



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

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

June 2020

Facebook Live Sunday Worship at 9:00 am and Compline (Night Prayer) on Wednesdays at 8 pm

Dear friends,

How are you? I hope and pray that you and yours are well, and safe, and getting through these challenging times!

The question we want to answer is: "When can we get back together (in our building) for worship?" We don't have a date set as yet.

We need to be able to assemble in groups of 50 or fewer as outlined in the US guidelines and have our safety protocol in place – plenty of hand-sanitizing stations, as well as best practices for limiting the contact between us until there is a vaccine protecting us!

Worship in this "meantime" will have to be very different to protect our members and their loved ones and neighbors.

We will each have to wear a mask. We may not gather for refreshments or even for small groups seated together – we have to maintain the safe distancing between people who do not live in the same household. Communion practices will have to be very different to minimize the risk of sharing the virus.

For me, one of the hardest restrictions regards music – no congregational singing, no choir singing, even soloists must be in a separate room from the congregation. It has been found that singing and projecting our voices makes the droplets with virus smaller, more mobile, and able to go much farther than the six-foot social distancing requires of us.

You will hear many different opinions including something along the lines of "damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!" (quoting David Farragut, the Battle of Mobile Bay, Civil War).

But when our Lord described us and commissioned us, he commanded us to love one another – be about the business of God's own people – which is to care for the widow, the orphan and the stranger. Those

were the people in biblical times who had no family to protect them and fend for them. In other words, the most vulnerable.

We need to faithfully care for the vulnerable in our midst by taking on the disciplines of masks and distance and other practices that help each one LIVE and not suffer needlessly.

You may recall the parable of the treasure hidden in the field (Matt 13:44): **The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.**

What is that kingdom of heaven treasure? Life! Life together – life for all of God's people, God's creation.

We know how much we are longing for that life together! The first step is to make life possible!

How much we esteem those who sacrifice to help others. That is our mission too!

So, we will wrestle with the rules until we have a protocol and a date to re-gather and a way forward that won't harm our neighbors or the vulnerable in our midst.

For now, our building is undergoing the renovations creating the new ADA restroom, safeguarding those who work on it with proper PPE.

We will keep on offering our worship online even after we are able to gather again in our building. One of the hidden blessings of all of this has been to learn new ways to be together that bless and help those who could not use our building for many reasons!

In this crazy meantime, please keep praying for those who are suffering both from illness and from isolation. Please keep praying for all those on the frontlines and for a vaccine to be discovered. Most of all, may Christ's peace be with you all!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

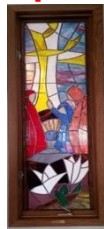


At this time, our building remains closed for worship until we can safely reopen. **Please know that you may call (920-235-6616) at**

**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 each Sunday in June. We are also offering Compline (Night Prayer) at 8 pm on Wednesdays.



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. We also have a written version of Compline that you can pray or share with a loved one or friend.

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.



The June minutes of the Council Meeting are not available at this time, due to the holiday printing time table. Please contact the office if you would like a copy when they become available. Thank you!

## Letters of Memory

During this time of Safer at Home, we have had some beloved members pass away--Jayne

Lindsay, Pearl Dawson, and Miriam Hasse. We haven’t been able to properly celebrate their lives due to the situation. We would like to honor the memory of these souls when we can finally gather for their memorials and again on All Saints’ Sunday this year.



We are asking for notes of memories and stories about these ladies, as well as expressions of encouragement and care, that we may share with the families of these dear members at their memorials and on All Saints’ Sunday (Nov. 1, 2020). If you would like, please take time to write a brief note and submit it to the office by July 1. We will make sure that your memories get to the families.



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 are so grateful for your continued support and we will do our best 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



## Update on the Accessible Restroom project

### The Work Has Started!

It took almost 3 years from the first discussion of the need for ADA bathroom facilities nearer the sanctuary at a Property Committee meeting until the carpet came out of the lounge. We (all members and friends that made this possible) give thanks to God and rejoice in the start!

The project started with the removal of pictures, piano, furnishings and with the pulling up of the carpet (which slowed the process down).

Next came the temporary enclosure in the hallway and the removal of the heat registers. The window on the east end was removed and a temporary entrance was built with a ramp to help keep the halls and doors of the building safe from bumps, bruises, and scratches.

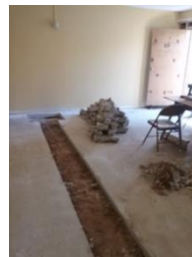
The process of obtaining a building permit was completed and we were good to go!



The cutting of 100 feet of 4" thick concrete was completed. A water cutting diamond blade was used in an electric saw to reduce fumes and dust.

The removal of 100 sq. ft. of concrete was then accomplished with an electric buster.

One unknown heating duct was discovered at the start of the dig – nobody knew! The heating contractor, plumber and general contractor will work together to solve the problem at minimum extra cost.



Thanks again to all who made the start possible and "Let the beauty of the Lord our God rest upon us; Establish the work hands for us – Yes, establish the work of our hands." Psalm 90:17

Submitted by Steve Last – General

Contractor

## Meet our 2020 Council

Our elected council members are here to serve you! The council members represent you in decision making matters for our congregation. Feel free to contact any one of them with any questions or concerns (Call or email the office and we will forward you their contact information). And, thanks to each one of them for volunteering to serve our congregation.

Peg Olson, President  
Teri Rucinsky, Vice President  
Amy Bargaquast, Secretary  
Matt Moore, Treasurer  
Carol Spiegelberg, Christian Action  
Nancy Kreilick, Congregational Life  
Naomi Larkpor, Education  
Jim Heidl, Evangelism  
David Olson, Fellowship  
Matt Moore, Finance  
Warren Luce, Property  
Andy Lang, Stewardship

Council Liaisons:  
---, Worship and Music  
Jakob Iversen, Technology