



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

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

mid-summer 2020

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

Dear friends,

One of the best loved verses of the Psalms is Psalm 119:105 - *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.*

As always, we look to God and God's Word for the guidance that helps shape our days and our ways towards better ones.

We are borrowing an ancient biblical institution – the covenant – to help guide us forward through the pandemic in a way that we hope and pray will protect our neighbors and us as much as possible as we go through this pandemic.

Our Re-entry Task Force, property committee, worship committee and our church council have all contributed to our plan for returning to in-person worship and activities at St Andrew's.

A part of their wisdom is crystallized into a covenant for our re-gathering:

St Andrew's Lutheran Church of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, worships God and seeks to serve our neighbors in Jesus' name in all seasons.

Every member and guest may have different, sometimes invisible, risk factors. And every person may have a different tolerance for risky behavior. When in doubt, we choose to err on the side of love.

During this time of pandemic we seek God's guidance to help us love and defend our community from the coronavirus-19 to the best of our ability.

We hereby covenant with each other to continue in the best practices to prevent the spread of the virus even as we open our buildings for public worship, learning, community meetings, and activities. Specifically:

- **We covenant not to attend any activities on the church grounds if we are sick or awaiting COVID-19 test results or believe we have been exposed to someone who is sick.**
- **We covenant to wash/disinfect our hands immediately upon entering the church building, using the soap/disinfectant for the time it takes to pray the Lord's Prayer.**
- **We covenant not to hug or shake hands when we are with others on church grounds.**
- **We covenant to remain at least 6 feet apart from people with whom we are not sheltered-at-home.**
- **We covenant to wear face coverings to protect others in case we are sick but not showing symptoms.**

We borrowed some of the language for our covenant from another church in Wisconsin and Crossways Camping Ministries and we thank God for their faithful witness.

We will post our covenant in our entryways to help people know how we will care for each other at St Andrew's and what we expect of ourselves and the guests who use our facilities.

Meanwhile, we hope to hold our first in-person worship on Sunday, August 23 at 9:00 am either at the picnic pavilion or in our courtyard – outdoors.

On the same Sunday we would like to offer drive up communion for members who cannot attend the worship but would like to receive prayer and communion.

Most of all, we ask God to bless our endeavors that we may protect and defend our neighbors, our families and ourselves.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell



Highlights of Church Council Minutes July 14, 2020 – 7:00 PM by Zoom

Church
Council

Attending via Zoom: Amy Bargenquast, Nancy Kreilick, Warren Luce, Matt Moore, David Olson, Peg Olson, Carol Spiegelberg and Pastor Karen Jewell **Unable to Attend:** Jim Heidl, Andy Lang, Naomi Larkpor and Teri Rucinsky

Old Business

- **Status** Safer at Home council member Status
- **Treasurer's Report**

Total expenses in May including payroll of \$23,345 and total deposits of \$18,966 Members continue to send in good donations.

Balance sheet – our base checking account is 7,930, the money market is up over \$139,000 (an increase of \$4,000 over last month) and we continue to be in a good position compared to last year at this time. Internal debt \$34,600 this year compared to \$67,600 at this time last year. Current liabilities are at \$176,733. We continue to receive billings for the ADA bathroom but have been able to pay from checking account. We do plan to have the PPP loan forgiven at the end of the term and anticipate our internal debt being reduced to approximately \$10,000 at that time.

Profit and loss budget for the month – we just missed our current year budget on the income side, expenses exceeded budget due to the full payment on the quarterly insurance premium. However we are at a positive net income of \$3,300 compared to a budgeted amount of (\$743).

Profit and Loss for year to date (Jan to June) net income of \$17,426 continues to exceed prior year amount partly due to Jan and Feb receipts, but also as donations continue to be received, and expenses are reduced due to safer at home measures.

Motion passed for Approval of Treasurer's report.

New Business:

- See Pastor's letter for the update from the task force as well as the draft of the

covenant. Motion for Approval passed. This is a changing situation that we will have to be flexible as we move forward.

Pastor's Report

Confirmation – (5 students) As it is more doubtful that we will have in-person inside worship for our congregation as soon as we had hoped, I am checking with each family with a confirmand who would have been confirmed in May and offering a confirmation worship family by family either in their backyard or in the courtyard or backyard of St Andrew's with the family members offering the laying on of hands for their student. Final interviews are still to be completed.

Education – would like to suggest that Naomi, Teri, Carol and other interested folk confer about how to offer Sunday School in the autumn. They were sent the Synod invitation to a webinar with Dawn Rundman to learn about virtual resources and other suggestions from Augsburg Fortress Press. There is a virtual way to teach the confirmation curriculum.

East Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly will be held virtually on **September 25 & 26** using LUMI as the virtual platform. Sandy Last, Tom Galica and I are the voting members.

Technology Comm – we discussed obtaining a screen and projector for the sanctuary, because of the need during COVID-19 to avoid the shared use of books – our hymnals have all been removed for now from the sanctuary. Hymns and liturgy could be projected for worship.

We also discussed a Padcaster – to record, edit, and transmit recordings of worship, Sunday School and confirmation to folks who attend virtually. This could help us continue and perhaps expand the resources we can provide to our congregation. And we discussed a small portable sound system that would be helpful for small outdoor worship settings, such as graveside funerals and weddings in the backyard or in parks. It would also be great for Sunday School and other groups in our church to use for smaller gatherings. We would like to ask the council to consider using memorial funds to purchase the technology when we have specific details of costs.

Stewardship – Chris Ziegler has prepared the second quarter statements and Matt Moore is providing a commentary on our situation so far during COVID-19. These will go out in the mail shortly.

Worship – Sandy Last and I are working on properly displaying our ONE LICENSE podcast/live streaming and reprint license. All music under copyright that we use in worship is reported to them to properly compensate the copyright holders.

Members – Memorial services for Jayne Lindsay, Pearl Dawson, and Miriam Hasse were postponed until we can meet with families for worship. Private graveside services were offered for Bernie Olejniczak and Marty Auer. Velois Guenther's service has been postponed by the family until they can safely gather.

Our building during COVID – Steve Last is renovating the main office door so that it will have two parts. The top part may be opened while leaving the lower part is closed – to help manage how much traffic comes into the office proper, and any business that may be met at the door instead of coming directly in.

Vacation time – July 23 to August 6, 2020. I will update you on which pastor is available for emergencies during this time. Pastor mentioned Connie Weiss as available.

Committee Reports

Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg)

We are busy preparing meals for grab and go meals. The Oshkosh Food Pantry is helping with the meals. We still have to buy groceries but not like before. We have several people coming by vehicles than walking.

Our annual Fundraiser with pizza Ranch will be different this year. Due to Covid-19 we elected to sell pizzas. We our taking orders until this Saturday (July 18th)

We are taking orders for cheese, sausage, and pepperoni. The cost is \$10.00 and must be paid for ahead of time. So how many do you want to order?? Pickup on 22nd, possibly delivery or distribution from St Andrews.

Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick) No report, but has been coordinating with Carol to get up to speed.

Education (Teri Rucinsky/Naomi Larkpor) No Report

Evangelism (Jim Heidl) no report

Fellowship (David Olson) – Possibly looking for virtual fellowship meetings, or other creative ways for fellowship. Considering a fall auction, but might hold off at this time. When Phase 1 of Badger bounce back occurs, we can have groups of 10 or less. Possibly virtual coffee hour??

Property (Warren Luce):

THANK YOU to STEVE LAST on the amazing ADA project. He continues to update Warren Luce weekly. We will need to write up a newsletter memo to inform members of the proper usage of the ADA bathroom facility. It is meant for our elderly, disabled and mother of small children members, rather than for those capable of walking to the other bathroom. It allows for a much more user friendly and more accessible environment for those who need it. Will also request reimbursement from Capital improvements for startup sanitation products, dispensers, etc. A motion carried for \$1400 from capital improvements to the property budget to cover those costs.

Stewardship/Discipleship (Andy Lang) no report

Worship and Music (Peg Olson) No Report

President's Report (Peg Olson) No report

Please note that committee reports should be emailed ahead of time. We did struggle with interference at the June meeting, so to make sure that your reports are properly reflected, be sure to email the reports early.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at 7pm on Zoom.

Task Force & Worship Committee recommendations for re-entering building Subject to council review and approval

Building

- Covenant posted in the entryways to help people know and remember expectations
 - Sign in sheet for regular building use & attendance sheet for worship
 - to help with contact tracing if needed and to be able to let people know should there be an infection
 - Rooms named to help visitors identify where they are in the building.
 - Hand sanitation stations at entryways
 - masks to offer should someone show up without one
 - digital touchless thermometer to take visitors' temperatures if staying in building (letter carriers may be exempt from this practice)
 - reminders of physical distancing needed – pews marked or cordoned off
 - inner doors propped open to minimize contact on doors
 - bathroom doors propped open to minimize contact on doors
 - “One in – one out” to use the restrooms or any small space (e.g. closets)
 - *mark floors to indicate safe distance should there be a line?*
 - sanctuary doors propped open to minimize contact on doors
 - signage needed to remind people of necessary physical distance while in building
- T.F.** -- *decide safe traffic patterns to minimize cross traffic inside the building*

Initial building practices:

- office entrance limited to people who need to use office machines, etc.
- Otherwise guests and members will be met at the door to the office
 - to conduct any necessary business.
- no fellowship gatherings inside the building at this time
- no coffee hour following in-person worship
- use of courtyard and picnic area permitted, but maintaining physical distance, masks used if entering the building to use the restrooms, and if people need to be closer than 6 ft apart.

- suggested that Sunday School be conducted virtually with helps sent to homes
- suggested that confirmation and youth group meet via Zoom
- equip families and individuals for at home practice of faith formation

Sanctuary

Initial worship practices:

- outdoor worship in-person seems much safer for everyone
 - suggested: bring own lawn chairs
 - perhaps use reservation system to keep attendance level within guidelines
 - indoor in-person worship is not considered safe to resume
 - until we enter Phase 2 of Badger Bounce Back
 - all papers and envelopes remaining in pews will be removed
 - all HVAC turned off during the time worshippers are in sanctuary
 - hand sanitizer will be available to worshippers – placement tbd
 - intro to worship (like seat belt talk on airplane)
 - helping people know what to do and not to do
 - all worship services will be limited to approximately 30 minutes
 - to minimize potential build up and transmission of viral particles
 - initial worship services will be nonsacramental until we are more familiar with the challenges of preventing the transmission in the context of worship.
- T.F.** --*train ushers in best practices for seating and dismissing congregants*
- worshippers will be seated from front to back and dismissed from back to front
 - worshippers must leave their masks in place throughout their time in sanctuary
 - no sung music in worship, unless pre-recorded, due to transmission risk
 - no wind instruments played in worship, due to transmission risk
 - suggest we speak our responses as if in a library
 - to minimize potential spread of aerosols

- disposable bulletins will be available but must not be shared
- when possible a projector and screen will be installed to reduce use of physical bulletins
- pre-recorded music by our musicians will be welcome and shared in worship
- no communion will be consumed in the sanctuary at this time
 - due to risk of transmission from mask removal and touching our faces.
- an alternative drive-up communion practice will be offered
 - worshippers may make an appointment, meet pastor at the brick entryway in their cars (if possible) and receive the elements to consume in their cars or at least outside the building

All recommendations subject to guidance and approval of the church council.

It is further suggested that the council review any practices each month to see what needs to be changed, put in place or left out going forward.



Update on the Accessible Restroom project

“Build it; they will come.”

It’s not a baseball diamond but hopefully the remodel will be a welcoming addition to St. Andrew’s campus.

A “punch list” (a list of final details to take care of) is being addressed, the drapes are getting cleaned, a refrigerator is being purchased and the toilet is flushing! We (all the people involved with the remodeling project at St. Andrew’s) have reason to thank God and celebrate the completion of the project.

It was a very enlightening and humbling experience to work on this project and observe all the people pulling together trying to get the best possible results while still watching the budget.

From the Remodeling Committee’s diligence in looking at products, maintenance, and the future to the individual craftsmanship of each person involved, the project was completed with the best results that we could have hoped for.

Thank you all.

Submitted by Steve Last, general contractor

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. Also, if you do visit the building for any reason during this time, **we are requiring masks being worn.** Thank you for understanding.



Join us on Sundays for worship!

Worship is livestreamed on Facebook (St Andrews Oshkosh) at **9 am on Sundays and Evening Compline at 8 pm on Wednesdays.**

Where to find both worships:

- **On Facebook** – even if you are not a Facebook member: [Click here](#) if you are not a Facebook member, and are asked to sign up, you can say “no” and still advance to the video.
- **On our website** (posted later in day): [Click here](#)
- **On YouTube** (Sunday worship posted later on Sunday and Wednesday’s on Thursday morning). Go to youtube.com and search for St Andrews Lutheran Church Oshkosh.
- **Audible CD recording:** Not everyone has internet access! Audible CDs of each Sunday’s worship 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.

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.



A word from the Christian Action Committee:

Feeding Hungry Kids News

We are thrilled to be able to offer hot meals to our neighborhood children on Mondays and Thursdays July 2 – August 27, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm.



This year we will serve the kids take-away lunches outside only two days a week – continuing the pattern that the Oshkosh Area School District established during the school year during the shutdown.



A way you can help:

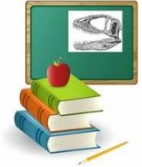
Feeding Hungry Kids Wish List

- Gift Cards -- Piggly Wiggly, Kwik Trip
- Cereal -- Cheerios, Rice Krispies, Fruity Pebbles, Fruit Loops
- Brownie mix
- Marshmallows
- Peanut Butter (Plain Only)
- jelly - grape and Strawberry
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned Fruit
- Package Cookies (6-8 Packs)
- Jello cups
- Pudding Cups
- Rice Krispie Bars
- Taco shells (soft)
- Macaroni
- Spaghetti O's
- Ravioli
- Dressings (Ranch, French)
- Small bottles of water
- Capri Sun (ten pack)
- Lunch bags
- garbage bags (30 gal.)

Donations may be brought to church on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings between 8 am and 12 noon. If these times are not convenient, please call the office (920-235-6616) and we will arrange a time that is good for you.

Oshkosh Back to School Fair 2020

The [Back to School Fair](#) takes place on **August 13, 2020** at Oshkosh North High School. A curbside pickup will be held in lieu of the fair itself due to current events and social distancing. This year in lieu of clothing, gift cards in the amount of \$25 each are being requested so that families can make their child's clothing purchases.



You can help by donating a check of ANY AMOUNT or a department store gift card. Checks can be made out to Community Back to School Fair. Checks and gift cards can be enclosed in an envelope and mailed to: Boys & Girls Club (Attention Back to School Fair) 501 E Parkway Ave. Oshkosh, WI 54901. Call Teri Horner (920) 966-1200 for additional information.

Food Pantry Update:



The [Oshkosh Area Community Pantry](#) IS NO LONGER accepting egg cartons. Thank you for saving them in the past.

The pantry still **does accept food donations**. You may still continue to bring food items to church – Mondays or Fridays between 8 am and 12 noon is best (or call to arrange a convenient time). We thank you in advance for graciously considering this mission.

From our Fellowship Committee:



We are going to have a wonderful auction to help raise monies for St. Andrew's benevolences and other worthy causes later in the fall.

Save those valuable items that have a little dust on them!! Imagine the things you no longer need but may bring joy to someone else!



If you have time, a service, or something else that you would like to auction - we need it!!

Details will be forthcoming. Contact Dave Olson after we have set the date and time.

Watch for the dates! Start

thinking about how you can contribute! Thank you in advance!

Your suggestions are welcome. Help us thank God for our saints! Thank you!

We are so grateful to all who continue their financial support of St. Andrew's either through their bank's bill pay system, our on-line donations accessed through the website, or by mailing a check to St. Andrew's. You may also use the QR code.



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

A special idea!



We are in a time when we are unable to meet to lift up with praise and thanksgiving the stories of our loved ones who have now entered fully into Christ's kingdom of heaven.

We pause to remember Jayne Lindsay, Pearl Dawson, Miriam Hasse, Velois Guenther, Bernie Olejniczak, Marty Auer, and our extended family members.

If you would like to help with an alternative memorial - please write down your special memories of these saints, or favorite photos of them, and give them to our office. We will gather everything up to celebrate on All Saints' Sunday (November 1 this year) and share these memories and stories with their loved ones.

If writing isn't your comfortable method for sharing, perhaps we could hold a Zoom gathering and record the stories we share so that they can be shared with our saints' loved ones.

Committee Meetings



All members welcome! All meetings are being held via Zoom. If you would like to bring your ideas or questions to a committee or council meeting, please contact the office 920-235-6616 so that we can connect you technologically.

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, Aug. 10 at 4 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 11, at 7 pm

Technology Committee

Thursday, Aug. 10 at 4 pm



"A couple of times a day Mom likes us to have silent prayer and meditation ... not to mention peace and quiet."