



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

January 2020

Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

Annual Meeting at 10:30 am on Sunday, Jan 26, 2020

Dear friends,

Happy New Year!

Thank you, thank you, for the beautiful Christmas worship services! You gave us the lovely Christmas tree, the Christmas decorations and candles, the wonderful Sunday School re-telling of the Christmas story, the amazing array of poinsettias and lovely music.

Santa visited our Sunday School, families ushered those special services together, and you came in spite of fog and all the challenges of family gatherings for the holidays and other issues.

At the end of *Scrooge* (a musical version of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*) Ebenezer Scrooge exclaims, "Well, old Jacob Marley, between us we finally made a Merry Christmas, didn't we?"

This Christmas, I hope you noticed – you did it! You made a Merry and blessed Christmas for many people among our extended families and in our community with your hands, hearts, and voices. THANK YOU!

And now it is time to begin the adventure of a new year together. 2020 is here!

You have kept the mission of helping your community firmly in mind these last few years – by working to build an accessible restroom for our worshippers (especially families with young children and folks with mobility issues) and by offering a wonderful regular meal for our hungry neighborhood children and families during August.

These goals continue into 2020. The focus on doing our best to help others shapes our grasp of the mission that God gives us in this place at this time.

This past autumn our church began a new process with the help of our Synod's "Re-imagining Church."

We are learning to look around as faithful individuals and as a faithful congregation to see what God is up to in our midst.

And then we are asking the question – how can we join in?

It has been energizing and exciting to be part of this process – both brand new in its emphasis and as old as the bible in its way of growing us in faithfulness!

I am eager to see what this New Year 2020 brings to us in our vision of God's presence among us and in our embrace of the mission that God offers to us.

In Psalm 31, the psalmist sings to the Lord:

¹⁴But I trust in you, O LORD;

I say, "You are my God."

¹⁵My times are in your hand....

As a congregation you have trusted in the Lord for almost 60 years! It is a privilege to walk with you as a congregation and as individuals.

As we enter a whole new year together, may we trust more deeply in our God who loves us with an unstoppable love and shapes us and renews us for the love of others.

May we discover together the beauty that God creates in our midst – the amazing gifts of hope, of service, of learning, of music, of life that God brings out of our faithful following of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our times are in God's hands including this gift – the gift of the New Year 2020.

May this be a year of blessing, health, love, hope and deepening faithfulness to the one who always keeps faith with you!

In Jesus name,

Pastor Karen Jewell

Highlights of Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Present: Carol Spiegelberg, Peg Olson, Dave Olson, Matt Moore, Jackie Kuhn, Teri Rucinsky, Pastor Karen Jewell, Jim Heidl

Excused: Ann Stephan, Warren Luce

Special Guests: Andy Lang, Pam Nemmitz

Financial Reports

Matt Moore presented the financial reports. At the end of November the ADA Restroom project funds stood at \$29,687. Matt Moore presented the November bills – income was \$27,813.02; expenses were \$14,766.21. Current liabilities are \$136,816.10 while the money market is \$49,097.62. We owe ourselves \$87,718.48. Motion made and approved to accept treasurer's report.

A total so far for our "Catch Up campaign" will be announced on Sunday, Dec 15, reflecting donations made for that Sunday, the matching funds pledged and earned, and the gifts given through our electronic on-line giving.

Dwelling in the Word (Re-imagining Church) Reading from Isaiah 35:1-10 and sharing our insights. Then Carol S and Dave O explained about further activities, including a recent visit to Piggly Wiggly to encounter our neighbors and other experiments to see what God is up to in our neighborhood and how we can join in God's mission.

Old Business

Narrative Budget Progress The narrative budgets and annual reports are due now. Please send to the church office.

January Congregational Meeting – January 26th Reviewed format for meeting.

2020 Budget Discussion – initially (\$26,724) budget was presented. Council prayerfully

discussed alternatives to reduce budget deficits and present a more nearly balanced budget. A subcommittee will hash out alternatives to present to the council at the January council meeting.

Catch up campaign - matching donors will match the 12/8/19 offering up to \$6,000.00 and we received even more than that on Sunday, Dec 8. Praise God!

Nominating committee is working on 2020 volunteers. They have a great start with several openings being filled with volunteers which will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 26, 2020.

New Business

Sound system expense in the amount of \$250 brought to council. Motion made and approved to use \$250 from memorial fund to pay the expense.

Staff reviews – discussed ensuring that staff receive their performance reviews. Hope to complete in early January.

Pastor's Report

Continuing Education:

Re-imagining Church – I am continuing to meet with our leaders, our coach, and pastors. Reading *Quietly Courageous* by Gil Rendle with the other Re-imagining Church pastors. I am excited that elements of the Re-imagining Church spiritual practices are part of our Advent Wednesday worship services – so that more people can get acquainted with how we may grow in this process.

Catch up Campaign:

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

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

Second letter sent to announce the matching funds Sunday, 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 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! More visitors from our companion church's circuit would like to send people – we could use more homestays!

Larger Community – the Winnebago County Literacy Council is holding its end of semester potluck this Thursday at 12:30 pm – you are welcome to attend. They are eager to get to know our congregation!

A wonderful turn out for the worship and joint choir and pie afterwards at Calvary Lutheran on **Thanksgiving Eve**. It was a great event and so nice to be with so many of our brothers and sisters from other congregations.

I am helping a task force planning the **50th Anniversary** of the ordination of women in the ELCA for 2020. It is an interesting experience! I hope it will be helpful to those considering the calling of pastor.

Committee Reports

Christian Action: (Carol Spiegelberg)

Starting first week of January, coffee will increase from \$8 to \$10 per bag.

Working with the Boys and Girls Club for Feeding Hungry Kids. They will help promote the Feeding Hungry Kids program. The Boys and Girls Club is at capacity. They have a satellite site at 1st English.

Congregational Life: No report

Education: (Teri Rucinsky)

The kids have been working hard in Sunday School to get ready for our Christmas program: Hanging of the Greens on December 15th. They will

have their final practice on the 14th from 9-11am and then will meet on Sunday morning to prep for the show starting at 9am! We hope everyone can make it to our grand performance at! Thank you to all the volunteers that have helped!

We have started our winter curriculum which takes us from Advent through the Epiphany. During Intergenerational worship (when kids remain in service), Pastor will be handing out our usual leaflet so that the learning can continue at home!

Evangelism: (Jim Heidl)

An idea to start having name tags for the members to wear for church service was brought to my attention. Will prepare nametags to begin using in January.

Fellowship (Dave Olson)

Disability Rights Wisconsin presented to the congregation and stayed after services for question and answers. Several members participated in the discussion.

On February 12, 2020, the Literacy Council will give a temple talk about their program. We will have light lunch after second service on February 12th.

STAMP (St. Andrew's Men with a Purpose) will change their name to St. Andrew's Members with a Purpose to open participation to more members. STAMP meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month.

Greg Egner suggested having a thank you recognition for volunteers who assist with the weekly service. On January 12th, we will have an ice cream social or pie and ice cream to recognize these volunteers.

We will host a dinner for Confirmands (18 kids from all three grades) in February. We would like to start a mentoring program for them. If interested, please let Dave Olson know. This is part of the Re-imagining church format. Will need to have background checks for each adult who volunteers.

Received idea to have a small pantry here – very simple to have some food available to

those who worship with us. This will give them the opportunity to take a food item home with them on an occasional basis if short of funds between paydays. Envision it to be similar to the small libraries we see around town. We will give it a try.

Property: (Warren Luce) No report

Stewardship/Discipleship: (Ann Stephan) No report

Technology: (Pastor Karen)

Next meeting of Technology Comm. will be Wed, Jan. 8 at 10 am.

Sandy Last and Pr Karen attended the Interactive Website Management program meeting at UWO on Dec 9th as former clients of the student intern program as part of their self-evaluation process. We met the Spring semester Professor Tim Gleason and hope to be chosen again as a site for students to run their internship projects to enhance our website and social media communications.

Worship & Music: (Peg Olson)

Worship and Music Meeting -



Nov. 18, 2019

1. The Oshkosh North High Madrigals will perform here on Dec. 8, 10:20 – 10:50 am. Worships will be adjusted to accommodate their time here.
2. Continued discussion was held about plans to recognize worship assistants for their time given to make worship more meaningful for all.
3. Pastor has begun the process of educating all about proper worship protocol. We suggest that the prelude and postlude mark a time of quiet for worshippers to prepare for and reflect on worship.
4. The theme for Advent's Wednesday worships will be "Preparing in Christ's Presence".
5. Discussion is underway to provide an opportunity for new ushers to learn existing routines.
6. Next meeting: Jan. 13 at 6 pm.

President's Report: (Peg Olson)

Peg reported on a letter discussing how a visitor was moved by the kindness of a member when she was visiting us. The visitor felt very welcomed.

Respectfully submitted, Jackie Kuhn, council secretary

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 26, 2020

10:30 am

We will reflect on our life together at our upcoming **Annual Congregational Meeting**. Please join us to celebrate what we have accomplished together in the past year and plan what we would like to tackle together in our new year.

We will have **only one worship** at 9:00 am and then our Annual Meeting will begin at 10:30 am after some fellowship and refreshments.

Youth Helping Youth Sunday, January 26, 2020

St. Andrew's confirmands and Youth Ministry Team are helping fellow youth in need. Food items are being collected for the [Food 4Kids Backpack](#) program through the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry with the goal of providing healthy food for children on the weekends when school is not in session.

Specific items needed are:

- Cans of chunky soups **with meat**
- Granola bars
- cans Chef Boyardee products **with meat**
- canned tuna in water or canned chicken
- individual packages of cheese and crackers or peanut butter and crackers

Donations can be dropped off near the Fellowship Hall through January 26.

Any other food donations the food pantry are also always welcome. Thank you for considering this mission – and thank you to our youth for their initiative!

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 November. Thank you for your generosity!

**From our
Christian Action
Committee:**



If you enjoy your cup of coffee here with us on Sunday mornings, you may now purchase the same coffee.

We will once again start selling Equal Exchange Coffee. The cost will be \$10 a bag. We will start selling the coffee on Jan. 12 between services, and every second Sunday of the month thereafter. Coffee purchased through equal exchange empowers small scale farmers through fair trade.

Upcoming meetings:

Jan. 7 at 5:30 PM – Hunger Leaders - St. Andrew's 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.

Jan. 7 at 6:00 pm – Christian Action committee meeting. Please join us!



About a year ago on "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday I met officer Kate Mann and asked her "What can little old ladies do to help the Oshkosh Police Department?" serve Oshkosh.

That was a life changing

question. Since then a group of ladies that live in our complex have knit and crocheted cap and scarf sets, walker caddies, shawls and lap blankets, and tied no-sew blankets that Kate and the OPD deliver to children, veterans, homeless, nursing home residents and other people in need. We have had yarn donated to us and Thrivent has been instrumental in helping us buy yarn and other supplies through their Action Team programs.

If you have any yarn you would like to donate or if you love to knit or crochet, please contact us for more information. A collection box can be found near the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you!

Arlene Shultis and Cindy Bruce

Noisy Offering

Our January Noisy Offering is designated for the [Day by Day Warming Shelter](#) here in Oshkosh providing temporary shelter, individualized services, and opportunities for self-sufficiency to empower the most vulnerable adults in our community.

Last month's noisy offering of \$189.15 was designated for the [Take 5 Club](#) of Oshkosh providing clothes, shoes, jackets, haircuts, and more for local kids.

From our Fellowship Committee:

In January 2020, 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!



Ice Cream Social

**Volunteer Appreciation
Sunday
Ice Cream Social
January 12, 2020 10 AM**

WE are thankful for all the people who help make our life together so meaningful – all of the folks in front of and behind the scenes. Come for an ice cream social between services as we celebrate.

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

Breakfast

Meet at Delta Restaurant, 515 N Sawyer St
Saturday, January 11, at 8:00 am

Art & Soul

Saturday, January 18, 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)



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:

The Junior Youth Gathering is 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!

Don't forget, Confirmands!

There will be no Wednesday Confirmation classes on January 1. We resume studies on Wednesday, Jan. 8!

Don't forget, Sunday School!

Sunday School resumes on Sunday, January 5.

See you then!

From our Stewardship Committee:



Catch Up Campaign 2019

Thank you for helping us "catch up" financially to support our general mission. A total of \$22,407.83 was collected on our Catch Up Day, Dec. 8. Thanks as well to those who offered matching funds.

For several years we have been able to receive your financial gifts in different ways – by cash, by check, and through e-giving. Electronic gifts are welcome. Your electronic gifts may be given through smart phone technology or go to our website standrewsoshkosh.org. Here is the short URL: <http://bit.do/stagiving> and the QR Code:



Whatever you choose to offer, your gift does make a real difference! Thank you for considering this partnership in the gospel of Jesus Christ with the rest of the congregation of St Andrew's.

If you wish to have a box of giving envelopes for 2020 the boxes will be available in the entry way beginning Sunday, January 5 2020. Would you please check to make sure that our record of your address and phone number is accurate so that we may communicate with you. Drafts of the current directory will be available near the boxes of envelopes for you to check and correct your information. Thank you!

Steward your best year ever!

“Stewardship is not only a matter of faithful giving but of faithful living. In response to the Gospel, we submit our lives to the rule of God, to the lordship of Christ, and to the direction of the Holy Spirit, so that we may be the people God wants us to be and have the lives God wants us to have.”

–**Mark Allan Powell**, author of *Giving to God*.

Yikes! It’s January 2, and the bathroom scale shows that, once again, I’ve gained a few pounds in the five-week blitz-feast of Thanksgiving-Christmas-New Year. Clearly, I need to *steward* my health better in 2020.

Though it’s not the most common use of the word, *steward* is also a verb, an action word. We *steward* all that God has entrusted to us, making choices that, as Mark Allan Powell says, help us “be the people God wants us to be and have the lives God wants us to have.”

We steward our lives through our decisions and choices – the food we eat, the people we call friends, how we spend our money, the entertainment we select, the hobbies we enjoy, the many ways we spend our time, and so on.

To steward faithfully, we have to live in prayerful awareness and make conscious, thoughtful decisions that will advance us in Godly directions.

As 2020 begins, prayerfully consider the most important areas of your life, such as your physical, mental and spiritual health, as well as your relationships and time, and ask God to help you steward them in ways that will help you be the person God wants you to be and have the life God wants you to have.

As for me, it will not only help me lose those extra holiday pounds, but also give me my best year *ever*.
--**Rob Blezard**

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Committee Meetings

All members welcome!



Hunger Leaders Committee

Tuesday, January 7, at 5:30 pm

Christian Action Committee

Tuesday, January 7, at 6:00 pm

Technology Committee

Wednesday, January 8 at 10:00 am

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, January 13, at 6:00 pm

Fellowship Committee

Tuesday, January 14, at 6:00 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, at 7:00 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, January 23, at 6:00 pm

