Dave Olson, Jackie Kuhn, and Chris Ziegler)

First letter was sent to members with 3rd quarter statements regarding our catch up campaign. Second letter was sent to announce the matching funds Sunday, Dec 8, and the Annual Meeting date along with the holiday worship schedule. Suggest a third letter go out with final 2019 statements in January 2020 to say thanks, indicate progress made, and hopes for our new year of mission and ministry.

South Africa visitors next June We are ready 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). Besides homestays, more of us can take on the chauffeuring and other hospitality opportunities! More visitors from our companion church's circuit would like to send people – we could use more homestays!

Sunday, February 9 at 2 pm **Oshkosh**

Conference Assembly voting members are gathering at Grace Lutheran in Ripon to talk about the process of **electing a bishop** this year at Synod Assembly and talk about potential names.

I am working with the planning group for the **50th Anniversary** of the ordination of women in the ELCA for 2020.

Committee Reports

Christian Action: (Carol Spiegelberg)

On February 2, we will hold a school supply 'shower' to help the Oshkosh Police Dept with No Time for Crime.

They will go into all 3rd grade classes at the elementary schools. Carol applied for and received a grant for \$250. We

will have a light luncheon between services and we are asking you to bring a few school supplies.

At this year Feeding The Hungry Kids, we are inviting our seniors to join us to eat with the working crew. They can join us daily or just one day whatever is convenient for them.

Congregational Life: No report
Education (Teri Rucinsky)

The Sunday School kids had a phenomenal performance in December. Thank you to everyone that helped us along the way.

Confirmation and Sunday School classes took a brief hiatus over the winter break, but both are back in full swing.

Evangelism (Jim Heidl): No report
Fellowship (Dave Olson)

We held a pie and ice cream social for volunteers on Sunday. Close to 40 people attended.

On February 9th, Literacy Council will be available between services to speak to us. We plan to hold a brunch. This will be different from Easter brunch. On Feb 19, we will have a Confirmands dinner. Hope to match students with mentors prior to being confirmed. In Fall, we will hope to hold an auction to raise funds. Think of things that can be brought in and donated for the auction.

Property (Warren Luce)

ADA restroom – There has been a stall on the \$11,000 grant we requested. Would like to propose moving ahead with one portion. We would like to run the plumbing to tunnel then sit and wait until we have the funds to begin the full project. Otherwise, we will realize a 5% increase. Cost has already jumped according to second round of bids received. Motion made and approved to spend \$3500 of the ADA fund to begin preliminary phase of plumbing.

Stewardship (Ann Stephan): No report
Technology: (Pastor Karen)
Worship & Music (Peg Olson)

We discussed protocol for pets in church, protocol for quiet time during the prelude, and early extinguishing candle box candles after services. Pastor Karen suggested we develop a written statement to share.

Gary Bruce has developed a summary of usher activities and expectations to be shared with new and experienced ushers.

Recognition of volunteer groups was held January 12 between services with a pie and ice cream social.

Lenten discussion: the Lenten round robin will be held this year with Pastors Karen Jewell, Connie Weiss, and Jan LaVake.

We held a brief discussion of joining in the “Holden Evening Prayer Around the World” on February 5 at 7:00pm. We plan to offer this to the congregation and larger community.

Next meeting: Monday, February 3, 2020 6 pm

President’s Report (Peg Olson) Spent time with Literacy Council. Am amazed how fast the women are picking up the material. One woman has amazing printing. It’s fascinating to see what they are doing.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Kuhn, council secretary

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 **\$29,687.00** as of the end of December. Thank you for your generosity!

Lent begins on

Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020



On Ash Wednesday we offer the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion at 12 noon and again at 7 pm. Then in Lent we will be gathering each Wednesday from March 4 until April 1, for a half

hour of worship at 12 noon.

For our Lenten Wednesday evenings we will be trying something special to worship with two of our sister congregations in March. For two evenings (March 4 and March 18) we will have this schedule: 5:30pm fellowship, 6:00 lesson, 6:30-7:00 pm worship.

On **March 4** we will gather at **Christ Lutheran**, on **March 11** we are all back here at **St Andrew's** (with our usual schedule – 6:00 fellowship, 6:30 lesson, and 7:00-7:30pm worship) and on **March 18** we will gather at **Our Savior's**. Instead of pastors going Round Robin, we will all be going together to each other's church!

Then we come back to St Andrew's for the rest of Lent: on March 25th we will offer a service of healing prayer, and on April 1st we will conclude our Lenten Wednesday series.

Reimagining Church Feb. 23, 10 am

Please join us on a spirit-led journey. We are learning to become better listeners by listening to God's story, to our members' stories, and to our neighborhood stories. We invite you to bring an open mind and heart, and would like to call on you to hear your story. Please join us Feb. 23rd after the first service if you are interested and go along with us on this journey.

For more information, please contact Carol Spiegelberg (920-420-7832) or Dave Olson (920-267-0768)

From the Christian
Action Committee:



Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive5

February 16 – March 8, 2020



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. Hygiene and cleaning items are expensive and are not covered by Wisconsin Food Share (food stamps).

These donations allows our crisis agencies to concentrate their limited resources on providing qualified staff, safe housing, nutritious food, education and counseling to those they serve.

Thank you for helping.



Do you enjoy our Sunday Morning brew of coffee? We use Equal Exchange coffee.

Equal exchange coffee will now be sold between services every second Sunday of the month. We will be selling the coffee on Feb. 9th!

Fellowship Blend (regular) \$10.00

Fellowship Blend (decaf) \$12.00

Thank you for supporting Equal Exchange!

**No Time for Crime
School Supply Shower and Brunch
Sunday, Feb. 2**

The Christian Action Committee is working with Officer Mann on a new program called, No Time for Crime. She will be going into the 3rd grade classes of the elementary schools. Officer Mann will be giving out bags to the students with school supplies.

On **Sunday, February 2nd**, we will be having a “school supply” shower. Please join us between services for a light luncheon. We are asking you to bring to the shower some of the following:

- stickers
- sticker books
- crayons
- pencils
- pens
- markers
- notebooks, snacks (granola bars, fruit cups, puddings, rice krispie treats)

If you are unable to attend, a box will be set up on the table outside the church office. Thanks for all your help!

Noisy Offering

The **February 16** Noisy Offering is designated for the [Christine Ann Center](#), to help provide emergency shelter and counseling for individuals and families needing safety and shelter from an abusive situation.

Thanks to all who donated to January’s Noisy Offering. The [Day by Day Warming Shelter](#) will receive \$143.40. Thank you for your generosity!

From our
Fellowship
Committee:



We will be wearing name tags for all members, including guests! Please look for your name tag on the table near Pastor’s office. Also, please make sure you put it back every Sunday. We hope to

become more acquainted with each other – we have many new members. Thank you!

Confirmation

Fellowship Meal

Wed, Feb. 19, 6 pm

A special meal is being planned for our confirmands, their parents and mentors on Wednesday, February 19 as we begin our mentoring program. Contact Pastor Karen for more information. (920) 235-6616



Meet and Greet

Winnebago Area Literacy Council Feb. 9 brunch between services

Michelle Sliwicki of the Winnebago Literacy Council will be here to speak with us about the program which meets here on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. There will be a brunch between services where people are welcome to meet Michelle and ask any questions.

The Winnebago Area Literacy Council strengthens our community by developing and providing effective literacy programs and services.

St. Andrew’s Members with a Purpose (STAMP)

Breakfast

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

Art & Soul

Saturday, February 29, 11 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.



Submitted by Patty Koplitz, Youth Director

For more information on any of the following events, contact Patty Koplitz at PKoplitz@standrewsoshkosh.org

BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

SPAM - Soda, Pizza, and A Movie

Friday, February 28, 6 - 9 pm

Second graders through high school students are invited to join us for soda, pizza and a movie night! Come and see what the fun is all about!



JYG Junior Youth Gathering Feb. 15 & 16

The Junior Youth Gathering is a weekend for middle school students to get together in

Manitowoc at the Holiday Inn, spending time doing so many fun things – large group gatherings, worship, workshops, dancing, swimming, service projects and so much more!

Cost is \$60 per child. Youth funds help pay for the hotel rooms needed, and there are scholarships available if needed.

Talk to Patty Koplitz for more information.

ALSO NEEDED: A male chaperone. The best candidates will be good with kids, flexible and able to pass a background check. Please consider and pray about this wonderful opportunity.

Beginning Youth Camp March 27 – 29, 2020



The weekend retreat is held at Imago Dei Village March 27th through the 29th. This is a great weekend retreat for kids in grades 2 through 6 to experience camp life.

We will spend the weekend playing, praying, and just hanging out! There will be kids from all over

the area. Information will be coming out soon, but if you have any questions feel free to contact Patty Koplitz. Cost is \$110 per child. There are always camp scholarships available.

Thanks for considering the retreat!

Growing February Gifts



One of the big take-aways from the discussion at our Annual Meeting was that our members want to know how we are doing financially all throughout the year.

As a congregation you came through mightily in response to our Catch Up Campaign and not only eliminated the deficit we had expected in income in 2019 but even landed us in the black! **THANK YOU!**

But your comments at the Annual meeting made it clear that you don't want to have to "catch up" at the end of the year, if we can help it.

So here is an option for us: Do you think that you could **GROW** your regular offering so that it reflects the additional amount you offered in the Catch Up campaign? Offered little by little through the year – it would help us stay current and not fall behind as we did last year.

Another big help is offerings that are steady through the year – not tied to the days we can attend but given monthly, or at whatever pace is good for you. Some of us sign up with our banks for a regular contribution, others use the Vanco giving option through our electronic giving page, and some of us mail in our contributions when we are unable to come ourselves. In any case we thank you.

We want to thank you as a congregation for all that you do and all that you give of both time and money to support the mission of God at St Andrew's. You are light for the world and your gifts become blessings for others given in Jesus' name.

**Steward your life:
Cultivate a heart of love**

Jesus taught, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven." –Matthew 5:43-45a

Red hearts, flowers and chocolates remind us that February is the uncontested month of love. It's excellent (and easy) to love those close to us, but Jesus tells us to go wider, deeper, riskier – to love even our enemies. In so doing, Jesus says, we become children of God.

This challenges us to embrace love as the key discipline and develop a heart so full of love that it flows to even our enemies. Isn't that how we're supposed to live as disciples? It's just good stewardship of our lives.

For this "month of love," practice loving your enemies.

The effort is especially timely in our season of discord, when our loudest voices encourage us – through name-calling, denigrating, lying, smearing – to hate those with whom we disagree. Even calling them "enemies" is too much (they're really neighbors!).

Loving our "enemies" doesn't mean we agree with them or tolerate bad behavior. It means respecting, listening, discussing, refraining from anger and revenge. Here are some ideas for loving our enemies:

- Jesus gives us the first step: Pray! For them and for you!
- Stop seeing them as enemies. They're our neighbors whom God loves.
- Resist hate, the very thing our culture encourages.
- Treat everyone as you would want to be treated.
- Lastly, keep praying.

By embracing love as a spiritual discipline, we cultivate a heart of love that opens our lives to the transformation Jesus dearly desires for us -- to be children of God. Now that's good stewardship. --

Rob Blezard

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Committee Meetings

All members welcome!



JOIN US!

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, February 3, at 6 pm

Christian Action Committee

Tuesday, February 4, at 6 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 11, at 7 pm

Technology Committee

Wednesday, February 12, at 10 am

Property Committee

Thursday, February 27, at 6 pm

We are here for you!

Visit our website: standrewsoshkosh.org

Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/standrewsoshkosh.org)

Email us: office@stanrewsoshkosh.org (office)

pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org (Pastor)

Or: Call us on the phone!! (920) 235-6616

