

# *St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church*

## *Newsletter*

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

August 2022  
August 28 – Bless the Pets at 9:45am

Dear friends,

It isn't always easy to have time for reflection – a lot of the time we just put our heads down and push through the current situations hoping so much to “get her done.” We have done that a lot these last few years!

But sometimes I do go back and re-read the articles or minutes about our church life from before the Pandemic just to remember a little what life was like then.

And sometimes I go back and re-read what we wrote and did (or tried to do) during COVID's early days and it still overwhelms me – all that we have gotten through together in this church.

I am so grateful to God that we are able to be together again in so many ways that I had taken for granted just three or four years ago.

This Sunday in worship we pray Psalm 103:

**<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.  
<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all God's benefits—  
<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases;  
<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**

At first, when we were able to resume worshipping inside, I hoped it would be a steady (if slow) resumption of what we had been able to do before. But it turned out to be more like driving a road with a series of potholes and puddles that you have to slow down for over and over again.

COVID has resurged multiple times and made us curtail some of our activities and reshape others. We still are dealing with periodic closures of nursing homes and other facilities that affect our dear members and our community.

Yet you have been so patient and faithful as a congregation. You have been so caring about one another and about our community.

So now we have begun another new and challenging endeavor – to transition to new pastoral leadership for St Andrew's. I will be retiring from this call to be pastor at St Andrew's on November 30 this year.

At our recent council meeting, President Teri Rucinsky offered strong words of encouragement to engage in the many new opportunities for leadership and ministry here.

We are redeveloping our Children, Youth, and Family ministry – hoping to grow the presence of our younger members in worship, Sunday school and mission activities after their long absence through COVID. You will have many times this autumn to throw your strength and love into the invitation to faith and mission! Talk with Emmy Kasuboski and Nancy Kreilick from our council.

As a congregation seeking new pastoral leadership you will be forming committees that guide the transition process – with the help of Pastor Asher O'Callaghan from the Synod leadership team and always with the prayers and support of our Bishop Anne Edison-Albright.

Kris Selk, our new organist and choir director, will be exploring with you the ways we will offer music in our worship – to shape our praise and to deepen our trust in God's work among us.

I am so grateful to God for the energy and love that God stirs in you as we conclude a summer of mission (Feeding Hungry Kids was outstanding and God's Work--Our Hands is up next!).

You are people who bless God's holy name with your hands, hearts, and voices. I thank God for you, St Andrew's Lutheran Church!

Yours in Christ, Pastor Karen Jewell

## Highlights of Church Council Minutes June 6, 2022

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

### **Treasurer's Report Matt Moore**

Total expenditures in May of \$27,173 (expenses of \$18,317 and payroll of \$8,856) and total deposits of \$13,696.

**Balance sheet:** The base checking account is \$9,027 the money market is \$236,669 the accounts are up about \$114,031 compared to last year at this time. Current liabilities are \$109,978 compared to current assets of \$246,838.

**Profit and loss budget performance:** (Annualized as expenses are simply allocated 1/12 each month). We took in \$10,684 in income (budget \$17,131) this month. Benevolence is under budget this month by \$500. Committee expenses are under budget this month by \$1,881, while operating expenses are under budget by \$821, wages and benefits are over budget by \$505. There was a net loss from ordinary operations for the month of May in the amount of (\$3,651) compared to a budgeted income of \$99. Overall budgeted income is down \$19,811 year to date, while total expenses are down \$686 year to date, yielding an overall (\$19,124) net loss year to date compared to budget.

**Profit and Loss previous year comparison:** (May) we are down about \$18,000 in our giving this year compared to the prior year. Synod benevolence is up \$200. Committee expenses are up approximately \$900, operations expense is up \$3,200, and salaries are up about \$3,165. Current year to date loss of approximately (\$18,630) compared to prior year income \$28,915 (keep in mind the prior year included \$22,300 of PPP Forgiveness income).

### **Old Business**

#### **Staff Updates**

- Brenda Francis will be resigning effective 6/30/22.
- Kris Selk, choir director/organist will start 7/1/22

#### **Cardboard City Youth Lock in and Fundraiser**

-- Collected over \$2,000 to be split between the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry and the Day by Day Warming Shelter.

#### **Synod Assembly**

-- Very Helpful, very nicely put together, voting was completed online this year.

### **Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) Project**

- Almost a full construction trailer full of bedding was collected at Synod Assembly
- Potential Spring 2023 build on site at St Andrews is being planned
- Once again, thank you to all volunteers and a special thank you to the Christian Action Committee for the generous hospitality to make this event successful.

### **New Business:**

#### **Office Update – New Fire-proof filing cabinet**

- Purge old files when transferring to new cabinet
- Request for additional staff hours to be worked concurrently – 2 staff, 20 hours each (total of 40 hours)

### **Membership Changes:**

#### **New Members**

#### **Confirmands (May 15, 2022!!!!)**

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

#### **Other new members**

- Jeff and Wendy Ruetten

#### **Communion protocol**

- Discussed communion at the rail (to continue) and alternative ways to distribute communion to those wishing to remain at their seats

#### **Pastor's Report to council**

Continuing Education – attended the Festival of Homiletics via Zoom in mid May. The focus was "After the Storm – Preaching and Trauma."

I am creating a draft calendar for planning purposes for July 2022 to September 2023.

I am creating an index of the recorded hymns so that they are readily for Facebook Live, for Parking Lot service, and for Live worship when our accompanists are unavailable.

Winnebago Literacy has begun its summer term – with classes for Family Literacy (T, Th pms), New Voices for youth in middle school and high school (M-Fr ams) and a special group for Amcor employees on Wednesdays late afternoons. .

**Suggestion:** begin the Nominating Committee recruiters in August, including the Financial Audit team so all is ready to go by the time we have annual meeting. If we plan in August, we will be ready to invite when congregational energy is high – in September and October.

#### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg) –**

#### **Final planning for FHK Program:**

- July 11<sup>th</sup> – August 26<sup>th</sup> M/W serving hot meals

-- Fridays will have a bag of groceries for the week-end

-- Local businesses have stepped up and will be assisting us by donating the hot meals.

-- List of food items needed is on the table outside of the office.

-- Piggly Wiggly and Family Dollar are helping to collect food

### **God's Work Our Hands**

-- September 11<sup>th</sup> following the first service

-- Chili Cookoff Teams are forming

### **Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick) –**

Patty Koplitz has scheduled campfires on the second Wednesday in the months of June, July and August and all ages are welcome.

**In the works:** Patty is working on a plan to share Vacation Bible School with Peace Lutheran Church this summer.

Pastor Karen is also collaborating with other Lutheran Churches to combine Confirmation classes. Students would get to meet and work with other youth and expand their fellowship & mission activities with other churches. **(Patty Koplitz)** Hello all!

I am so grateful to be able to send this report this month. It feels like so much has happened!

At the end of May we had our first lock in in two years! This one was to raise awareness about homelessness and food insecurity in this area. Molly Butz came from the Day by Day Warming shelter and Ryan Rasmussen joined us from the Oshkosh Area Food Pantry. They each shared information with the kids about how they provide services and how prevalent these issues are in our area.

Leadership was provided by the Stephan kids. I feel so fortunate that they are willing to take on this role. We used a new resource for prayer. If you take a peek in the youth room, you will see some refrigerator doors. There are magnets on them to help the kids know what to say for public prayer.

We were joined by Peace Lutheran Church. Their youth leader and 3 kids joined us for the evening. We had a total of 14 kids. The kids each got to build their own cardboard box home for the evening.

At this time I am not certain of the exact amount raised, however Matt may be able to answer that question. Nicki (Peace Youth Director) and I will be bringing the checks directly to the speakers to thank them.

Last night (Wednesday) we had our campfire. We had 3 generations join us with a total of 14 people. We played lawn Yahtzee and roasted

marshmallows for smores. I am so grateful for the moms and grandmas that stayed with us. I know the kids loved having them there!

I am grateful to be able to be part of these activities and grateful to be a part of the ministry here at St. Andrew's.

**Education (Emmy Kasuboski)**- Currently working on planning for Sunday School in the fall.

### **Property (Steven Last):**

3 substantial projects which require some expense would be beneficial in energy savings

-- Parking lot lights

-- Nave (north wall) of sanctuary

-- Smart church project

These projects all have merit but will be tabled until our budget is discussed.

### **Projects completed:**

-- Wood flower box outside of narthex windows removed

-- New mats for entryway ordered

-- Outlet in narthex fixed but points to more work on wall

### **Projects scheduled and/or discussed:**

-- Replace one toilet in the ladies' bathroom.

-- Plumber will put camera down the sanitary sewer and investigate possible blockage area or any cracks or separations that would cause a smell in the bathrooms.

-- The area around the electrical outlet on the exterior wall in the narthex is showing water damage.

-- Lighting in the entryway by the Fellowship Hall will be investigated for improvements.

-- Other lighting options for lighting the front exterior will be examined.

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

We are moving forward with our transition in both the organist and choir director positions. The choir and several congregation members joined together for a picnic. We celebrated Brenda's contributions to St. Andrew's over the past 22 years and wished her well in her new endeavors

Our new organist and choir director, Kris Selk, has met with Sandy Last and Pastor Karen to begin her transition into the organist position. She will begin her organist duties on July 3. A short installation ceremony for Kris is being planned for September 11 as we kick off our church year.

During the month of June, we will be using recorded music for all worship services.

Summer services will continue as currently scheduled. Compliment services on-line Wednesday evenings, 9:00 pm. A "Bless the Pets" service will be held on August 28.

*A complete set of minutes can be found on the bulletin board next to office.*



**Sunday, August 28**  
**Bless the Pets Service (9:45 am)**

Bless the Pets is a special worship when we ask God to bless our pets and all creatures. If your pet likes to be around others, please plan to bring your pet! If your pet would not be comfortable here, feel free to bring a picture to share and please know that there will be a special blessing prayer to take home for your pet. We also give thanks in our worship for those pets who have gone to heaven.

We will worship in our courtyard, outside with the pets where we can enjoy the many beauties of creation. This year Bless the Pets is on Sunday, Aug. 28 at the special worship time of 9:45 am worship.



## Choir Season Begins

As we get ready to kick off a new church year, our new choir director Kris Selk will begin directing the choir. The choir will be singing at the 8:45 am sanctuary worship service 3 Sundays each month. If you've ever thought about singing in the choir, please come and try it out. Join for the year, a season, or a special holiday. You don't need to commit to being at every service. All ages and voices are welcome.

The choir's first meeting will be on Wednesday September 7 at 7 pm starting in in the choir room. Come and give it a try!



## Feeding Hungry Kids is underway throughout August!

*Submitted by Carol Spiegelberg*

Feeding Hungry Kids program is going great! Our numbers are up from last year. I want to thank all who gave gift cards or monetary donations. Everything was put to good use.

I also want to thank the wonderful volunteers who help me make this program work.

Thank you to everyone who joined us at Pizza Ranch or who volunteered to work that night.

We would like to thank **Pizza Ranch** on Washburn, where we held the fundraiser - we received \$826 - a combined total of a portion of the proceeds during our fundraiser from the restaurant as well donations from patrons in a jar for our mission. Most of all, it was a lot of fun to be there, and so we pass along deep thanks to all who helped.

## Transitions at St Andrew's

We are inviting volunteers and nominations for two transition committees: the Ministry Site Profile Committee and the Call Committee. You may give the names to Teri Rucinsky, our council president. The Ministry Site Profile committee prepares a description of the congregation, its mission, and its setting in the larger community. The call committee will consider candidates and conduct interviews with them. It is a time for prayer and discernment as these committees are formed and become active! Thank you for your prayers and potential participation!



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

**God's Work. Our  
Hands.**

**Sept. 11, 2022**

Mark your calendar and join us after first service on Sept. 11 for God's Work Our Hands Day. There will be activities for everyone to be involved in. We will start it off with our Chili Cook-Off. We have 4 teams ready for you to taste and judge the "best" pot of chili.

We will be collecting school supplies for our local children in need as well as fleece material (see lists below) and cotton fabric. We will also have banks available for the Heifer Project. Look for the banks on the table outside of the sanctuary.



**Family Faith  
Formation EVENTS**

**Please come to Worship Sept 25  
and get a take-home Prayer kit for your home!**

Beginning in September we will offer a family friendly event at least once a month to help our children, youth, and families grow in faith! We ask you to come to worship at the 8:45 am worship and then to stay for 20 minutes for a special take-home craft and resources –that you may continue to use at home! All ages of members will be welcome to take part. Please let us know if you would like to take a kit home for your household.

We are also asking for your input into what we can do to support your family and you as you connect with God in worship, scripture, and prayer. **Are you interested in helping us plan?** Please feel free to contact Emmy Kasuboski (Education council liaison) or the Church Office or Pastor Karen for more information! Call (920) 235-6616.

Our first Event will be on **Sunday, September 25** beginning in worship and continuing for 20 minutes after worship in the Fellowship Hall. You will go home with wonderful resources to help grow your prayer life at home. Please plan to come!



**School Supplies Needed:**

- Spiral notebooks (70 – 80 sheets)
- Ruler
- Pencil sharpener
- Scissors (pointed and blunt ends)
- #2 pencils (unsharpened)
- Black or blue ball point pens
- Crayons (16 or 24 pack)
- Folders
- Eraser (2-1/2")
- Glue stick

**SCHOOL  
SUPPLIES**



**Fabric Needed:**

- 3 yards of 42" or 45" wide fabric (cotton or cotton blend)
- spools of thread
- 2 yards of fleece fabric

**Confirmation classes begin again!**

**(A special welcome to  
our Sixth Graders  
and other new students!)**



Please plan to come to our **first class** on Wednesday, September 8, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in Church.

We will be exploring the Bible together using ECHO the STORY. Please bring your study bible if you are a returning student.

Please, **if your student is new** to our classes, please call the office at (920) 235-6616 so that we can order enough study bibles and ECHO the STORY materials!

Thank you! See you soon!

**Youth News**

Submitted by Patty Koplitz, Youth Director

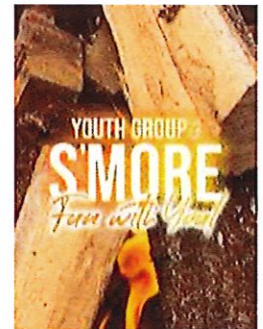
For more information on any of the following events, please contact Patty Koplitz at [pattykoplitz@gmail.com](mailto:pattykoplitz@gmail.com) or 920-420-5616.

**YMT (Youth Ministry Team)  
CAMPFIRES!**

We had our final summer campfire here at church on August 10.

Thank you to the youth and families who took part! We found out that there is no age limit on fun!

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





## Calling All Green Thumbs!

Lutheran Campus Ministry-Oshkosh is gearing up for its annual plant giveaway. Please consider planting or purchasing some easy-to-grow houseplants that would be ready by the end of August. Label your plant by name/congregation and drop off your plant to the unlocked garage at The Gathering Place at 620 Elmwood Ave anytime between Sept. 1 and Sept. 4.

Questions? Contact Lutheran Campus Ministry at (920)231-1168 or [lcmoshkosh@gamil.com](mailto:lcmoshkosh@gamil.com)

## **Worship Survey results are available**

Please feel free to pick up a copy at church or ask us to send you one!



**Worship & Music Committee**  
Monday, August 2 at 7 pm

**Property Committee**  
Thursday, August 25 at 11 am

**Council Meeting**  
Thursday, August 11 at 7 pm

**Our new Autumn worship Schedule begins Sunday, September 4**



## Fall Worship Times

8:45 am in the sanctuary

**(Fellowship time in between)**

10:45 am in the sanctuary and on Facebook

Deep thanks to Steve Last, Dennis Rucinsky, Pam Nemmetz and many others who have helped with the Parking Lot worship services and to make the "Deer Stand" such a helpful aid to our worship together!

## **Thank you, Patty Koplitz !**

**Thank you, Patty**, for years as our Sunday School Superintendent and then as our Youth Director. You have been a mentor and support to so many of our children, youth, and families. We wish you the best in your new position as Children, Youth, and Family minister at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Neenah. May God bless you! A special blessing will be offered on Sunday, August 21.

## Updating your contact info:

We are eager to stay in touch with you! Please update your address, phone, or email address with us.

For example:

How would you like to be listed in the St Andrew's membership directory?

Name:

Address:

Phone:

**AND**

What is your preference for receiving the newsletter?

Mailed?

Emailed?

Read it on the

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

Please feel free to call us at (920) 235-6616

OR email us at [office@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:office@standrewsoshkosh.org)

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 8:00am Facebook Live worship 8:45am In person Worship 10:45am Outdoor Worship in parking lot 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	1 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids	2 1:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy 7:00pm Worship Committee mtg	3 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids 9:00pm Compline	4 11:00am Property Committee Meeting 1:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy	5 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids 6:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting	6 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
7 8:00am Facebook Live worship 8:45am In person Worship 10:45am Outdoor Worship in parking lot 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	8 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids	9 ELECTION DAY 1:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy 6:30pm ACOA	10 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids 4:00pm C Y F Ministry plng mtg 6:00pm Family Campfire/Games (Intergenerational) 9:00pm Compline	11 1:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	12 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids 6:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting	13 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
14 8:00am Facebook Live worship 8:45am In person Worship 10:45am Outdoor Worship in parking lot 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	15 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids	16 1:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy picnic	17 Back to School Backpack fair 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids 9:00pm Compline	18 Back to School backpack fair	19 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids 6:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting	20 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 10:00am Art & Soul Craft Group 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
21 8:00am Facebook Live worship 8:45am In person Worship 10:45am Outdoor Worship in parking lot 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	22 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids	23 6:30pm ACOA	24 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids 2:00pm Adult Literacy Classes 9:00pm Compline	25 11:00am Property Committee Meeting	26 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids ends 6:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting	27 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
28 8:00am Facebook Live worship 8:45am In person Worship 9:45am Bless the Pets 10:45am Outdoor Worship in parking lot 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	29	30	31 2:00pm Adult Literacy Classes 9:00pm Compline	1	2 6:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting	3 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 8:00am Facebook Live worship 8:45am In person Worship 9:45am Bless the Pets 10:45am Outdoor Worship in parking lot 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	29	30	31 2:00pm Adult Literacy Classes 9:00pm Complime	1 1	2 6:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting	3 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
4 8:45am Holy Communion 10:45am Holy Communion and Facebook 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	5 LABOR DAY	6 12:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy begins	7 2:00pm Adult Literacy Classes 7:00pm Choir Meeting 9:00pm Complime	8 12:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	9 6:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting	10 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
11 God's Work - Our Hands 8:45am Holy Communion 10:45am Holy Communion and Facebook 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	12	13 12:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy 6:30pm ACOA	14 2:00pm Adult Literacy Classes 9:00pm Complime	15 12:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy	16 6:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting	17 Peggy Wagner Memorial Service 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
18 Joint Confirmation Kick off 8:45am Holy Communion 10:45am Holy Communion and Facebook 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	19	20 12:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy	21 2:00pm Adult Literacy Classes 9:00pm Complime	22 12:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy	23 6:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting	24 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
25 8:45am Holy Communion & Family Faith Formation Event 10:45am Holy Communion and Facebook 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	26	27 12:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy 6:30pm ACOA 7:00pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting	28 2:00pm Adult Literacy Classes 9:00pm Complime	29 11:00am Property Committee Meeting 12:00pm Winn Lit Family Literacy	30 6:30pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting	1 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting