



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

Welcome to worship and life at St. Andrew's!
Sunday Worship at 9:30 am in the sanctuary and 10:45am on Facebook

December 2023



**From the Desk of
Pastor Bryan
December 2023**

**“Capture the Moment; Light
with Purpose.”**

“What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.”
(John 1:3b-5)

The ultimate purpose of a photograph is to capture a given moment in time. Perhaps the photo is zoomed in to capture a specific moment; other times, the photo is zoomed out quite a ways to capture a bigger moment.

This is why I love to center my thoughts on this portion of John's Gospel—it aims to capture the beginning moments of God's creation and to capture the moment of promise of Christ's breaking into our dark and dreary world. There is a lot of darkness that aims to cloud our vision. As the days get shorter and the temperatures colder, we must concede that darkness is a reality of our world. But, and especially during this season of Advent, our hearts are lit anew, because as Christmas approaches, we are reminded that, through the gift of Christ, no darkness will ever be able to overcome the ultimate Light. And that gives us all new purpose, energy and direction.

May you see and experience that Christ is the One True Light that lights our world and guides our ways, and may you continue to grow in your awareness of the ways in which God has captured all of you and is actively empowering you to be lit with new purpose to better God's Kingdom.

Advent and Christmas blessings to each of you!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bryan

**Our Annual Meeting will take place
Sunday, January 28, 2024, at 10:45 am.**

Please save the date!

We will be working on 2024 Mission and ministry goals, voting in our new leaders, thanking our outgoing leadership, discussing and then passing the 2024 Budget.

Our Advent and Christmas Seasons Worship Schedule

Advent 2022 begins Sunday, Dec. 3



We will observe Advent on Sundays Dec. 3, 10, and 17 at the 9:30 am worship services. The Worship and Music Committee has met and decided we will not offer midweek worship in 2023.

CHRISTMAS 2023

**Sunday, December 24
Christmas Eve**

9:30 am Lessons and Carols
with Holy Communion

6:30 pm Carols by Request

7:00 pm Candlelight
Communion

**Monday, December 25
Christmas Day**

10am Holy Communion Worship



Please come to worship the newborn Christ as you are able.



Highlights of Council Meeting Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Church
Council

Treasurer's Report – Matt Moore So far this year, our income (giving) is down by about \$34,000. We have also spent (expenses) about \$14,000 less, but we're still short roughly \$20,000 from where we were at this point last year

Old Business:

1. Call Committee *Call Committee has been formed, and includes a total of 8 members, including 2 alternates. Matt has been in contact with Pastor Asher to schedule the orientation meeting in late November. This virtual meeting will be recorded for Call Committee members who are unable to attend.*

2. Nominating Committee *You may have noticed the Nominating Committee has started to highlight one event each Sunday in The Net! If you are able to help out in any capacity, we ask that you reach out to Teri Rucinsky, Kathy Bellaire or Chris Ziegler. We especially need people to sign up for next year's Nominating Committee and for Church Council.*

3. Budget Discussions *Council members proposed draft budget items for next year. We are expecting a negative budget in 2024. Council brainstormed ideas to increase income and decrease expenses.*

New Business:

Pastor's Report – Pastor Bryan Schmidt

1. Pastor worked with Exec Committee to extend the contract through Feb 29th, 2024.
2. Pastor heard back from the Constitution committee, and they will continue to look into our concerns.
3. We will purchase some Chamber Gift Certificates from discretionary funds in order to be able to help with holiday assistance similar to last winter

President's Report – Teri Rucinsky
Executive Committee met last month to

discuss Pastor's contract extension, constitution questions (see Pastor's report above), how to improve the onboarding process for new council members.

Committee Reports:

1. Christian Action/Fellowship – Carol Spiegelberg Pie social was well received, and leftovers were donated to Salvation Army. The social raised \$73 and that will go towards rewaxing the Fellowship floor. Dec 3rd will be the cookie exchange, so bring 2 dozen cookies if you want to join! There will be no Fellowship Time on Dec 24th or 31st. Read The Net to see what other donation opportunities are available.
2. Property – Steve Last Property is excited to announce that the Deer Stand will live on at Crossways Camp (Pine Lake)! Recently the damaged gutters and downspouts were replaced and came in \$200 under the estimate. Property continues to declutter and is currently working on the Red Room. Currently the Brighter Tomorrow and Office Renovation projects are on hold. Next meeting is Nov 30th @ Delta @9.
3. Education – Emmy Kasuboski No Report
4. Worship & Music – Kathy Bellaire WMC met on Nov 2. Peace Lutheran Church will be hosting a joint Thanksgiving Eve service that our choir will join. Flowers and candelabras have been ordered for the holidays. Envelopes are available for those wishing to designate a Poinsettia in memory/honor of a loved one/special occasion. Madrigals will return this year on Dec 10th from 9:25-9:40am. A huge thank you goes out to the volunteers that helped with the All-Saints Butterflies as well as those who will be putting up the Christmas Tree! Advent plans have been finalized, so watch The Net for details. WMC meeting is Dec 6.
5. Technology/Office – Pastor Bryan *No Report*

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

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, December 14, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

From the
Worship
and Music
Committee



From the
Christian
Action
Committee:



Calling all singers and instrumentalists!



Would you help provide Christmas music for our Christmas celebrations? If you enjoy singing or playing an instrument, we can use your help!

We ask you to let us know before **December 3** that you are interested in providing amazing music!

Please call the office (920) 235-6616) to volunteer or speak with Kris Selk, our Organist/Choir Director if you have questions. Thank you so much. We are looking forward to a beautiful Christmas celebration. Let your light shine!

Madrigal Singers

We are in store for a special treat that will be provided by the Oshkosh North High School Madrigal Singers.



On Sunday, December 10th the Oshkosh North Madrigals will perform from 9:15 - 9:40 am. Come a bit early for our worship service and enjoy Christmas music that day. These young singers add so much to the holiday season. Enjoy!

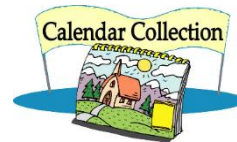
**Cookie Exchange
Sunday, Dec. 3**



We will be having a cookie exchange for anyone that would like extra cookies for the holidays. Bring 2 dozen cookies and your own container for taking cookies home.

Calendars

If you have extra 2024 calendars, would you consider donating them to the Oshkosh Correctional Institution for the inmates? We will be collecting until the end of December. Thank you for considering this mission!



Canned Goods Collection

We are collecting canned goods for the Salvation Army until December 17. Requested items are cereal, soup, and canned meats (tuna, chicken). Thanks so much!



Thank you!

Thank you for donating Christmas Needs to Winnebago Mental Health. Your generosity is so appreciated and will bring smiles to many faces.



Noisy Offering



The Noisy Offering for November and December has been designated for the Christine Ann Shelter in Oshkosh. Christine Ann Domestic Abuse Services operates a 37-bed emergency shelter for individuals and families needing safety and shelter for an abusive situation. Thank you for your support to this organization.



2024 Giving Envelopes

2024 Giving Envelopes are here! They will be available in the narthex soon. If you are unable to pick yours up, please contact us (920-235-6616 or office@standrewsoshkosh.org) and we will be glad to help get them to you!



JOIN US!

Committee Meetings
All members welcome!

Christian Action Committee

Monday, December 4, at 6 pm

Council Meeting

Thursday, December 14, at 7 pm

Worship Committee

Monday, December 10, at 10 am

Property Committee

Thursday, December 28, at 9 am

