



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

August 2024

Please come and worship with us Sundays at 9:30 am



FROM YOUR PASTOR

To say that I am excited to be among you at St. Andrew's is an understatement! I first read your Ministry Site Profile two weeks before Holy Week, talked with Matt the week before Holy Week, and met with your Call Committee by Zoom the week after Easter. The Call process, and preparations for becoming your pastor, have been in the works for a while. And that has given time for the excitement to build.



I am excited about getting to know each of you; building relationships is at the top of my list of priorities. I am excited to be involved in ministry with you; I was looking forward to helping with the event at Pizza Ranch since I first heard about it. And I am

anticipating what God will bring about through our ministry together.

Beginnings are filled with a mix of emotions and experiences. There is excitement, hope, anticipation, expectation. And there is often also some worry, hesitation, or even fear about what this new time and experience will bring.

You have a wonderful history and ministry as St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. You have had wonderful pastors, lay leaders, servants, and helpers. You have shared the faith that is in you, and brought grace and hope to others through your ministries. And now we step into the next chapter. Together we will build on what has come before. Together we will enhance St. Andrew's ministries, Christian Education,

worship, stewardship, and other aspects of what is already part of who you are.

Please be patient with me as I grow to know you and learn your congregation's ways of doing things. Please share with me your expectations, your hopes, and your treasured traditions. And when I don't do things the way you would like them done – please talk with me. Maybe I didn't know. In the months to come we will grow to fit each other, and be blessings to one another.

I want to extend my thanks to the Call Committee. I each of thank them for their time, their diligent service to the congregation, their preparation for the interviews, and all that led up to the call. I believe that God has worked through this process, from my first text from Pastor Asher through the congregational vote and all that has come since.

In September I plan to hold "Cottage Meetings" to get to know you, and your hopes and dreams for St. Andrew's. Cottage Meetings are small groups of seven to ten people, gathering for conversation, possibly with dessert. If you would be willing to host a Cottage Meeting in your home or at the church, please let me know.

In the meantime, if you would like me to visit you – or stop by the office for conversation – please give me a call. I prefer that you call me on my cell phone, as that is the best and fastest way to reach me. My cell phone is: 815-821-2426.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Karen



Pastor Karen and her family



Church Council Meeting Tuesday, July 9, 2024

Roll of members: Carol Spiegelberg, Matt Moore, Chris Ziegler, Greg Egner, Kathy Bellaire, Sarah McAninch

A. Treasurer's Report- Matt Moore –Overall spending was lower than budgeted for June. Some operating expenses and functioning without a full-time pastor have also decreased overall spending in 2024. In addition, a gift of \$5000 was given in remembrance of a member. Kathy Bellaire made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented, Greg Egner seconded. Motion Passed 6-0

B. Old Business:

1. Church Offices - Renovations – Renovations are almost complete. Thank you to everyone that has helped make this renovation possible.
2. Floor Buffing/Waxing-Acquiring several bids. The process should begin around Aug. 26th.
3. Oshkosh ELCA Joint meeting/Collaboration-Revisit with Pastor Karen Tews at a later time.

C. New Business:

1. Community Garden Project-Oshkosh West student inquired about St. Andrews providing an area for refugee gardening plots. More information and clarity is needed before discussion.
2. Pastor Karen Tews-Start date is Monday, July 15th. Her first sermon will be Sunday, July 21st. In addition, she will be available weekdays from 8am-12pm. Installation date has yet to be confirmed but a notice will be given as soon as possible. We are grateful and excited to begin this next chapter together.

D. Pastor's Report – No report

E. President's Report – The agenda highlights current items on the report

F. Committee Reports:

1. Christian Action/Fellowship –Carol

2. Spiegelberg-Can goods are kindly requested to help support the feeding hungry kids program at St. Andrews. These canned goods are combined to send grocery bags home with children for additional nutritional support. Through kind donations and amazing volunteers, St Andrews is helping the community one kid at a time.

3. Property –Matt Moore-No report

4. Education –Chris agreed to be contact for education committee going forward. Discussion about working with members from surrounding churches. This would create a larger group to share instruction and activities for children and adolescent members.

5. Worship & Music – Kathy Bellaire-No report

6. Stewardship-Looking forward to Pastor Karen Tews being instrumental in the guidance forward.

7. Technology/Office-Sarah McAninch –No report

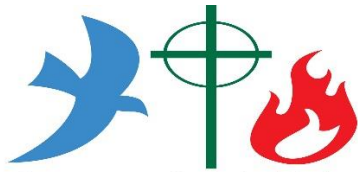
G. Announcements-The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, August 13th, 2024. @ 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall



Thanks from Pastor Karen

I want to thank you all for the wonderful welcome I received my first weeks at St. Andrew's, and especially on my first Sunday leading worship. You made me feel both welcome and at home here. Thank you for your warm welcome to my family. Thanks to those who prepared the fellowship time with cake and ice cream, and all those who stayed for the fellowship time. I am grateful to be your pastor, and look forward to all that is to come!



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Back to School Blessings August 25 Worship



As a new school year begins, we will offer a back-to-school blessing for all who are returning to school: children, youth, college students, teachers, administrators, and all who work within the school systems. During worship on Sunday, 25 August we will be offering prayers and blessings for all who are involved in education.



Add Your Voice

August Pop Up Choir

Who: All who like to sing.

What: Pop-Up Choir

Where: Meet in choir room 9:00 for run-through

Sing at 9:30 worship

When: Sunday, August 25

Why: To praise God; to enjoy a bit of extra Sunday fellowship

Choir Fellowship and Potluck



The choir will have a fellowship potluck luncheon on Saturday, August 17 at 12:30 pm in the St. Andrew's lounge. All are welcome. Summer pop-up choir singers, special music providers and anyone else wishing to join us. Just bring a beverage and yourself. It promises to be a good time. (Maybe you'll be inspired to join us when we reconvene in September? 😊)



Choir season will be upon us in no time!

Rehearsals will begin at 7:00 PM on Wednesday, September 4 in the choir room. We will start our worship duties on Sunday, September 8. All interested singers are invited to join in this rewarding and fun ministry.

Help Needed:

The Worship Committee has two opportunities for you! Contact the office, 920-235-6616, or Kathy Bellaire if you are interested. **Thanks for considering these!**

- Volunteers are always needed to help with worship. Assisting Minister volunteers are especially needed at this time. The assisting minister helps lead worship along side of the pastor. You DO NOT need to be able to sing for this position. If you would like to assist, but do not sing, we will adjust our liturgy so that you can still minister!



- Have you enjoyed the bulletin boards in the narthex, next to the pastor's office? Are you crafty? Want to use your gift to minister to others? We need someone to share messages on that bulletin board for a time. You may design your own, or share a ready made design. We have the supplies here at church.





Christian Action Committee



Let's Make School Kits For Lutheran World Relief

It's that time of year – the school supplies are on sale.

Therefore, it is a great time to make School Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

One good way to make the school kits is to provide all of the items on the list to make one school kit, and bring them all together. If that doesn't work for you, you are welcome to bring an item or two per week during August. There will be boxes in the narthex for the School Kit items.

Each School Kit is to contain the following items:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2 ½ inch eraser

Drawstring backpack-style bags will be provided. And we will assemble the backpacks at the "God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday" on 8 September.

As summer draws to a close and we see children and youth getting ready for back-to-school, we can help children around the world with the supplies that

they need for school and the future that lies ahead of them. Thank you!



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

**. God's
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Our
Hands.**

Sept. 8, 2024

Mark your calendar and join us after worship on Sept. 8 for some fun activities. To help, please bring one of the three items listed below. Watch for more items soon! Contact Carol Spiegelberg if you are interested.

1. A lap blanket or throw
2. A canned food product
3. A toy (prefer new or gently used)

Confirmation classes to begin!

Pastor Karen is thinking ahead to Confirmation Class, and beginning plans for the upcoming year. If you have a Confirmation class student - grades 6, 7, or 8 - please give Pastor Karen a call or text at 815-821-2426, or email her at pastortews@hotmail.com. Tentative plans for an orientation session are for Sunday evening 8 September at 6:30 pm. This will be for parents and students. Please let Pastor Karen know if that date and time will work for you. Thanks!!



Committee Meetings

**All members
welcome!**

Worship & Music Committee

Thursday, August 8 at 10 am

Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 13 at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, August 29 at 9 am