



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

July 2022

Sunday Worship at 8:00am (FB), 8:45am (sanctuary) & 10:45am (parking lot)

Dear friends,

I went looking for hope.

I have heard from several of you about your struggles with doubts and fears in the face of all that has happened – in our world, in our nation, in our churches, and in our families.

If several of you have spoken to me, my experience tells me that there are many more who haven't had the occasion or the desire to share their own painful doubts.

People have confessed with shame that they are experiencing doubt and that they see it as a failure to have faith.

When you did share, I have tried to reassure you – that it is normal to have doubts and that folks who take their faith seriously will have periods of doubt.

It can be a comfort to know that you are not alone in this struggle – and that is one part of the wisdom of grief groups and other groups that gather us around a common experience. We can encourage one another!

But that is not always possible for all of us – to meet with others in the same boat. And sometimes our doubts strike hard at 2 am when we don't want to bother other people with our pain.

There is a great loneliness in doubt. I have felt the fear that I have lost myself somehow, that I no longer feel a confidence in my own ability to have faith and to be the person I truly want to be.

I wanted to tell you (and myself) something that would help. So, I went looking for hope. I turned to the people and the writings that have given me hope when things did not look good – when so much seemed to be impossible.

I think God winked at me: I went looking for hope and hope found me.

Two days ago, one of the scholars who has blessed me over and over again with his words – Walter Brueggemann – published a blog post called “To Hope Again.” Please feel free to check it out: <https://churchanew.org/brueggemann/to-hope-again>

He offers Jeremiah 31:1-6, including this verse:
I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. (v.3)

God promises to rebuild God's people, help them replant the lost crops and return them to joyfulness. Brueggemann says: *This utterance of God...insists... that God is underway with restorative, rehabilitative grace. Indeed, God's love for God's people is "everlasting," not for an instant interrupted by hard circumstance. This love is marked by dogged determination and unfailing resolve.... And from that deep fidelity, there is concrete hope What seems to have been lost will be restored.*

A renewing faith practice for us – go looking for hope where you have found trustworthy counsel:
--Some of us have dog-eared books – the places where someone has written the words that comfort our hearts or inspire new efforts.

--Some of us have lovely people in our lives whose voices still echo in our hearts, whether the memory floods us with warmth or gives us a wry feeling of a swift kick in the pants.

All of us have a God who does not give up on us – no matter what we do or how we feel. A God who comes looking for us – to give us hope and help us onward to renewed well-being.

This may become your great gift to others – to remember and to tell that the God of hope seeks us, helps us, and will not fail to see us through --- no matter what the challenge.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Karen Jewell



**Church Council Minutes
Highlights
May 12, 2022, via Zoom**

Attending via Zoom/In Person:

Kathleen Bellaire, Steve Last,
Nancy Krelick, Matt Moore, Teri
Rucinsky, Carol Spiegelberg, and Pastor Karen
Jewell

Unable to Attend: Amy Bargenquast, Emmy
Kasuboski, Christopher Ziegler

Treasurer's Report Matt Moore

Total expenditures in April of \$15,642
(expenses of \$6,685 and payroll of \$8,957)
and total deposits of \$14,692.

Balance sheet: The base checking
account is \$19,845 the money market
is \$236,667 the accounts are up about
\$120,473 compared to last year at this
time. Current liabilities are \$118,518
compared to current assets of
\$257,654.

Profit and loss budget performance:
(Annualized as expenses are simply
allocated 1/12 each month). We took
in \$13,972 in income (budget \$17,131)
this month. Benevolence is right on
budget both month and year to date.
Committee expenses are under budget
this month by \$559 this month while
operating expenses are over budget by
\$848, wages and benefits are under
budget by \$1,645. There was a net loss
from ordinary operations for the
month of April in the amount of
(\$1,704) compared to a budgeted
income of \$99. Overall budgeted
income is down \$13,400 year to date,
while total expenses are up \$2,000
year to date, yielding an overall
(\$15,400) net loss year to date
compared to budget.

Profit and Loss previous year comparison:
(April) we are down about \$18,200 in our
giving this year compared to the prior year.
Synod benevolence is up \$700. Committee
expenses are up approximately \$1,670,
operations expense is up \$2,900, and
salaries are up about \$7,140. Current year
to date loss of approximately (\$14,980)
compared to prior year income \$32,689

(keep in mind the prior year included
\$22,300 of PPP Forgiveness income).

Motion carried for Approval of Treasurer's
report and bills to be paid.

Old Business

• **Staff Updates**

- Kris Selk has accepted the Organist
and choir director positions
beginning July 1st, 2022.
- Celebrations –
 - Christian Action group will be
doing hors d'oeuvres for Sandy's
celebration
 - Plan for additional celebration
to be determined for Brenda
(choir picnic)

• **COVID Protocols revisited**

- In-Person/hybrid Council
meetings to begin June 9th

• **Sleep in Heavenly Peace Project**

- 84 tool volunteers, 16 additional
helpers...100 total. 40 of 50
beds were completed in full,
additional work was done on the
additional 10 beds
- Thank you to Christian Action
for the refreshments provided
- The Synod sent a wonderful
thank you note to St Andrews
for their leadership for this
build

New Business:

• **Fire Cardboard City Youth Lock-
in/Fundraiser**

- May 20th – 10 youth signed up
to participate. Day by Day and
Oshkosh Area Pantry will
provide speakers.

• **Synod Assembly May 13-14**

- Voting members: Tom Galica,
Carol Spiegelberg, Pastor Karen

Pastor's Report—Confirmation is on Sunday – 6
students will be confirmed!!!!

Committee Reports:

Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg) –

- July 11th – August 26th Feeding Hungry
Kids
 - Monday/Wednesday hot meals,
Friday packaged food for weekend
 - 11:am-12:30 pm outside drive
through pickup.

- 9/11 – Gods work our hands – possible chili cookoff, looking for teams
- Fellowship coffee hour – looking for people to make treats and help with coffee service

Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick) – No Additional Report beyond Cardboard City event
Education (Emmy Kasuboski)- No Report
Evangelism - No Report
Fellowship – No Report
Property (Steven Last): The complete re-lamp of the sanctuary was completed by Easter Sunday. 68 bulbs were replaced. Energy used was changed from 11, 200 watts to 1,207 watts. A big thank you to Warren Herwig who headed the operation. Warren was given great support by Jeff Ellman and Tom Galica.

- Warren has evaluated all of our lighting and is in the process of setting up tasks that can save energy
- The “Luther Tree” will be replaced at very little cost.
- Pavilion was cleaned-up. Thanks to all who helped.
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace hosting is on track for May 7.
- 3 bids will be obtained for new entry mats in the west entryway
- Decided to create an ad hoc committee to explore the possibilities of remodeling the west exterior wall of the sanctuary.
 - All 8 windows are in need of replacement – 40 years old
 - Insulation and air infiltration concerns
 - Addition of a new exit out to Oak St. to provide quicker evacuation in emergencies
 - The removal of another pew on the west side to coincide with the door
- The plumber has been contracted to replace 1 toilet in the ladies’ restroom.
- Landscaping for water drainage in the courtyard. Water is “ponding” against the old education wing and causing water damage to cinder block foundation. The lawn also has 3 five feet in diameter holes that need to be landscaped.

- Check condition of asphalt parking lot and any need to reseal.
- Address some exterior concrete problems.
- Remove wood planter in front of narthex window and landscape.

Stewardship/Discipleship –

- Need to make sure we convey to the congregation what their mission supports
- Renew education of offering assistants – Chris/Matt point person

Technology Committee (Pastor Karen): New printer has been here a little over a week.

Worship & Music (Kathleen Bellaire):

We continue to move forward with reintroducing past worship practices into our in-person services. Feedback has been positive.

Brenda reported that May 22 will be the last Sunday the choir will sing before their summer hiatus. No special music has been planned for summer at this time.

Darlene informed the committee that our smooth silver chalice needs refinishing. We are hoping to use Memorial funds for this project.

Our recruitment for a new organist has been successful, and we anticipate a July 1 start date. During the month of June, we will be utilizing music Sandy has prerecorded for our worship services.

We are beginning to have assisting ministers during our in-person worship services. Pastor Karen and Kathy are planning a gathering for those interested in this role.

There will be a deviated worship schedule for May 15, Confirmation Sunday.

Lastly, discussion occurred regarding how we might get more formal feedback about our current worship practices, e.g., times and the types of services offered, etc. Kathy will draft a survey for WMC and Council members to review.

President’s Report (Teri Rucinsky):

Congratulations to confirmands! Thanks to congregations and volunteers for their participation in our church projects especially the Sleep in Heavenly Peace build.

A complete set of minutes can be found on the bulletin board outside of the office.

Pizza Ranch Fundraiser for Feeding Hungry Kids

July 25, 2022
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm



Come for a meal and help others have good things to eat! We will be gathering at Pizza Ranch Oshkosh, 1051 S Washburn St (just south of Ninth Ave) to enjoy a fun meal and support a fund-raiser for Feeding Hungry Kids (FHK).

For years, Pizza Ranch has helped us raise funds to buy food and supplies to serve our local school children and their families during Feeding Hungry Kids.

Each year, Pizza Ranch has donated a portion of their profits from meals served from 4 to 8 pm. It will be our turn to receive the benefit for our FHK program this month on Monday, July 25. Please come as you are able and join in the fun! Thank you!

Feeding Hungry Kids

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



The start date is approaching fast! We are thrilled to be able to offer take away meals to our neighborhood children. We are still collecting food or gift cards from Piggly Wiggly. There is still time to volunteer, sheets are on the table across from the office. **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!
SORRY, 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



Assisting
Ministers

Would you like to help lead worship?

We will be gathering for
fellowship and conversation about
the role of assisting ministers on

Saturday, July 9 from 10:30 am to 12 noon.

As we return to some of our cherished practices in
worship, our Assisting Ministers are helping lead worship
once again: they will pray the Psalm and offer the
Prayers of the Church during our worship at 8:45 am.
They also assist in serving Holy Communion. Would you
like to help?

If you are interested – please feel free to join us or let the
office know of your interest in this ministry at (920) 235-
6616. Thank you for considering this!



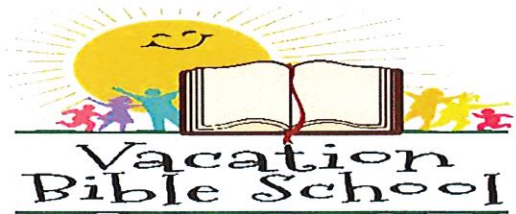
**God's work.
Our hands.**

God's Work Our Hands
Sept. 11, 2022
After the 8:45 service

Please join us. We have teams ready for the
challenge at our Annual Chili Cook-Off. Would
you like to submit a chili for the contest?
We will have workshops and activities you can
participate in. As we plan to assemble Lutheran
World Relief Kits we are in need of school
supplies (see list below) and fabric (cotton blend)
of 42" or 45" in width and 3 yards in length - and
spools of thread. Thank you!

School supplies needed:

- Spiral notebooks (70-80 sheets)
- Ruler
- Pencil Sharpener
- Scissors (point and blunt ends)
- #2 Pencils (unsharpened)
- Black or blue ball point pens
- Crayons (16 or 24)
- Folders
- Eraser (2 ½")
- Glue Sticks

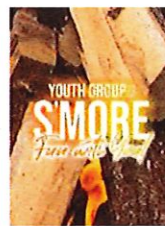


Vacation Bible School
Monday, July 18 to Friday, July 22, 2022
at Peace Lutheran Church
240 W Ninth Ave, Oshkosh 54902

Hours: Monday through Thursday 2:00 to 5:00 pm
& Special time: Friday 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

Children entering Kindergarten through fifth grade
in the upcoming school year are welcome to attend.
Worship, bible study, games and activities, arts and
crafts, nature activities and a mission project will be
offered for your child to help them grow in faith!

Registration forms are available in the office and on-
line. Please contact Patty Koplitz for more
information at 920-420-5616 or
pattykoplitz@gmail.com



CAMPFIRES!

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

We play games with the kids and
roast marshmallows and make
S'mores. Adults of all ages and families are all
welcome. These are intergenerational gatherings.
There is no age limit! Please come!

I am looking for 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

Community Back to School Fair

is coming soon!

August 17 and 18, 2022

North High School

1100 West Smith Ave

Oshkosh WI 54901



We are gathering resources that will be distributed at the fair to 1,000+ students and their families that need some help getting off to a good start at school this fall.

Our Christmas in July display will have little backpack "ornaments" that you can take with you – if you wish, you may donate clothing, department store gift cards, or cash to help provide the needed items for the children and youth.

At the back-to-school fair they will receive school supplies, clothing, haircuts, and hygiene items – and the big boost in confidence that your gifts bring!

No need to wrap your items – please bring them back to church by Sunday, July 31 to give the organizers time to complete their preparations.

Thank you for all you do!

For more information contact Teri Horner at thorner@goodwillncw.org or (920) 968-6346.



Strengthening Our Community

[The Winnebago Area Literacy Council](#) continues their work at St Andrew's with new members of our community in need of language skills and cultural understanding.

Monday through Friday in the mornings a youth program (New Voices) for middle and high school youth offers the chance to improve their English skills – and they do have fun!

On Tuesdays and Thursdays in the afternoons the Family Literacy program works on all the challenges of living in a culture with a new language. The families and the WALC staff are just delightful. We are blessed to have them.

Are you interested in volunteering with this wonderful community right at St Andrew's? Please call or text 920-573-5507 or use the volunteer form at:

<https://winlit.org/volunteer>

Thank you for your generous help

We thank you for the time as well as the money that you offer to help St Andrew's congregation continue to serve Christ in this place. All your gifts make a difference. We are making it through the pandemic and on into the next stage of our life together in faith.

Thank you 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!



Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

Worship & Music Committee

Thursday, July 7 at 7 pm

Assisting Ministers meeting

Saturday, July 9 at 10:30 am

Council Meeting

Thursday, July 14, at 7 pm

Christian Action Committee

July 11 at 10 am

Property Committee

Thursday, July 21 at 11 am