



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

## Newsletter

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

September 2021

Dear Friends,

How are you doing? You are so wonderful to keep on keeping on through this time. May God give you peace along the way – even if it is simply the lovely scent of a rose blooming or the glimmer of a sunset to remind you of the love always breaking into your life come what may!

You can see from the council minutes and the articles how we are working to stay flexible and offer you the best connections with God through worship, education and service.

I am so proud of our congregation and its leaders because you have kept rising to the challenge of being a worshipping/serving community in the midst of the pandemic.

We are going to offer **adult bible study** times – Wednesdays at noon for an in-person study (as long as the pandemic permits in-person activities) starting Wednesday, Sept 22. I am so excited!

We have a beautiful book and video to work with called **“By Faith”** that I am also adapting for use with our confirmation students, and I am hoping you will love it! We will meet in the Fellowship Hall or the Sanctuary to maintain a proper physical distance for your safety.

I plan to offer an on-line class for the same study using Zoom (which we can access both on computer and by phone). We will try it on Monday September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm. Please call me for information or look in the NET for the link. We will work out together how to make it as accessible as possible for you.

Meanwhile, in our worship we have adjusted our in-person worship to have just one hymn at the end of worship – to minimize your exposure to viral particles if someone who is present would inadvertently be sharing the virus.

We will also hand out communion elements on your way out the door so that you can receive it from me with the words **Given and Shed for you.**

We will be continuing to offer worship on-line via Facebook and YouTube, and continue our parking lot services for those who find that the best fit! The parking lot and picnic pavilion and courtyard are great places to gather more safely!

Our building etiquette includes resuming the sign-in sheet should we need to track an exposure, and we are asking **all people entering the facility to mask** regardless of our vaccination status.

I know some of the precious souls you are protecting by masking and believe me – I appreciate your loving act of masking for their sake if not for your own.

In short, we will try to offer you what is safe but as connected and connecting as possible. We are God's people gathered at St Andrew's Lutheran Church in Oshkosh and we will continue to pray, think, plan, hope and, most of all, trust in our Lord Jesus Christ, both for this day and for the future.

May God bless you and yours, may God bring greater peace and well-being to this beleaguered world, and if possible, may God bring God's kingdom among us even through us! So Luther would have us pray as we pray in the Lord's Prayer: Thy Kingdom come!

Thank you so much for all you do and all you are in Jesus' name.

Pastor Karen Jewell



*Highlights of the Council Meeting  
July 13, 2021*

**Attending via Zoom/In Person:**

Amy Bargaquast, Kathleen Bellaire, Nancy Kreilick, Matt Moore, Teri Rucinsky, Carol Spiegelberg, Christopher Ziegler and Pastor Karen Jewell **Unable to Attend:** Naomi Larkpor and Warren Luce

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

Total expenditures in June of \$18,401.11 (expenses of \$10,037.01 and payroll of \$8,364.10 and total deposits of \$16,226.30.

**Balance sheet:** The base checking account is \$7,611 the money market is \$121,818 the accounts are down about \$17,700 compared to last year at this time. Current liabilities are \$140,006 (which includes 24,585 of second round PPP loans) compared to current assets of \$130,565.

**Profit and loss budget**

**performance:** We took in \$12,690 in income (budget \$16,337) this month and have year to date income of \$96,515 for the year (budget \$98,020). Committee expenses are under budget by \$1,013 this month while operating expenses are over budget by \$2,125, but the insurance payment is included. There was a net loss from ordinary operations for the month of June in the amount of (4,164) compared to a budgeted income of \$228. We continue to be ahead of the year to date budget through June by about \$2,356 before considering the PPP Forgiveness proceeds of \$22,313.

**Profit and Loss previous year comparison:** (Jan to June) we are down about \$15,400 in our giving this year compared to the prior year, which we expected as a result of the suspended services as well as some notable donor

reductions. Committee expenses are down approximately \$4,100, operations expense is up about \$2,000 Wages and benefits are up about \$4,000. Year to date net ordinary income from operations of 2,400 compared to \$16,850 last year.

There is a pending audit of the ADA bathroom project to confirm all funds have been used.

**M:** Chris Ziegler **S:** Carol Spiegelberg re: Approval of Treasurer's report. Motion Carried.

**M:** PR Karen **S:** Kathy Bellaire re bills to be paid. Motion Carried.

**Old Business**

- **Continued discussion re: reopening protocols (ie communion, etc)**

- Discussion of possible deer stand improvements, limited by budget consideration, tentatively plan to continue parking lot through Thanksgiving.
- Researching cost to purchase 4 round tables for fellowship hall to replace old and add.
- Purchase dedicated laptop for hybrid meetings **M:** Kathy Bellaire **S:** Carol Spiegelberg, Motion Carried

- **Potential August In – Reach**

- 3 questions to 3 people

**New Business:**

- NA

**Pastors' Report:**

- Fire Permit \$15
- August 29<sup>th</sup> – Bless the Pets

**Committee Reports:**

**Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg) –**

- July 12<sup>th</sup>-August 26<sup>th</sup> – July 12<sup>th</sup> – 20 kids, 5 Adults
- July 26<sup>th</sup> Pizza Ranch Fundraiser 4pm-8pm

- September 12 – Gods work our hands – sewing kits theme: God’s Eyes – God who watches over us
- Upcoming chili cook off
- Household help for neighbors in need
- Vaccination clinics July 1 & July 22

**Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick) –**

- 2 more Campfire YMT meeting dates from 7-8:30 pm July 21 and August 18<sup>th</sup>, parents welcome for s’mores, games and more....
- Shantytown lock in for fall to raise money for Day by Day Warming Shelter

**Education (Naomi Larkpor- No Report**

**Evangelism - No Report**

**Fellowship – No Report**

**Property (Warren Luce): No Report**

**Stewardship/Discipleship - No Report**

**Technology Committee: No Report**

**Worship and Music (Kathy Bellaire):**

Committee meetings were held on June 16 and July 12, 2021. The committee had wonderful attendance and great discussions. The following decisions were made:

1. Pastor Karen will offer our online worship service on Sunday mornings from 8:00-8:30 a.m. for July and August, to be re-evaluated at that time.
2. Beginning July 4, communion will be served to people attending the 8:45 a.m. in-person service for anyone wanting to receive in this manner, communion packets will continue to be available for those who do not feel comfortable receiving communion by hand. These are to be consumed outside of the sanctuary.
3. We will continue to offer online (Sundays 8:00 a.m.), in person (Sundays 8:45 a.m.) and parking lot services (Sundays (10:45 a.m.) through November. This will give us time to evaluate how things are progressing with the pandemic before making additional changes.
4. Comments will be sought from members regarding this plan and whether it should continue after the pandemic no longer poses a risk.
5. Choir will begin in person rehearsals in September and will begin offering in person music at the 8:45 a.m. service on September 12. The choir will explore recording music

for the online and parking lot services, using music found in the public domain to assure copyright laws are not violated.

6. A “Bless the Pets” service is being planned for August 29 to be held at 10:45 a.m. in lieu of the parking lot service.
7. Ideas for future services are being discussed. As we move back to more traditional in-person services, we will explore offering healing services, a Thanksgiving celebration with our sister churches in Oshkosh, in-person Advent and Lenten services, a return to a full service with liturgy and expanded communion among other things. For the foreseeable future we will not be utilizing assisting ministers. Any feedback about what type of services members hold dear and would like to see included is welcome.
8. We will be evaluating whether to continue offering parking lot services or return to in-person 10:45 services later this year. There have been requests to continue parking lot services, as well as requests to move the late service back into the sanctuary. Any feedback about which type of service members prefer is welcome.
9. Sandy Last has been given permission to use music from Tonioli Music free of charge. This has been a great asset to us. A donation of \$50.00 to Tonioli Music was approved.
10. Steve Last has submitted some drawings outlining a new construction to replace the current stand Pastor Karen uses for parking lot services. The new structure would be more stable, offer better protection from the weather and have improved “curbside appeal” while remaining moveable. We are asking Council to consider its construction.

**President’s Report (Teri Rucinsky):** Thankful to be included in the worship and music meeting, and impressed with their leadership. Asking all committees to keep Teri in the loop for upcoming meetings that she could possibly attend to keep informed.

**Adjourn by President**

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 10, 2021, at 7pm on ZOOM and in person

## Worship opportunities at St. Andrew's

### Sundays

8 am – Facebook Live

8:45 am – In Person Worship with Holy Communion

10:45 am – Outdoor Worship in the parking lot with Holy Communion (weather permitting)

### Wednesdays

9 pm – Evening Compline on Facebook Live



#### 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 Wednesdays on Thursday morning). Go to youtube.com and search for St Andrews Lutheran Church Oshkosh.



### Feeding Hungry Kids

We have finished Feeding Hungry Kids. **This summer we fed 414 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



God's work.  
Our hands.

We have postponed the God's Work Our Hands Day at St. Andrew's due to the rising numbers of Covid cases in our area. We are tentatively planning on Oct. 31 as our alternative day, depending on the conditions at that time. Watch for updated details!



### Fabric Kits Needed

We could use your help for the workshop taking place on God's Work, Our Hands Day. To make a fabric kit, we need two pieces of cotton or cotton blend fabric (no knits or polyester). Each piece of fabric should be either:

- 2-1/4 yards of 58" – 62" wide fabric, or
- 3 yards of 42" – 45" wide fabric
- 2 spools of thread (matching the material or neutral colored general-purpose thread, 250 – 300 yards in each spool)

Thank you so much for your support for this worthwhile project!

### Refugee Relief Donation Drive

We are collecting items to aid refugees at Fort McCoy. **Donated items will be accepted at church until Friday, Sept. 10, 2021.** It is asked that all donations be in new, unopened packaging. Clothing items should be slim lined, not bulky, as these people are still transient and must keep their possessions in luggage. Thank you for your help.

Requested Donations:

- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Infant onesies
- Fall outerwear
- Socks
- Cobs/brushes
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Feminine products
- SMALL comfort toys/ all ages



## Choir Season Begins

**September 1, 7:30pm**

Looking for some fun on a Wednesday night? Come sing with the choir. Choir meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 in the sanctuary, safely distanced and masked. Songs are prepared and then recorded to use for Sunday worship. Please join us! For more information, contact Brenda Francis, choir director.

### Confirmation classes begin in person!



At this time, we plan to meet in person as long as our local schools are meeting in person. **Parents and students grades 6 - 8, please come to Orientation on Wednesday, September 8, 6:00 to 7:00 pm in Church.**

Please, if your student is new to our classes, call Pastor Karen so that we can order enough study bibles! Thank you!

**Classes begin Wednesday, September 15! We meet at 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

See you there!

### Sunday School Classes



Sunday School

Due to the delta variants of the COVID-19 we are discussing how to provide our children with faith formation! We are considering in-person, on-line, and take-home options.

Please let us know what you feel is the best option for you now. And are you available to help us? If so, we could really use volunteers to organize and deliver materials, to create videos, and to provide in-person classes when it is safe to do so. Are you interested? Please feel free to contact the Church Office or Pastor Karen for more information! Please email [pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org) or call (920) 235-6616. Thank 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).

### YMT (Youth Ministry Team)

We are starting up on Wednesday night September 8th! Confirmation is having their orientation at 6, your child is welcome to join us until 7, just to check us out! We will meet during confirmation class times, from 6 to 7pm. We will be masked as the Oshkosh Area School District is also masking. We want to keep your kids safe!



In other news, we will not be having lock-ins at this time. We still want to try to do some fundraising for the upcoming National Youth Gathering next summer. If you have some ideas that don't require us to spend long hours together and minimal contact, please let me know!

### BYG (Beginning Youth Group) PLUS!

BYG events will be postponed at this time. Both of our regular events last longer than an hour. We will start back up once things calm down a little. We just want to keep your kids safe!



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!



## Vaccination clinic for COVID-19

We are offering another opportunity for people to be vaccinated against COVID-19 at St Andrew's on Thursday, September 9, from 3:00 to 6:00pm.

Here is a **sign-up link** so that you can request a specific time:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4CABAC28A4FACE9-standrews>

**But walk-ins will also be welcome!** We will email the link as soon as it is available but please know that you can also call the church office to register for a specific time (920) 235-6616.

If you have loved ones or friends in need of a vaccination in a place that is accessible, please invite them to come to St Andrew's for their vaccine. COVID-19 vaccinations are free, and you do not have to have medical insurance to receive them!

## Who do you think I am?

In the book of Mark Jesus asks His disciples, "Who do you think I am?" We invite you to share your thoughts with us and write them on a leaf (enclosed with this mailing or found by the bulletin board in the hallway at church).

Leaves will be posted on the bulletin board.

Jesus is known by many names. Here are some examples:

- Messiah
- Son of God
- Good Shepherd
- Savior



Leaves may be returned to the church office, or near the bulletin board in the hallway.

Thank you!



## Committee Meetings

### All members welcome!

#### Christian Action Committee

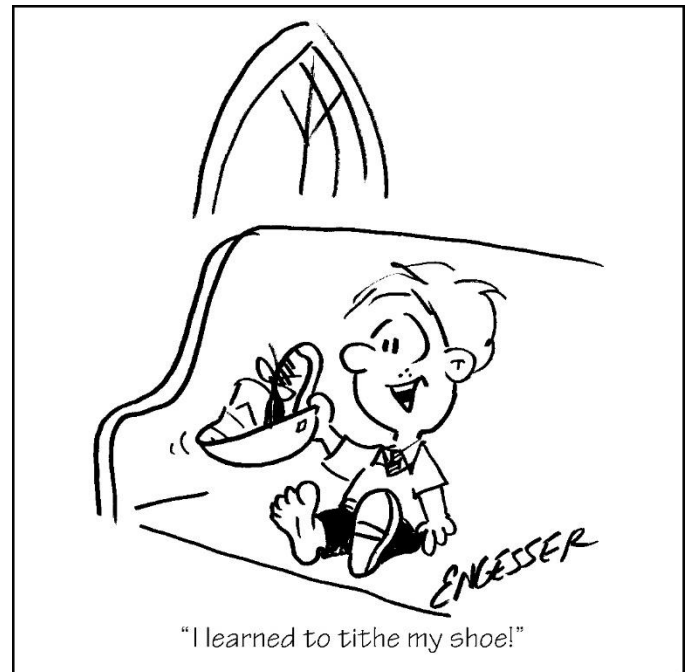
Tuesday, Sept. 7, at 7 pm

#### Council Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 14, at 7 pm

#### Worship & Music Committee

Monday, Sept. 27, at 7 pm



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# HOW<sup>you</sup> can HELP

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## Your help is a sign of God's love

In the last week we have seen people displaced by fires, hurricanes, floods and political struggles. You and I try to help when and where we can. There are so many different places and groups requesting our help. We wanted to provide you with a few options for you to learn about where your donations can make a difference.

### Help for Afghan refugees:

Immediate aid: A local group led by Jon Doemel is gathering new clothing and supplies for Afghan refugees who are temporarily housed at Fort McCoy.

They are asking for Infant onesies, Fall outerwear, socks **in their original packages** as well as small comfort toys, toothbrushes, toothpaste, diapers, baby wipes, and feminine products.

You can drop off your donations at the UHaul parking lot, 900 N Koeller on **Friday to Sunday, Sept 10 – 12 from 9 am to 1 pm**. The donations will be given to the Red Cross who will deliver them to Fort McCoy. (Fort McCoy is not accepting direct donations.)

Longer-term aid: To help with the resettlement of refugees from Afghanistan (and elsewhere) our local partner is **World Relief Fox Valley**. They coordinate the immediate needs for a refugee family seeking to find and furnish a home, and settle into school, jobs, and life in our midst. World Relief/Fox Valley is very effective in their work in our community.

Their website is <https://worldrelief.org/fox-valley> and we can help them in two ways: offer financial gifts or take part in a Good Neighbor team that works with a specific family to help them with the day to day questions of life in the Fox Valley. Is

this something you would like to do? Could we create a Good Neighbor team at St Andrew's? Please share your interest with Carol Spiegelberg who is our Christian Action liaison on our council.

We also partner with the Winnebago Area Literacy Council to help provide space for their work with **anyone** needing English language skills to make their life better! They are wonderful, caring, and creative partners and we are so happy to have them here at St Andrew's! Their website is <https://winlit.org> and we encourage you to learn more about their mission in our community. We can help by volunteering with them as well as supporting their work with financial gifts.

You can see how many options there are just in our immediate area!

Larger and well-established groups that were born from our Lutheran church and can use our help helping others include:

**Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service** – for over 80 years working with resettlement and trying to help at our borders: <https://www.lirs.org>

**Lutheran World Relief** – originally born from efforts to help people displaced by our World Wars – <https://lwr.org>. (My great uncle worked with them for years) This is the agency that shipped the quilts and kits we make for folks both overseas and here who are in need. We buy our Palm Sunday palms from one of their projects!

**Lutheran Disaster Response** – an effort by our own national church to bring aid to places such as Haiti as it recovers from the earthquake, and California and other places hit by the wildfires, and now the folks affected by Hurricane Ida. 100% of your gifts gets to the mission you designate because overhead is covered by our World Hunger Appeal funds. Check out <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

May this help you discern the path for your aid.