



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

March

2021

Sunday Worship at 9:00 am Facebook Live & at 10:30 am in the Parking Lot  
Wed at 9:00pm

Compline on Facebook,

Dear friends,

We had our last in-person Sunday worship in our sanctuary on March 15, 2020. I know I wept as I offered the final announcements, because I didn't know when we would be back to normal.

I didn't realize that it would be more than a year of waiting for the conditions to permit safely gathering! At first, we hoped to be back in worship by Palm Sunday, and then Mother's Day and then sometime in the summer.

In the meantime, we have learned to worship in ways and using means we had never explored before! Thank you so much for being willing to experiment and look for Jesus' love in very new settings.

Now our St Andrew's COVID-19 Task Force, the Church Council, the Worship committee and the Property Committee have all conferred about ways and means to safely conduct worship inside our facility.

As long as the numbers of infections and the danger from them doesn't spike again we are going forward with plans to offer inside worship once again in our sanctuary.

So far, the statistics for COVID-19 seem to be improving! And we hope to offer worship inside St Andrew's Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>!

We will gather with certain precautions in place.

We need to keep the size of our group small (no more than 50 at a time), we will need to wear masks, we may not sing together as yet, and our communion will be individually packaged to keep our members as safe as possible.

The ushers will seat us from front to back and dismiss us from worship from back to front to minimize the risk of transmission of the virus.

You already know the other protocols well, I am certain: we will need to wash our hands frequently, we may not congregate in groups, but must preserve our physical distance.

Out of consideration for the other worshippers, we will not attend if we are feeling sick, or have been in contact with someone who has COVID, or are awaiting test results for COVID.

It takes a lot of discipline to love one another well!

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a marvelous book about being Christians, called **Life Together**.

In it he wrote: *"The person who loves their dream of community will destroy community, but the person who loves those around them will create community."* (Dietrich Bonhoeffer, *Life Together*)

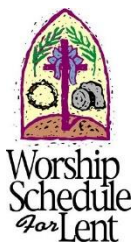
We who are so eager to have this expression of our community once again in worship – we will love each other by our faithful actions for others and our faithful abstentions from putting others at risk.

It is all new, all experimental, and we keep trying to get it right! Please know that your patience and generosity are SO APPRECIATED! We could not do this without you.

We will need new kinds of help to carry out our life together as a congregation as we return to in-person worship. There are details elsewhere in the newsletter of the kinds of things we can do for each other.

Whatever you need to do for worship – in-person, on-line, or at home with recordings – please keep us all in your prayers. The Lord will guide us! Please let us know how we can best support you in your faithfulness! Thank you!

In Christ's love, Pastor Karen Jewell



## 2021 Lenten Wed Worship

### Wednesdays in Lent:

Each worship will be available as a recording on YouTube. Links will be posted via Facebook and email blast.

Theme: *We have this treasure in clay vessels...*  
(II Corinthians 4:7)

February 24, St Andrew's Lutheran Church

March 3, Calvary Lutheran Church, Pastor Doug Holtz

March 10, Christ/Our Savior's Lutheran Churches, Pastor Connie Weiss

March 17, Peace Lutheran Church, Pastor Brad Dokken

March 24, Oshkosh area Lutheran leaders

### Easter Flowers



Flowers to enhance our Easter altar may be ordered now! Plants are ordered from House of Flowers and may be given to the glory of God, or in honor of a person or an event, or in memory of a person or people you wish to remember

Prices per plant:

Lily	\$14.00	
Hyacinth	\$16.00	
Hydrangea	\$33.00	(pink or blue)
Mums	\$20.00	
Azaleas	\$33.00	
Tulips	\$16.00	
Kalanchoe	\$20.00	
Daffodils	\$16.00	
Cyclamen	\$20.00	

Call or email the office to place an order. Envelopes for ordering are also available outside the office. **All orders must be placed by Sunday, March 7th.** (Color requests are allowed, but not guaranteed.) As always, you may take your plant home after the Easter Sunday services. We thank you for considering this gift to St. Andrew's!!

## *Easter's on its way and a new beginning!*

As we order those lovely Easter altar flowers we can't help anticipating the joys of Easter Day – the mystery and wonder of Easter worship and a new beginning for our life together – hoping to provide in-person worship inside our sanctuary once again.



We are setting up a reservation system so that we can make sure to offer the safest possible re-entry of our worship space for our worshippers.

Here is the schedule for **Sunday, April 12, 2020:**

8:00 – 8:30am Easter worship in the sanctuary by reservation

9:00am Facebook Premier of Easter Worship

9:30 – 10:00am- Easter worship in the sanctuary by reservation

10:30 – 11:00 am Easter worship in the parking lot

11:15 am drive up for Holy Communion

CDs and DVDs will be available ASAP

**Please plan to worship as you are able!**

### Holy Week worship schedule:

**Maundy Thursday (April 1) with communion**

**12 noon Facebook live worship**

**1:00 pm worship in the parking lot**

**Good Friday (April 2)**

**12 noon Facebook live worship**

**1:00 pm worship in the parking lot**

*The February 2021 Council Meeting minutes are not available at press time. When available, a full set will be posted on the bulletin board outside the office. We will also email the minutes to all on our distribution list. If you would like a copy, please contact the office and we will US mail you a copy when they become available. Thank you for understanding.*

## 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.

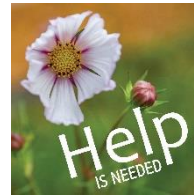
Thank you for helping!



## Preparation for Holy Communion



**This year** we will prepare our fifth graders for Holy Communion using a kit and a zoom call. A kit of materials to read and talk over will be provided for students and their faith mentors – family or sponsors are welcome to take this role. Then Pastor Karen will meet with the student and their faith mentors via Zoom or in person in a safe location such as our Fellowship Hall. Please let us know that you are interested! (920) 235-6616 or [pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org)



## Help is Needed! Would you be interested?

Like a flower opening in the Spring sunshine, we hope to re-open our inside worship services at St Andrew's! Many hands make light work!

We need help from members for many important roles:

**Ushers** who will be trained to know the current protocol that protects our worshippers

**Counters** who can record and prepare the offerings for deposit. (This will take place in a large space with safe physical distance and good ventilation!)

**"Sanitizers"** who can help clean high-touch areas and prepare the sanctuary and entryway for the next worshippers.

**Altar guild members** who can package our communion individually for safe distribution to worshippers.

**Communicators** – who can call and remind our volunteers that this week is their turn to serve and help.

**"Deliverers"** who can bring the CDs and DVDs of worship services to our homebound and other members who cannot access our worship on-line.

We continue to delight in members and families who can record or read the readings for worship and who can lead us in the prayers of the church. This can be done from home or in-person, and we are happy to involve as many members as possible!

Please call the Church Office (920) 235-6616 to indicate your interest and give us your best mode of communication (phone call, text message, or email). Thank you!

### We are here for you!

Visit our website: [standrewsoshkosh.org](http://standrewsoshkosh.org)

Like us on [Facebook](#)

Email us:

(office) [office@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:office@standrewsoshkosh.org)

(Pastor) [pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org)

Or:

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