



## St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

June 2022

Sunday Worship at 8:00, 8:45 and 10:45am

Dear friends,

I write to you as we are still trying to grasp the tragedy at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde.

We didn't begin this week with any inkling that we would be grappling with deep grief and deeply divisive politics.

I remember telling my pastor as a young adult that I wished I could see the future (I was about 19 or 20 and so ready for adventures!). He told me very wisely that if we knew what we would face – even in the next few days – we would be overwhelmed.

As a young adult I was becoming more and more involved in church life and faith issues. Along the way, I was introduced to the writings of C.S. Lewis.

He was a British university professor with a knack for putting faith and life into terms we can all understand. He wrote a book called The Screwtape Letters that I bought at a Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, and it changed me forever.

The book is a bit whimsical – it is a series of letters between an uncle devil and his nephew devil, both employed in actively tempting people to lose faith in God. God is always identified as “the Enemy” in the letters.

The uncle Screwtape is the experienced instructor, the nephew Wormwood regularly needs correction in his attempts to ensnare a young human into trusting anything else but God.

The setting is the Blitz in London – a terrifying time when the Nazi forces were raining down bombs on London with all the attendant misery, loss, and fear.

In letter 15, Screwtape writes:

The humans live in time but our enemy destines them to eternity. He therefore, I believe, wants them to attend chiefly to two things, to eternity itself, and to that point of time which they call the

Present. For the Present is the point at which time touches eternity. Of the present moment, and of it only, humans have an experience analogous to the experience which our Enemy has of reality as a whole; in it alone freedom and actuality are offered them. He would therefore have them continually concerned either with eternity (which means being concerned with Him) or with the Present – either meditating on their eternal union with, or separation from, Himself, or else obeying the present voice of conscience, bearing the present cross, receiving the present grace, giving thanks for the present pleasure. (© 1976, MacMillan Co, NY)

My Mom used to have a little prayer posted in the mirror in the corner of our kitchen, where we checked our hair before we went out for the day. It was this: **O Lord! thou knowest how busy I must be this day: if I forget thee, do not thou forget me.**  
--Jacob Astley, Prayer before the Battle of Edgehill

What do we do to live in God's presence, or live in the Present moment – what do we do when we are busy and don't wish to forget God nor be forgotten?

Somewhere in each busy day – we humbly listen to God, talk with God, reconnect with our loving God. We find our Present once again in God's presence.

And when those terrible moments come these days, when we are angry, sad, fearful, or lost, then we can find again the One who doesn't forget us, no matter how busy or chaotic the world becomes.

Perhaps we can take a moment each day to cup our hands and welcome the gift God has placed in them today. Let our breathing remind us of the one who is a near to us as the next heartbeat – and gives us the heart, the life, and the hope to live on with God's help.

May God bring you peace and renewed hope!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell



**Church Council**

## Highlights of Church Council Minutes

April 28, 2022 via Zoom

### Attending via Zoom/In Person:

Amy Bargaquast, Kathleen Bellaire, Emmy Kasuboski, Steve Last, Carol Spiegelberg, Christopher Ziegler and Pastor Karen Jewell

**Unable to Attend:** Nancy Krelick, Matt Moore, Teri Rucinsky

### Treasurer's Report Matt Moore

Total expenditures in March of \$23,415 (expenses of \$14,568 and payroll of \$8,847) and total deposits of \$13,398.

**Balance sheet:** The base checking account is \$21,198 the money market is \$236,664 the accounts are up about \$119,088 compared to last year at this time. Per Matt: No real update - no additions have been made to our Money Market Acct in March we have not needed to withdraw from account either.

**Profit and loss budget performance** Per Matt: Overall budgeted income is down \$10,000 year to date, while total expenses are up \$3,000 year to date, yielding an overall (\$13,000) net loss year to date.

**Profit and Loss previous year comparison:** (March) we are down about \$16,750 in our giving this year compared to the prior year. Synod benevolence is up \$700. Committee expenses are up approximately \$1,438, operations expense is up \$1,919, and salaries are up about \$3,586.

It is a long year - not going to overreact to the 1st quarter numbers but I am watching the revenue and expenses. **Motion for** Approval of Treasurer's report and bills to be paid carried.

### Old Business

- **COVID Protocols revisited – Return to alter rail communion**
  - Members can maintain physical space between themselves – possibly standing at rails versus kneeling to prevent contact with the rail
  - Still restricting the offering to exit offering
- **Organist Position**
  - Compiling resources

- Meeting with a potential candidate to explore the position opportunities

- **Sleep in Heavenly Peace Project May 7th**

- Opportunities for everyone to participate
- Light breakfast – coffee, juice, bagels, coffee cake
- Lunch – Mikes Place is donating soup, there will also be chili and hot dogs

### New Business:

- **Fire Proof File Cabinet for Office**
  - Requesting replacement as current handles are breaking off
  - Requesting \$1,500 from memorial funds to replace with a 4-drawer, fireproof, lockable filing cabinet from Office Depot

**Motion for** approval of filing cabinet purchase from memorial funds carried.

- **Synod Assembly May 13-14**
- **Confirmation May 15<sup>th</sup>**
  - 8am service – indoors/hybrid in person and on Facebook
  - 9:30 Confirmation Service – 6 students
  - 11:00 Parking lot service
  - May 11<sup>th</sup> – final confirmation class meeting at 6pm
- **Celebration May 22**
  - Closed session

### Pastor's Report – No Additional report

### Committee Reports:

#### Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg) –

- April 30<sup>th</sup> is 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary
- Planting for Mother's Day on May 7

**Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick)** – Patty and Nicky from Peace Lutheran are doing a Cardboard City lock in on May 20-21. Speakers from the pantry and the warming shelter to educate the children. Money raised will be split between these two entities.

**Education (Emmy Kasuboski)**- No Report

**Evangelism** - No Report

**Fellowship** – No Report

**Property (Steven Last):**

- The PC gave Warren Luce and custodian Jeff Ellman a big thank you and job well done for their combined efforts during Covid. Warren oversaw a major remodel during this time and kept it on budget.
- PC approved the proposal to replace Sanctuary light bulbs at a price not to exceed \$900.
- Warren and Joanne Herwig also donated new lighting in the narthex and lounge hallways to honor the memory of Amy Egner.
- Hosting of the Sleep in Heavenly Peace build a bed project - PC decided to rent a tent in case of inclement weather on May 7, 2022. The rental was \$750 and PC would like to request Thrivent TBD funds for payment.
- A deep cleanup of Pavilion will be held on April 1, 2022 at 8 AM.
- Possibility of another exit in the sanctuary:
  - Rational for (including hostage, shootings situations, etc)
  - Lack of signage or visibility of present second door
  - Possible locations and pew removal

The PC will keep investigating. The West wall of windows also need attention.

- Floor mats in the hallways have become a tripping hazard. PC looking into commercial mats as a solution.
- Pastor Karen pointed out that our “Luther Tree” is no longer with us. PC will investigate the cost of a bigger (10’ – 15’) Linden as a replacement.

**Stewardship/Discipleship - No Report**

**Technology Committee (Pastor Karen):** No Additional report

**Worship & Music (Kathleen Bellaire):**

Requesting to use memorial funds to pay for two recent purchases the WMC has made.

1. \$230.00 for 2 new Galaxy Audio ESM3 mics and 2 Galaxy Audio cables for AT Audio Body Pack. These were purchased from DRS Sound Inc. to replace our existing equipment.

2. \$300.00 for a new piano bench for the sanctuary, purchased from Jansen Piano Benches of Oshkosh. Our old bench is broken and no longer usable.

Motion to Purchase above equipment and bench from memorial funds carried.

We continue to move forward with reintroducing past worship practices into our in-person services. Communion is now offered during the service and individually wrapped communion elements remain available after the service for those who prefer to commune using this method. The candle boxes are once again available for personal prayers before, during and after the service and the choir is singing in-person. The next step will be to engage assisting ministers once again in offering the prayers of the day.

The addition of a second in person service for Palm Sunday and Easter was well received and both services were well attended. Brenda reported she has received positive feedback regarding the switch to Sunday morning choir practice and more people are able to join at this time. Discussion occurred regarding “recruitment” for choir or special musical offerings.

Sandy Last announced that she will be retiring in June after 40 years. We have begun working toward recruitment of a new organist/accompanist.

Brenda has announced that she will be resigning at the end of summer. Consideration should be given to replacing the music positions.

**President’s Report (Teri Rucinsky):** Carol Spiegelberg shared her appreciation for her fellow council members. Happy Anniversary to Jon and Teri!

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, May 12th at 7pm on ZOOM.

*A complete set of minutes is available on the hallway bulletin board next to the office or call 920-235-6616 to have minutes forwarded.*

## Congratulations confirmands!

On Sunday, May 15, 2022 the following young adults confessed their faith and became adult members of St Andrew's Lutheran Church:

Cooper Bargaquast  
Lukas Haen  
Jack Heidl  
Aidan Kasuboski  
Ahriana Marquette  
Katherine Stephan

We rejoice with you and thank God for you!



## Choir Picnic

Come Wednesday, June 1, 2022 at 6:00 pm and gather at St Andrew's. We will celebrate the completion of another year of song in worship and we will thank our choir director, Brenda Francis, for 22 years of leadership of the choir. She is moving on to new endeavors next fall. May God bless her!



## Feeding Hungry Kids

Monday, Wednesday, and Fridays  
July 11<sup>th</sup> through Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>  
11 am - 12:30 pm



It's that time again as we start our sixth year. We will be going to three days a week this summer, starting July 11 through August 26. On Mondays and Wednesdays, we will make hot meals and on Fridays we will give out a bag of food for the weekend. Families will drive through the parking lot to pick up the food from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

To volunteer, please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the table across from the office, OR contact Carol Spiegelberg at 920-420-7832.

It is approaching fast! **We need will need every volunteer to submit a background check form.** (forms available from our office).

## NEEDS list for FEEDING HUNGRY KIDS

You can help feed hungry kids!  
NO HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS

Brownie Mix  
Cake Mixes  
Catsup  
Cookies (chocolate chip, sugar, girl scout cookies, etc.)  
Canned chicken  
Crackers (Saltines)  
Cereal (Trix, Fruit Loops, Cheerios, Rice Krispies)  
Dressing (French, Ranch)  
Fruit Cups (applesauce, peaches, mandarin oranges)  
Fruit Snacks  
Frosting (chocolate, vanilla)  
Granola  
Gravy (beef, chicken)  
Graham Crackers  
Jelly (grape, strawberry)  
Juice boxes  
Lemonade (powdered)  
Marshmallows  
Mac and Cheese  
Macaroni  
Peanut Butter (plain)  
Pudding cups  
Pudding (chocolate, vanilla)  
Potato Chips (individual bags)  
Ravioli  
Rice Krispie Treats  
Raisins  
Spaghetti  
Spaghetti sauce  
Spaghetti O's  
Soups (chicken noodle, chicken & stars, tomato, cream of chicken, cream of mushroom)  
Taco Shells (soft)  
Tuna  
Vegetables (corn, green beans, peas)

## FREEZER ITEMS

Hamburger  
Hot dogs  
Chicken nuggets  
Chicken  
Mini Corn dogs

Gift Cards from Piggly Wiggly

## Fellowship Opportunity



If you are interested in making treats or in making coffee for fellowship hour (following the 8:45 am worship) please call the church office at 920-235-6616, OR contact Carol Spiegelberg at 920-420-7832. Thank you!

## Property Committee Opportunity

The Property Committee would like to announce the formation of an ad hoc committee to investigate the restoration and remodeling of the west wall in the sanctuary. The formation and objectives of the committee will be June 23 at 6:00 pm in the Church Lounge. The date of September 29, 2022 will be the target for having plans and estimates complete. Thank you for considering this task. God bless, Steve Last ( [lastcon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lastcon@sbcglobal.net) )  
Property Committee chair



## Summer Faith & Fun Kits are here!



For our families with elementary age and preschool age children we have a beautiful faith & fun kit for the summer! It includes a book by Laura Alary called **Breathe** that invites the reader into the stories of the Ascension and Pentecost and then helps us look for the presence of Jesus in our everyday life during the summer and autumn! Lots of fun activities and faith practices included. We would love for you to have one. Please call us if you would like to pick up the kit for your family at (920) 235-6616.

## Worship in June

During June our worship will be supported by our library of hymn recordings, and we look forward to our new organist, Kris Selk, beginning in July.



# THANKS FROM THE HEART

**Thank you so much** my dear St. Andrew's friends for being you. Your kindness in honoring my years as your organist was overwhelming and touched my heart so. Your gift of the musical clock will remind me of each of you every time it plays! How perfect is that? I will use the gift of money for a special little getaway – perhaps on a Sunday now that I won't need to be at the organ!!

I will still be around at St. Andrew's – I plan on helping out as a substitute for your new organist, and I will still be helping out in the office as one of the secretaries. Because of you I am retiring with a warm heart. Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.

Sandy Last  
Retiring Organist



Submitted by Patty Koplitz, Youth Director

For more information on any of the following events, please contact Patty Koplitz at [PKoplitz@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:PKoplitz@standrewsoshkosh.org) or 920-420-5616.

## CAMPFIRES!

We will be having Campfires at church on the following dates  
Wednesdays: June 8, July 13, and August 10. Please come from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.



We will play games with the kids and roast marshmallows and make S'mores. Adults and families are all welcome. If adults enjoy socializing, we would love to have you join us. These will be intergenerational gatherings. There is no age limit!

I am looking for three families or adults to help host the events. I will be there but would love to have some more hospitality offered. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Patty Koplitz Children, Youth, and Family Director  
[pattykoplitz@gmail.com](mailto:pattykoplitz@gmail.com)



### Thank you for supporting the Cardboard City Youth Lock-in!

As of this time, our youth have raised approximately \$2,000.00 to be shared between the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry (OACP) and the Oshkosh Day-By-Day Warming Shelter. 13 youth and two adults slept outside overnight with the help of cardboard box shelters, sleeping bags, and the great spirit shown by our youth.

We had learned about local homelessness from Molly Butz of Day-By-Day Warming Shelter and about local food insecurity from Ryan Rasmussen of the OACP. Then we spent the night outside and thought of all the folks who HAVE to sleep outside and don't have comforts or homes to go to. It was a great learning experience that we shared with youth from St Andrew's, Peace, and St Raphael's. Thank you so much to everyone who helped and contributed. Thank you to Patty Koplitz and Nicki McKnight for being our youth leaders and to the YMT youth who led our games, music, and worship.

### Thank you for supporting Sleep in Heavenly Peace!

On Saturday May 7<sup>th</sup> we gathered with members of sister ELCA churches from around the Synod, and members of the Oshkosh community, including the Oshkosh Mid Morning Kiwanis, Winnebago Area Literacy Council, Thrivent, and the Oshkosh chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace to build 40 beds for little children and fashion the wood for ten more.

Under our tent the sanders sounded like a hive of a million bees! The wood was sanded, drilled, stained, and branded to prepare the beds. In addition, many of you contributed bedding and your dollars had purchased the necessary wood and tools to get these done!

Inside the church, our Christian Action Team put on a delicious set of refreshments including lunch and kept our volunteers full of energy and enthusiasm!

84 people signed in to work on the beds and 16 more provided the hospitality. Folks tied fleece blankets, and our little ones planted Mother's Day pansies, and colored greetings to give. We cannot thank you enough for all your help! And a special thank you to Steve Last who coordinated the outdoor work and Carol Spiegelberg who coordinated all that went on inside!

### We're brushing up our counting skills!



### OFFERING TEAM

Coming off the pandemic, the recording teams are brushing up on their counting skills to make sure we are all on the same page literally and figuratively. Counting teams can call on Chris Ziegler for more information.

If you would like to volunteer as a counter of our weekly offerings, you are welcome! Please contact the office (920)235-6616 or [office@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:office@standrewsoshkosh.org) if you are interested.



### All members welcome!

#### Worship & Music Committee

Thursday, June 2, at 7 pm

#### Christian Action Committee

Monday, June 6, at 6 pm

#### Council Meeting

Thursday, June 9, at 7 pm

#### Property Committee

Thursday, June 23, at 11 am

#### Property Ad Hoc Committee

Thursday, June 23, at 6 pm