



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter

Welcome to worship and life at St. Andrew's!
Sunday Worship at 8:00, 8:45 & 10:45am

February 2022
Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2

Dear friends,

First of all, I would like to say **Thank You!** Thank you to everyone who helped us BE a congregation in mission for 2021.

Our congregational Annual Meeting on January 30th was full of good news - of debts paid off, and of tremendous support from our members for the mission of last year and this year.

Thank you to all of our leaders who completed terms, or are continuing on, and also to those who will begin new adventures as leaders among us.

Thank you!

Then, I need to tell you - I can't wait to jump into the mission that is evolving for 2022. God is at work in our midst in so many ways.

When the Synod Assembly planning team offered an Oshkosh area mission project that needed a parking lot - we offered St Andrew's parking lot and were accepted as the site for a mission that builds beds for little children who don't have a bed to sleep in.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (shpbeds.org) has a chapter here in Oshkosh and they will partner with us and other congregations in our synod to build beds here on Saturday, May 7th.

These beds will be delivered to families who need basic comforts for their children and we can help!

We can help raise funds to purchase the materials, collect new bedding, tie blankets or quilts, and get the ball rolling on this wonderful project! Then on May 7th we can put all these resources together to make some wondrous gifts to the glory of God!

Our Christian Action committee and Steve Last, as our incoming Property committee chair, have already be thinking about how we can help, and

how we can use our space to host the build and make everyone welcome.

I don't know if you have noticed but over the pandemic our parking lot space has evolved into more and more of a site for mission.

Our parking lot hosts a worship at least every Sunday (and some holidays as well) and we have our beautiful new deer stand - believe me I appreciate the work that went into making it even more weatherproof for both me and the technology we use!

I was thrilled last year when St Andrew's hosted Vaccine Clinics and there was always a friendly group of people under our little pop-up tent who welcomed newcomers in the parking lot so that they could feel safe in our building.

And the fellowship activities that made use of the parking lot and helped keep members and friends safer during COVID - such as the lovely Autumn Faire with its harvest decorations and silent auction and great refreshments.

It is God's loving invitation to all of our neighbors - an invitation that is moving out the doors of our building and into the community in a new way.

So thank you! For your growing hospitality in Christ, your deepening awareness of God's calling to all of us, and your creative response to the opportunities for mission.

Christian Action is poised to meet next week on Monday night and we will be working out more details of the Sleep in Heavenly Peace building project to share with you. Please stay tuned for how you might be a part of this new project.

Thank you so much for everything!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell



Highlights of December 2021 Church Council Minutes

Church
Council

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

Unable to Attend: Kathleen Bellaire, Naomi Larkpor

Treasurer's Report Matt Moore addressed the reports

Total expenditures in November of \$21,500 (expenses of \$13,200 and payroll of \$8,300 and total deposits of \$34,200 (does not include matching funds of \$6,000. We are appreciative of the gifts received for giving Tuesday in the amount of \$22,155.39, combined with the match gift gives us a total of \$28,155.39

Profit and loss budget performance:

(Annualized as expenses are simply allocated 1/12 each month) We took in \$32,360 in income (budget \$16,337) this month and have year to date income of \$184,983 (budget \$179,703). Committee expenses are over budget by \$730 this month while operating expenses are under budget by \$1,167 wages and benefits are under budget about \$560. Net income from ordinary operations for the month of November in the amount of \$15,070 compared to a budgeted income of \$228. We are ahead of the year to date budget through November by about \$12,967 before considering the PPP Forgiveness proceeds of \$47,080.

Profit and Loss previous year comparison:

(Jan to November) we are up about \$6,100 in our giving this year compared to the prior year. We did recognize a bump due to giving Tuesday. Committee expenses are down approximately \$2,400 operations expense is up about \$3050 due to additional mailings and postage. Wages and benefits are up about \$7,500 due to voluntary reductions in the prior year. Year to date net ordinary loss from operations of \$14,192 compared to income of \$11,142 last year.

Old Business

- **2022 Budget**
- **Deer Stand – Table to January – issues with radio**

- **Nominating Committee Work** Have calls outstanding – 1 Yes, 2nd yes with a work schedule issue Could we move to Thursday evenings. Meetings will move to 2nd Thursday of the month beginning February 2022

New Business:

- **Treasurer Position** Matt Moore to continue on Council ex officio – annual vote by council members to add Matt to council on this position as he has completed his 2 terms.

Pastors' Report:

- Excellent, hardworking staff members – so grateful for all they do
- Need to discuss roles and activities of current council members, so much has changed during pandemic
- Vacation Monday, December 27th – Thursday, January 6th

Committee Reports:

Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg) –

- Pie social leftovers delivered to Father Carr's
- Delivered to Literacy Council and Winnebago mental healthchildrens books
- Delivered to Winnebago Mental Health – scarves, hats and hygiene products. Food to be delivered next week.

Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick) –

- National Youth Gathering in MN next summer – hoping to get this together.
- Wednesday evening confirmation and YMT meetings are continuing in person.

President's Report (Teri Rucinsky): Thank you to everyone, especially volunteers: Pie Social, Madrigal choir, confirmands, Christmas worships. Please have a safe and healthy Holiday. Looking to get our Sunday School up and running in the new year. Looking for teachers and directors.

Next meeting, January 11, 7 pm

A full set of minutes is available upon request of the office (920) 235-6616. A printed copy is also available on the bulletin board near the office.



Highlights of January Church Council Minutes

Attending via Zoom/In Person: Amy Bargaquast, 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 December of \$18,458 (expenses of \$9,947 and payroll of \$8,511 and total deposits of \$151,561 (this includes matching funds of \$6,000 as well as a member's bequest of \$114,000 in December). Council is interested in looking for opportunities to have this new resource work for us.

Balance sheet: The base checking account is \$37,107 the money market is \$236,659 the accounts are up about \$168,366 compared to last year at this time. Current liabilities are \$117,301 compared to current assets of \$247,904. PPP Loan forgiveness has been forgiven. All funds are for ongoing projects but all outstanding amounts have been paid by year end.

Profit and loss budget performance:

(Annualized as expenses are simply allocated 1/12 each month). We took in \$148,317 in income (budget \$16,337) this month and have year to date income of \$333,300 (budget \$196,040). Committee expenses are over budget by \$470 this month while operating expenses are over budget by \$2,580 wages and benefits are up about \$1,685. There was a net income from ordinary operations for the month of December in the amount of \$130,524 compared to a budgeted income of \$1,000. We are ahead of the year-to-date budget through December by about \$228.

Profit and Loss previous year

comparison: (Jan to December) we are up about \$132,882 in our giving this year compared to the prior year, due in large part to the significant member bequest as

well as our giving day which yielded over \$28,000 including the matching funds. Synod benevolence is fully paid. Committee expenses are down approximately \$4,214, operations expense is up about \$4,820 due to additional mailings and postage as well as utilities and Wages and benefits are up about \$4,864 due to voluntary reductions in the prior year, and wage restoration in the current year. Year to date net ordinary loss from operations of \$144,716 compared to income of \$11,699 last year. **M:** Chris Ziegler **S:** Carol Spiegelberg re: Approval of Treasurer's report and bills to be paid. Motion Carried.

Old Business

- **Annual Meeting**
 - Scheduled for inside, in the parking lot, and via Zoom on January 30th 9:45-10:15am
- **Budget**
 - Updated for final adjustment
 - **M:** Amy Bargaquast **S:** Chris Ziegler – Motion approved
- **Staff Reviews**
 - Need more communication between staff and council, repetitive “asks”
 - Council needs to be more involved and take charge to assist staff
 - Staff to assist council with a “diary” of monthly activity – help create transparency - Open house with Council/Staff – “drop ins”
 - Moved to closed session
- **Nominating Committee Work**
 - Steve Last, Emmy Kasuboski will be new council members
 - All conference and events have been filled
- **Deer Stand**
 - Amazing, windows doors...it is just beautiful

New Business:

- **Revising Council Member description/duties**
 - Covid has changed council
 - Council to head up counting teams – take responsibility – calendar to be sent out so that people can sign up.
 - Pastor to send out descriptions and come back next month with suggestions
- **Update on Covid Protocol**
 - WI Council of church recommendation and sister congregation considerations, minimizing risk to worshippers is of paramount importance
 - Concern for members and guests who feel more comfortable with zoom and parking lot services
 - Concern for worshippers excluded or lost as a result of changes to services
 - We will continue to offer on-line, parking lot, and inside services and continue to be conservative during our inside worship services by using masks, maintaining physical distance, and serving communion elements at the end.

Pastors' Report:

- **Building usage request** – ACOA – additional group meeting Monday and Friday 6:30-7:30. 4-15 people, aware of protocol **M** Pastor Karen **S** Chris Ziegler – Motion approved
- Taking an online healthy boundary class required for pastors
- Office Technology: New Copier – will attempt to get competing bids
 - Motion to approve the purchase of a copier pending the receipt of a competing bid to be designated from operating funds **M**: Pastor Karen, **S** Matt Moore

Committee Reports:

Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg) –

- Salvation Army is having a Hygiene drive through March 1st. Boxes are setup for collections.

Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick) – Nancy Kreilick and Pastor Karen will meet this month with Patty Koplitz to work on 2022 youth ministry goals.

Education (Naomi Larkpor)- No Report

Evangelism - No Report

Fellowship – No Report – Carol will be calling to put together a small breakfast for the annual meeting

Property (Warren Luce): No report

Stewardship/Discipleship - No Report

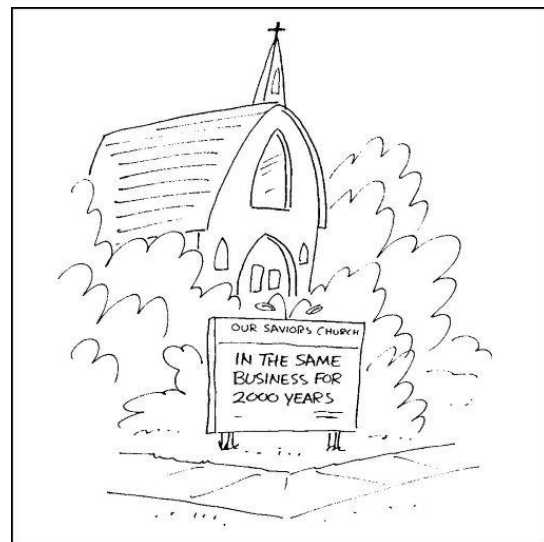
Technology Committee (Pastor Karen): No Additional Report

Worship and Music (Kathy Bellaire): No Report

President's Report (Teri Rucinsky): Thanks to everyone with nominating committee and employee reviews. Thanks to Matt who will be returning as ex officio treasurer and to completing budget.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 7pm on ZOOM and

A full set of minutes is available upon request of the office (920) 235-6616. A printed copy is also available on the bulletin board near the office.





We didn't want you to miss this news –

Matt Moore at our congregational meeting:

“So as the church treasurer I have had the privilege of presenting the financial reports at our annual meeting for many years. Some years better than others. But I have never had the opportunity to provide a financial report quite like the one we have this year. I highlighted some items that occurred this last year in our annual meeting booklet, and I know this meeting is only supposed to take 30 minutes so I will be brief, but I do want to touch base and re-highlight them again.

Number one, our internal debt. We have been talking about working on paying off our internal debt, money we owe ourselves, for many years. And I am proud to say that as a church we are debt free as of December 31, 2021. Congratulations! Our money market account balance exceeds significantly our current liabilities balance. We have paid all moneys we borrowed from ourselves.

Number two, as you recall, we had a giving match program – our second in three years – for operational expenses which happened in early December and I am excited to report that with the \$6,000.00 match generously provided, we took in \$28,159.33. Again, congratulations to all of us.

Our PPP loans, of which we qualified for two due to the COVID Pandemic, for a total of \$44,070.86 were fully forgiven in November 2021. So that comes off of our liability account.

And Number four, the last item which occurred in mid-December 2021 relates to an estate of a church member who had recently passed away. St Andrew's was named in their will and received a gift in excess of \$114,000. So we will be working with the Synod on handling this generous gift and making the best use of those funds long-term.

All of these items had a direct effect on our financial reporting....”

Then Matt Moore led us through the financial reports.

We didn't want you to miss the amazing news of becoming debt free and moving into 2022's mission.



2022 Giving Envelopes

If you wish to have a box of giving envelopes for 2022, the boxes are available in the entry way. If you are unable to pick yours up, contact the office and we will help you will get your box. 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!



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022

This year in addition to on-line worship Ash Wednesday (at 10:00am) we will also be able to worship in the sanctuary at 12 noon and 7:00 pm and meet in the parking lot at 5:30 pm. The Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion will be offered to you at our in-person worship.

Please call Pr Karen (920 235-6616) if you would like ashes and communion but cannot come to church. I can bring them to you!

We will have a Lenten Gift to take home for your Lenten devotions starting on Feb 27! (If you can't come for worship, we will also have these available for you in the office.)

Through the 40 days of Lent, we will be offering a half hour worship on Facebook at 10 am and then in the sanctuary on Wednesdays at 12 noon. Worship will be part of our evening confirmation time from 6:30 to 7:00 pm and all are welcome.

Hope you can join us!

Making Music to the Lord!

Choir practice moves to Sundays from 9:45 to 10:15 am beginning Sunday February 13!

You are invited to join our experiment! All voices and ages are welcome. We will be singing and learning new music for Lent and Easter on Sundays from 9:45 to 10:15am. Would you like to check us out and see if the new time works for you? YOU ARE WELCOME! We hope to be singing in person in worship by March as Lent begins.



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.

Crossways Camp Retreats

Junior High Blast

Pine Lake Camp

March 4-6

Kids 6th grade through 8th grade

This retreat is geared for your middle school kid. I always love going to any of the camps! There are fun worships, fun games, interactive bible studies and all while we are team building. The retreats are led by college age people with a love for Jesus!

The cost of the retreat is \$150 per child. Depending on how many kids sign up, I will provide transportation. I like to attend the camps with the kids! Please let me know if your child will be attending. We need to get signed up as soon as possible. You can certainly sign up your child on your own and you will need to register with Crossways but put St Andrew's down as the group you are with. As always, there are camp scholarships available, so please feel free to ask!

Beginning Youth Group

BYG Camp

Imago Dei Village

March 25-27

Kids 3rd grade through 6th grade

This retreat is for kids a little younger. I will be with the kids. But again, there are fun worships, fun games, interactive bible studies! We learn more about God and each other. This camp helps the kids become familiar with the camp setting in a most fun way so that when they are ready for confirmation camp they are comfortable with the idea. Please let me know if your child is going and I will be the transportation. You will sign up online. The cost is \$150 per child, but there are always camp scholarships available.

Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

February 13 – March 7, 2021



Toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, brushes, shampoo, deodorant, body wash, soap, kleenex, toilet paper, wash cloths and hand towels 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!

We are here for you!

Visit our website: standrewsoshkosh.org

Like us on [Facebook](#)

Email us: office@standrewsoshkosh.org (office)

pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org (Pastor)

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

Committee Meetings

You are welcome to attend any meetings. Contact the office and a link will be provided if you would like to attend via ZOOM.



Christian Action Committee

Monday, February 7, at 6 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Thursday, February 10, at 11 am

Council Meeting

Thursday, February 10, at 7 pm

February offerings of love



St Paul tells his friends, you are a letter of love from Jesus: ²You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all; ³and you show

that you are a letter of Christ, prepared by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. (Second Corinthians 3:2-3)

Thank you so much for continuing to bring the love of God to our congregation, neighborhood, community and world.

If you would like to help support us as we continue in the mission that God gives us 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!



Volunteer Opportunities



Oshkosh Area Community Food Pantry

Does the thought of good food going to waste bother you?

The Oshkosh Area Community Food Pantry is looking for people who are passionate about serving others by picking up fresh fruit, vegetables, and nonperishable items from the local grocery stores and bringing them to the pantry. Routes are all located in the Oshkosh and southern Winnebago County area. Commitments would be as little as 1-3 hours on 1 day a week, or more often if you would like. Scheduling will be around your availability and training is included! You can work as a team or work alone.

Volunteers must be able to load and unload the vehicle and collect necessary paperwork. Must have a valid driver's license. No special qualifications or CDL needed for driving the truck or van.

Winnebago Area Literacy Council Needs Volunteers!

Beginner English

(Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11 am)

- Assist learners during instruction
- Meet incredible people!
- Flexible, whichever day and times work best for you!

Let's Talk! English Conversation Group (Mondays 6-7 pm)

- Facilitate conversations in English to increase confidence
- Easy and fun, we'll even provide prompts if needed!
- Only 1 hour per week

Family Literacy

(Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-2 pm)

- Help needed to assist with childcare **AND** the classroom
- Watch and play with the children in English or assist in the classroom during instruction
- Flexible, whichever day and times work best for you!

(This last opportunity takes place at St Andrew's)

Questions?

Call: 920-573-5507

Email: info@winlit.org