



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Newsletter

Worship Sundays at 9:30 am in the sanctuary and 10:45 am on Facebook November 2023



From the Desk of Pastor Bryan November 2023

“We Are an Offering”

From the Desk of Pastor Bryan

You may be familiar with these words from the hymn “We Are an Offering,” a hymn that is found in our *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* hymnal. Several of the congregations that I have served have used this hymn as its Offertory Hymn throughout the church year. Its tune and words are simple yet powerful.

We lift our voices, we lift our hands. We lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.

Lord, use our voices. Lord, use our hands.

Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering....

All that we have. All that we are. All that we hope to be, we give to you. We give to you....

We lift our voices, we lift our hands.

We lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. We are an offering.

Each and every day is an opportunity to sing this song in your own way—to give thanks to God for the gifts given to us, to reflect upon the ways you are using your gifts now to better the community, to reflect carefully upon the ways that God is calling you to use your gifts in the near future, to take that step from pondering to engaging.

As we enter November, consider how God is already at work in your life. What gifts have you been blessed with? How will God use your gifts—in whatever shape, form, or amount—to spread God’s message of love and grace this week, this month, this coming year? How is God empowering you to hear the words and sing the song?

May all that we have and all that we are be continually rooted in the One who crafted us in God’s image, who redeemed us through death and resurrection of Christ, and who continues to sanctify us through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bryan



Highlights of Church Council Minutes

October 12, 2023

A. Treasurer's Report – Matt Moore *November 28th is Giving Tuesday. Budget continues to be a concern. Operational Expenses were at \$13,642. Giving was at \$7,800, which is less than payroll for the month. Matt praised council for doing their best to hold costs. and staying under budget whenever possible. Chris made a motion to approve the report and bills; Steve seconded. Motion approved.*

B. Old Business:

1. Call Committee Formation - *Call Committee has been formed and consists of 6 members with 2 alternates. They will be working together with Pastor Asher from the Synod to continue the next steps along the calling journey. Greg made a motion; Matt seconded. Motion approved.*
2. Nominating Committee Update-*We are still looking for volunteers to serve in various leadership capacities for next year. The committee continues to meet on a monthly basis. Our church needs people to guide and lead us, please be that person!*

C. New Business

1. Pastor's Contract *Pastor's contract ends November 30th, 2023. We are planning to extend his contract for 3 months (Dec-Feb) per his conversation with Pastor Asher at the synod.*
2. Begin Budget discussions-*Council members have started to look at their budgets for 2024 and make adjustments based on spending from this year. If you have ideas or suggestions, please reach out to a committee chair or council liaison*

person. Matt will be sharing more information in the bulletin regarding some opportunities for giving to finish out 2023! Matt would like your first draft of your Narrative Budget at the November meeting. Annual reports are due at our December council meeting.

D. Pastor's Report – Pastor Bryan Schmidt *Pastor provided some updates from his discussion with the synod regarding his contract (see above). He also updated us on his Interim Ministry Training last week. He is also working on cleaning up the copy of the constitution and will reach out to the synod regarding some of council's questions about the constitution.*

E. President's Report – Teri Rucinsky *During this time of transition, strong leadership will be essential. I am very thankful that we have had so many wonderful members step up and be willing to serve on our Call Committee! We need the same support for all of our leadership roles. Please consider signing up to represent our church at one of the annual meetings or as a council representative. We need each and every one of you! Please don't hesitate. We have great mentors that will lead and guide you on your leadership journey.*

F. Committee Reports:

1. Christian Action/Fellowship – Carol Spiegelberg *This committee has cleaned and organized the kitchen. Coats for kids will be collected until Oct 26. Watch for a list of items needed for the Winnebago Mental Health Christmas project in November. The Bake Sale raised \$170 towards resealing the Fellowship Hall floor. Oct 22 Pam and Carol will be attending the Oshkosh Conference in Ripon. Nov 12 will be the Pie Social and there will be a cookie exchange in Dec!*
2. Property – Steve Last *Property is hoping for a parking lot without the deer stand next month. Weather damage is being repaired, and the red*

classroom will be cleaned. Our new cleaning service continues to be wonderful, but there are some tasks that we still need in addition to cleaning. The committee proposed ideas like revamping STAMP or having a monthly work day around church. They are open to suggestions from members if you have ideas on completing volunteer work to reduce budget costs!

3. Education – Emmy Kasuboski No report, but the council would like to extend an invitation on her behalf to anyone willing to help with some of our new ideas to revive our Education program. Interested members may reach out to Pastor or Teri Rucinsky.
4. Worship & Music – Kathy Bellaire Butterflies are available for All Saints Sunday. The choir group is in full swing! Peace Lutheran Church will be hosting a joint Thanksgiving Eve service.. The committee has started Advent and Christmas planning. Important updates: We will not have advent services or Blue Christmas this year. Madrigals will be here on Dec 10 and poinsettias will be available for purchase for Christmas services.
5. Ministry Site Profile – Carol Spiegelberg The MSP is live and St. Andrew's is listed as a congregation in transition. Now that Call Committee has been formed, our next steps are to have the orientation with the synod office. The synod office will provide the call committee with a list of potential candidates that have skill sets that would match well with our congregation.

G. Adjournment & Closing Prayer The meeting was adjourned by Teri Rucinsky at 9:02 and led in prayer by Pastor Bryan.

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, November 9, 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

Special Days in November

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 5, 2023

We continue our tradition at St Andrew's of writing the names of our loved ones who have died on outlines of butterflies so that they may be mounted on the wall around the cross in our Sanctuary.



The butterflies remain for the rest of our Church year (through Christ the King Sunday) and remind us of the promise of the Resurrection of the Body and the Life Everlasting that we confess each week!

Christ the King Sunday

Sunday, November 26, 2023



On this Sunday that concludes the Church year, we celebrate in anticipation of the completion of God's good plan for Creation – for all of us! Please join us as we worship the King of Glory!

Thanksgiving Eve worship,

Wed, Nov 22, 2023

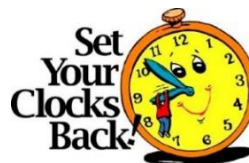
Several Oshkosh Lutheran Churches will offer a Joint Thanksgiving Eve worship at 6:00pm at Peace Lutheran Church, 240 W 9th Ave, Oshkosh, followed by a pie fellowship. Our members and pastors will take part in leading the worship. A massed choir will rehearse at 5:00pm and sing during the worship.



Please feel free to join in worship and fellowship, and, if you like, please bring a pie to share! This is a lot of fun and we hope you will be there!

Day Light Savings Time Ends

Sunday, Nov. 5



Remember to set your clocks back one hour! - OR - Arrive at church one hour early! ☺

Christmas Poinsettia Orders Due by Sunday, November 26th

We will be decorating our Christmas altar area and narthex with poinsettias. Plants may be given in memory or honor of our loved ones, friends, or for a special occasion.



Ordering envelopes are located by the flower chart – or call the church office (920) 235-6616. You may also mail your order to us, if that is more convenient.

Choice of colors: Red, white, pink, Monet, or marble. Six-inch pot, \$17.00 each. We thank you!

*From the
Christian
Action
Committee:*



Thank You to all who donated to Coats for Kids. With your donations we will be keeping kids warm this winter.

Thank you to all who made and purchased bakery at our recent Bake Sale. We raised \$170.00 for the rewaxing of the Fellowship Room floor.

Upcoming dates:

Nov. 6th – All are welcome to join our Christian Action Committee. We will meet at 6:00 PM.

Nov. 12th – Come and enjoy a slice of pie in the Fellowship Area after the church service. If you can't stay, please stop and take a slice home. I know we will have your favorite pie.



Dec. 3rd - We will be having a cookie exchange.



Bring 2 dozen cookies, plus your recipe. Bring your own container for taking cookies home.

For more information please contact Carol Spiegelberg.

Winnebago Mental Health Christmas Needs



We are collecting items to be used at Christmas for patients at the Winnebago Metal Health Institute through Dec. 3rd. A box can be found in the hallway near the Fellowship Hall doors for donated items. Thank you!

Needed items:

- Body Wash
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes
- Deodorant
- Lotion
- Journals
- Winter Hats/Gloves
- Socks (ankle socks preferred)
- Stuffed animals
- Puzzles
- Playing cards

*From the
Worship
and Music*



Committee:

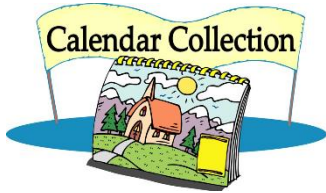
Calling all singers and instrumentalists!



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!



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!



Please notify the church office if you or a family member becomes hospitalized or a loved one has passed away. We would love to be a support for you, but can only do that if you let us know what is going on in your life. Remember to notify us if you have changed your telephone number or mailing address. Please contact the church office at 920-235-6616 or office@standrewsoshkosh.org

Also, we would like to ensure that you are receiving our latest news. If you would like to receive the weekly newsletter *The Net* via email, please email the office. We also can email or USPS the monthly newsletter to you. Just let us know which you prefer!

Committee Meetings

All members welcome!



Christian Action Committee

Monday, November 6, at 6 pm

Council Meeting

Thursday, November 9, at 7 pm

Worship Committee

Thursday, November 2, at 10 am

Property Committee

Thursday, November 30, at 9 am
@ Delta Restaurant, 515 N. Sawyer St
Oshkosh.



Looking Ahead to December

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



CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP
SCHEDULE

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

Grateful,
Thankful
&
Blessed

