



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

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

September 2020

Sunday Worship at 9:00 on Facebook & 10:30 am at picnic shelter (weather permitting)

Dear friends,

Remember the expression *same old, same old*, that meant there was nothing new under the sun and things seem a bit boring right now? Did you ever think how much we would long for same old, same old things? No, me either!

During this challenging time, we are in the midst of grief from losses and changes – almost a homesickness for what we were used to doing.

Although being in grief doesn't mean that we stop living, it does mean that we need to make room for what the bible would call "lament" both in ourselves and with each other.

Right now, I frequently kick myself for mistakes I thought I could have avoided. The fatigue, the distractions, the longing for certainty about things that are good, all factor into my performance of the most routine stuff of work and life.

Kicking ourselves doesn't help much, but taking time to name what is bothering our hearts may set us free to forgive, to find comfort, and to renew the energy to tackle what is challenging us.

Do you take time each day for yourself? Do you take time for a prayer, a word from the bible, a time with the God who loves you? How about writing a request for God's help or praying a psalm to express your deep longing for renewed life and freedom.

This psalm is a classic lament – and we can easily fill in the blank of who is the enemy by picturing that nasty, vicious little virus that has brought on so much trouble and fear: COVID-19.

### Psalm 13

<sup>1</sup>How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

<sup>2</sup>How long must I bear pain in my soul,  
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

<sup>3</sup>Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!

Give light to my eyes,

or I will sleep the sleep of death,

<sup>4</sup>and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";  
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

<sup>5</sup>But I trusted in your steadfast love;  
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

<sup>6</sup>I will sing to the LORD,  
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

One of the best things about a lament psalm is the ending; almost always a lament psalm ends with a recalling of the good that God has done in the past so that we have hope in the present about what God will bring us to again – life, freedom, well-being, peace.

So many of my previous columns for this newsletter in September have been about school and all the wonderful feelings I associate with a new school year.

I think this one will be good too, but so different. It will be good in the ways that God makes things good. God draws blessings out of the strangest things! We can expect blessings and we will be travelling with a God who loves us through it all.

This year we have talked with our education folks and determined it would be best for our families to have time to adjust to whatever this school year brings through school before we launch our Sunday School, Confirmation and other endeavors.

We will work into the autumn with gentleness for all those who are grieving the differences right now and with confidence in the love of God to bring us to new things that are good.

And I hold you in my heart. And I thank you. Your faithfulness brings the love of God and God's blessings of life so needed by our community. May God bless and comfort you always!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karen Jewell



Highlights of Council Meeting  
August 11, 2020

Church  
Council

**Attending via zoom:** Nancy Kreilick,  
Naomi Larkpor, Matt Moore, Peg  
Olson, Teri Rucinsky, Carol

Spiegelberg, Pr Karen Jewell

**Unable to attend:** Amy Bargaquast, Jim Heidl,  
Andy Lang, Warren Luce, Dave Olson

**Treasurer's report**

**Profit and Loss Budget Performance:**

Total operational income of \$10,516.22 in  
July

Total expense of \$11,773.14 in July

Negative net income of \$1,256.92

Typical summer month position for us

**Profit and Loss Previous Year Comparison:**

Operationally we are up \$12,000.00 year to  
date compared to last year.

Up \$15,592.59 for this year at this time.

Last year at this time we were down  
\$8,000.00.

So our report of a negative \$1200.00 is not  
concerning but something to be aware of.

**Balance Sheet Previous Year Comparison:**

A couple of key things here: our money  
market as of July 31<sup>st</sup> is \$135,000.00

And we are now seeing expenses coming in  
on the ADA bathroom

Up until the end of July beginning of August  
we have been able to use existing operational funds  
to pay for that

Now we have had to dip into our money  
market – in July we took \$5,000.00 out of the  
money market and in August thus far, had to take  
\$15,000.00. At lot of those are expenses related to  
the ADA bathroom, but it is withdrawals we were  
forced to take.

Current liabilities – we did get a letter from  
UWO requesting confirmation that we are going to  
give our donation this year. That is approved by us  
and we will send out check by some time in  
September.

Special Renovation fund (ADA restroom  
project) - \$24,497.02. At Monday's Worship and  
Tech Comm mtg, Steve Last indicated that the  
project may come in about \$3,000.00 under budget.  
We have paid out \$20,900.00 so far. Expecting

about another \$17,000.00 to come through for bills  
for the project.

**Bill to be paid:**

Expenses organized by committee

\$21,841.15 Expenses

\$ 7,708.39 Payroll

\$29,549.54 Total expenses for the month

\$11,747.88 income – therefore needed to

take \$15,000.00 from money market

Our giving has been pretty consistent on the Vanco  
(electronic) side, so not concerned. A lot of these  
expenses are associated with the ADA Bathroom  
project, and that's what the funds are for sitting in  
that account (Special Renovation Fund).

Motion made and passed to approve the report and  
the bills to be paid.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

**Planning for re-opening – discussion**

Our offerings are not the same when we don't have  
in-person worship, a bit challenging! On the other  
hand, we don't want to be stampeded into opening  
in such a way that puts our members at risk. How  
do you feel about the time frame. Today I watched  
a webinar – COVID-19 Science for Churches. Only  
takes 15 minutes to get the maximum dose of viral  
particles, and most of our worship services are at  
least 30 minutes, so being inside together is a risk –  
may want to think about timing – do we want to  
start in September? Watch the situation of schools  
in September – maybe poll our members before  
starting in-person worship inside. Is it safe and  
advisable? Many churches postponing it for more  
months, others are already conducting in-person,  
inside worship.

Q: How long can we think about doing the outdoor  
worship? Though September?

A: If terrible weather (inclement) then cancelled,  
but we can't just move it indoors. But we could  
think about doing it as long as we can.

First outdoor worship on August 23. Maybe, Bless  
the Pets on the 30<sup>th</sup>?

Should we announce to the congregation that we  
will offer outdoor worship as long as weather  
holds? Consensus – Yes.

Continue to do virtual worship at 9 am (Facebook)  
10:30 am would be the outdoor worship.

Would this work? Try it for the time being.

How many can attend? As long as people can physically distance and wear masks, bring own lawn chairs if possible – set up sound system under overhang of pavilion. Family groups can be together but six feet apart from other families or individuals.

Usher to help people be 6 feet apart, no passing of the plate. Can still do a bulletin as long as it is not shared – so it doesn't become a source of transmission. Not handling each other's bulletins, communion or offering plate.

Can't sing – it is not recommended at all. Recorded music is OK, but not congregational singing.

Ushers could wear gloves to handout the bulletins or lay them on chairs. Offering tray fixed but not passed. Anyone who does the counting should wear gloves. Can't have counters in the counting room – have to find a safe way to process this.

Church would not be open for gathering or passing through. Difficult because it flies in the face of all our hospitality. Everyone needs to understand if the weather is inclement, the worship is cancelled – can't be moved inside.

Link for the COVID Science for Churches as soon as available – will be sent to the council, the Task Force and the Worship Committee.

Q: Begin inside Sept 17?

A: We need to see how it goes with schools resuming in-person.

Covenant of care for others on the first page of bulletins, and in the welcoming at start of service.

Offering communion as departing – and also for drive up communion in parking lot.

(Home visits also available with pastor on front porch or yard to maintain safe distance.)

Drive up communion designated for specific time.

Have a flier or poster to help people know?

Q how to notify everybody – in the NET a week ahead, and we could call or send postcard to those who do not receive the NET. (Encourage people to people contacts!)

**Comprehensive Check in with members by phone**

**Dedication of our renovations (Virtual)** – video walk through, and then have our prayers of dedication – like a house blessing.

**Cooperative Ministry Planning for worship, education, fellowship**

Worship and technology mtg yesterday - trying to make sure we have the technology to support the mission goals for worship, education and

fellowship. Get these committees together – to invite people to work together on this.

Synod Education video webinar – with Dawn Rundman and Pastor Dara Clifford – get links to Carol Sp from Synod newsletter. Involve the youth in the dev of videos, leading, etc.

Podcaster – I-pad recording for worship and for education videos, perhaps use memorial funds to purchase this kind of technology. Record, edit and send out – all in one.

Ask for a Task Force to recommend the best resources to support our goals.

**Pastor's report to council**

**Education** – synod webinar with Dawn Rundman of 1517 Media. It is available on-line for those who could not attend. It is highly recommended that we offer a video component and a hands-on component (faith kits) for our children and youth.

(e.g. Advent in a box <https://buildfaith.org/advent-in-a-box/>). And make sure all the children in Sunday School have the same bibles – SPARK last year – so that we can coordinate our lessons.

Patty Koplitz has created a draft video Sunday School lesson with greeting, bible story, discussion of story, and craft project, Lord's Prayer, and concluding prayer. We would like to confer with Naomi L, Teri R, and Carol Sp to work out the topics to cover and the timing for our materials and videos.

**Re-entry Task Force** – new materials to help guide us have just been released by the Wisconsin Council of Churches: one printed and the other a webinar offered today “COVID Science for Churches” (that should be available to view in a couple of days) – I will send the links to the Council and the Re-entry Taskforce members ASAP.

**Would like to do a phone survey of the church membership:**

--How are you doing?

--Is there anything you would like us to pray for?

--Are you able to access worship through Facebook, You Tube, or CDs?

--Do you know that we are offering communion in special settings – to minimize risk but to maximize accessibility to communion and prayers? Call Pastor Karen to arrange....

--other ways we may be able to help or provide support....?

--get out info for the worships to come?

**Worship Comm and Technology Comm** – looked at technology that would support our goals for worship, and would like to create a task force of members who would look into technology items in depth.

**Synod Assembly is now a virtual assembly on Saturday, September 26.** We are in the process of signing up and will be receiving more information later this month. Tom Galica, Sandy Last and I will be voting members. \$75.00 per voting member for registration.

### Committee Reports

**Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg)** – feeding and serving 50-55 kids every day they serve. Some new people coming through – have the “drive through” flow really figured out. Red cart with special additional foods they can pick out for themselves.

Several neighbors who give produce out of their gardens, and gifts from neighbors to donate towards the last day (Aug 27) when giving out backpacks with school supplies. Just fantastic support from neighbors in the neighborhood. The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry has given us so much.

Not going to have the Chili Cookoff in September for God’s Work Our Hands – but go to the OAC Pantry to help load and clean shelves and organize the food. **Friday, September 11 from 9 am to noon** – since we can’t all be together in the Fellowship Hall this year.

We have a new freezer – paid for but not delivered yet – coming early September. Locked freezer – safe around kids. 14 cu ft freezer

### **Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick)**

Patty Koplitz is excited about the on-line Synod webinar meeting and created a ten-minute video projected for school age Sunday Schoolers – subject of Grace. She will make other videos for the High Schoolers in YMT. YMT group during confirmation meeting time – fellowship and mutual support. (Initially it will be virtual). Whatever we do, we be prepared to do virtually, in-person, or a blend, depending on the prevailing conditions with COVID-19. Create materials and programming that are flexible.

Webinar recommended: Emphasize relationship over all else – with each other and with God. Whatever we create we should foster growing in relationship with God, with each other and with trusted adults in the congregation.

**Education (Naomi Larkpor)** Talked with Patty about video, also picked the curriculum and recruiting teachers SPARK Digital curriculum for our children this year.

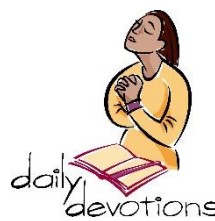
No Reports (council members unable to be present tonight)	
Evangelism	Jim Heidl
Fellowship	David Olson
Property	Warren Luce
Stewardship/Discipleship	Andy Lang

**Worship (Peg Olson)** Helpful meeting yesterday with the technology group – we have already covered most of what we talked about. We haven’t spent as much money as we did last year!

### **Announcements:**

Literacy group is completing their summer term this week – they loved our location for the class and felt welcomed. Future plans? Bound by Library and School System decisions.

**Next meeting September 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm on Zoom.**



### **Word in Season Devotional booklets**

The October, November, December issue of Word in Season devotional booklets are now available. We also have large print editions if you would prefer that. Please let us know if you would like a copy (920-235-6616). We will make sure you receive one. Carry out, Curbside and Delivery available!

We still have Word in Season booklets for September in the church office as well. If you would like one, let us know.



## Worship opportunities at St. Andrew's have changed!

We hope to "see" you

### Sundays

9 am – Facebook Live

10:30 am – Outdoor Worship with Holy Communion

(weather permitting)

### Wednesdays

8 pm – Evening Compline on Facebook Live

We continue to offer online Facebook worship (St Andrews Oshkosh) at 9 am on Sundays and Evening Compline at 8 pm on Wednesdays. We also will be offering **in-person outdoor worship (weather permitting) at 10:30 am on Sundays**. Outdoor worship is held by the picnic pavilion behind our church building.



#### If attending outdoor worship:

Please park on Hazel St. or Oak St for the most direct access to the picnic pavilion.

If possible, please bring your own lawn chair and remember to keep six feet or

more of physical distance from those who are not sheltering in your same household. There will be folding chairs available, too. Please wear your mask. Maintain a safe distance from others and please don't hug or shake hands. This is how we love one another!

#### Where to find online worships:

- **On Facebook** – even if you are not a Facebook member: (St Andrews Oshkosh) [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): (standrewsoshkosh.org) [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.

Worship  
with us  
from  
HOME

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 that masks be worn, physical distance maintained and good handwashing practices be used.**

Thank you for understanding.



### Update on the

### Accessible Restroom project

Our new ADA Restroom project is completed! Thank you for your generous gifts that enabled us to create the accessible restroom near the sanctuary. You worked together to provide the best hospitality for all who worship here. Thank you so much.



A word from  
the Christian  
Action  
Committee:



From our  
Fellowship  
Committee:



We are planning an auction to help raise monies for St. Andrew's benevolences and other worthy causes.



### Feeding Hungry Kids

We have finished Feeding Hungry Kids. **This summer we fed 631 kids and their parents.** We ran the program a little differently this year due to Covid-19. We served only two days a week, on Mondays and Thursdays. We still cooked the meals but served them outside. We had the help of the Oshkosh Food Pantry who helped us with canned goods and fresh produce, which we gave to the families.

I want to thank all who helped with food, gift cards, monetary gifts and school supplies. Most of all – thanks to the devoted ladies who helped cook and serve the meals.



Submitted by Carol Spiegelberg



### Auction

As soon as it makes sense we are going to have the auction - perhaps later this fall, if everything settles down!

We are asking for items for the auction. 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 for more information.

Thank you in advance!



**God's work.  
Our hands.**

**Sept. 13, 2020**

St. Andrew's will not have the annual chili cook-off this year, but we WILL be doing a service project.

On **Friday Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM – 12 PM** we will be **helping the Oshkosh Food Pantry** clean and stock some shelves. The pantry is not open to the public on Friday so person-to-person contact will be limited. If you would like to volunteer, call Carol at (290) 420-7832, or the church office (920) 235-6616 no later than Tuesday Sept. 8.



### Confirmation News

We are looking forward to classes beginning on Wednesday, October 7 for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students. Given the challenges of COVID-19, we would like our families to have time to establish the new routines for school before embarking on our confirmation studies. Initially we will offer on-line or recorded lessons with workbooks and other resources to use at home. And we thank God for parents and sponsors who support their youth in deepening their faith.

Thank you!

## Sunday School Registration begins

Registration forms are available on-line or by mail. If you need one mailed to you, please phone the church office at (920) 235-6616.

We plan to begin offering Sunday School classes on-line or on videos in your home in October. If you would register now we can make sure you have Story bibles and other supplies! Thank you for your faithfulness in supporting the children God entrusts to you!



### Submitted by Patty Koplitz, Youth Director

For more information on any of the following events, please contact Patty Koplitz at 920-420-5616 or [PKoplitz@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:PKoplitz@standrewsoshkosh.org).

## Sunday School begins Oct 4!

Sunday School will begin in October on-line (and with recorded videos available too) for our children 3 years old through fifth grade. We will also provide take home kits to use in your home to help your child know the love of God in Jesus Christ. We will be sharing the wonderful stories of faith in the bible as well as teaching prayer and learning fun songs. We love children at St Andrew's and look forward to sharing the faith with your family.



Sunday School

## Calendars

If you have extra 2021 calendars, would you consider donating them to the Oshkosh Correctional Institution for the inmates? We will be collecting until the end of January. Thank you for considering this mission!



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!

## YMT (Youth Ministry Team)

Can you believe fall is almost here and school is starting? This has been such a strange few months, but I want to let you know what we will have available for your high school child and/or young adult.

We will start online meetings on Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup>. I am not 100% sure of the platform at this time, but feel free to contact me to ask for information! And please let me know if your child or you are interested in joining us!

I will also be doing a series of videos. They will be aimed at high school and young adults. But they will certainly be family friendly. The videos will be on some of the spiritual disciplines that we can use to help us in our faith lives. There will be a variety of practices talked about.

Every two weeks I will explore a new discipline. The first week will be about prayer. They will be available on our Facebook page as well as on our YouTube channel.

For more questions, please feel free to reach out to me at [pattykoplitz@gmail.com](mailto:pattykoplitz@gmail.com) or call me at 920-420-5616.

## BYG (Beginning Youth Group) PLUS!

We are going to try an in-person, safely distanced gathering for our children and youth (this event welcomes kids from second grade through high school) at our picnic shelter. We will wear our masks, we will have a metal fire pit and the makings of s'mores, with carefully spaced out picnic tables so that our kids can meet and talk safely and have fun!

Please plan on this gathering from **2 to 4:00 pm on Saturday, September 19** at the picnic shelter, weather permitting.