



St Andrew's Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Karen Jewell, pastor

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Dear friends,

I am praying that you and yours are safe and well.
Here is our situation at the end of January 2021:

Worship Means – Worship continues to be available through Facebook, YouTube (St Andrew's has its own channel), and recorded on CDs and DVDs for you to play at home, plus Parking Lot worship continues at 10:30am on Sundays – picked up on your car radio over an FM channel. **If you need any help connecting with us in worship – please ask! Call us at 920-235-6616.**

Thanks to Sandy Last for exploring and enabling all of these avenues of sharing the worship, Matt Moore and his company for making the car radio worship work, Steve Last for building our “Deer Stand” (our platform for leading the worship in chilly weather) and so many more who have so graciously offered their hands, hearts, and ingenuity to making all of this possible.

Worship Innovations include “Garage Band” assembled choir music! This is made possible by safely distanced recordings that become lovely music using our member's talents. (It works for special music too!) Thank you to Choir Director Brenda Francis for spearheading this effort.

Our wonderful **congregational missions** continue – food for the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry to give to hungry neighbors; hats, gloves and scarves for area children and homeless folks; and now the community hygiene drive for the homeless begins. Even without meeting in-person as we would like to do – you keep on generously caring for neighbors in our community. Thank you!

Just when you think you might have hit the end of possibilities for mission and for worship to continue under such a challenge as COVID-19, the faithful members and staff members of your congregation step up and show you that **“you ain't seen NOTHIN' yet!”** Believe me, it helps more than you can know.

Now, we offer thanks for the help of our Council, our Worship Committee and our special Task Force. Where we are headed in hope:

Back to inside, in-person worship that is as safe as we can offer! Although we cannot guarantee successful re-entry on a specific date because of the swiftly changing conditions of COVID-19 in our life together, our goal is to have in-person worship inside our sanctuary available on **Easter Day, April 4, 2021.**

We have set this as a goal, and the Task Force reminds us that we must be prudent about the statistics. If the vaccination rates, infection rates, and cases per 100,000 come to levels suggested by the CDC, then we can begin worship in-person with safety measures in-place and practiced: masks, physical distance, hand-washing, and proper sanitizing.

Initially we will use a reservation system to make sure we don't overload our capacity inside. More details as soon as we can get them to you!

If conditions don't unfold as we hoped or as swiftly as we hoped, we can and will continue to use our parking lot, courtyard, and picnic pavilion to offer safer alternatives to indoors. One way or another we plan to offer our **Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 2, 2021.** More details will follow.

Please pray for the safe, successful and swift return to our indoor worship especially for those who hunger for it desperately. And for us to continue to learn from all that God has taught us in taking our worship and our faith life outside our walls and on into new avenues of communication and sharing.

**O give thanks to the Lord,
for he is good
and his mercy endures forever.**

And I thank you, too!
Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell



St Andrew's Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
December 8, 2020 – 7:00 PM by Zoom

Attending via Zoom: Amy Bargenquast, Nancy Kreilick, Naomi Larkpor, Warren Luce, Matt Moore, David Olson, Peg Olson, Carol Spiegelberg and Pastor Karen Jewell

Unable to Attend: Jim Heidl, Andy Lang, and Teri Ruckinsky.

Treasurer's Report Matt Moore addressed the reports

Total expenditures in October including payroll of \$18,122.23 (expenses of \$9,644.86 and payroll of \$8,477.37) and total deposits of \$13,300.84

Balance sheet: our base checking account is \$5,279, the money market is consistent at \$100,227 and we continue to be in a good position up almost \$32,000 compared to last year at this time. Current liabilities are \$141,636 (which includes 22,100 of PPP loan which we now have the ability to submit for loan forgiveness on) compared to current assets of \$106,632.

Profit and loss budget performance: We took in \$12,626 in income (budget \$18,207) this month, and have year to date income of \$178,883 for the year (budget \$200,293). There was a net loss for the month of November in the amount of (2,982) compared to a budgeted loss of (\$735) resulting in a year to date net income of \$10,888 as compared to a year to date budgeted loss of \$(8,204). November marks the 3rd month in a row that we are reporting losses. It does appear that weekly "givings" have declined without weekly in person services.

Profit and Loss previous year comparison: (Jan to November) we are up \$7,399 in our giving this year compared to the prior year. Committee expenses are down \$4,937, operations expense is down \$699. Year to date net income of \$10,888 continues to be a large swing compared to the prior year to date loss of (\$9,303). This is partly due to salary reductions during the COVID closure, and lower costs of operating during Covid shutdowns.

M: Warren Luce, **S:** Carol Spiegelberg re: Approval of Treasurer's report and bills Motion Carried.

Old Business

- **Fellowship Hour on Zoom:**
 - Low attendance
 - Ideas:
 - Establish a host/hostess – switch up each week
 - Limit time to ½ hour
 - Encouragement for council members to call in
- **Nominations Committee:**
 - 4 open positions (2 filled)
 - Annual Meetings are covered, we are unsure of the venue situation at this time
- **2020-2021 Budget**
 - Finance Committee met (Jackie Kuhn, Jay Klinger, Chris Ziegler, David Olson and Matt Moore)
 - Open items:
 - When will church reopen? Impact to budget closed versus open status
 - Contemplate Covid budget versus live budget – possible six month emergency budget – Finance committee prefers as it is more realistic and can be better tracked based on current actual expenses
 - Controllable expenses versus fixed expenses
 - Snow removal if when groups are meeting at church
 - Concerns over loss of several major donors, and potential impact to 2021 activities as the pandemic restrictions.
 - Concerns over members who had given in 2019 but not in 2020 and what this might mean to future budget

- How best can we move forward to achieve our mission goals and inspire our members to convey the word of the Lord.
 - Synod suggests postponement of annual meeting to be sure to have a quorum, and give people a voice.
 - **EMERGENCY ACTION:** Council approved creating an Emergency action Covid budget, and postponing annual meeting to continue operations until the annual meeting can be held in person. **M:** Amy **S:** Warren Luce, Motion carried.

Finance committee to draft 6 month emergency budget based on current expenses that we are incurring in this COVID environment. Need to determine which missions are most vital, and most important to our faith life together. Those are the missions that we need to energize and get behind. The Spirit will help to guide us in our mission. IF we get behind use, he gets behind us!

New Business:

- **Plans for Christmas Worship**
 - 12/21 – Blue Christmas worship 6:30-7:30 luminary drive through, Christmas window, candles in each window.
 - 12/24 – Noon – providing and recoding Lessons/Carols service to play throughout the day, also available on CD's and DVD's by 12/20
 - 12/24 7pm – ½ hour parking lot service with carols and lighting of Christmas tree
 - 12/25 – 10AM Facebook service, also available on CD's and DVD's by 12/20.
- **Office Holiday closure:** 12/25-1/1/2021 to allow for office staff vacations. Pastor to cover the office. **M:** Dave Olson **S:** Amy Bargaquist. **(Suggestions: be prepared to cover deliveries, ask letter carrier to hold mail, no problem regarding deposits being credited for correct year.)** **Approved.**

Pastor's Report:

IPad request: Would like to purchase 1 more iPad for office to record/edit worship services, also Sunday School videos, requesting funds from Memorial Funds. **M:** Matt Moore, **S:** Dave Olson, Approved.

Committee Reports:

Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg)

Collecting mittens, scarves and caps into January. Wrapping up food drive through 12/20/20.

Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick) – support Patty Koplitz in continuing education through the Pandemic period.

Education (Teri Rucinsky/Naomi Larkpor) No report

Evangelism (Jim Heidl) No report

Fellowship (David Olson) – Zoom fellowship – looking for ideas to spawn participation. Future auction still in formation.

Matt suggested: Consider fellowship Zoom meeting on Sundays to “lift up” 2 committees each month to discuss and inform congregation what committees are up to and possibly generate participation, and conversation!

Property (Warren Luce): No Report

Stewardship/Discipleship (Andy Lang) no report

Technology Committee: No additional report.

Worship and Music (Peg Olson): No report

President's Report (Peg Olson)

Our church has been wonderful in spite of the pandemic, we have created different ways to have services through online and outdoor venues.

Please note that committee reports should be emailed ahead of time. We want our minutes to be complete and clear.

Need to let our nominees know that they are on hold as representatives at the different meetings until we are able to convene and vote at the Annual Congregational meeting.

Adjourn, Closing prayer

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 12th, 2020 at 7pm on Zoom.



2021 Giving Envelopes

2021 Giving Envelopes are now available. You may pick yours up at church on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday mornings, 8 am – 12 noon. Envelopes will also be available after 10:30 am parking lot worship. Envelopes are in the hallway next to the Fellowship Hall for you. If this is not convenient for you, please call the office (920-235-6616) or email us office@standrewsoshkosh.org and we will make arrangements for you to obtain them. Thank you!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021



On Ash Wednesday we will offer our Facebook live worship at 12 noon. As usual, that worship service continues to be available to you from that time on and we encourage you to take part as you are able. The Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be offered to you as safely as possible in the parking lot at 1 pm. Please call Pr Karen if you would like ashes and communion but cannot come at that time.

On Ash Wednesday we will begin a practice of opening the sanctuary for you to pray or have conversation, one on one with God or together with another member that you miss at a safe physical distance. We will be offering these times when staff is in the building and by reservation to be able to sanitize the space to keep it safe for those who use it. If you would like to have a conversation with Pastor Karen you are welcome to ask and we will arrange it. Please call (920) 235-6616 to reserve your time to be in the sanctuary.

We will have a takeaway "Lent Bag" to help you make your devotions tangible starting on Feb 14! (If you can't come to the Sunday worship or Ash Wednesday worship in the Parking Lot, we will have these available for you in the office.)

Through the 40 days of Lent, we will be offering a half hour worship on Wednesdays via Facebook at 12 noon. We hope to feature worship in cooperation with other ELCA churches in the Oshkosh area. Please watch the NET (our weekly email blast) for more details.

Hope you can join us!

**From the Christian
Action Committee:**



Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

February 14 – March 7, 2021



NEW hygiene and cleaning items for local homeless shelters and crisis agencies in our community are being collected. These supplies are expensive and are not covered by the Wisconsin food Share program.

In Oshkosh, goods collected will benefit the ADVOCAP Homeless Program, the Day by Day Warming Shelter, Father Carr's Place 2B, and the Salvation Army. The need is greater than ever this year.

You may drop your items off here at church. If you prefer, you may also donate funds on-line ([click here](#)) or at your local Festival or Walgreens store. Thank you for considering this need.

Thank you for helping!

The Last Sunday before Lent begins is February 14th – Valentine's Day!

If you would like to help us reach out to other members who cannot attend worship at this time – please come to the Parking Lot worship service on Sunday February 14th at 10:30am to pick up a Valentine to deliver.



We can pair you with someone who lives near you! Your delivery will help relieve the loneliness of this Pandemic! Thank you so much for making a difference!

As St Paul said, You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all.
II Corinthians 3:2

Choir, without commitment.



Would you enjoy singing a song for a special occasion, like Easter? Maybe you would like to sing a favorite hymn to share with others. There are so many opportunities, including instrumentalists!

We have an easy way for this to be recorded at home or at church. We long to hear your voice or instrument. We feel more connected to each other when we can share our special gifts.

Please contact Brenda for ideas and more information. Thank you.
Brenda_at_standrews@Yahoo.com

February offerings of love



First of all, we cannot thank you enough for staying with St Andrew's through this pandemic.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Despite the heart-breaking challenges of this time – not the least of which is simply being apart for the safety of our people – we continue to offer worship, do mission, and support faith formation. This is all possible by the grace of God and your generous faithfulness. Thank you!

If you would like to help support us as we re-enter more normal life together your gifts will go far!

You may mail in your offerings to St Andrew's Lutheran Church, 1100 E Murdock Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54901, or give ONLINE. Your click on our link takes you to a secure portal at our website: standrewsoshkosh.org. You may also use the QR code below.

Thank you so much!



We would like to renew our Sunday School during Lent – this is a great time to be talking about faith with our children! We plan to mail or email the materials to families to encourage our children to hear and ponder the stories of our faith.

If your email, phone number or address has recently changed – would you please make sure we have your **correct contact information**?

Would you please let us know if **email or mail** is the better delivery method for you and your children?

We would like to make sure that every family has access to story bibles, Sunday School enrichments, and the Lenten takeaway kit. Please call (920) 235-6616.

Committee Meetings

You are welcome to attend any meetings. All meetings are being held via Zoom at this time. You may connect with your internet connection OR with your phone. Contact the office and a link will be provided you.



Worship & Music Committee

Monday, February 8, at 7 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 9, at 7 pm

We are here for you!

Visit our website: standrewsoshkosh.org

Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/standrewsoshkosh.org)

Email us: office@standrewsoshkosh.org (office)

pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org (Pastor)

Or: Call us on the phone!! (920) 235-6616