



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

April 2023

Please come and worship with us – in the Sanctuary and on Facebook!

“Pace of Play and Prayer”

From the Desk of Pastor Bryan

April 2023

With spring officially here and warmer weather *hopefully* sticking around for a while, yours truly is getting rather anxious and excited for another regular season of Major League Baseball to officially begin. For 2023, Major League Baseball has implemented several new rules that aim to create a quicker pace of play and decrease the overall length of time of a given game. While in Arizona last month, I got to witness one of those changes at play—a digital clock that begins to count down once a pitcher has received the baseball and the batter has stepped into the batter's box. If the pitcher takes too long to deliver the baseball, he is charged with an automatic ball. If the batter takes too long to get established in the batter's box, he is charged with an automatic strike. Ideally, if both pitcher and batter adhere to new rule, the pace at which the game moves is faster. Like any such change, I imagine it will take some time to adjust, that mistakes will happen, and that not everyone will be universally in favor of such a change, player and fan alike.

One of the first lessons that I took away from my Intro to Greek class in seminary is that Greek has two distinct words for “time.” The first, *chronos*, is the time that is clearly measured by days, hours, minutes and seconds. This time is captured on our watches, our smart speakers, our planners and our pitch clocks. As the late Dr. Seuss once quipped, “How did it get so late so soon?”

The second, *kairos*, is the time that is more broadly categorized as a “season.” It can indeed be measured but it is not strictly bound to a specific definition of time. It may be longer in some circumstances and shorter for others. A time of pastoral transition such as our own falls into this *kairos* definition of time. We have entered into this season, good and faithful work has been and will continue to be done, and this season will, ultimately, come to a conclusion. But we're not there yet. The journey has just begun. How might God be calling you to be present and engaged in this particular season of time?

It is a blessing to be with you as together we continue on this journey of transition. May this Easter season be one of many in which our play and prayer brings renewed life and imagination to the good work we are doing.

In Christ,
Pastor Bryan



Highlights of Church Council
Minutes
March 9, 2023

Present: Teri Rucinsky, Pastor Bryan Schmidt, Kathleen Bellaire, Steve Last, Carol Spiegelberg, Emmy Kasuboski, Matt Moore, Chris Ziegler, Greg Egner.

Old Business:

Treasurer's Report

Matt presented the financial statements and bills to be paid. The total net income for February was \$439.30, negative. Even though this is a negative balance we are still ahead of where we were at this same time last year. Motion made and approved to accept financial reports and bills to be paid.

Worship and Music Committee Worship Survey Results

Kathy reviewed the survey results. We had excellent participation, 59 surveys were returned. The majority of respondents favored changing to one service on Sunday mornings. There is some interest in a midweek service that we may wish to explore in the future. A temple talk was held on Sunday at both services with a Q&A session between services. The Q&A session was well attended and most present were in favor of moving to one service. We will provide opportunities for feedback throughout the year and reevaluate as necessary. Chris suggested we include a questionnaire with quarterly mailings to invite feedback about how the change is going.

Kathy reported that the WMC recommends we move to one service to be held from 9:30-10:30 on Sunday mornings beginning April 16. Greg Egner moved that the committee's recommendation be adopted.

Interim Ministry Training Update

Pastor Bryan reported he will be attending Lutheran Transitional Ministry training beginning in April. This will consist of 13 online sessions and 1 week long seminar that will be a collaboration between the ELCA and the Missouri Synod, held in New York State. The Synod will reimburse St. Andrew's \$500.00 of the tuition cost. The rest will be covered by the Pastoral Education fund. Pastor Bryan

expressed gratitude to St. Andrew's for the opportunity to engage in this continuing education.

New Business:

Approval of Membership Transfers

Pastor Bryan reported that we have received 5 requests for membership transfers and 1 request for release from membership. Chris moved that the requests be approved.

Roles and Responsibilities of Council Members:

Discussion occurred around the current committee configuration and the size and make-up of the Council. Carol reported that Christian Action is a very busy committee, and all members are actively involved. She encouraged all Council members to participate in activities offered whenever possible. Emmy reported she does not have a committee at this time and would appreciate ideas and assistance in moving forward. Teri will schedule a separate planning meeting to brainstorm ideas for the Education Committee going forward. Kathy and Steve both reported their committees are well attended and moving forward. Matt raised the question as to whether or not our Council is the right size for our congregation. Pastor Bryan shared that some churches have a very small Council, 3-4 members who are responsible for guiding the vision of the Church and focusing on long term planning while committees are chaired by others. Kathy mentioned the committee description in our constitution is not inclusive of all the things WMC does and there may be other descriptions that are also out of date. Pastor Bryan recommended we review our committee functions and identify opportunities for mergers, where additional support is needed, and thoughts on restructuring for discussion next month.

Office Coverage:

Sandy Last will be out of the office for a few weeks. Pastor Bryan reported that he and Kay have a plan to ensure all is done. Darlene Bruce has offered to provide in-office coverage during Sandy's absence. Sandy has also offered to work from home if possible. Pastor Bryan and Kay will both be gone from March 27- April 1. Office coverage will be arranged.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Bryan reported that he will be on vacation from March 27- April 1st. Sunday services will not be affected. The mid-week Lenten service will be offered on March 29th will be offered on-line. Pastor conducted one memorial service last week. The ELCA reports will be going out this week.

Committee Reports:

Christian Action: Carol reported that a fellowship dinner will be held on May 10th for all the Confirmation kids and their parents. Council members are encouraged to attend.

Congregational Life: No report

Education: No report

Evangelism: No report

Fellowship: No report

Property: Steve reported that they are still awaiting parts for the sanctuary light project, if they do not arrive in 2 weeks the project will be delayed until after Easter. The Office renovation is moving forward. The heating system for the fellowship hall is not functioning properly and some parts may need to be replaced. He will check into our warranty. One call has been received regarding purchase of the "deer stand". Bids will be limited to congregational members through April 1st, a minimum bid of \$2000.00 has been set. Help will be needed to set up and take down tables, etc. for the April 4th election. Matt volunteered to provide labor for this task. Chris volunteered to lock up after voting is complete and he thought Peg Olson would be available to open the building for the poll workers. Next Meeting March 30, 8:00 am at the Delta Restaurant

Stewardship/Discipleship: No report

Technology: Pastor Bryan reported that our Microsoft subscription will be renewed this month. The assisting minister microphone is now operational.

Worship and Music: Kathy reported that the committee had additional discussion regarding the Altar flowers. Marcia has been in contact with Pick 'n Save and the cost will be \$35.00/week for two vases delivered. House of Flowers will continue to provide flowers for Easter and Christmas. Pick 'n Save would need to have a key to the building. It is recommended that we switch to Pick 'n Save for our weekly flowers and that flowers be provided only when someone has signed up to donate them. We also recommend that an agreement be drawn up between Pick 'n Save and St. Andrew's that includes signature for the key and expectations for returning it when the service is no longer needed. Changes in the flower procedure and vendor. Target date for implementation is April 16. Unanimously approved. Next meeting April 11th 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

President's Report: We have so many involved members and I am appreciative of that. However, I am concerned that the same members are going to get burned out. If you have ideas on recruiting volunteers to help with tasks, or ways to consolidate the workload, let me know. Thanks everyone for your flexibility with services and meetings during the crazy weather we have had the last few weeks. I know that last minute change is not easy, but your flexibility is appreciated. -----Teri

Transition Report: Carol reported that she now has 12 members on the Committee. Work has begun on completing the MSP report. The committee has developed questionnaires for the congregation to elicit their thoughts. One was sent out last week and there will be more to come. Next meeting TBD.

Next Council meeting: April 13 at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Bellaire
Council Member

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



You are always welcome!

Maundy Thursday, April 6

recalls the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples.

7:00 pm - Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 7

focused on Jesus' final hours and his death on the Cross.

7:00 pm - Worship



**Easter Sunday
Worship**

April 9, 2023

You are always welcome!

7:30 am - Worship with Holy Communion

8:30 am - 9:30 am Easter Breakfast

10:00 am - Easter Worship with Holy Communion

10:30 am - Facebook Worship

Easter Breakfast

Sunday, April 9 from 8:30 to 9:30 am

This is one of our favorite fellowship times all year! Member families cook all your favorite breakfast foods, serve you before and after Easter worship and we have the chance to catch up with one another once again.



Would you like to help? Call or text Chris Ziegler (920) 312-3842.



Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday, April 9th, following the 10 am service. It will be

held in the courtyard, weather permitting. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we will move the egg hunt indoors. Come for the fun!



Donations Needed

We have started collecting diapers of all sizes to go to **Jakes' Network of Hope.**

We will be collecting diapers through Sunday, April 9th. Thank you so much for helping others in need!

St. Vincent de Paul's in Oshkosh now has a pressing need for donations, especially of furniture. They cannot take appliances or televisions that are more than seven years old. You can check out their website: svdposhosh.org for their donation list.

Thanks, again!

Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

Ministry Site Profile Committee

Tuesday, April 11 at 9 am

Worship & Music Committee

Tuesday, April 11 at 1 pm

Council Meeting

Thursday, April 13 at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, April 27 at 8 am



Committee Meetings



News from the Worship and Music Committee:

We will be changing our practice for Altar flowers. Beginning on April 16, 2023, we will only have flowers on the altar during the holidays of Easter and Christmas and on weeks someone has signed up to donate flowers. Currently on weeks that no one signs up to donate flowers, the cost is billed to St. Andrew's and as donations have decreased this cost has increased. After much discussion, we decided that the money we are spending on flowers could be better used in support of our mission activities. However, we know that it is very important to many of us to be able to donate flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special occasion. The opportunity to do this will not change. On weeks that flowers are being donated the cost will now be \$35.00. Please check out the sign-up sheet outside the sanctuary to see if there are any dates you would like to donate flowers. All the donations we receive are greatly appreciated and it is wonderful to remember loved ones or celebrate special occasions with you. If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Bellaire or Marcia Galica

Miravida Living Annual Meeting

The Miravida Living Annual Meeting was held on March 6. The meeting was attended by delegates from several churches. CEO Theresa Bertram welcomed the group and Mark Beecher Chair of the Board of Directors provided an opening devotion. The slate of nominees to the Board of Directors was presented. Mr. Mark Beecher was elected for a one year term, Dr. Paula McNiel was elected for a second three-year term, Mr. Nate Olson for a second three-year term, and Mr. Jim Stapel for a three-year term. Chaplain David Rumbolt provided a short program " Answering the Call to Ministry." He highlighted the commitment that the organization has made to providing a person centered faithful approach for all the residents who call Miravida Living home. Following the program there was time for interaction with Board members and staff, and a highlight was the opportunity to tour two of the newly renovated apartments at Carmel. Delegates were given information about volunteer activities available, they include assisting residents with making cards, arts and crafts; gardening- working with residents as they plant vegetables, herbs and flowers; visiting with residents over coffee, accompanying them to worship in the chapel, reading a book or newspaper together or just spending time one to one; volunteering in the gift shop; visiting residents with your pets, volunteering in the Namaste program by being present with an individual living with dementia, volunteering in the Sojourner Ministry by sharing time with residents nearing the end of their life, becoming a trained pilot for the Cycling Without Age program and offering residents rides throughout the campus, or sharing one of your interests or hobbies with the residents. The work being done at Miravida Living made us proud that St. Andrew's is one of the congregations that supports this mission.

Kathy Bellaire and Peg Olson

Feeding Hungry Kids

July 10 - August 25

Serving 11 AM - 12:30 PM

Monday, Wednesday, and
Fridays



Our Feeding Hungry Kids program is coming! Hot meals will be served on Monday and Wednesdays and it will be Pizza Day on Fridays! The Christian Action committee is hard at work planning for what has become an annual mission of St. Andrew's. Meals are provided for children who might not otherwise have a meal during the summer months. Please pray for this work! Watch for a needs list and ways to get involved.

Thank you for your Offerings



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. You may also use the QR code:



Thank you so much.



SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

At their March meeting, the Church Council voted to approve going to one service, beginning Sunday, April 16th at 9:30 am. Please note this time change.

