



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

Welcome to worship and life at St. Andrew's!  
Sunday Worship at 9:00 on Facebook, 10:30 am in the parking lot

October 2020  
Harvest Blessings!

Dear friends,

Yesterday, the pup and I were walking in our neighborhood and came upon a tree with very interesting bark.



It looks as if the smooth bark of the maple sapling had split from top to bottom - over and over - all around the tree to allow the tree to grow in width as well as in height. It made me wonder if the growth of this tree had happened very fast!

I have no idea if this is good or bad for that tree - perhaps it always grows like this - but it struck me that what we are going through right now is also forcing growth that divides and changes us in striking ways.

Right now, I think we feel like that tree looks - split by sudden change in our individual lives, and as a church, and as a society! And for us, the gaps ache.

The church itself was already in a time of profound change even before the pandemic of COVID-19 but the pandemic brought on even more changes that have tested us all right down to our roots.

The tragedies of COVID-19 and all its effects on our daily life not only added to our challenges, but the impact of the hurt and strain has fallen unevenly - much worse on the people who are poor or in groups disadvantaged by being in the minority.

The disadvantages have become unbearable and again we have been split - over and over again - as tragic events (such as what happened to George Floyd) call into question our basic systems of justice that we hoped would be dependable and righteous.

What do we do to get through this time? Not merely to survive, but to dwell faithfully and peaceably together?

One of our church leaders, Robin Steinke, the president of Luther Seminary, refers us to Jeremiah 29:4-7. I quote here verse 7: ***But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.***

Right now, it feels as if we were in exile just as God's people were in Jeremiah's day.

Although most of us still live in the same places we did six months ago, everything in our lives has changed - suddenly we are unable to go to school, to work, to the store, or to church in the usual (comfortable) ways.

Our elders are confined to their living spaces as we try to protect them from COVID-19. We long to shake hands with friends, hug and kiss our loved ones, but we fear a deadly consequence. We are cut off from each other.

And it is as if we have been banished from the world we knew and now live in one that is so very strange.

During the exile, God's people were forced to leave all that they had known and they didn't know what to do. God's word to them was to pray for the new place where they found themselves - seek its welfare even though it was the place where enemies had dragged them!

God's promise just a few verses later in Jeremiah 29:11 is a favorite one: ***For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.***

Trusting in God's promise, can we pray for the place and time in which we find ourselves?

Can we pray for those we don't yet understand but whom we are called by God to cherish and care for - to love all our neighbors as ourselves? Can we grow to walk alongside those who have been left out and hurt by systems that are broken and need to be changed?

Robin Steinke commented: ***Perhaps God is calling us to prayerfully seek the welfare of others in the midst of distress.*** Perhaps God is calling us to grow!

I believe that the health at the core of our life together is the unstoppable love of God and that our God promises to give us a future with hope.

In the strength of that, as his church, as his faithful people, let's grow our aching hearts to be a part of God's mission - by prayer and action to invite all people and all creation into a future with hope. May God bless you!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Karen Jewell



## Highlights of Church Council Minutes September 8, 2020 – 7:00 PM by Zoom

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

### **Treasurer's Report** Matt Moore addressed the reports

Total expenditures in August including payroll of \$27,204 (correcting 1 error for a \$53.77 check that should be \$70.00 for property) and total deposits of \$19,140.

**Balance sheet** – our base checking account is 21,663, the money market is \$100,225 (a reduction of \$34,999 since last month) but we are still in a good position. Current liabilities are \$150,111. Currently we are at a \$50,000 swing between the current liabilities and current assets. Projecting a close to break even by year end. The ADA project billings should be all completed by the end of October. There is about \$8,800 left in the special renovation fund. We have cut a check for \$1,000 to start to clear out the World Hunger Appeal account and a check was cut for ELCA Disaster fund to have that cleared by the end of December. 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 took in \$16,606 this month, compared to \$139,022 for the year. The Synod benevolence will be reported in September as the check was cut 9/2/20. The Net income for the month of August was \$3,207, increasing our year to date net income to \$18,800, as compared to a budgeted loss year to date of (5,992). We are doing very well compared to budget.

**Profit and Loss for year to date** (Jan to August) we are up \$18,800 in our giving compared to the prior year at this time. Committee expenses are down \$3,600, operations expense is down \$1,500 despite a slight insurance increase. Year to date net income of \$18,800 is a significant swing from the prior year to date loss of (\$13,023)!!!!

Giving has been very consistent, as church is starting up we hope for good things for the last quarter of the year. Motion carried for approval of Treasurer's report.

### **Old Business**

- **Review Outdoor Summer Service:** There have been 3 outdoor in-person worship services in the picnic pavilion with between 11-29 people attending and including communion, followed by drive up communion with between 11-21 people. Online worship seems to have a lot larger attendance. We are keeping the in-person services simple with no singing per guidelines of the worship comm and task force. Both online and outdoor services are approximately 30 minutes long.
- **Planning for re-opening:** Considering a parking lot service for people to have the warmth of their cars, but the safety of the outdoors. For pedestrian participants, they can receive shelter in the entrance ways. We may be looking for an AM/FM receiver to project the sermon to the car radios.
- **Virtual Dedication of our renovation:** Teri Rucinsky will make a video of the dedication of the renovations in the next week, after all the pictures have been hung in the Lounge. The dedication is planned to be available either on Facebook, You Tube, and on DVD.
- **Comprehensive check-in with members by phone:** Looking for Volunteers to assist in reaching out to members. There is concern with the long winter ahead to make sure that people are staying connected. Possibly looking to establish small group "cottages" for prayers and connection amongst our members. Peg Olson volunteered to make some calls, and it was suggested to try to get the youth group involved as well.

### **New Business:**

- **Technology needs for worship:**
  - Am/FM Receiver – Matt Moore looking into cost/implementation.
  - Zoom Subscription – We currently have 1 used for committees. Looking to add 1 additional zoom subscription for Sunday School/youth Group/Confirmation, etc. at a cost of \$150/year – motion carried to approve expenditure.
- **Luther Hero Tree:** The Luther tree in the backyard did not make it, and we are looking to replace this tree. Peg Olson has offered to use her gift to help in paying for the new tree. Chris Ziegler mentioned

calling it the Luther Hero Tree to honor our great heroes that we are celebrating now and grateful for. Motion carried to approve the gift of the Tree.

- **Storage Policy for new kitchenette area:** Looking for a policy to manage supplies for internal mission (Sunday school, etc.) versus external missions (AA, Girl Scouts, etc.) to keep space tidy but allow for access to items needed. Warren will be holding a daytime property meeting to address this and create a policy as well as a signup protocol for use of the Kitchenette area, the primary use will be for funerals and weddings. The main guideline will be to leave the area as you find it, meaning that all areas should be tidied up after each use. In addition, looking to have the space be used for “common use” items versus individual committee items.

### **Pastor’s Report**

**Confirmation** – On Sunday, Sept 6, Nora Stephan was confirmed outdoors at the pavilion, with family members present. Planning on completing the confirmation for 4 other Confirmands. Motion carried to approve Nora as a Confirmed member of our congregation. CONGRATULATIONS TO NORA STEPHAN and Welcome!

**Education** – Christian Education Zoom call on 8/31 with leaders from around the synod. We are and starting Sunday School and Confirmation in October to let the families adjust to the beginning of school and new challenges to their schedule and lifestyle! It also lets us create both virtual and physical materials for our students.

**East Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly** will be held virtually on Saturday, **September 26** using LUMI with Zoom as the virtual platform. Sandy Last, Tom Galica and Pastor Karen are the voting members. This is a Bishop Election year. Current Synod benevolence is behind, they are reaching out for ideas/assistance to move them forward, including reaching out to our members to ask for their assistance directly to the Synod, or to notify members to identify their benevolence specific gifts. St Andrews will wait to see how their budget year ends up before committing to any additional Synod benevolence.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg)**

Feeding of the Hungry Kids ran from July 3<sup>rd</sup> through August 27<sup>th</sup>. 2 meals were served each week for a total of 651 meals. On August 27<sup>th</sup> backpacks were handed out with school supplies, along with extra bags of food. We are so fortunate to be able to provide these meals. Freezer arriving on Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup> and will be placed as storage issues are resolved for the mechanical room and janitorial supplies are moved. Friday September 11<sup>th</sup>, a group will be going to the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry to stock shelves as a thank you for their assistance in our Feeding of the Hungry Kids and as our God’s Work Our Hands mission activity.

**Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick)** S’mores cookout at picnic pavilion on Saturday September 19, 2020. 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – high school are welcome to come. We will maintain safe distance and yet be able to see each other and have fun!

**Education (Teri Rucinsky/Naomi Larkpor)** Video lessons will begin in October, registration to be coming out soon.

**Evangelism (Jim Heidl)** no report

**Fellowship (David Olson)** – Still considering an auction (possibly online) before year end to add to our Synod benevolence giving. He is asking to begin considering items for donation to the auction. Looking for ideas for virtual fellowship. Send ideas to Dave for the upcoming months.

**Property (Warren Luce):** Will need to explain usage/priority of ADA bathroom is for those in need of ADA facilities. Received a grant of \$13,500 for ADA, which brought the total of the special fund to \$47,897. The original budget was approximately \$40,000. Materials and labor are now coming in at \$37,000. We appear to have some excess funds that may need to be returned. However, there are some additional improvements that could be done which can apply some of these excess funds to protect the renovation. We will need to complete the report to the disability ministry to get clarity on usage of any remaining balances. Overall very pleased with the project progression and how it has turned out. Daytime Property meeting to be held on 9/17/20 at 1pm.

**Stewardship/Discipleship (Andy Lang)** no report

**Technology Committee:** possibly a new tablet to be purchased, but will address at Technology committee meeting.

**Worship and Music (Peg Olson):** Only \$5 spent in August, however will be purchasing gluten free communion kits.

**President’s Report (Peg Olson)** Peg to chair Nomination committee. Other members include Jim Heidl, Teri Rucinsky, Darlene Bruce, Patty Koplitz, and Greg Egner. Peg will start calling people to establish a meeting time. Please consider people that you think might be interested in council. Matt did complete the UWO Scholarship form, but giving the office a heads up in case UWO calls for clarification on the form completion.

*A complete set of minutes is available on the narthex bulletin board.*

## 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 in the parking lot! You will be able to hear church worship on your car radio.

### Wednesdays

8:00 pm – **Compline Night Prayer continues** on Facebook. As Wednesday night programs begin, we may move Compline a little later in the evening or pre-record the service for you. Please stay tuned!



### If you wish to attend parking lot worship at 10:30 am:

We are just starting our parking lot worship on October 4! We will be transmitting the sound via

radio – the signal only reaches about a mile so this one won't be available to most members unless you come to worship in the parking lot. Please remember to stay in your car. If you are walking to church we will have safely distanced seating inside our glassed in entryways, with a small radio to provide you with sound! Communion will be served as you are departing. Please join us!



### 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.

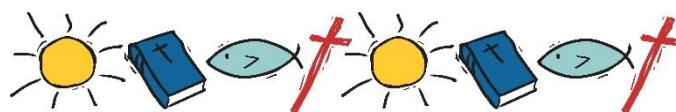


**CDs and DVDs are also available** of Sunday worship. Please contact the office if you would like one!  
(920-235-6616)

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.



### Anne Edison-Albright elected bishop of the ELCA East Central Synod of Wisconsin

The Rev. Anne Edison-Albright of Decorah, Iowa, was elected Sept. 26 to serve a six-year term as bishop of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The election took place during an online synod assembly. Edison-Albright was elected on the fifth ballot, with 151 votes. The Rev. Jim Honig, pastor of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church in Ellison Bay, Wis., received 133 votes.

The bishop-elect has served as director of College Ministries and as college pastor at Luther College in Decorah since 2016. Edison-Albright served as pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Stevens Point, Wis., from 2010 to 2016. She has also served as a hospital chaplain, a pastoral intern at the international congregation in Bratislava, Slovakia, and a summer missionary/English teacher in Chuzhou, China. Prior to rostered ministry, Edison-Albright was a high school English and English as a second language teacher. Edison-Albright received a B.A. in English and journalism from Michigan State University in 2003 and a M.Div. from Yale Divinity School in 2008. Edison-Albright's installation is scheduled for **January 9, 2021**. The Rev. Gerald Mansholt has served as bishop of the East Central Synod of Wisconsin since 2014.

Information about the East Central Synod of Wisconsin is available at <https://ecsw.org/>.

## 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!

## Letters of Memory

During this time of Safer at Home, we have had beloved members pass away. They and several other beloved saints will be remembered at our All Saints worship — Tom Coates, George Jones, Frank Schicker, Al Schnyder, Amy Egner, Jayne Lindsay, Pearl Dawson, Miriam Hasse, Velois Guenther, Marty Auer, Bernie Olejniczak, Frederick Kundert, and Armene Hafemeister. For some of these friends we haven't been able to properly gather to celebrate their lives due to the pandemic, and in every case, we would like to honor the memory of these souls on All Saints' Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020.

We are asking for notes of memories and stories about these folks, 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, or call in your memory, to submit it to the office by **October 15**. We will make sure that your memories get to the families.



## — STAYING — CONNECTED

### Needed - Pen pals, and phone pals

As this pandemic continues through the colder seasons, more people will be feeling cooped up and potentially very isolated. Our elders at Miravida Living and in other facilities and others at home could really use a phone call, a card, and some regular conversations. Is that something you would like to do? We can help you get connected with a brother or sister in Christ! If interested, would you please contact Pastor Karen Jewell? (920) 235-6616. Thank you!

### A few words from the Christian Action Committee:



### Can you help?

This last summer the Oshkosh Food pantry helped us with our Feeding Hungry Kids program. They now are in need of certain items to help feed the community.



We are asking for donations of the following items: **breakfast cereal, canned vegetables, pancake mixes, SpaghettiOs's and ravioli**. You may bring your items to the church (Monday or Friday mornings, 8 am-12 noon, or call to arrange a convenient time. You may also bring your items along to outdoor worship and/or drive-up communion) We will have a cart to receive your donations under the brick awning by the entrance to the fellowship area. Thank you!

### Thank you!

The ELCA's God's work Our hands Sunday was Sept. 13. 12 volunteers helped at the Oshkosh Food Pantry clean and stock some shelves on Friday, Sept. 11. Thanks to these folks for representing St. Andrew's in such a meaningful way! You are the best!



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



*Sounds  
of the  
Season*

### **Calling all singers and instrumentalists!**

Would you help provide Christmas music for our Christmas celebrations? If you enjoy singing or playing your instrument, we can use your help!

We need to record music ahead of time to be able to support our on-line and other special worship services, and we ask you to let us know now in October that you are interested in helping. We will be recording in November for our Christmas worship services. Please call the office (920) 235-6616 to volunteer or speak with Pastor Karen if you have any questions. Thank you so much. We are looking forward to a beautiful Christmas celebration.



### **Choir Schedule for Fall**

Choir will begin having Zoom meetings and rehearsals on Wed. October 7 at 7:30 pm. All can attend, as Zoom has the option of calling

in on your phone if you do not have access to the app/ internet. Our first meeting will include discussions on using zoom for rehearsals, recording songs and videos, ideas on how we want to move forward as a choir, and what may happen once we can worship together again. All are encouraged to attend.

New members or curious folks are welcome to check us out.

Please contact me or the church office if you will need the zoom code so that you can attend by phone. If you have email, please email me for the code.

Brenda Francis  
920 267 2383



### **Confirmation News**

We are looking forward to offering **orientation on Wednesday, October 7 at 6pm** for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students, via ZOOM. **To do this we need your email address to send the invitation or your phone number to give you the number to call in.**

**PLEASE, if you have a sixth grader beginning with us** – we need your contact information so that we can get information about confirmation, as well as **your student's new study bible**, and other materials to you and your student. Given the challenges of COVID-19, we hope our families have had 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**

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!

**Sunday School begins Oct 11!**

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**  
**Christmas!**

We hope to create a beautiful Sunday School led Christmas worship again this year. Sunday, December 20 is our goal. We hope to record on video each of our students in their costumes and offering their part of the Christmas story. More news coming soon!



Fall is a beautiful time at camp! Come and enjoy a Fall Color Hike at Waypost on October 3rd, plan a trip to see progress at the lodge at Imago Dei Village, or find your way to a Fall Color Hike at Pine Lake Camp on October 10th. Consider joining in the 20 Hours Outside challenge, or share your time with camp by volunteering to rake or serve. Don't let Fall pass without making a stop at your favorite camp to see the seasons change. Coordinate your visit with the site director or register for one of our events at [CrosswaysCamps.org](http://CrosswaysCamps.org).



**Talk, Walk, and Chalk!**

We are invited by Emmeline Cook Elementary school to take part in TALK, WALK, and CHALK Hosted by [Dr. Eric's Skate Club](#) on **Wednesday, October 7.** National

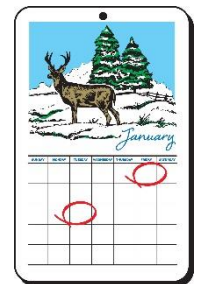
Walk to School Day is always a big event for E. Cook, but things will look a little different this year.

Here's How:

- First, listen to your teachers **talk**. Attend and participate in all of your normal online instruction!
- Then, after you finish school for the day, or when you have a break before specials, safely take a **walk** to E. Cook with your family or friends!
- Once there, use some **chalk**! At E. Cook, we'll have individually wrapped sidewalk chalk waiting for you (or you can bring your own). Please take a moment to write or draw a positive message to our teachers, paras, and other staff who are working hard inside the building.
- Finally, feel free to take your sidewalk chalk home with you -- and maybe use it to help brighten your block (and maybe your neighbors' day too!)

**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!