



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

February 2024

Sunday Worship at 9:30am



"Today Is Your Day!"

From the Desk of Pastor Bryan

February 2024

"So... be your name Buxbaum or Bixby or Bray or Mordecai Ali Van Allen O'Shea, you're off the great places! Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So... get on your way!" (Dr. Suess' Oh, the Places You'll Go)

I remember receiving this book as a graduation gift. I trust that, over the years, this book has continued to provide words of encouragement to many who are set to embark on a new journey in life. From graduations to new jobs to new places of living, transitions are bound to come, bringing with them mixed emotions of excitement, sadness, and hope for whatever lies ahead.

In First Thessalonians, Paul exhorts his followers to do three important things—rejoice, pray, and give thanks. Rejoice in the ways God has blessed you in the moments that have brought you to today, pray for what the future has in store, and give thanks for the grace and beauty of the present moment.

As you work in partnership with God in writing the next chapter of ministry at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, may you continue to know the depths of God's love for you as you seek to climb the next mountain God has placed on your journey. I trust that you can—and will—navigate the mountaintops and valleys of life that await you, because you know and trust in a God who loves you, forgives you, and calls you to make a difference in this world. No matter the time or place, our God is an awesome God, and I am grateful to God for placing me amongst you in this season of transition as your Interim Pastor. Go in peace, and love and serve the Lord!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Bryan



Call Committee of St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church - Search Update

The Call Committee has had a number of meetings since its formation in late November 2023. Pastor Asher, from the Synod Office, has been very helpful in guiding us in the process of Calling a new Pastor. We are currently listed on the Synod Website with our Pastoral opening.

I want to thank the members of the MSP Committee who worked so diligently in putting together our Church resume for Pastoral Candidates to review. This was a tedious process, but I cannot be more proud of the work they have done. The MSP Committee was the first stage of the call process and has provided the Call Committee an excellent opportunity to finding a qualified Candidate.

The Call Committee has developed a positive foundation over the last few weeks getting ready for our Candidate interviews. We are excited to go through this process and bring back to you a qualified Candidate for your consideration.

Call Committee Members:

Jackie Kuhn
Peg Olson
Kris Racer
Stew Rieckman
Matthew Stephan
Shelli Upham
Diane Vogel

Matt Moore, chair



Highlights of Church Council Minutes Thursday, January 18, 2024

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

We ended the year on a high note, and are looking forward to a positive 2024. December was a great month for us. With the help of contributions for Giving Tuesday and increased Christmas donations, we ended December with a positive \$24,689. Greg made a motion to approve treasurer's report. Steve seconded. Motion approved.

B. Old Business:

- a. Nominating Committee *The list of nominees will be submitted to the office for the annual meeting.*
- b. Budget Discussions *Council discussed and approved the budget that will be presented at the annual meeting. The budget will have a deficit. Chris made a motion to approve the 2024 Annual Budget. Greg seconded. Motion approved.*
- c. Annual Meeting Preparations – *January 28, 2024 Zoom link will be provided in The Net for those who wish to join via Zoom. We need 40 voting members to reach quorum.*

C. New Business:

- a. Church Closure Protocol (Inclement Weather) *Executive Committee will be responsible for making a decision regarding inclement weather going forward.*
- b. 2024 Election Season – Voting Site Preparations *Matt will have his company come in to assist with setup. We also need people to set up and lock up.*

D. Pastor's Report – **Pastor Bryan Schmidt:**

- a. Worship Support/Pulpit Supply Update *Supply pastors have been procured for most of the first portion of the year. There are two Sundays in March that are vacant as well as some in April. However, all the other days, including most holidays (with the exception of Palm Sunday) are already covered.*
- b. Affirmation of Baptism – January 28, 2024 *This will be part of worship on Sunday the 28th. There will be 4 confirmands.*

e. ELCA Congregational Report – Due March 1, 2024 *This report, containing membership statistics and finances will be completed by Pastor and Matt. It is submitted online to the Synod.*

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

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your council president!

F. Committee Reports:

- e. Call Committee – **Matt Moore** *Had their third meeting last night, and prepared themselves for the candidates that will come in. They have a great foundation going forward. They have identified their interview questions and prepared themselves for their own responses to potential candidate's questions. They will meet again in a little over a week. We are ready to take interviews!*
- f. Christian Action/Fellowship – **Carol Spiegelberg** *(no report)*
- g. Property – **Steve Last** *Steve wanted to thank Matt for preparing the budget, but wanted to impress upon the council that property is doing their best within the allotted budget. The property needs funding in order to maintain the building. Volunteers can help reduce the costs. They worked on various projects this month and can use much more help!*
- h. Education – **Emmy Kasuboski** *(no report)*
- i. Worship & Music – **Kathy Bellaire** *W&M has been busy coordinating supply ministers with the help of Pastor Bryan as well as volunteers to help those supply pastors. There will be many worship changes happening in these weeks of transition. Please make sure to read The Net carefully for details. One of those changes is that online service will take a hiatus.*
- j. Technology/Office – **Pastor Bryan** *(no report)*

Next Council Meeting: Thursday, February 8, 2024. 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

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

Congratulations and Blessings!

We celebrate with four young adults and their families and godparents their affirmation of baptism celebrated on January 28th this year.



Bella Goldberg
Cady Kortz
Xavier Rucinsky
Grace Staub

May God bless you and continue to deepen your faithfulness as you follow the Lord Jesus Christ!

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Ash Wednesday worship will be at **6:30 pm on February 14, 2024** with Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion.



Lent is just around the corner and **February 14** is Ash Wednesday. Join us for worship at **6:30 p.m.** with the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. Pastor Barb Girod will be here to lead worship.

For the remaining Wednesdays in Lent (February 21-March 20), local ELCA congregations will take turns hosting a soup supper at 5:30 p.m. and a service of Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m. St. Andrew's will serve as host on February 21. Stay tuned to the weekly bulletin announcements for more information about the rest of the Lenten evening schedule.

St. Andrew's will also be hosting a midday lunch and Bible study starting on February 21. They will meet every Wednesday through March 20th. A light luncheon and fellowship will be held at 11:00 am, and Bible study will begin at 12 noon. The format they will be using is Dwelling in the Word. All are welcome! Please join in.



Online Worship Services on Hiatus

Online services at St. Andrew's will be going on hiatus starting in February. Pastor Bryan left St. Andrew's at the end of January to begin serving another interim ministry call. We encourage you to stay tuned to church announcements for any updates. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.



Taking Faith Home Devotional

The weekly devotional Taking Faith Home that has in our worship bulletins will be available on the ushers' table on Sundays, rather than as an insert in your bulletin beginning February 4. Please feel free to take one. The devotional WILL still be sent electronically each week with THE NET.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

Winter is upon us! In the event of inclement weather and a possible church closure, please check these sources prior to coming to church:

- Call the church office
- View Channel 2 WBAY TV
- Check Facebook

Oshkosh Area Community Pantry

We continue to support the [Oshkosh Area Community Food Pantry](#). You will find tubs for donations of non-perishable food items near each of our front doors.



Your help is appreciated. Thank you so much!

Help for the Homeless Hygiene Drive

February 11 – March 3, 2024



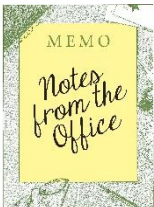
Bathroom tissue, cleaning supplies, dental care, deodorant, diapers/baby care, face/bath soap,

feminine care, hair care, laundry detergent, paper towels, razors, and trash bags are the most needed items. These supplies are expensive and are not covered by the Wisconsin food Share program.

In Oshkosh, goods collected will benefit the ADVOCAP Homeless Program, COTTS, Inc, the Day by Day Warming Shelter, Father Carr's Place 2B, and the Salvation Army. The need is greater than ever this year.

You may drop your items off here at church. If you prefer, you may also donate funds on-line ([click here](#)) or at your local Festival or Walgreens store. Thank you for considering this need.

Thank you for helping!



**Please notify the Church Office
920-235-6616**

- You or a family member becomes hospitalized
- A loved one has passed away
- You have moved
- You have changed your phone number or email
- Birth of a child
- Prayer need
- Any need at all!

We would love to support you and stay in touch. Please contact the church office and let us know what is going on in your life.

Committee Meetings



You are welcome to attend any meeting.

Christian Action Committee

Monday, February 5, at 6 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Thursday, February 1, at 10 am

Council Meeting

Thursday, February 8, at 7 pm

Noisy Offering



The Noisy Offering for the months of January and February will go to the Day by Day Warming Shelter, whose mission is to provide temporary shelter, individualized services, and opportunities for self-sufficiency for the most vulnerable adults in our community.

Thank you for your Offerings

THANKS
FROM THE
HEART

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

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!