



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

September 2024

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

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Grace and peace to you from God our Father, and our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ.

One of my favorite passages in St. Paul's writings is 1 Corinthians 12:14-18.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in a body, each one of them, as he chose.

There are several things that this passage lifts up. One is that each member of the church is important. Just as each part of the human body is important to its functioning, so is each member of the church important for its functioning. There are parts of our bodies that we cannot function without – like the heart, and lungs, and brain. There are other parts of our bodies that we function fairly well without – like a gallbladder, appendix, or tonsils. And there are other parts of our bodies that require special skills to compensate for their absence – like hearing, and sight. In our church we need everyone, with the gifts and abilities that God has given to each, to function and do the mission that God calls us to serve. Each person is important to the whole.

A second thing that this passage stresses is that, just as the parts of the body have different functions, we all have different functions. We are

all given different talents, interests, and abilities. Put together, we make a body that functions well together. Sometimes when one part of the body over functions, that causes problems in another part of the body. People have told me that before they had knee surgery they favored that leg, and it caused hip problems. The same can happen in the church. But when everyone lives out their calling from God, and uses the abilities and gifts God has given them, the body works well together.

And a third thing that this passage tells us is that when we are working together we coordinate with one another and accomplish the purpose God intends for us.

As we begin the month of September, we see that there are lots of opportunities to gather for Bible Study, service to others, worship, and much more. There are opportunities to serve as lectors, ushers, worship assistants and communion assistants. We have the opportunity to serve our neighbors on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday. Throughout the newsletter you will see opportunities to join together. As we all join together, using the gifts that God has given us, we will live out our mission and ministry.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Karen



Contact Information for Pastor Karen

Please add Pastor Karen's cell phone number to your cell phone contacts: 815-821-2426. That way, if she calls you, it won't pop up as potential spam! And, should you want to reach Pastor Karen you will have her number handy. Especially during hours when the office is not open, the cell phone number is the best way to reach her.



Pastor Karen's Thank You Notes

Thanks to everyone who made "Feeding Hungry Kids" such a great effort to feed children this summer. We served children seven weeks of the summer, between 50 and 60 children each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

Thanks to all of the restaurants that donated food – there are too many for me to be able to name them all without missing some. And thanks to the members of the congregation who contributed food or money to feed the children.

We extend a big thank you to all of those who came to help assemble the meals: Sherry Seabul, Shirley Guse, Judy Groff, Sandy Walth, Stu Rieckman, Sue Zinth, Pam Nemmetz, Candy Luce, Marcia Galica, Debbie Wiedenhaft, and Carol Spiegelberg.

Thanks to Warren Herwig for all of the work he has put into updating our electrical and lighting at the church. Warren is around the church at least once a week, checking things out or making improvements. The last time I saw him at the church he had a downspout part in his hand and was talking about matching colors. Thanks for all that you do, Warren!

The past two weekends I have seen Steve Last at the church. One weekend he was installing the countertops in the office and the next weekend he was installing doors in the Lambs room. I know that these projects are but the tip of the iceberg in terms of what Steve does around the church. Thanks, Steve, for all that you do!

Pastor Karen's Installation Sunday, 15 September 6:30 pm

Pastor Karen will be installed as the pastor of St. Andrew's Ev. Lutheran Church in a special installation service on Sunday, 15 September at 6:30 pm. The installation service is held at a time other than Sunday worship in order to invite other clergy and church members to join in the celebration. The evening time was chosen because the church is used by the Cross and Crown Alliance church.

Pastor Asher O'Callaghan will preside and preach at the installation service. A reception will follow the service in the Fellowship Hall.



September Pop-Up Adult Forum

Approximately once a month we will have a "Pop-up Adult Forum" on Sunday morning, after worship, at 10:45 am.

Our September pop-up forum will be on Sunday, 22 September. Join us in the Council Room for a forum on Civility. Pastor Karen will be using materials produced by the ELCA.

And for a preview of things to come: the October pop-up forum will be about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, as an introduction to him in preparation for the movie that is coming out in November. Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Lutheran pastor, theologian and anti-Nazi dissident who was a key founding member of the Confessing Church. His writings on Christianity's role in the secular world have become widely influential; his 1937 book *The Cost of Discipleship* is described as a modern classic.

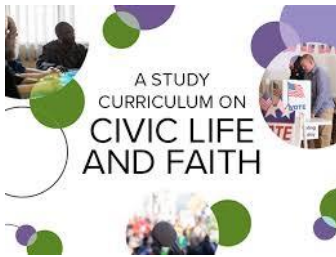


Wednesday Noon Bible Study Resumes

We will gather for Bible Study at noon on Wednesday, 4 September. Pastor Karen will lead a short study, and then we will talk about what we would like to study this year. Please plan to come and share your interests for bible Study.



Civic Life and Faith Discussion Sessions



The ELCA is developing a social statement on civic life and faith, the relationship of church and state, and related matters, as called for by the

2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

Social statements are the ELCA's primary documents to address significant social issues. They are intended to aid reflection, shape conscience and set forth the ELCA's teaching and policy on the major social issues and questions of contemporary life. Social statements are developed by task forces, using an established process of study and widespread participation across the church to guide theological and moral deliberation.

At this time the task force encourages you to study and give feedback on a draft version of the social statement. There are copies of the draft of "Civic Life and Faith" on the table in the narthex. **We will hold two discussion sessions: Monday, 9 September at 10:00 am, and Tuesday, 17 September at 6:30 pm.** Everyone is invited to read the document and join in a conversation session. Then you are invited to provide feedback to the task force through an online link. The feedback period will be open until Sept. 30, 2024.



God's work.
Our hands.

God's Work.
Our Hands.
8 September

For God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, the congregation is asked to bring food, a toy, blankets or throws to donate to the police/fire department. Later in October are plans for the "Chili Cook Off".

We have some projects to put our hands to on God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday.

We will assist the Literacy Council by assembling booklets that they use in their English language classes. The materials are supplied by the Literacy Council, and we will take the number of pages, staple them in the middle with a long-arm stapler, and fold them. It is a simple task, and assists their work.

Another project is to wash the toys in the Lambs Room. Sue Z. is coordinating this project. Those who want to help with that are asked to either wear old clothes or bring an apron because the toys need to be washed in a bleach solution.

And a third project is to assemble the Lutheran World Relief School Kits. The school supplies will be assembled and put in the school bags, and boxes prepared for delivery to the shipping site.

It will be a day of fun and service. Please plan to stay after church and join in a service project that interests you.



School Kits For Lutheran World Relief

We continue to gather school supplies for the Lutheran Relief School Kits through Sunday, 8 September, when they will be assembled as one of our God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday projects. Providing School Kits helps children in impoverished communities get an education, which provides a better future for them and their families.

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, thanks to a Thrivent Action Team grant. School supplies can be dropped off in the box on the table outside of the Fellowship Hall.

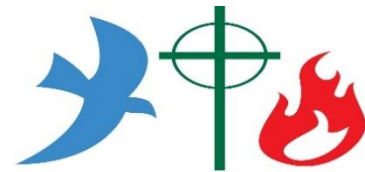
As summer draws to a close and we see children and youth getting ready for back-to-school, we can help children around the world with the supplies that they need for school and the future that lies ahead of them. Thank you!

Feeding Hungry Kids



We have finished Feeding Hungry Kids. **This summer we fed 948 meals.** We served meals three days a week.

Thanks to all who helped with food, gift cards, monetary gifts and other supplies. Thank you, too, to many local businesses that donated meals. Most of all – thanks to the devoted ladies who helped cook and serve the meals.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE



Ushers and Assisting Ministers
FELLOWSHIP

Assisting Ministers and Ushers Fellowship September 29, 10:45 am

A fellowship meeting with the assisting ministers and ushers is scheduled on September 29 at 10:45 to give Pastor Karen a chance to meet everyone, talk about her vision for our worship services and answer any questions people may have.

Choir Season Starts



The St. Andrew's Choir will begin the new season right after Labor Day. Our Wednesday evening rehearsals will kick off on Sept. 4 at 7:00 in the choir room. We'll sing at worship beginning September 8. We would love to have more voices in our group, so if you like to sing, please join us.

Fall Liturgy

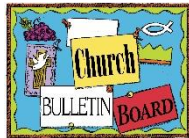
We will begin using the "Now the Feast and Celebration" liturgy on Sunday, 15 September, and through the fall season.



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!**

1. 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!
2. 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.



Confirmation classes to begin!

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.

There will be a meeting for parents and students on Sunday 8 September at 2 pm. We will talk about expectations, and plan for the coming year.

Property Committee Update

Project concerns:

The floor cleaning, waxing and polishing has been completed in the Fellowship Hall, 3 classrooms, and the restroom floors have been deep cleaned.

The office remodeling project is in its final stages Pastor's office and the secretary's office just needs the window blinds. They are on back order and should be in this month.

Noisy Offering



NOISY OFFERING

Our Noisy Offering for September and October is

designated for the [Oshkosh Area Humane Society](#). The OAHS provides compassionate care and comfort to animals in need and builds a community that promotes humane treatment of all animals.

Volunteers Needed

Emmeline Cook Elementary School is looking for people to help out as volunteer crossing guards in the morning from 7:25 – 8:00 am, at the corner of Hazel and Bent to help students and families cross safely. Ideally, they would like one person to serve for the 2024-35 school year, but will be happy if people would be willing to serve one day a week throughout the school year. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Beth Geffers at elizabeth.geffers@oshkosh.k12.wi.us Thanks!



Committee Meetings

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All members welcome!

Christian Action Committee

Tuesday, September 3, at 6 pm

Worship & Music Committee

Monday, September 9, at 9 pm

Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 10, at 7 pm

Technology Committee

Tuesday, September 17, at 5 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, September 26, at 9 am



World Food Day
15 October 2024



World Food Day
Celebrating 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger

There will be a Zoom webinar on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m., Central time.

“Let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.” —1 John 3:18

Join ELCA World Hunger for a celebration of World Food Day and the 50th anniversary of ELCA World Hunger!

This special online event will be hosted by the Rev. Amy Current, bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, and Imran Siddiqui, vice president of the ELCA.

Tune in on Oct. 15 to hear firsthand stories from partners at ELCA World Hunger projects — including Educación Popular en Salud (EPES), a community health organization in Chile that was founded over 40 years ago, and more recent starts such as Tapestry Farms, a Midwestern urban-farm system in the “Quad Cities” of Iowa and Illinois. You’ll see the impact of 50 years of ELCA World Hunger work and get excited and equipped to be part of the next 50 years!

To register, go to the ELCA webpage – the “events” tab. After registering you will receive reminders, event information, World Food Day resources and the event recording. If you have trouble finding the place to register, Pastor Karen can email you the link.

Synod Learning Day
9 November 2024

Mark your calendar for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin Learning Day. And watch for more information in the October newsletter.



Church Council Meeting Highlights

Wednesday, August 14,
2024 • 7:00 p.m. •



Call to Order – Chris Ziegler called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Roll of Members: Pastor Karen Tews, Carol Spiegelberg, Matt Moore, Chris Ziegler, Kathy Bellaire, Sarah McAninch

A. Welcome Pastor Karen Tews -Introduction to committee members and meeting process

B. Dwelling in the Word: Isaiah 43:15-21 (back side of agenda)

C. Treasurer’s Report- Matt Moore - “My Giving” and memorial funds increased in 2024 from the previous year. Lower utilities also helped reduce costs for the year. Through all this support, St Andrews has been able to stay current with bills while having shortfalls in monthly donations. Kathy Bellaire made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented, Carol Spiegelberg seconded. Motion Passed 6-0

D. Old Business:

1 & 2. Church Offices - Renovations Update-Floor Buffing/ Waxing-See Property Report

3. Oshkosh ELCA Leaders Collaboration-Pastor Karen Tews would like to discuss working with other churches for confirmation and additional church activities that could be combined.

4. Community Garden Project-No new updates or correspondence with the student. This item will be closed for now.

E. New Business:

1. Installation of Pastor Tews- Pastor Tew’s installation ceremony will be on Sunday, September 15th at 6:30 p.m. at St.

Andrews. There will be refreshments afterwards including gluten-free options. All are invited to attend.

2. Narrative Budgets-Budgets are due in September. Discussion and planning will be handled by each committee separately.

3. IRS Housing Allowance- A housing allowance for Pastor Tews must be confirmed yearly for tax purposes. The allowance currently is \$19,200.00. Chris Ziegler made a motion to approve the amount as presented, Kathy Bellaire seconded. Motion Passed 6-0

4. Nominating and Auditing Committees will begin the process looking for volunteers to fill positions.

F. Pastor’s Report –Pastor Tews started on July 15th, 2024. Since then she has been busy working with “Feeding Hungry Kids”, Family Camp in Clintonville, and visiting members hospitalized or homebound. Pastor Tews has also begun to work with committees and God’s Work. Our Hands. Sunday special service and activities including school kits. In September, Pastor Tews would like to start “Cottage Meetings” to meet in small groups and help Pastor get to know each of us better. More details to follow.

G. Announcements-Thank you to everyone for being a part of St Andrews and sharing the good news

H. Next Council Meeting: Tuesday September 10th, 2024. 7:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

I. Adjournment & Closing Prayer- Adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

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