



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Newsletter

Worship Sundays at 9:30 am in the sanctuary and 10:45 am on Facebook

October 2023



From the Desk of Pastor Bryan October 2023

"Presence, Patience, Persistence & Prayer" From the Desk of Pastor Bryan October 2023

"Light precedes every transition. Whether at the end of a tunnel, through a crack in the door or the flash of an idea, it is always there, heralding a new beginning." – Theresa Tsalaky

Dear St. Andrew's partners in ministry,

If you're reading this month's newsletter early in the month (October 2-6, to be exact), I am away in Highland Lake, NY for Phase 2 of my Basic Training in Transitions through the Lutheran Transitional Ministry Association (LuTMA). Phase 2, "The Transitional Leader," is a residential week in which, through a collegial group process, other participants and I will review in more depth the material learned in Phase 1 ("Congregational Dynamics and Transitions"), as well as learn more about ourselves as transitional leaders -- especially in congregations or organizations facing adaptive challenges, such as St. Andrew's.

As of this writing, St. Andrew's Ministry Site Profile has been officially completed and approved by the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin. This is a significant step forward in the overall process! Again, I share my deepest appreciation to the members of the Ministry Site Profile Committee as well as members of Church Council for crafting, reviewing and lifting up this essential document. I urge all of you to share that sense of appreciation with these folks, too.



The hope is for St. Andrew's Call Committee to be solidified in the coming weeks. After that has taken place, the Synod will meet with the Call Committee to give an orientation to this particular stage of the process, with the hope that shortly thereafter, the Synod office will have prospective candidates to share with the Call Committee, and the interview process begins. The Synod office can't give a definitive timetable for this stage of the process; that is the work of the Holy Spirit continuing to guide and sustain this transition process.

As partners in ministry of this congregation, may you be reminded this month that you are called to exhibit an attitude and mindset of the following as your journey of transition continues:

+ PRESENCE +

Church is community, and YOU are an essential part of THIS community. Honor that truth by remaining an active participant of St. Andrew's within and beyond this present season of transition.

+ PATIENCE +

Transitions take time. For some, too little; for others, too much. Be patient with yourself as well as your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ as this process unfolds.

+ PERSISTENCE +

Transitions can feel disruptive or unsettling.

+ PRAYER +

Our prayers give voice to the emotions we are feeling in this season of life and remind us to remember God's promise of everlasting faithfulness. God has faithfully accompanied St. Andrew's from its inception, and that promise of faithful accompaniment continues into this next chapter of ministry and well beyond.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Bryan



Highlights of Church Council Minutes

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

Treasurer's Report – Matt Moore: Net income is slightly higher than this time last year, but both giving and expenses are down. *Greg made a motion Carol 2nd. Motion approved.*

A. Old Business:

1. Formation of Call Committee - updates *The council discussed updates and is continuing to reach out to potential contacts.*
2. Committee Restructuring Continued Discussion - *Tabled due to time*

B. New Business

1. Review of Ministry Site Profile-*Council made some revisions to the MSP. Carol will share the revisions with the MSP committee to finalize the details prior to uploading the digital format. Council will then make a final approval once the revisions are approved and the Ministry Site Characteristics are completed.*
2. Nominating Committee-*The nominating committee has begun discussions and plans to do some temple talks with the congregation in order to get additional participation in our leadership roles.*

C. Pastor's Report – Pastor Bryan

Schmidt

D. President's Report – Teri Rucinsky *Nominating committee has started earlier than ever! Call Committee continues to be formed.*

E. Committee Reports:

1. Christian Action/Fellowship – Carol Spiegelberg *FHK continues to have increased attendance, serving 239 kids last week! Next week is the final week. They're preparing for God's Work, Our Hands. So far we have 3 teams for the chili cookoff and are looking for more!*
2. Property – Steve Last *New custodial service will provide waxing and cleaning the floors. In order to do this, rooms will need additional organization. There was some wind damage recently but doesn't meet the needs for the deductible.*
3. Education – Emmy Kasuboski *No report*
4. Worship & Music – Kathy Bellaire *Choir will be starting up again on Sept 6th with rehearsals Weds night @7. There will be a brief meeting on Aug 27 for ushers. Assisting Ministers gathering with Pastor will be on Aug 21.*
5. Ministry Site Profile – Carol Spiegelberg

Roll of Members: Teri Rucinsky, Pastor Bryan Schmidt, Kathy Bellaire, Steve Last, Carol Spiegelberg, Emmy Kasuboski, Matt Moore, Chris Ziegler, Greg Egner

Highlights of Church Council Minutes Thursday, September 14, 2023

Treasurer's Report – Matt Moore Committee spending is slightly up, while operations is slightly down.. Chris made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented, Carol seconded motion. Motion approved.

A. Old Business:

1. Call Committee Formation - Update *Call committee is still in formation.. Matt will be listed as temporarily chairperson in order to submit MSP paperwork, and it may be adjusted once the committee is fully formed.*
2. Committee Restructuring - Continued Discussion *Pastor created a 3-step plan to accomplish this. The goal is to work to update the constitution so that council becomes a continuing resolution instead of part of the bylaws, so that there is more flexibility within committees in order to accomplish the missions of St. Andrew's.*

B. New Business

1. Second Review of Ministry Site Profile *Matt made a motion to approve, Chris seconded. Motion approved.*
2. Nominating Committee Update *The committee has met once, and plans to meet again next month.*
3. Financial Update Letter to Include with Q3 Giving Statements *Letter will go out in September.*

C. Pastor's Report – Pastor Bryan Schmidt *Confirmation began yesterday. Will be out in early October for the second phase of interim ministry training, and will also need to be out for a funeral.*

Fall and Winter planning is in the works, and Peace Lutheran is planning to host the Thanksgiving Eve worship.

D. President's Report – Teri Rucinsky *I love to see all the buzz about church lately! God's Work Our Hands was successful, Confirmation has started, Nominating Committee is off to a great start, Call Committee is continuing to be formed, and our MSP has been approved by council.*

E. Committee Reports:

1. Christian Action/Fellowship – Carol Spiegelberg *Things are lined up for the next few months. We collected 136 canned goods for the Food Pantry! On October 8th we will have an ice cream social and a bake sale. November 12th will be a pie social and Dec 3 will be a cookie exchange!*
2. Property – Steve Last *Decluttering will continue. Estimates are being gathered for replacement of gutters that were damaged in the storm. Big thank you to the Zinths for landscaping help, and Marcia has been helping with cleaning and supplies.*
3. Education – Emmy Kasuboski *no report*
4. Worship & Music – Kathy Bellaire *Altar committee reports that all has been going well, and there has been positive feedback on flowers. Choir started and will sing 3 Sundays each month. Both the Usher and Assisting Ministers meetings were well attended, and we have some new volunteers to be communion assistants.*
5. Ministry Site Profile – Carol Spiegelberg *The next step is to go online and finish the process.*

St. Andrew's Prayer Chain



Prayer Chain If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, St. Andrew's Prayer Chain is here for you! All prayer requests should now be sent to prayerchain@standrewsoshkosh.org. All prayer requests are held in confidence. If you are interested in becoming a member of the prayer chain, please contact Pastor Bryan or the church office at 920-235-6616.

Word in Season Devotional booklets



The October, November, December issue of *Word in Season* devotional booklets are now available. We also have large print editions if you would prefer that. Please let us know if you would like a copy (920-235-6616). We will make sure you receive one. Carry out, Curbside and Delivery available!

From the Worship and Music Committee:



During the month of October we will close each service with our hymn of the month, ELW 878 "Soli Deo Gloria" (pronounced so lee day-o gloria). This is a Latin phrase that means "glory to God alone". The words and music were written by Marty Haugen, who also wrote the liturgy we are singing at worship this fall. It is a stirring tune with words of praise to God for his gifts to people of all times and places. It should become a nice addition to the list of hymns we know.



Pop-up Choir October 29



POP UP CHOIR

Pop-Up Choir was a new and bright addition to worship this past summer. This is an easy opportunity to be part of a group and sing the special music at worship. Pop-Up is going to happen again on October 29, Reformation Sunday. Sandy Last will be the leader/accompanist.

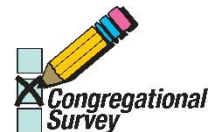
To participate, come at 9:00 a.m. to the choir room on October 29 and sing through a familiar hymn with Sandy. Then you can sit with your family/friends during worship and come up during the Special Music time to sing. It's easy, it's fun, and it is a core part of our worship. All who like to sing are invited to pop up with this group on October 29.



Volunteers Needed

We are interested in adding more communion assistants and ushers to the schedule. What is a communion assistant, you may ask? This assistant simply follows the pastor and assisting minister with the basket to pick up used cups while they are serving communion. Anyone of any age interested in volunteering for these roles should notify the church office (920) 235-6616. Thank you for considering this! We very much appreciate willing hands that enrich our worship services.

July 2023 Worship Services Survey



Thank you to all who completed the July survey about our worship times. The results overwhelmingly favored one in-person worship on Sunday mornings be continued. Your input has helped us make decisions to benefit all. Thanks so much!

From the
Christian
Action
Committee:



From the
Property Committee:



**Ice Cream Social
and Bake Sale
Sunday, October 8th
Following worship**

Please join us on **Sunday, October 8th**, for an ice cream social and bake sale. This event will take place in Fellowship Hall on that Sunday after the worship service. Anybody is welcome to bring items to sell at the bake sale. You can price these items yourself or have them priced when you bring them to church. Please let Carol Spiegelberg know if you plan on bringing baked items. Her number is 920-420-7832. It will be a fun morning of ice cream treats and baked goods!

**Last Call!
Deer Stand Available**



Last call for our parking lot building affectionately known as the “Deer Stand!” It would be a great deer stand, she shed, playhouse – you name it! The 8’2” x 5’6” building can be used as is or sit on the ground without the scaffolding. The entire structure is 12’ high, with the building itself being 8’ high. Moving of the structure is not included. Bids will be accepted through October 25, 2023. Please submit bids to the office via email office@standrewsoshkosh.org or call 920-235-6616. Thank you!



Coats for Kids

**Coats for Kids
Sept. 25 through Oct.
25**

St. Andrew’s is once again serving as a drop off location for the **2023 Salvation Army Coats for Kids** season. The campaign runs from **September 25th through October 25th**. Coats (only new or gently used coats are accepted), hats, mittens and gloves are being collected to be distributed to area children. The donation box may be found in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall doors. So many of our local children benefit from this collection of needed items. We thank you for your generosity!



**It's Clean up time!
Oct. 26**

The Building and Grounds Committee is going to begin a room by room de-cluttering and clean-up of our church building. De-cluttering will begin with the “Red Room” (AKA Sunday School Office; Library) off the Fellowship Hall on October 26, 2023. **We ask that anyone having items in this room remove them by Oct. 26.** Thank you!

Noisy Offering

The Noisy offering donations for September and October have been designated for the Oshkosh Area Humane Society. OAHS is a private, independent nonprofit charity organization whose mission is to provide compassionate care and comfort to animals in need and to build a community that promotes humane treatment of all animals. Thank you for your donations to this worthy cause.



Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

Christian Action Committee
Monday, October 2 at 6 pm

Council Meeting
Thursday, Oct. 12 at 7 pm

Worship and Music Committee
Thursday, Oct. 5 at 9 am

Property Committee
Thursday, Oct. 26 at 9am

