



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

October 2022
Harvest Blessings!

Dear friends,

The colors in the trees are proclaiming the change of seasons. The strange pattern of warm and cold temperatures too!

It is as if the whole natural world were on a seesaw – teetering between warm and cold, growing season and fallow time.

For me and for many of us, this has been a season of intense prayer. Prayers for friends and family working through illness or recovery from accidents and surgeries. Prayers for people in transition, prayers for help, hope, and renewal.

In just a week or so, we will hear in church the parable of the unjust judge. Luke says that Jesus told us this parable *about [our] need to pray always and not to lose heart.* (Luke 18:1)

It is a powerful motivation for me as a pastor, a teacher, and a follower of Jesus, to share the practice of prayer with all ages – so that we may not lose heart.

We just had our first Faith Formation for Families and taught prayer. We just had our first Joint Confirmation retreat and taught prayer and the Lord's Prayer. We don't want anyone to lose heart.

In this season of political wrangling and deep divisiveness – it is easy to lose heart – either to give up on the whole mess or to feel afraid that the election or the elected will fail us.

But there is a deep wholeness in Christ that supersedes all political issues, all civic unrest, and all predictions of the future.

Jesus comes to bring you and me PEACE – and as he says in John 14:27 – the gift of peace is not the peace that the world gives.

We seek peace when we pray – the peace that means healing, wholeness, well-being, comfort, renewal, recovery for people, for our communities and for the whole creation.

We need Jesus' peace.

And so we learn to pray. We learn to seek his presence and to speak to and with him for the things that matter to us – the things we hold in our hearts.

We have a need to pray and not lose heart. To keep courage and even confidence in the tough situations of our lives and the life we share with others.

The wonderful gift of prayer is not far away, but right here – even in our very breath. Each breath in is a gift from God – the oxygen that powers our bodies for work and for fun. Each breath out is a liberation of what needs to depart and flow.

God's creation is so wondrous that the trees and plants will breathe in our CO₂ that we exhale and turn it into life in them!

If you take five breaths focused on your breathing – you will begin to feel re-centered, and the tender presence of peace.

It is God's will that you know peace in all the ways that God can and does provide. In all of the ways Jesus came to show us, teach us and give to us.

And one of our jobs as followers of Jesus is to respond to such generosity with attention and conversation, that we call prayer.

If you pray already, you know this. If you don't, would you like to start the conversation? Please let me know if I can help!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Karen Jewell



Highlights of Council Meeting July 14, 2022

Treasurer's Report Matt Moore
Total expenditures in June of \$22,642 and total deposits of \$10,644. Overall budgeted income is down \$28,318 year to date, while total expenses are down \$4,260 year to date, yielding an overall (\$24,058) net loss year to date compared to budget.

Old Business

- **Membership Changes**
 - Annette Resop has transferred to Gloria Dei ELCA in Neenah
 - Paul Resop withdrawing membership
 - Dave & Colleen Olson withdrawing from ELCA membership
 - Chester & Naomi Larkpor, Christian, Christopher, and Steven transferring to Shepherd of the Hills (LCMS) in Greenville, WI

New Business:

- **Renewal/Update of Child Safe Policy – Training with videos**
 - Discussed renewing our Child Safe policy and training for members and staff.
- **Other business**
 - Matt Moore lifted and encouraged us to continue the Abel Scholarship (\$1,000.00 per year) through UWO.
 - Thrivent TBD funds were requested to pay for continuing ed and an ALCM membership for Kris Selk.
 - Pastor Karen's retirement (last day in the office will be Nov 30th) was announced and discussed.

Committee Reports:

Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg) –

- Feeding Hungry Kids started Monday
- July 25th Pizza Ranch fundraiser – volunteers and diners all welcome.
- God's Work Our Hands (September 11, 2022)

Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick) –

- Wed, July 13 meeting with Nancy K, Emmy Kasuboski, and Patty Koplitz – good ideas for autumn.

- Sunday School as we knew it isn't likely to happen again. Instead, we are pursuing new ways to generate interest and commitment to faith formation. There will be a Sunday program each month for children, youth and families, and email and postcard and other forms of communication will be used to invite connection and active participation.
- Confirmation classes will have collaborative activities with the youth from sister churches.

Property (Steven Last):

- Two of the five new entryway floor mats have arrived and been put to use.
- Toilet in Ladies' bathroom replaced.
- Bathroom fan for both Men and Ladies' restrooms repaired
 - Ad Hoc committee had its initial meeting June 23, 2022, and the three people in attendance decided more time needs to be put in to explaining the need for the project.
- Waste Management Contract has been locked in.
- Received notice from WPS on upcoming electrical rebuild in our area, no time frame determined.

Technology Committee (Pastor Karen): Sound system is in the works.

Worship & Music (Kathleen Bellaire):

We welcomed our new organist and choir director, Kris Selk.

A fellowship for assisting ministers was held on Saturday July 9 from 1030- 1200 noon. We reviewed the current expectations for the assisting minister role and enjoyed fellowship time together. The survey regarding our current worship offerings was finalized and will be mailed out this week.

Summer services will continue as currently scheduled. A "Bless the Pets" service will be held on August 28.

A complete set of minutes can be found on narthex bulletin board, or by contacting church office 920-235-6616.

Highlights of August Council Meeting August 10, 2022, In Person

Treasurer's Report Matt Moore

Total expenditures in July of \$18,569 (expenses of \$10,188 and payroll of \$8381) and total deposits of \$13,988.

Overall budgeted income is down (\$34,536) year to date, while total expenses are down \$3,827 year to date, yielding an overall (\$30,710) net loss year to date compared to budget.

Old Business

- **Worship Services and times (and worship survey results)** Discussion: proposal of two services in the sanctuary (8:45 & 10:45 am) and bring weekly Parking Lot worship to an end – but we are open to parking lot events for mission or celebrations.
- **New Business:**
- Children, Youth and Family Position Discussion: As Patty Koplitz leaves—should we seek a replacement?
- Since the October council meeting time will be an exit interview with Pastor Karen, the council members and Pastor Asher O'Callaghan we are moving budget discussions to the September 8th meeting of council. We also need to circulate the Constitution and needed amendments or changes.
- Invitation to volunteers/nominees willing to be on the Call Committee and on the Ministry Site Profile Committee. The members of these committees will be chosen from the pool of volunteers and presented to the congregation for a ratifying vote.

Pastor's Report

Continuing Education – I took part this afternoon in a PRC webinar about Stewardship and Financial giving post-pandemic.

Children, Youth, and Family ministry: Family faith formation activities – first one will be September 27. We also discussed and approved a plan for me to teach the Bible component to our confirmation students this autumn until I am done at the end of November and then we

have an activity/service project/worship role component to our program that we hope to work out with families so that our students are involved and immersed in worship and congregational life for the rest of the school year.

Reminder: Time to activate the Nominating Committee and ask them to help put forward names for the Financial Audit team so that council can elect them for the work they do before the annual meeting (found we need to do this in the bylaws!). Also need to put constitutional changes to the congregation so that they can vote at Annual meeting. Karen Jewell

Committee Reports:

Christian Action (Carol Spiegelberg) – Feeding Hungry Kids Program is going great. God's Work Our Hands Day is Sept. 11 after first service. Planning a Fall Festival on October 23 to coincide with the October family friendly event – Halloween dress up with fun activities in the parking lot.

Congregational Life (Nancy Kreilick) – Education (Emmy Kasuboski)-

We discussed the Faith Formation For Families, which will be 1 week each month for 20 mins following 8:45 am service. Our goals are teaching how to pray, knowing Bible stories, knowing the history of church, family, faith. We have planned out each month's activities and dates for each.

Property (Steven Last):

- Another exit in the will not add to the security for users of our entire campus
- The westside windows in the sanctuary will be a top priority for next year.
- Luther Tree on schedule for fall
- Many interior/exterior projects have been completed or will be shortly.

Worship & Music (Kathleen Bellaire):

No concerns have been received regarding the current Covid practices. People continue to socially distance in the sanctuary.

Based on review of the Worship Survey the following decisions were made: Worship times will be adjusted. We will continue to offer CDs and DVDs of the worship service to those who do not have access to a computer.

Kris Selk will be sending out an invitation letter to potential choir members.

Pastor Karen reported that she is working on a service that could be used at times if she should suddenly be ill and an ordained minister is not available for Sunday services.

Marcia informed the members that sign up for Altar flowers has greatly decreased. We currently have a subscription service with The House of Flowers, so flowers are automatically delivered each weekend. When no one signs up the cost of the flowers is paid by St. Andrew's.

President's Report (Teri Rucinsky): discussion of involvement by members.

A complete set of minutes can be found on the hallway bulletin board or by contacting the office at office@standrewsoshkosh.org or 920-235-6616.

Thank you from Patty Koplitz

Words cannot express my gratitude to all of you. Thank you for the gummi bears, thank you for the chamber certificates.

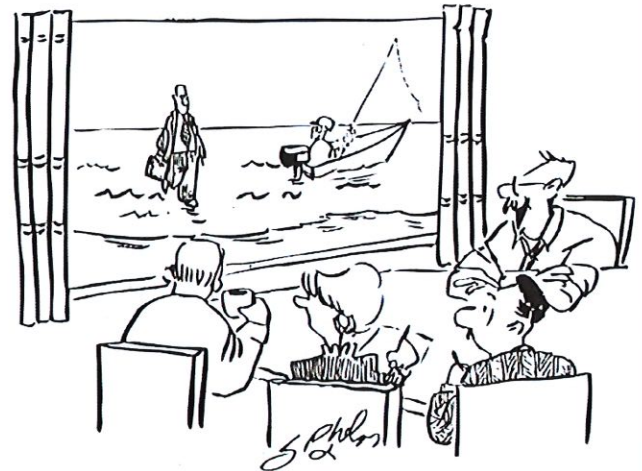
It has been my pleasure and my honor to work with so many of you. I appreciate the ability to do ministry at St Andrew's.

May God bless you and keep you in his hands and in his heart. Thanks again, Patty Koplitz

Worship Planning Survey

47 responses

1. I currently attend worship: 22 online 33 inside 10 in the parking lot. (Choose all that apply).
2. I hope that the opportunity for attending worship online continues 27 Y 2 N 19 No opinion.
3. When I attend worship online, I usually attend it 14 when it is being broadcast live at 0800 OR 17 watch the broadcast at a time that it is convenient to me.
4. I hope that the opportunity to worship in the parking lot continues 10 Y 8 N 29 No opinion
5. If the parking lot service were to be discontinued, would you attend a second inside worship service at that time (10:45 am) ? 26 Y 11 N



"At last, a pastor who fits our job description."



WORSHIP TIMES

Worship opportunities at St. Andrew's

Sundays in the Sanctuary

8:45 am –Worship with Holy Communion
10:45 am Worship with Holy Communion and on Facebook.

Wednesdays

9 pm – Evening Compline on Facebook (offered weekly through November 30th)

Feeding Hungry Kids

We have finished our sixth year of Feeding Hungry Kids. **This summer we fed 671 kids and their parents.**

We served meals on Monday and Wednesdays and on Fridays we gave out a bag of food.

I couldn't have done it without the help of volunteers, whether you worked for one day or for the whole six weeks! I THANK YOU!

If you donated groceries or monetary donations I THANK YOU!

For the business' and the lovely neighbors who donated I THANK YOU!

Mostly, I THANK YOU for all the prayers that we were able to Feed the Children in our community.

Submitted by Carol Spiegelberg



Harvest Faire

Coming soon! Harvest Faire

Oct. 23 after the 8:45 worship service

There will be a Silent Auction, games for kids, and food will be available for a small price.

We are looking for new or gently used items or gift baskets for the silent auction.

We may even have a pie eating contest – if we have at least 6 volunteers! (Let Carol Spiegelberg know if you are interested 😊)

Choir Begins Wednesdays at 7 - 8pm



Choir Season Begins

Looking for some fun on a Wednesday night? Come sing with the choir. Choir meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00 in the choir room. Please join us! For more information, contact Kris Selk, choir director.



Bible Study

Bible Study on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm

Come view a segment of “**The History and Archeology of the Bible**” video to kick off our discussions. (This is a National Geographic/Great Courses series). Bring your favorite bible translation or you may use one from church. Hope to see you!

Prep for Holy Communion Is coming Saturday, October 15!

We would like to celebrate First communion Nov 6 for All Saints Sunday. If you have a student in fifth grade or about 10 to 11 years old whom you feel is ready to begin communion please consider letting them prepare with this group of students.



We will meet Saturday, October 15 from 10 to noon. We always have a wonderful time making communion bread and exploring the stories and symbols that Jesus gives us through the sacrament. Please call Pastor Karen for more information.

A parent or faith sponsor for each student is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Confirmation classes have begun!



Students grades 6 – 8 are welcome. Please come on **Wednesdays, September 7 to November 30th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm** in the fellowship hall. We are using **Echo the Story** – a video-based series that gives us a wonderful working outline of the bible to give our faith chance to grow every day that we open our bibles or hear the scriptures!

Need more information? Please call (920) 235-6616 and Pastor Karen will be happy to help.



Sunday School

Faith Formation for Families & Harvest Faire!

As we welcome back our children, youth, and families following our COVID pandemic, we are offering ways to deepen and grow our faith. Once a month we will be sharing ways to explore and take home and practice at your home! Although we are trying to make these family friendly – everyone at every age is welcome!

On **Sunday, October 23**, along with our **Harvest Faire**, please bring your family to either worship service, and feel free to **dress up** in your favorite Halloween costume or as your favorite super hero! All ages are encouraged to take part!

Our special faith practice this month is reading the Bible – age appropriate bibles will be given out, and ways to incorporate bible reading in your life together.

Between worship services we will enjoy our Harvest Faire with food, treats, games, a photo opportunity with autumn decorations, and a silent auction to raise funds for Lutheran Relief organizations working in Ukraine, and for Emmeline Cook PTO to help families in need.

There will also be a pie eating contest if we have just six people willing to enter! Would you like to try? Please contact the church office (920) 235-6616 or speak to Emmy Kasuboski (Education) or Carol Spiegelberg (Christian Action/Fellowship) from council for more info. See you there!



Ushers and Assisting Ministers

Sunday, October 16 2022 Between worship services Ushers and Assisting Ministers

We would like to meet with ushers and assisting ministers to learn about the form of worship when there is no presiding minister present. Only pastors can offer the sacrament of Holy Communion. If we should have a worship service where no pastor can be present, we will have a format for offering worship without Holy Communion, that will be led by assisting ministers, ushers, readers, and musicians. (This is part of our readiness for the transition period.) Please come as you are able.

On **Tuesday, October 25, at 6:30 pm** the worship committee is meeting and inviting all of our ushers and assisting ministers to join in as we plan for Advent and Christmas at St Andrew's. Pastor Karen is retiring and her last day in the office is November 30th, so we would like to plan the Advent and Christmas season for our transition in pastoral leadership. Please come as you are able! Thank you so much!



We are so grateful 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!



Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

Christian Action Committee
Monday, Oct 3, at 6 pm

Council Meeting
Thursday, October 13, at 7 pm

Assisting Minister & Usher Meeting
Sunday, October 16, at 9:30 am

Property Committee Meeting
Thursday, October 27, at 8 am

Worship & Music Committee
Tuesday, October 25, at 6:30 pm

October 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|---|--|---|
| 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 WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:00pm Cross and Crown Youth Bible study 6:30pm Al Anon 7:00pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting | 28 12:30pm Bible Study 2:00pm Adult Literacy Classes 6:00pm Confirmation class 7:00pm Choir Practice 9:00pm Compline | 29 8:00am Property Committee Meeting 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes | 30 6:00pm Saturday Confirmation Joint Retreat at St Andrew's - Lock in! | 1 Friday to 3 pm Saturday Confirmation Joint Retreat at St Andrew's - Lock in! 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting |
| 2 8:45am Holy Communion 10:45am Holy Communion and Facebook 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church | 3 6:00pm Christian Action Committee Meeting | 4 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:00pm Cross and Crown Youth Bible study | 5 12:30pm Bible Study 2:00pm Adult Literacy Classes 6:00pm Confirmation class 7:00pm Choir Practice 9:00pm Compline | 6 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes | 7 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting | 8 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting |
| 9 8:45am Holy Communion 10:45am Holy Communion and Facebook 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church | 10 | 11 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:00pm Cross and Crown Youth Bible study 6:30pm Al Anon | 12 12:30pm Bible Study 2:00pm Adult Literacy Classes 6:00pm Confirmation class 7:00pm Choir Practice 9:00pm Compline | 13 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 7:00pm Church Council Meeting | 14 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 10:00am Communion Preparation 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting | 15 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 10:00am Communion Preparation 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting |
| 16 8:45am Holy Communion 9:30am Assisting Minister & Usher Meeting 10:45am Holy Communion and Facebook 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church | 17 | 18 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:00pm Cross and Crown Youth Bible study | 19 2:00pm Adult Literacy Classes 6:00pm Confirmation class 7:00pm Choir Practice 9:00pm Compline | 20 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes | 21 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 11:00am Art & Soul Craft Group 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting | 22 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 11:00am Art & Soul Craft Group 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting |
| 23 8:45am Holy Communion and Family Faith Formation Event 10:45am Holy Communion and Facebook 1:30pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church | 24 | 25 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:00pm Cross and Crown Youth Bible study 6:30pm Al Anon 6:30pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting | 26 12:30pm Bible Study 2:00pm Adult Literacy Classes 6:00pm Confirmation class 7:00pm NO Choir Practice 9:00pm Compline | 27 8:00am Property Committee Meeting 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes | 28 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting | 29 8:30am Cross & Crown Alliance Church 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting |
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