



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

September 2023

Please come and worship with us Sundays at 9 am and on Facebook, Sundays at 10:45!!



## From the Desk of Pastor Bryan September 2023

### "Seeds and Gardens"

*"The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail." Isaiah 58:11*

While the summer is, sadly, drawing to a close, we can be assured that God's garden will continue to grow. The seeds that have been planted this summer will continue to grow. And new seeds will continue to be planted in this garden, and just as we are called to care for and nurture those seeds, we do so knowing confidently that God helps to tend our garden as well as empower us to plant other gardens in our surrounding communities to share the love and grace of Jesus. To imagine God's love being confined to one garden is, quite frankly, unimaginable.

Reflect once more on the words of our summertime benediction that has been part of our weekly worship:

*The God who calls across the cosmos  
and speaks in the smallest seed  
✠ bless, keep, and sustain you  
now and to the end of the age.  
Amen.*

May these words guide and sustain all that you do, and may they be a constant reminder of the seed of unconditional love that Jesus has planted in you forever.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Bryan



## CALL PROCESS UPDATE

September 2023

- Church Council reviewed the Ministry Site Profile at its August meeting and offered its suggestions for potential revisions.
- The Ministry Site Profile Committee will meet again in early September to review the remarks from Council.
- Church Council is also the body responsible for the formation of the Call Committee and is hard at work identifying potential members of the congregation to serve on the Call Committee.

If you have any further questions about the call process, please contact Pastor Bryan.

**Highlights of Council Meeting**  
**WEDNESDAY, July 19, 2023 • 7:00 p.m. • Fellowship Hall**



**A. Call to Order** – Teri Rucinsky @7:02

**B. Treasurer's Report** – Matt Moore

- a. Committees this month are well under budget, but operational expenses are higher than budgeted. Chris made a motion to approve and Greg seconded; motion approved

**C. Old Business:**

- 1. ~~MSP Draft Review~~ Postponed to August's meeting
  - a. A small subgroup of MSP met to identify some changes that need to be made, then the plan will go to council next month for approval.
- 2. Formation of Call Committee
  - a. Council members discussed the formation of the call committee. It will be a hard decision, as the call committee is limited to only 6 participants
- 3. Staffing Support
  - a. Janitorial Coverage Adam from A Mother's Dream Cleaning Service has been completing cleaning services for a few weeks and seems to be going well.
- 4. Committee Restructuring (reminder to council members to bring their ideas along with them based on last month's meeting) was tabled for next month.

**D. New Business**

**E. Pastor's Report** – Pastor Bryan Schmidt provided his report, highlights:

- a. He's finishing up the first phase of his interim training, and will start the 2nd phase
- b. MSP is closing in on its final draft
- c. He will be taking a few vacation days this week as well as some in August, but we'll be in good hands with Barb Girod
- d. We're looking forward to rejuvenating our youth programming. A committee met and shared great ideas to get more youth involved on God's Work Our Hands day in September. In addition, Emmy will be starting a Bible Study during Fellowship time. If you are interested in helping, please reach out to Emmy, Pastor or the Office!

**F. President's Report** – Teri Rucinsky

- a. If you are interested in serving on council or representing our members at one of the annual events, please let me know and I will get your name to the committee!

**G. Committee Reports:**

- 1. Christian Action/Fellowship – Carol Spiegelberg
  - a. At the end of FHK, the Christian Action & MSP committees will be reconnecting with Emmeline Cook Elementary School!
  - b. Monday night, July 24th, will be the Pizza Ranch Fundraiser from 4-8.
  - c. FHK has already served over 200 kids in its first few days!
- 2. Property – Steve Last
  - a. The new cleaning service is going well.
- 3. Education – Emmy Kasuboski
  - a. Education Committee had a brainstorming meeting Sunday, and has some great ideas going forward. They will be having an event during God's Work, Our Hands Day, as well as reviving Bible Study during Fellowship time.
- 4. Worship & Music – Kathy Bellaire
  - a. W&M is continuing conversations about Bless the Pets service.
- 5. Ministry Site Profile – Carol Spiegelberg
  - a. The final draft will go to council in August. Once the MSP Committee and Council

both approve, it will then go to the synod for final approval.

6. Technology/Office – Pastor Bryan

H. **Adjournment & Closing Prayer** Adjourned at 8:41, Pastor led closing prayer.

**Next Council Meeting: WEDNESDAY, August 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**

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

*A full set of minutes is available on the bulletin board next to the office.*

**Confirmation classes begin!  
Wednesday, September 13  
6 – 7 pm**

Sixth, seventh and eighth graders, please plan to come to our **first class** on **Wednesday, September 13, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.**

To register and/or for more information, please call or email the office or Pastor Bryan, (920) 235-6616, [office@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:office@standrewsoshkosh.org) or [pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org](mailto:pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org)



**Feeding Hungry Kids**

We have finished Feeding Hungry Kids. **This summer we fed 821 kids and their parents.** We served meals three days a week.

Thanks to all who helped with food, gift cards, monetary gifts and other supplies. Thank you, too, to many local businesses that donated meals. Most of all – thanks to the devoted ladies who helped cook and serve the meals.



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

**God's Work. Our Hands.  
Sept. 10, 2023**

Sept. 10 for God's Work Our Hands Day. There will be food and activities for the whole family. We will start the day off with our Chili Cook-Off. We are looking for "Chili Teams" to compete in the cook-off. Contact Carol Spiegelberg if you are interested.



**Volunteers Needed**

We are interested in adding more communion assistants and ushers to the schedule. Anyone interested in volunteering for these roles should notify the church office. Thank you for considering helping out! We very much appreciate willing hands that enrich our worship services.



**YOU ARE INVITED**

- WHO:** Interested folks who like to sing
- WHAT:** The St. Andrew's Choir
- WHERE:** Choir Room (past the Fellowship Hall and kitchen, last door on the left)
- WHEN:** Wednesday evenings from 7 – 8:00 pm, starting September 6
- WHY:** To praise God, to help lead worship, to enjoy singing and fellowship with friends



**NOISY OFFERING**

**Noisy Offering**

Our Noisy Offering for September and October is designated for the

[Oshkosh Area Humane Society](#). The OAHS provides compassionate care and comfort to animals in need and builds a community that promotes humane treatment of all animals.



## **Committee Meetings**

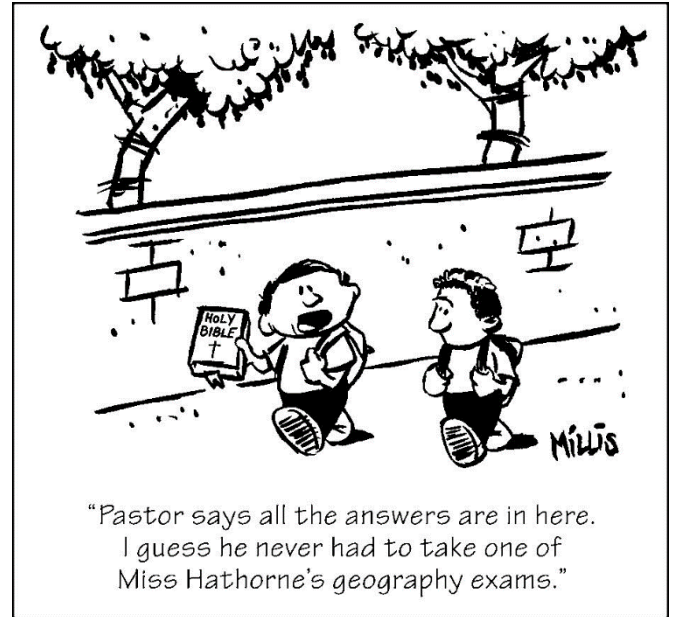
All members welcome!

**Worship & Music Committee**  
Wednesday, September 6, at 4 pm

**Christian Action Committee**  
Wednesday, September 6, at 6 pm

**Council Meeting**  
Thursday, September 14, at 7 pm

**Property Committee**  
Thursday, September 28, at 9 am  
Delta Restaurant



## **Volunteer Opportunity**

Ascension Mercy  
Hospital

Call Volunteer Services  
at 920-223-0225



*Reception Desk* - **URGENT NEED!**  
Volunteers greet and provide information to visitors and patients. Duties include providing escort or wheelchair transport to Outpatient Procedures Area, or to an inpatient unit at admit, assisting patients at the registration kiosk, and keeping the lobby area tidy.

*Gift Shop* – Volunteers greet customers, handle sales via money/checks/credit cards, replenish the candy supply, deliver gifts or flowers to patients, and dust or straighten as needed.

