



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

March 2020

Sunday Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am

Spring Forward time change on Sunday, March 8, 2020

Dear friends,

Happy Lent to you!

Happy Lent is a phrase we coined in picking hymns and choir music for Lent – hoping to walk respectfully between the meditative and sometimes very solemn hymns of Lent and the hymns that are more lilting but still build up our faithfulness!

As we begin Lent we are invited on Ash Wednesday to engage in the practices of giving, prayer, and fasting. The goal is to draw nearer to God.

So many different practices can help and if you have any questions about Lent or what we can do during this season, please feel free to talk with me!

For me, this year there are two Martin Luther ideas that capture my heart:

1. **Remember your Baptism!**
2. *incurvatus in se* – a Latin phrase he used to describe our brokenness as human beings.

Incurvatus in se describes the sinful human being – we are “curved in on ourselves” even when we are trying to love others and love God. Our hearts are trying to care beyond ourselves but seem to take things and twist them back to be about us.

We hope to be loving, giving people – good citizens, or good neighbors, or good family members, and faithful to God.

But we get all tangled up inside – and our good intentions become “I need to do this to impress my neighbor,” OR “I need to do this so that God will approve of me... accept me...love me.”

St Paul wrote: ... I can will what is right, but I cannot do it. ¹⁹For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. ²⁰Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I that do it, but sin that dwells within me.

²¹So I find it to be a law that when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. ²²For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, ²³but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. ²⁴Wretched man that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

²⁵Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!
(Romans 7:18b – 25)

Paul describes so well the twisting and turning of our hearts that seem to trap our best efforts in fear and self-service rather than service of the neighbor and service of God.

And he asks – who can help us? Who can rescue us from ourselves? His answer is Jesus Christ.

We find we cannot get out of the interior maze on our own and we can feel so defeated when we cannot do it ourselves! We hold independence very high – and this inward curving of sin breaks our spirits.

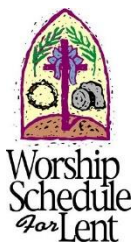
Until, like Paul, we remember the one who can help us. Until, like Luther, we remember our baptism.

We have been rescued from the tortuous coils of our own sin by the Lord Jesus. He has washed away our sins in baptism, he has drowned the old life of self-service in the baptismal waters, and we emerge with his hand in ours as people who look to God for help, who look at neighbors with love.

We aren't done yet, but we are on the Way. Jesus, who named you and claimed you in baptism, is your rescuer and leader.

When we feel tangled up – Luther says, “Remember your baptism!” and we feel the flood of courage and hope pouring in to return us to faith in the best of our humanity – which is Jesus Christ. Happy Lent!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell



2020 Lenten Worship

For our **Lenten Wednesday evenings** we will **be trying something special** to worship with two of our sister congregations in March. Instead of pastors going Round Robin, we will all be going together to each other's church (note the change in schedule those days)!

Wednesdays in Lent:

March 4: 12 Noon – worship at St. Andrew's

Evening: Christ Lutheran Church

36 Broad St. #100 Oshkosh

5:30 pm - Fellowship

6:00 pm – lesson

6:30 – 7:00 pm – worship

March 11: 12 noon worship at St. Andrew's

Evening: St. Andrew's

6:00 pm - Fellowship

6:30 pm – lesson

7:00 – 7:30 pm – worship

March 18: 12 Noon – worship at St. Andrew's

Evening: Our Savior's Lutheran Church

1860 Wisconsin St. Oshkosh

5:30 pm - Fellowship

6:00 pm – lesson

6:30 – 7:00 pm – worship

March 25

12 pm service of Healing Prayer at St. Andrew's

Evening: St. Andrew's

6:00 pm - Fellowship

6:30 pm – lesson

7:00 – 7:30 pm – worship

April 1: 12 noon worship at St. Andrew's

Evening: St. Andrew's

6:00 pm - Fellowship

6:30 pm – lesson

7:00 – 7:30 pm – worship

Sundays in Lent (March 1 – 29)

Holy Communion at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Palm Sunday (April 5)

Holy communion at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday (April 9)

Holy Communion at 12 noon and 7:00 pm

Good Friday (April 10)

Good Friday worship at 12 noon and 7:00 pm

Wednesday Lenten Meals & Gatherings



Following midday Lenten worship (noon to 12:30 pm) feel free to gather for lunch and bible study. The potluck begins at 12:30 – All are welcome!

Preceding the March 11 evening Lenten worship at St. Andrew's we gather for a light supper at 6:00 pm. When worship is at Christ Lutheran or Our Savior's, we will gather at those churches at 5:30 pm for an evening meal. We hope confirmation families will be able to attend with their students but please know **ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

If you wish to bring food for the March 11 evening meal at St. Andrew's, or help prepare/serve the meal, you will find a sign-up sheet near the Fellowship Hall doors. When joining in fellowship at our sister churches, you need not bring any food.

Easter Flowers



Flowers to enhance our Easter altar may be ordered now! Plants are ordered from House of flowers and may be given to

the glory of God, or in honor of a person or an event, or in memory of a person or people you wish to remember

Prices per plant:

Lily	\$14.00	
Hyacinth	\$15.00	
Hydrangea	\$33.00	(pink or blue)
Mums	\$15.00	
Azaleas	\$33.00	
Tulips	\$15.00	
Kalanchoe	\$19.00	
Daffodils	\$15.00	

The envelopes for ordering your Easter flowers are available in the narthex. **All orders must be placed by Sunday, March 22nd.** (Color requests are allowed, but not guaranteed.) As always, you may take your plant home after the 10:30 am Easter Sunday service. We thank you for considering this gift to St. Andrew's!!

Easter's on its way!

As we order those lovely Easter altar flowers we can't help anticipating the joys of Easter Day – the mystery and wonder of Easter worship and a wonderful breakfast to share with friends and family.



Here is the schedule for **Sunday, April 12, 2020:**

7:00 am – Easter Sunrise worship

8:00 to 9:30 am- Easter Breakfast is served

9:00 and 10:30 am – Easter Festival worship

Please plan to come!

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 **\$35,257.00** as of mid February. Thank you for your generosity!

Exciting news! Construction on our accessible restroom is set to begin soon!



The Property Committee is forming an Ad Hoc Building Task Force to advise and answer questions and concerns from contractors and the construction manager regarding the project. Choices will need to be made regarding interior detail such as wall colors, floor materials, light fixtures, etc. The task force may meet a few times a month during the initial start of the project. It will be a short term commitment. All interested members please contact the office by the end of March. The first meeting will be April 2, 2020 at 6:00 pm in the Council Room.



Daylight Savings time begins
Sunday, March 8th
Our time "springs forward"

Please don't forget –set your clocks ahead one hour!

**From the Christian
Action Committee:**



Thank you!

Thank you for the donations of school supplies and snacks for "No Time for Crime" program. We made up 81 bags of school supplies and extra snacks to be given to children in third grade classrooms as they learn about No Time for Crime from Officer Kate Mann of the Oshkosh Police Department.

Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

Through March 8, 2020



NEW hygiene and cleaning items for local homeless shelters and crisis agencies in our community are being collected. A box is located near the Fellowship Hall doors for your donations. The most requested items include laundry detergent, garbage bags, dental and hair care items, diapers and baby care, tissue, etc. A complete list of needed supplies is in the Fellowship Hallway. Thank you!

Noisy Offering

The **March 15** Noisy Offering is designated for the [Salvation Army](#).

Thanks to all who donated to February's Noisy Offering. \$123.97 has been donated to the [Christine Ann Center](#), to help provide emergency shelter and counseling for individuals and families needing safety and shelter from an abusive situation.

Thank you for your generosity!

From our
Fellowship
Committee:



Submitted by Patty Koplitz, Youth Director

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

St. Andrew's Members with a Purpose

(STAMP)

Breakfast

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

Art & Soul

Saturday, March 21, 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.



A silent auction to offset
benevolences and other
worthy activities.

We need your:

- Items of value that you'd like to pass along from your house
- Arts and crafts that have your love built into them
- Services that you're willing to provide (music lessons, lawn chores, dog walking, hose watching car transportation, etc)
- Homemade food items (cookies, cakes, and whatever you enjoy making)

THEY WILL ALL BE UP FOR AUCTION!

Watch for the dates! Start thinking about how you can contribute! Thank you in advance!

BYG (Beginning Youth Group)

Due to scheduling conflicts there will be no BYG activities at church during the month of March.

BYG Camp

March 27 - 29



There are 6 of us going to BYG Camp at Imago Dei Village March 27th - 29th. Pray for us during our travel and during the weekend!

Game Day!

Come and join us from 2 to 4 pm for games at St Andrew's on Saturday, April 4th. Bring a game to share! Children and youth from 2nd grade on up are welcome to come. And feel free to bring a friend.



YMT (Youth Ministry Team)

There will be no YMT meeting on Wednesday, March 18th. All kids should feel free to attend church at Our Savior's Lenten worship, if possible.



Pizza making will be Saturday, May 2nd starting at 9 am. You are invited to help us make the pizzas! This is always a fun day and a great time to talk with the kids and get to know them. And pizza making means we will be selling pizzas in April. We will be selling them at church on the 5th, 19th, and 26th of April. My goal this year is to sell more pizzas than we have before! Please feel free to ask for an order sheet and take some orders for us! All proceeds will go to the youth for trips and camps. Thank you for your continued support!

Questions? Please contact Patty Koplitz @ PKoplitz@standrewsoshkosh.org.

Preparation for Holy Communion



Wednesday, April 8
5pm - 7 pm

Or contact Pr Karen to arrange
an alternate time!

We like to prepare our fifth graders to explore and understand the meaning of Holy Communion. Our next class is scheduled for the Wednesday of Holy Week. As a part of our class, the students will prepare the bread that will be offered at Holy Communion on the next day, Maundy Thursday, April 9th at the 7:00pm worship where the students may make their first communion. *Parents/mentors are encouraged and welcome to attend!*

It is almost time for CAMP
and it is definitely time to plan!

Our Crossways camp fliers are here! There are programs for all ages: for kids and youth, for adults, for families, for YOU. Our confirmation campers (students who will be going into 8th grade in the autumn) are going to Waypost Camp June 9 to 14!



We need to get our registration in for all our confirmands, but all registrations received with a \$100.00 deposit on or before March 15 receive an early bird discount off of the camp fees.

Please see www.crosswayscamps.org to explore programs and talk with Pastor Karen if you would like more information. Please don't let cost be a barrier - we can always find scholarship funds to help!

Jayne Lindsay's
Memorial worship
Saturday, March 28 at 11 am



You are invited to attend the memorial worship service for Jayne Lindsay at St Andrew's. She was a founding member of St Andrew's Lutheran Church and her family would like to invite you to the worship and to a meal following the worship where there will be time for fellowship and visitation with her family.



JOIN
US!

Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, March 2, at 6 pm

Christian Action Committee

Tuesday, March 3, at 6 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 10, at 7 pm

Technology Committee

Wednesday, March 11, at 10 am

Property Committee

Thursday, March 26, at 6 pm

We are here for you!

Visit our website: standrewsoshkosh.org

Like us on [Facebook](#)

Email us: office@standrewsoshkosh.org
(office)

pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org
(Pastor)

Steward your soul for a fuller life

Jesus teaches, "What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?" —**Mark 8:36, 37** (NIV)

Instead of the superficial "How's it going?" a wise colleague asks friends, "How is your soul?" The question requires effort. To answer it I must plunge deep inside – below the constantly churning waters of everyday joys, hopes, ambitions, desires, anxieties and disappointments. These are so strong, especially our desires and ambitions, that if we are not careful they can absorb all our time and energy.

Jesus repeatedly warns us not to let our desires and our worries overwhelm us, keeping us from paying attention to the soul. Our soul is where we connect with God, the source of our greatest strength and truest identity. Without attention, our soul can wither like a plant without water. As with all the treasures God has given us, we must be stewards of our souls.

The mystics of old and modern prophets (such as Richard Rohr, Marjorie Thompson, and Howard Thurman) teach us to employ prayer, holy silence, and other spiritual disciplines to tend our souls and keep worldly worries and desires from drowning us.

This month, begin a daily practice of caring for your soul. You might begin with five minutes of spoken prayer followed by five minutes of silence. Or reflect deeply on a Scripture passage. Or try prayerful yoga. (Your pastor might be able to give you some resources or ideas.)

With a little practice and attention, you can become stronger, more centered, and more spiritually resilient. How is your soul?

--Rob Blezard Copyright © 2020, 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 and. He blogs at www.thestewardshipguy.com

***A quorum was not achieved at the February council meeting so February Council minutes are not available. Thanks for understanding.*

