



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

January 2024

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



From the Desk of Pastor Bryan January 2024

⁵[Joseph] went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. –Luke 2:5-7 (NRSV)

Dear members and friends of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church,

It goes without saying that the Christmas story is a familiar one, and this year I am really drawn to these three verses above. We don't know how much time passed between verses five and six, or verses six and seven, and we're not privy to the details that got Mary to this point in time. Ultimately, though, we know that this moment came to be, of its own cadence and accord, and for the gift that it truly was and certainly continues to be, we give thanks.

It is with a sincere sense of gratitude for our shared time together and hope for the future ministry of St. Andrew's that lies ahead that I share with you that the time has come for me to conclude my service as your Interim Pastor. Although an Interim Pastor's ministry normally is concluded with the acceptance of

a call by a pastoral candidate, circumstances of need within the synod may result in the re-assignment of an Interim Pastor prior to the arrival of the new called pastor. With the increase in congregations entering a season of pastoral transition, I will begin serving another congregation in our synod as their Interim Pastor in early February. My final Sunday with you will be January 28, 2024.

Leadership at St. Andrew's, the synod office and I are actively working to identify and schedule pastoral coverage for leading worship and providing emergency pastoral care in the time between my departure and the arrival of St. Andrew's next settled pastor. I encourage you to reach out to me directly with any specific questions or concerns that you may have.

In the weeks ahead, I look forward to giving thanks for and affirming the good work accomplished in these fifteen months, saying goodbye to one another, and looking ahead to a future that is always rooted in God's love and care for the church and broader community. Thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege of serving you as your Interim Pastor.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bryan



Highlights of Church Council Minutes December 14, 2023

A. Treasurer's Report –

Matt Moore *Income was below budget this month. Actual was \$10,543.89 and budgeted was \$15,752.07. Total Expenses (Committees, Operations, Wages/Benefits, etc.) were below budget slightly by \$569.59. The difference results in a \$5,242.99 deficit this month. We are still totaling the numbers for Giving Tuesday, but we have confirmed that we have exceeded the goal of \$6,000 to match the funds! Thank you for your efforts! Treasurer's report motion was made by Chris and seconded by Greg. Motion approved.*

1. Budget Discussions (moved from Old Business) *Continued budget discussions and placed an emphasis on the goal of increased Stewardship for 2024. The proposed budget will likely be a deficit budget.*
2. Call Committee – (moved from Committee Reports) Matt Moore *This committee met via Zoom on 12/13. They had a great discussion and are formulating their questions for the interview process when the opportunity comes.. Matt will continue to serve as chair for this committee.*

B. Old Business:

1. Nominating Committee - *We have openings on: Nominating Committee, Council, Oshkosh Conference Assembly, Lutheran Campus Ministry Annual Meeting, and Crossways Camp Annual meeting. Thank you to those that have signed up already!*

C. New Business:

1. Annual Meeting – January 28, 2024 *We will continue to offer both in person and online The goal will to start at 10:45. We will encourage people to sign in at one singular station.*

D. Pastor's Report – Pastor Bryan Schmidt *Pastor will be leaving us at the end of January. In conversation with the synod, there are more congregations beginning transition. Since St. Andrew's is further along in the process, the synod has decided to move him to a new congregation beginning Feb 1. It has been a joy to work together during this season of transition. The council, Pastor, and the synod will continue to work together to ensure a supply pastor is in place and that leadership continues.*

E. President's Report – Teri Rucinsky-Teri *reminded the council that Annual Reports and Budgets need to be turned into the office earlier this week.*

F. Committee Reports:

1. Christian Action/Fellowship – Carol Spiegelberg *They are still collecting food until this Sunday for Salvation Army! Soda prices will increase to \$0.75 due to an increase in soda prices.*
2. Property – Steve Last *The deer stand is gone! The committee continues to work on the projects from last month in addition to fixing and adjusting the automatic doors.*
3. Education – Emmy Kasuboski *no report*
4. Worship & Music – Kathy Bellaire *They talked through details for advent and Christmas. Next meeting will be Jan 4th @ 10am. The tree is up, and confirmation students helped with the chrismsons.*
5. Technology/Office – Pastor Bryan *Continuing to work on shared drives to help with transitions for both office and council.*

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 9 @7pm

Roll of Members: Teri Rucinsky, Pastor Bryan Schmidt, ~~Kathy Bellaire~~, Steve Last, Carol Spiegelberg, ~~Emmy Kasuboski~~, Matt Moore (phone), Chris Ziegler, Greg Egnor

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

Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2024

10:45 am

We will gather for the **Annual Congregational Meeting at 10am on Sunday, January 28**. Please join in to plan our participation in God's mission in our new year together.

We will work to make this meeting efficient and accessible to our members in person and via Zoom.

Committee Meetings



You are invited to attend any meeting.

Worship & Music Committee

Thursday, January 4, at 10 AM

Christian Action Committee

Monday, January 8, at 6PM

Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 9, at 7 PM

Property Committee

Thursday, January 25, 9 AM



2024 Giving Envelopes

2024 Giving Envelopes are here! They are **now available in the narthex**. 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!

Giving Tuesday



Thank you so much for continuing to bring the love of God to our congregation, neighborhood, community and world.

During our recent "Giving Tuesday" fund drive, \$15,123.77 was given. Matching funds of \$6000 were received for a total of \$21,123.77.

From the Nominating Committee:



The Nominating Committee would like to thank all the members who have volunteered to fill important roles at St. Andrew's in 2024. We are still in need of 2 more members to serve on our Church Council, 5 members for the Nominating Committee, 1 representative for the Oshkosh Conference Assembly, 1 representative for Lutheran Campus Ministries annual meeting and 2 representatives for the Crossways Camp annual meeting.

Anyone interested in one or more of these opportunities should contact a member of the Nominating Committee or the church office prior to our annual meeting in January:

Teri Rucinsky, Chris Ziegler, Kathy Bellaire

Your generosity will help St. Andrew's continue its mission of sharing the love of God.

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!

