



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

May 2020

Facebook Live Sunday Worship at 9:00 am

Dear friends,

How are you? We are sending this newsletter to all the folks in our address list by mail – just to make sure that we connect with you!

Those of you with financial gifts of record will also receive your quarterly statement with this mailing.

We cannot thank you enough for your continued offerings and gifts that you have sent by mail and by electronic means in support of the mission of St Andrew's Lutheran Church!

Your generous support is a sign of the loving-kindness of our God – guiding us through these tough times to much better ones ahead. Thank you!

In April we did not send a newsletter – things were so uncertain that it was difficult to know what to tell you. Please forgive me if that left you confused!

St Andrew's council, committees, and our staff are working hard to continue in mission and provide you with support for your faith life in all the ways we can during this strange time of COVID-19.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see the different ways you may connect with our worship through on-line platforms and recordings.

We would like to help you worship – that is still our main mission as a congregation – to worship the Lord and follow his ways so that we may care for our neighbor and this world as faithful Christians.

Our worship committee meets next Monday, May 4 at 4:00 pm by Zoom (more on that shortly) to talk about our strategies for re-entering congregational and worship life together safely.

Our synod and rostered leaders are working hard to understand what the recommendations of Safer at Home and CDC guidelines mean for our practices as a Lutheran congregation.

It will be a while before we can gather again in worship in our Sanctuary on Sundays, so we are considering carefully how can we gather in faith in

other ways that give you the best support for your walk in faithfulness.

Even though we cannot use our building right now, we are able to maintain and improve it. We are delighted to let you know that we have received the full amount of the grant we sought from the ELCA Disability Ministries unit - \$12,000.00 which makes it possible for us to construct the ADA-compliant restroom!

Work will begin with proper safeguards for the construction workers and staff members that need to be in our facilities. We are excited that we can move forward with this! Deep thanks to all of you who have supported this project and thereby the people who will be blessed by the results!

In the meantime, we are meeting with our council leaders and committee members by Zoom – a wonderful way we can hear and see one another but safely from our homes or offices. Our council has used Zoom once to meet in April, and other groups are planning to use it for our meetings.

We would like you to know that if you would like to take part in a Zoom meeting or contribute your insight – we can help you to take part. Please email or call us to let us know what meeting you would like to be part of. For example, Council meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

If you are able to share it with us, your email address will help us stay in contact with you far more often than postal mailings, although we will continue with these for all who need communications by mail.

Please let us know in the office and we promise not to abuse the privilege of using your email address if you have one that we may use.

Please feel free to let me know what you are hoping for – what we may pray for together. I am praying fervently for a vaccine, because that will set us free to be together in the ways we have loved to be.

May Christ's peace be with you all!

Pastor Karen Jewell

**Highlights of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
April 14, 2020 – 7:00 PM by Zoom**

Attending via Zoom: Amy Bargenquast, Warren Luce, Matt Moore, David Olson, Peg Olson, Carol Spiegelberg, Pastor Karen Jewell

Unable to attend: Jim Heidl, Nancy Kreilick, Andy Lang, Naomi Larkpor, Teri Rucinsky

Old Business

March minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report

Profit and loss budget for the month – we are still receiving offerings and we are processing them weekly. We have a drop in our expenses, except for phone utilities garbage pickup. Ended up at minus \$6,544 (-\$6,544) for the month due to half month of normal giving and half month diminished giving.

Motion passed to accept report and paying bills.

Matt reported on applying for the Payroll

Protection Plan – we are in the US Bank Portal, with no further news. Forgivable loan to help maintain employees at full employment plus can pay utilities and telephone bill. 100% forgivable if used, otherwise becomes a 1% interest loan. We need to use the money within the 8 weeks after receipt of the funds, with 75% used for payroll.

We received the \$12,000 grant for the ADA restroom project from the ELCA Disability ministry! We can go ahead with the project!

New Business

Executive Committee election – Amy Bargenquast is willing to serve as Council Secretary – affirmed by the council in this new position.

Committee Chair assignments need to hold off on these because we still are not at full representation on the council. Right now committees are somewhat inactive due to the COVID-19 situation.

Pastor's Report

Stewardship – preparing to send a letter to members with first quarter giving statements issued by our Financial Secretary. Deep thanks to all who have continued to support St Andrew's financially in the midst of the uncertainties caused by the COVID-19 crisis.

Confirmation – Several items: we are working on completing the last few lessons of the school year with the help of each family we will hold our confirmation worship when we are allowed to gather once again in worship in our sanctuary. Not certain if we will be back to a situation where overnight camp is possible in June.

Crossways still uncertain if offering overnight camp this summer.

Cooperation with our sister churches – necessary precautions re the Corona Virus ended our Lenten Round Robin gatherings. Colleagues at sister churches have worked cooperatively on worship using Facebook, Zoom and other technologies. Synod Assembly is postponed until we are permitted to gather for such a large meeting (over 250 people).

Technology We have added a subscription to ZOOM Pro for our congregation for use in meetings such as this council meeting and hopefully for confirmation and other endeavors.

Worship & Fellowship practices – we are offering worship via Facebook Live on Sundays at 9 am and on special days (such as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday) at 12 noon. The order of worship is sent to the NET address list by email. The Facebook worship is later posted also on St Andrew's You Tube page and on our website. In addition, a recording is transferred to audio CDs for members who don't have access to the internet. We have delivered some and are offering copies of the worship order and CDs in the corner of the Little Free Library. We continue to work to expand our offering of worship, bible study, fellowship times and Sunday School lessons in alternative technologies.

Members Jayne Lindsay's Memorial service was postponed until her family can meet for it.

Committee Reports

Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg)

We are working with the school system with Grab and Go lunch program served from St Andrew's - sack lunches for lunch and a breakfast Monday through Friday, and on Fridays send them home with extra meals to help cover the weekend. Feeding Hungry Kids – if the school system doesn't have summer school then they will continue all summer with the lunches, but then we couldn't offer meals. But we could give them hot food and they can only do sack lunches. On hold until we know when the quarantine is lifted. Glad they chose St Andrew's as a place to serve because our kids really need it in the neighborhood.

Congregational Life (tbd) no report

Education (Teri Rucinsky) no report

Evangelism (Jim Heidl) no report

Fellowship (David Olson)

Fellowship activities on hold right now – looking forward to the Fall Auction.

Property (Warren Luce)

We did receive our full request for the ELCA disabilities grant! \$47,647 in the fund! Status – need to find out what the contractors are doing during COVID-19 time. Steve Last will contact them. Then develop construction protocol to make containment barrier and also requirements for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and social distance. Building protocol established. Jeff Ellman has offered good guidance on keeping the facilities sanitized. Use of grant funds must be for ADA construction. Carpet will have to come up for laying the plumbing and will have to be replaced. Still need décor committee to make the decisions about colors and styles of flooring etc. Costs have increased since our initial approval of the plan about 10-20% but we are still in a good place to accomplish the project. Estimating four months to accommodate the challenge of working with both older and newer construction areas.

Warren Herwig has been conducting a Lighting project in our facilities helping us be good stewards of the environment and reducing our utility costs!

Stewardship/Discipleship (tbd) no report

Technology/Office (Pastor Karen) We learned how to use these things very quickly so please give us feedback on how they are working. Trying to find ways to include people into worship resources who don't have Facebook or other technology.

Worship and Music (Peg Olson) no meeting in April
President's Report (Peg Olson) no report

Please note: A complete set of council minutes will be available on our website: www.standrewsoshkosh.org
You may also request minutes be emailed/mailed to you through the church office office@standrewsoshkosh.org, or call: (920) 235-6616



With the recent Wisconsin Stay-At-Home order, our building will be closed **until further notice.** Please know that you may call (920-

235-6616) at any time. We will be here for you. Our answering service is accessible remotely; messages are checked often throughout the day and will be returned in a timely manner.

Join us on Sundays for worship!

We will be **livestreaming worship** on Facebook (St Andrews Oshkosh) at 9 AM Sunday, April 19.

If you are not a member of Facebook, you should still be able to access us at

<https://www.facebook.com/standrewsoshkosh> . You will need to scroll down a bit on the page and you will find the video. If you are asked to sign up now, you can say "no" and still advance to the video.

Worship will also be posted on our website <http://standrewsoshkosh.org/sermons/> later in the day.

We have established a YouTube channel. Go to youtube.com and search for St Andrews Lutheran Church Oshkosh. Worship will also be posted to YouTube later on Sunday.

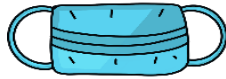
Worship
with us
from
HOME

We are striving to make worship available and as convenient for you as we can during this time. As noted earlier, there are many opportunities to worship on the internet with us.

However, not everyone has internet access! We have audible CDs of each Sunday's worship available as well. They are available later on each Sunday in the Little Free Library near the Education Wing doors in front of church.

And, finally, we welcome any feedback on our virtual worship services. Please let us know if there is any way we can make it a better experience for you





If you would like to make masks - there are many places that need your help and we thank you for your generosity. If you would like to make a few for St Andrew's eventually as a part of our hospitality when we return to worshipping and gathering in the building, we thank you for considering this. May God bless your generosity and thoughtfulness!



Picturing the day when we can meet again!



If you can, please continue your financial support of St. Andrew's either through your bank's bill pay system, our on-line donations accessed through the website, or by mailing a check to St. Andrew's. We want to be sure that God's work is continued during and beyond this crisis for the sake of Oshkosh and the world. As one recent cartoon stated: Give today so that we are still here to baptize all the infants nine months from now!



THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT



Hoping you can picture it too!
Hang in there!



Our Easter Altar, 2020

Unfortunately we were not able to join together in worship on Sunday. Here is a photo to bring you joy of our chancel and beautiful floral display. Flowers had been ordered prior to the Stay-At-Home time. Many thanks to those who made floral contributions, and deep thanks to those who arranged the display.