



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

May 2022

Worship on Facebook Live Sunday at 8:00 am, in the sanctuary at 8:45 am, and in the parking lot at 10:45am

Dear friends,

As I watch the Spring come to Oshkosh it seems to go in fits and starts. It reminds me to be patient with all the new things that need to be ironed out and made smooth and comfortable for us once again.

We ARE making progress forward! As we have learned to treasure deeply the things we once had, we have also learned to focus our hearts on making the best of the life we have now.

We have just passed our 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary of being St Andrew's Lutheran Church – April 30, 1961 was our founding day. It must have been a year when Easter came early, because our congregation began on Good Shepherd Sunday when we always get to hear Jesus speak of laying down his life for his sheep.

In the Fellowship Hall there is a banner from one of our anniversaries that depicts Following the Good Shepherd. That has been a great way to picture our life together in faithfulness here in this place.

I would like to suggest that this year in May we celebrate by looking back in love at the wonderful people of God who got us to this moment and looking forward in hope to the God who will lead us on to new life – both here and in the life to come.

We just passed one of our saints' birthdays. Jayne Lindsay would have been 100 on April 27<sup>th</sup> this year. We didn't get to have a memorial service for her because of COVID and for so long it was a heart-break to me that we couldn't gather in her memory.

But like so many of our wonderful saints – her fingerprints are all over the life we share here, and her faithfulness helped to shape this congregation and its leadership. Each day we carry out God's mission is a memorial to her and so many others.

This congregation stands as a testimony to those who brought love, and blood, sweat, and tears, and most of all, their faithfulness to shape a community that follows the Good Shepherd.

During this month we will join our synod and community to make beds for little children who would otherwise be sleeping on the floor.

We will be learning of homelessness and hunger as our youth construct a cardboard city and raise funds to combat those struggles for our neighbors.

We will seek the guidance of God to reach out to neighbors with the unmistakable love of God so that they may know that they are also beloved children of God and may find abundant life in Jesus.

We will be planning and preparing the Feeding Hungry Kids mission for this summer. We will be shaping new ways to reconnect with our members, families, youth, and children to support their faith formation.

We will be enhancing the facilities we share with another congregation and other community groups so that our lights and heat and water are as efficient and sustainable as we can make them – because we cherish and wish to steward faithfully this beautiful and fragile Creation of God.

61 years! We have come a long way! Thank you, people of St Andrew's. Thank you for faithfully following the Good Shepherd. It is so good to be with you in this place of mission.

May Christ's peace be with you all!  
Pastor Karen Jewell

## How may we BEST keep in touch with you?

### Email? Mail? Phone? Website?

Your contact information is precious, and we don't give it out. But we are so grateful to stay in touch. Please let us know your preference for contacts.

Here is how to contact us:

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

1100 E Murdock Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54901

(920) 235-6616

[www.standrewsoshkosh.org](http://www.standrewsoshkosh.org)

## Highlights of Church Council Minutes March 10, 2022 – 7:00 PM by Zoom

**Attending via Zoom/In Person:** Kathleen Bellaire, Emmy Kasuboski, Nancy Kreilick, Steve Last, Matt Moore, Teri Rucinsky, Carol Spiegelberg, Christopher Ziegler and Pastor Karen Jewell  
**Unable to Attend:** Amy Bargaquast

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

Total expenditures in February of \$19,373 (expenses of \$8,949 and payroll of \$10,424) and total deposits of \$13,504.

**Balance sheet:** The base checking account is \$31,047 the money market is \$236,663 the accounts are up about \$149,016 compared to last year at this time. Current liabilities are \$118,235 compared to current assets of \$268,851.

### **Profit and loss budget performance:**

(Annualized as expenses are simply allocated 1/12 each month). We took in \$12,075 in income (budget \$17,131) this month. Benevolence is under budget by \$500 because these monies will go out in March. Committee expenses are under budget by \$913 this month while operating expenses are under budget by \$495, wages and benefits are over budget by \$1,578.

### **Profit and Loss previous year comparison:**

(Feb) we are down about \$15,593 in our giving this year compared to the prior year. Committee expenses are down approximately \$613, operations expense is up \$81, and salaries are up about \$2,915. Current year to date loss of approximately (\$3,500) compared to prior year income \$14,677.

**M:** Carol Spiegelberg **S:** Steve Last re: Approval of Treasurer's report and bills to be paid. Motion Carried.

### **Old Business**

- **Staff Review Updates**
  - Review existing handbook to replace contracts with overall handbook.
  - Future reviews to be in the fall to better prepare for budgeting.
- **Process for Professional Development (Teri Rucinsky)** Table to Executive Committee to be included with handbook discussions

- **Discussion on Large Donation Funding (Matt Moore)** No Report – table to next to meeting
- **Counting Schedule Update (Chris Ziegler)**
  - Published by email – 5 week alternate. Council members are captains/responsible for depositing funds. Solidifying process before training new teams
- **COVID Protocols revisited**
  - Masks are not required to enter the building. Still a good idea to maintain distance. Candle boxes are in use. Beginning to offer fellowship softly . If there is another surge in infection we may have to return to some restrictions.

### **New Business:**

- Times of worship for Easter Sunday: 7 am Facebook, 8 am by reservation in sanctuary, 9:30 am in sanctuary no reservation needed, 11:00 am in Parking Lot. Easter Breakfast: 8:30am to 9:30am
- **Organist Position**

Sandy Last is retiring from Organist/Accompanist position as of June 1, 2022. We will hold a celebration of Sandy's work among us – and help everyone understand that she is retiring from one position but continuing in the office.
- **Sleep in Heavenly Peace Donations:**
  - Donations to build beds are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>, other donations continue.
  - Linens may be brought to St Andrew's and through the build day (May 7<sup>th</sup>)

### **Pastor's Report— excerpts from written report**

Met with Patty and Nancy Kreilick (March 8) to begin planning the reconnection with young families and the re-development of our children and family ministry such as Sunday School and other important supports for faith formation.

Worked with Synod Council and Synod Reference & Counsel Committee (Resolutions for Assembly) in preparation for the Synod Assembly in May.

Met with Chaplaincy Committee at Miravida to talk about the mission of pastoral care there and the future of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE).

During Lent Confirmation Classes have begun the schedule of half hour of study (about Holy Baptism) and half hour of Lenten worship – with students leading the worship.

**Committee Reports:**

**Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg)** – Sleep in Heavenly Peace build (May 7<sup>th</sup>) – sign up to help build or help with food.

**Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick)** – Patty went to conference and came back with nice ideas. Planning to contact parents of children and youth in late April to better connect with the families. Planning a lock-in to raise funds for the Day by Day warming shelter.

**From Patty Koplitz:** In February I was able to attend the Youth Ministry Network Extravaganza in Minneapolis. I needed rejuvenation. There were 600 people in person and another 600 online. Wow.

I attended an intensive workshop on racial diversity. It was eye opening and full of feelings and ideas.

One of the large group sessions was a Taize worship.

Another was called the Blanket experiment. All the chairs lined the walls of the hall. There were

blankets in the center of the floor representing Turtle Island (North America). We were asked to stand on the blankets. 3 people narrated the story of our effect on the indigenous community. One

man would walk through the people and tap them on the shoulder. Then he would exclaim, "if you

were tapped, please step off the blankets. You have died and we pray for those who have gone before. Please return to our ancestors." As blankets were

emptied, they were removed. People were relocated on the blankets. It was a moving

experience. There was silence throughout the hall. One afternoon I met with a group of youth people

from our Synod. There were eight of us in total. We met for lunch. We introduced ourselves and

described our ministries to each other. We connected. It has long been a concern of mine that

the only connection youth leaders in our area get is once a month, online at noon. I work full time and

cannot attend these meetings. I have expressed those concerns to multiple people. I want to be able

to combine activities with other youth groups. It's difficult when you don't know who they are.

I am hoping to do a cardboard city this spring, but really want to combine with another church to do it.

I will start working on it during Spring break. We would raise money to help the Day by Day warming

Shelter. I want to connect with them to come and speak to us if possible. A cardboard city is where we

would get a cardboard box and sleep outside. We can raise money to get extras, sleeping bags,

pillows, etc. We will plan activities for the evening.

We will sleep in the back courtyard of the church.

Those are just ideas so far. I am open to

suggestions! And volunteers to join us!

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

**Evangelism** - No Report

**Fellowship** – No Report

**Property (Steven Last):**

- I will be meeting with Warren Herwig to decide on the best method to move forward with lighting changes for the future and the cost associated with it. We will be preparing grounds for spring and the bed project

**Stewardship/Discipleship** - No Report

**Technology Committee (Pastor Karen):**

Security of our website – working on making it a "secure website" with Jakob Iversen's

assistance. Donations made on our website are already secure, but would be good to have our

website also marked as secure. Sky Bell at church is not working – doorbell, and visuals.

Sound system in parking lot – still some issues.

**Worship & Music (Kathleen Bellaire):** There is a new app for recording the readings. There still will be an option to record in person or via phone. Choir is now rehearsing on Sunday morning.

**President's Report (Teri Rucinsky):** Thank you – All evaluations have been completed, and future schedule is in place. Happy to be returning to normalcy within the church. Call for volunteers to help with Evangelism, Fellowship and Stewardship. Carol Spiegelberg is working on Fellowship/coffee hour restart. Planning to begin March 27.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, April 21, 2022, at 7pm on ZOOM.

*A complete set of minutes can be found on the bulletin board outside of the office, or by calling the office, (920-235-6616).*

## **We don't want to lose the connection!**

Please let us know **your preference** for contact!

**By email** we can send the NET on Fridays with announcements, activities, worship leadership; also the monthly newsletter, links to worship on-line, and committee calendars and information.

**By mail** you receive quarterly giving statements, and if you prefer, the newsletter and committee calendars and information. (Please tell us!)

**Find on the website** ([standrewsoshkosh.org](http://standrewsoshkosh.org)) you will find the newsletter and monthly calendar.

We treasure our members and friends and want to stay connected with you. Please let us know **how** you would like to receive church messages!

Thank you.

[office@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:office@standrewsoshkosh.org) (920) 235-6616



**Sunday, May 15, 2022**

Join us as we confirm our third-year students at the **9:30 am Holy Communion worship** service on Sunday, May 15. Our students study the bible and the small catechism of Martin Luther for three years. Please pray for our students as they complete their studies and prepare to declare and then practice their adult faith in Jesus Christ among us. Thank you!

## **Special Worship Schedule for Sunday, May 15, 2022**

To include our special Confirmation worship service at 9:30 am today, we will be offering the early in-sanctuary worship as a hybrid worship – so that Facebook attendees and in-person attendees will worship together.

**So, our worship schedule will be:**

8:00 am Facebook Live and in-sanctuary worship  
9:30 am in-sanctuary worship with Confirmation  
11:00 am worship in the Parking Lot.

**Thank you for your kind flexibility!**

## **East Central Synod of Wisconsin, ELCA Synod Assembly**

***“To Live Among God's Faithful People”***

**May 13 and 14, 2022**

Tom Galica, Carol Spiegelberg and Pastor Karen Jewell will be representing St Andrew's at this year's Synod Assembly – voting on church issues and mission actions for 120 congregations and all of the baptized members of our Synod. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us into the mission of God and gift us for the work in our area!

**A word from  
the Christian  
Action  
Committee:**



Upcoming dates:

**May 1 - Build Your Own Sundae**

Meet us in the Fellowship Hall after the 8:45 service

**May 2 – Christian Action Meeting** at 2 pm. We will be cutting fleece for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace project

**May 7 – Sleep in Heavenly Peace project.** How can you help? Make bunk beds, no experience needed. Make bars or cookies or help prepare meals for the workers.

**May 22 – Thank you reception for Sandy Last** who is retiring as our organist. Come and thank Sandy for all her years of dedication after the 8:45 worship service in the Fellowship Hall.

## **Committee Meetings**

All members welcome!

**Christian Action Committee**  
Tuesday, May 2, at 2 pm



**Worship & Music**  
Thursday, May 5, at 7 pm

**Council Meeting**  
Thursday, May 12, at 7 pm

**Property Committee**  
Thursday, May 19, at 11 am



## Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build Saturday, May 7 2022 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

St Andrew's is so excited to be the location and host for the ECSW Synod Assembly Service project! We are working with Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) (<https://www.shpbs.org/chapter/wi-oshkosh>) to make beds for little children in our area who have to sleep on the floor because they have no beds!

Please come and help us build – there will be all sorts of ways to help and you don't have to have experience with power equipment – but if you do you are most welcome, too!

In addition to building the beds there will be opportunities to tie fleece blankets and enjoy a meal together provided by our Christian Action and Fellowship group.

Please come as you are able and leave when you must. We are hoping to build 50 beds and provide much of the needed bedding.

If you wish to donate bedding it does need to be new, twin-size, and not white sheets. You may also contribute funds that will be forwarded to be distributed to local chapters of SHP.

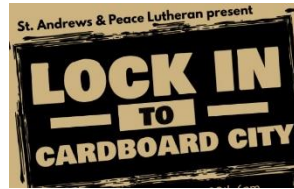
It will be an unforgettable and family friendly adventure together. Please come – you are welcome!

## Community Opportunities

Oshkosh Chamber Singers  
Annual Spring Concert  
Saturday, May 21 7:30 pm

During the program, held at the Alberta Kimball Auditorium, the choir will be joined by singers from Oshkosh West and North High Schools to present *LUX: The Dawn from on High* by Dan Forrest. To purchase tickets, please call 920-312-8290. Adult \$15, Student \$5.

## Cardboard City – a Lock-in adventure Overnight May 20 to 21



St Andrew's and Peace Lutheran Churches present "Cardboard City Lock in" from Friday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm until Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at

8:00am at St. Andrew's.

Our high school and middle school students will be raising money to receive "comforts" to sleep outside that our neighbors might not necessarily have. For each \$150 we raise as a group we will earn (in this order): a box, a blanket, sleeping bag, pillow, garbage bag, tarp or canopy. We will have guest speakers to teach about housing and food instability in our area.

We expect to share some games, songs, a campfire, and tons of fun! The money raised will be split between the Oshkosh Day by Day Warming Shelter and the Oshkosh Area Community Food Pantry. For more information, please feel free to contact Patty Koplitz at [pattykoplitz@gmail.com](mailto:pattykoplitz@gmail.com).

Our youth hope to raise \$1,000.00 and raise awareness of the needs of some of our neighbors who are homeless and hungry. They are excited to have the chance to work together, have adventures and fun together, and get better acquainted.

Would you like to help this experience? Feel free to donate as you are able!

## Regular offerings help St. Andrew's Lutheran Church so much!

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](http://standrewsoshkosh.org). You may also use the QR code:



Thank you so much!