



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

Welcome to worship and life at St. Andrew's!
Sunday Worship at 8:00 on FB, 8:45 inside & 10:45 am in parking lot!

Late November to December 2021
Thanksgiving and Christmas Blessings!

Dear friends,

Our Synod Theological Conference in October was about coping with the speed of change. It was team taught by Andy and Kara Root.

Professor Andy Root unmasked a huge challenge that we are all experiencing – acceleration in the change of technology we use, the societal norms we hold, and the pace of every day life.

You ask ANYONE – we are all feeling the rapid change of how we communicate, what we expect, and what we experience from day to day.

And although the pandemic has frequently stopped some of our normal activities in their tracks – it has also accelerated the changes as we struggled to cope with the hazards of the COVID virus.

When the pandemic closed our in-person worship services in March 2020, we thought we would only be out of action for a few weeks, but we were wrong, and we would not start in-person worship until Easter Day in April 2021.

The acceleration of life ramped up. We had our last in-person worship on Sunday, March 15 and by Sunday, March 22 we had begun what we had never done before – Facebook Live worship.

Over the late summer we added worship at the picnic shelter that would become worship in the Parking Lot by our Deer Stand in October 2020.

We learned about Facebook, YouTube, on air copyrights, radio technology, producing recordings, using Zoom and other kinds of online meetings. We learned how best to record our lectors so that they could join in the leadership of worship once more.

We learned to tell the old, old story in new, new ways!

We learned how hard it could be on our youth and families to try to teach confirmation virtually.

But we also learned that we could reach people we had not been able to accommodate in worship – many of our homebound folk who would have liked to be here could now experience worship on-line or via CDs and DVDs.

So there was good in the midst of all of the change.

But our hearts have grown weary from the accelerated pace and also the lack of control over all that keeps happening so quickly to us and those we love.

Pastor Kara Root presented to us a different view born of our faith traditions: to consider and practice Sabbath – the rest God creates so that we have time with God and feel valuable without having to prove our worth by what we make or do.

She said that Sabbath will turn everything on its head

- because we can take time to breathe.
- we have time to wait for God to show up.
- we can be curious together about how we will encounter the Living God together in this moment in this community!

One wonderful exchange she shared was:

Fear says, *What if...*
Hope says, *Even if... God is still God,
Love is still real, and our lives still matter!*

Both Kara and Andy encouraged us to understand that all we have is the moment we are in now and the people we are with here. By the grace of God and the love of Jesus Christ, we have been brought together here and now as St Andrew's Lutheran Church. In this we will find our rest, our truth, our courage, and our way forward. And I am so grateful to be with you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Karen Jewell

**Highlights of St Andrew's Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes
November 9, 2021 – 7:00 PM by Zoom**

Attending via Zoom/In Person: Amy Bargenquast, Kathleen Bellaire, Nancy Kreilick, Warren Luce, Matt Moore, Teri Rucinsky, Carol Spiegelberg, Christopher Ziegler and Pastor Karen Jewell

Unable to Attend: Naomi Larkpor

Treasurer's Report Matt Moore addressed the reports

Total expenditures in October of \$16,675 (expenses of \$8,438 and payroll of \$8,236 and total deposits of \$20,331. We did receive additional funds from the PPP loans which have added to our monetary assets. We currently feel stable.

Balance sheet: The base checking account is \$5,580 the money market is \$121,823 the accounts are up about \$17,550 compared to last year at this time. We are happy to report that we have not had to tap into our Money Market this year. Current liabilities are \$140,658 (which includes 24,585 of second round PPP loans) compared to current assets of \$128,540. We are eligible to request PPP loan forgiveness and will remove it from the balance sheet once forgiveness is received.

Profit and loss budget

performance: (Annualized as expenses are simply allocated 1/12 each month) We took in \$17,677 in income (budget \$16,337) this month and have year to date income of \$152,623 (budget \$163,367).

Committee expenses are over budget by \$500 this month while operating expenses are over budget by \$1,600 wages and benefits are up about \$570. There was a net loss from ordinary operations for the month of October in the amount of (670) compared to a budgeted income of \$1,000. We are ahead of the year to date budget through October by about \$1,450 before considering the PPP Forgiveness proceeds of \$22,313.

Profit and Loss previous year comparison: (Jan to October) we are down about \$13,600 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 \$4,000, operations expense is up about \$3,200 due to additional mailings and postage as well as utilities and Wages and benefits are up about \$8,800 due to voluntary reductions in the prior year. Year to date net ordinary loss from operations of 900 compared to income of \$13,900 last year.

Motion made and carried to approve Treasurer's report and bills to be paid.

Old Business

- **ELCA Expense reimbursement request from Patti Koplitz for Minnesota conference**
 1. Amount is \$535.00, inadvertently omitted from Emergency COVID budget
 2. Pay for in October, conference is in the following February
 3. Motion made and carried for the Approval of reimbursement for \$535 for conference to be paid from Thrivent account.

Narrative Budgets

- Annual meeting last Sunday in January (the 30th) – must have budget finalized by January meeting to have it ready for annual meeting, December if possible.
- **Nominating Committee**
 - Utilize spreadsheet to make sure that we do not re “ask” people who have declined –Amy to forward to Matt and Carol
- **Renewal of the “Deer Stand”**
 - Desire to weatherproof, etc for a budget of \$1,000.00
 - Need to make the stand compliant with City ordinances
 - Motion made and **carried** for Improvements for deer stand to be paid out of Memorial Funds.

New Business:

- **Budget**
 - Draft to be sent to finance committee and bring their input to December council meeting. Goal to finalize at January meeting
- **Giving Tuesday is St Andrew's Day (November 30)**
 - "Match" idea – discussed potential match donors – has a commitment of \$6,000

Pastors' Report:

- **Diane Miller – proposed member**
 - Council approved membership of Diane Miller
- **September theological convention**
 - Andrew & Kara Root – speakers Focus on challenges of current technological and cultural acceleration and how Sabbath-keeping helps us find a way forward

Committee Reports:

Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg) –

- Collecting for Winnebago Mental Health and the Oshkosh Food Pantry
- November 21 – Slice of Pie
- Harvest Fest update – raised \$1,588.40 – Beautiful weather and wonderful time! The funds used were given as a memorial to Pastor Danny.

Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick) –

- 4-5 seniors at YMT this past week Patti continuing with schedule and with the children
- BYG (Beginning Youth Group) meetings had been suspended pending ability to vaccinate.

Education (Naomi Larkpor)- No Report

Evangelism - No Report

Fellowship – No Report

Property (Warren Luce):

- Narrative budget passed on is continuance of past years, no immediate need to increase
- Confirmed that group activity is back to pre pandemic level, except that AA group has gone away.
- Lighting project is currently on hold

- Parking lot lights are excellent
- Thanks to Jeff for his assistance

Stewardship/Discipleship - No Report

Technology Committee (Pastor Karen):

- Copier/Printer due to Windows 11 update our current system will not work. We will need to plan for an update in the future – Currently pulling together information to determine costs and timing.
- Looking at a cloud based system that can upload worship recordings to potentially utilize for Christmas season services

Worship and Music (Kathy Bellaire):

- Feedback regarding worship offerings- Healing Service - The Healing Service was much appreciated. People especially liked the hand crosses they received.
- Narrative Budget- submitted to Council for review-no action needed at this time
- Blessing for Hunters- November 14- Pam Nemmetz, Carol Spiegelberg, and Gary Bruce have shared materials to decorate our "deer stand".
- All Saints Day butterflies- Pam provided butterflies for all members wishing to commemorate a loved one who has passed. Butterflies will remain up through Thanksgiving Day. Pam and Peg will take the butterflies down.
- Advent begins Nov 28; On Wednesdays during Advent, Pastor Karen will offer an in-person worship service in the sanctuary at 12:00 noon. Wednesday evening online Compline services will also have an Advent theme.
- Thanksgiving Eve- November 24 (Wed)- Oshkosh Lutheran Churches will not be offering a combined in person service this year. Pastor Karen will offer an online Thanksgiving service combined with the Wednesday evening Compline worship.
- Christmas Planning: Poinsettias will arrive on December 19. Instructions for those wishing to donate a poinsettia have been in the Net and worship service announcements. The hallways and sanctuary will be decorated between December 20 and the 22.
 - Lights have been strung on the Arbor Vitae tree outside the sanctuary and will be lit again this year as a part of our Christmas Eve celebrations.

- On Wednesday, December 22, a Blue Christmas Worship service will be offered at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.
- Christmas Eve: 5:30 p.m. Parking lot worship with tree lighting, carols, and sharing of the Christmas story. 7:00 p.m. in-person worship in the sanctuary. Holy Communion will be offered at both services. Pastor Karen will poll members to determine if there is interest in an 11:00 pm worship service as well.
- Christmas Day: Pastor Karen will coordinate worship times with the Cross and Crown Alliance congregation as Christmas Day falls on Saturday and they typically use the Church on Saturdays.
- Sunday December 26 worship services will be offered as usual: 8:00 online, 8:45 in person in the sanctuary, 10:45 parking lot worship.
- Special Music for the holidays-All special music must be recorded by 12/16 to allow adequate time for CDs to be made.
- Approval was given to consult "Dave's Sound" to check our sound system to make sure everything is working well for the holidays.
- January 2, 2022, Pastor Karen will be on vacation. Worship will be limited to the online service that day.

President's Report (Teri Rucinsky): Reminder to turn in budget. Thanks to council members for figuring out ways to make things work. Please offer your prayers to help us locate members to step forward and help us to lead the church. November is a thankful month, please look for and acknowledge those that you are thankful for. Please also try to stay safe and healthy this holiday season. Matt offered a congratulations to Pastor for her 30 years of service effective November 10th!

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2021

Thanksgiving Worship

We will have a Thanksgiving worship posted on Facebook on Wednesday, November 24, that will have prayers suitable for Thanksgiving Eve and Thanksgiving Day. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!



Advent Begins Nov. 28

*Sunday, November 28 -
Advent season begins.*

Come help us light the light that leads to Christmas! 8 am worship on Facebook. Holy communion, in person at 8:45am and in the Parking Lot at 10:45am.



Advent Worship Services on Wednesdays, December 1, 8, and 15, at 12 noon. We gather for a half hour of worship in person. At 9pm we meet on Facebook Live for Advent Compline Worship.



Madrigals Singers

We are in store for a special treat that will be provided by the Oshkosh North High School Madrigals Singers.

On Sunday, December 12 the Oshkosh North Madrigals will perform

9:45 - 10:15 am, between services. We will take a little time after 8:45 am worship to "clear the air" in the sanctuary prior to the group performing. Stay a bit after indoor worship or come early to outdoor and enjoy Christmas music. These young singers add so much to the holiday season. Enjoy!



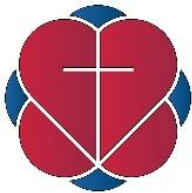
Blue Christmas worship at St Andrew's

December 22, 2022 at 7 pm
Indoors

We offer a simpler, quieter Blue Christmas worship, especially for folks who are experiencing grief at the holidays or need a more meditative worship. There will be gentle Christmas carols, the Christmas story from the bible, and prayers. It is a peaceful, candlelit time. Please know that you are welcome!

By Heart Study

By Heart Study will continue on Wednesdays, December



1, 8, and 15 at 12:30 (following noon Advent worship). Feel free to join in as you are able – we are having a wonderful conversation with Martin Luther's Small Catechism.

Please note:

For our Christmas Eve in-person worship times, we will be practicing safe gathering protocols. That means we will need to be safely spaced while in our worship space, we will wear masks, and we will air out our space between worships.

In order to accommodate all of these practices, we will be using Sign-Up genius for you to reserve a seat for your chosen worship time (as we did at Easter).

Links for you to sign up will be emailed to you in December OR we will provide the guidelines for signing up by phone. Please watch your inbox. If you do not use email, watch the Sunday bulletin announcements for contact information.

Advent & Christmas

Worship Services



Wednesday, December 22- Blue Christmas worship at 7:00 pm in person- a peaceful and comforting service especially for those dealing with grief at the holidays. 9pm Compline??

Sunday, December 5

8:00am Facebook Live worship

8:45am Holy Communion in person

12:45am Holy Communion in the parking lot

Sunday, December 12

8:00am Facebook Live worship

8:45am Holy Communion in person

9:45am - 10:15am Oshkosh North High Madrigal Singers in the sanctuary

12:45am Holy Communion in the parking lot

Sunday, December 19

8:00am Facebook Live worship

8:45am Holy Communion in person

12:45am Holy Communion in the parking lot

Friday, December 24, Christmas Eve

4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve worship inside with Holy Communion in person

5:30pm Tree Lighting with Carols and Holy Communion in the Parking Lot

7:00pm Family Christmas Eve worship inside with Holy Communion in person

11:00pm Candlelight Holy Communion in person inside

Saturday, December 25, Christmas Day

8:00am Facebook Christmas worship

Sunday, December 26

8:00am Facebook Live worship

8:45am Holy Communion in person

10:45am Holy Communion in the parking lot

Sunday, January 2, 2022

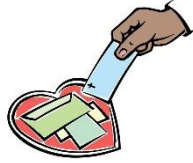
8:00am Facebook worship

NO in person or parking lot worship

You are welcome!

Giving Tuesday this year falls on St Andrew's Day
November 30, 2021

Would you consider a special gift to St Andrew's sometime between November 30 through December 7?



We have **members willing to match your gift** to make it work twice as hard and go twice as far to further the mission and work of this congregation who looks to St Andrew for our name and our example of connecting people with the God who loves them.

We thank you for staying faithful and present through this long challenging season of COVID-19 in our life together. Thank you for all of your offerings to God – your worship, your service, your prayers, the physical gifts you provide such as food and supplies and the materials that keep up our facilities, and also the gifts of money that support the general and specific missions of this congregation.

YOU help us carry on the work of Jesus Christ's love near and far and you make a difference!

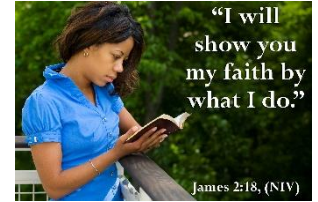
Your special gifts during this time will support the general mission of our church.

If you wish, you may give your offerings in worship, or mail in your financial offerings to our church office at St Andrew's Lutheran Church, 1100 E Murdock Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54901, and you may also give your financial offerings [ONLINE](#). Your click on our link takes you to a secure portal at our website: standrewsoshkosh.org. You may also use the QR code:



Thank you so much!

From our Christian Action Committee:



Help our Neighbors

We are having a food drive for the [Oshkosh Area Community Pantry](#) during November and December. Items needed are:



- soup (chunky)
- crackers
- canned chicken
- baking products (powdered sugar, brown sugar, frosting, cake and brownie mixes, frosting)
- hygiene products (shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, deodorant)
- paper products (toilet paper, paper toweling, tissues)

Tubs for donations can be found inside our entrance doors. Thank you!



Calendars

If you have extra 2022 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!

Don't forget, Confirmands!

Confirmation classes meet on Dec 1, 8, and 15, from 6 to 7 pm, then there will be **no** Confirmation classes on December 22, 29, or January 5. We resume studies on Wednesday, January 12!

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 30, 2022

9:45 – 10:15 am

We will gather for the **Annual Congregational Meeting at 9:45am on Sunday, January 30.** Please join in to plan our participation in God's mission in our new year together.

We will work to make this meeting efficient and accessible to our members in person, via Zoom, and also in the parking lot.

Committee Meetings

All members welcome!



Christian Action Committee

Tuesday, December 6, at 6 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 14, at 7 pm

Worship & Music

No meeting in December
Next meeting Thursday, Jan. 20 at 7 pm

If you wish to have a box of giving envelopes for 2022 the boxes will be available in the entry way beginning Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021.

Would you please check to make sure that our record of your address and phone number is accurate so that we may communicate with you. Drafts of the current directory will be available near the boxes of envelopes for you to check and correct your information. Thank you!

