



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

Newsletter

Worship Sundays at 9:30 am in the sanctuary and hear the sermon on Facebook October 2024



FROM YOUR PASTOR

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

St. Paul reminds the church at Galatia that they are all one in Christ Jesus: Jews and Greeks, slaves and free, male and female. Beyond societal distinctions, Jesus unites.

In Jesus' high priestly prayer, before his crucifixion, he prayed that all of his followers would be one as he and God the Father are one. Beyond societal and religious divisions, Jesus unites.

Jesus calls us to love one another. He calls us to love our enemies. And he calls us to forgive seventy times seven, which calls us to forgive without keeping track. Beyond divisions, hurt, and sin, Jesus draws us together.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus tells the story of a Jewish man who is traveling when he is beaten and left for dead along a road. A priest and a Levite – good and faithful observant Jews – pass by on the other side of the road without offering assistance. And then a Samaritan – a member of a despised ethnic group – comes along and offers the assistance that leads to healing. Jesus asks which of them is the neighbor. In this story Jesus calls us to move beyond our sense of division, and even our prejudices, to care for all of God's people.

We are living in a time when there is more brokenness than unity in our country. A quick check of the news on television, radio, or internet highlights yet another hot issue that divides people in our nation, in communities, in neighborhoods, and in families.

In these weeks leading up to the election we are seeing the divisive issues growing and being exploited.

Dwelling in the midst of all of the stress, division, ramped up emotions, and all that we are experiencing in these days, we are the church of Jesus Christ. We have the opportunity to embody and model Jesus' desire – and the hope and promise – that we are one in Jesus. In the midst of different beliefs, we are one in Jesus. In the midst of different political positions, we are one in Jesus.

To help us focus on our unity, in the midst of the multiple divisions of our day, I have written some liturgy for the four weeks prior to the election. In the Order for Confession and Forgiveness, the Kyrie, the Great Thanksgiving, and the Benediction, we will be focusing on unity, caring for others, and seeking understanding, as we follow Jesus. This will begin on Sunday, 13 October.

It is my hope that these themes in worship will bring a focus to these days that brings peace to our spirits.

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 a 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 Sue and Jim Zinth for all their work trimming shrubs around the church, and putting out fall decorations!

Thanks to everyone involved in my installation! Thanks to all of the worship participants: Chris Ziegler, Peg Olson, Stew Rieckman, Paula Kundert, Pam Nemmetz, Marcia Galica, Darlene Bruce, Matt and Beth Moore. Thanks to Kris Selk and the choir. And thanks to all who were involved in providing the reception following the installation: all who brought food, and those who set up and cleaned up. You all made it a wonderful occasion for me, for the congregation, and for all who attended.

Thanks to Buffy and Jason Kremers for loaning their clothes rack for clergy to use for vestments for the installation. It is very much appreciated!

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday was a wonderful day. Thanks to everyone who participated in bringing items for the police and fire departments to use in meeting the needs of our neighbors. Thanks to everyone who helped assemble School Kits, booklets for the Literacy Council, and wash toys! And thanks to everyone involved in preparing and serving the lunch! You are all appreciated!

Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, we took 16 plants to The Gathering Place for their "welcome" event for the freshmen. Thanks to everyone who donated plants!



Highlights of Church Council Minutes

Chris Ziegler called the St. Andrew's Church Council Meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, September 10, 2024. Those in attendance included: Pastor Karen Tews, Chris Ziegler, Carol Spiegelberg, Matt Moore, Sarah McAninch, Kathy Bellaire, and Greg Egner

Pastor Karen led opening prayer, which was followed by Dwelling in the Word based on Matthew 20:20-28.

Matt Moore presented the Treasurer's Report. Overall, the spending was lower than last year. *My Giving* and money market funds slightly increased assets. Church renovations resulted in lower liabilities than this time last year. Chris Ziegler made a motion to approve the financial reports as presented, Carol Spiegelberg seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

There were several items of Old Business. Pastor Karen's installation service will be Sunday, September 15th at 6:30pm. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

The floor buffing and waxing has been completed. An additional day was needed to complete the job. Thanks to everyone who helped.

This is "budget season." Narrative budgets are requested in two weeks to have the budget process complete by the end of October.

A \$500 donation was made to Miravida Living, to be used to provide air conditioners that can be loaned to residents of the Simeannas during the hot summer weather. Kathy Bellaire made the motion to approve; Chris Ziegler seconded the motion, which passed.

There were also several items of New Business. Pastor Karen and her daughter, Grace, are received as members of St. Andrew's.

Pastor Karen suggested providing "highlights" of the Church Council minutes in the Newsletter. The full minutes of the meeting will still be posted on the bulletin board outside of the office. This is to

increase the readability of what's going on at the church, and to reduce the number of pages in the Newsletter.

A date of Sunday, 17 November 2024 was set for a "Town Hall Meeting" for Pastor Karen to report on the Cottage Meetings. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary right after the church service. The meeting will be followed by the Pie Social.

We talked about forming a Stewardship Committee. The time and talents forms will be mailed with the quarterly reports. Everyone is asked to fill these out and return to church in the drop box. Pastor Karen Tews will be using these forms to plan the next steps for stewardship.

A Girl Scout Troop would like to use meeting space. The troop is made up of students from E Cook, Oak Lawn, and Martin Luther schools. They will meet on Wednesdays, every other week. Chris will reach out to them to request more information on time needed and the number of girls attending before it is approved.

The Pastor's Report showed the variety of ministries that Pastor Karen has been involved in: planning for the fall, Elmer Frank's funeral, getting to know some of the congregation members, and visiting some of the homebound church members. Plans were made for Confirmation Classes, the Wednesday noon Bible Study, the "Pop-up Adult Forum," and the discussion sessions on the ELCA draft Social Statement "Civil Life and Faith."

Pastor Karen attended the ordination and installation of Pastor Amy Penza at the Holden Lutheran Parish, Wautoma and the fundraising event at Miravida Living in Appleton. She participated in two online Continuing Education events: ministry in conflicted and divisive times and ELCA Social Statements.

She wrote liturgy that we will use for the four Sundays prior to the election. It brings a focus on unity, listening,

compassion, kindness, and following Jesus' example of being inclusive of all of God's people. It lifts up seeking the Spirit's guidance as we discuss, deliberate, and live together.

Upcoming events include the Fall Theological Conference and the Oshkosh Conference Meeting.

Committee Reports:

The Christian Action/Fellowship Committee reported that God's Work, Our Hands was a great day and the Fire Department was thankful for all the toys, food, and blankets donated. Carol Spiegelberg suggested participating in the November Toy Drive. More information is needed to approve. The "Chili Cook-off" is planned for October 13th. Sign up and show us your special recipe!

The Worship and Music Committee continues to have a vacancy on one of the usher teams. Volunteers to usher or serve as assisting ministers or communion assistants are most welcome. We will be holding a fellowship with Pastor Karen on September 29 at 10:45 in the sanctuary for individuals currently in these roles. Anyone not currently serving in one of these roles but interested is invited to attend. The committee is still looking for volunteers to design the bulletin board. Materials are available at Church should someone be interested in taking on this project. Discussion occurred around whether or not to continue with a sign-in sheet as people enter the church or return to having a bulletin insert or a pew card available for worshipers to fill out during services, including any requests to meet with Pastor Karen. Further discussion is needed. We will be using "Now the Feast" as our liturgy in September and early October. Pastor Karen has developed a special liturgy for the month of October. Initial planning for the holidays has begun.

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, October 8, 2024.

Cottage Meetings



Cottage Meetings

We will be having lots of Cottage Meetings in

October. We have made a sincere effort to get everyone invited to a Cottage Meeting – but may have inadvertently missed a few people. So, if you did not get an invitation please call Pastor Karen. Or you can call one of the hosts to arrange to attend their Cottage Meeting. All of the Cottage Meetings will be held in the church lounge. Coffee and dessert will be served.

We will be talking about what has brought you joy and comfort and hope at St. Andrew's, your experiences in the church that have been meaningful to you, and your hopes and dreams for the future at St. Andrew's. It is important to have input from as many people as possible, to have a "big picture" perspective of the congregation as Pastor Karen leads the congregation. Please make every effort to attend one of the Cottage Meetings.

These are the Cottage Meetings that are scheduled:

- 26 September – Thursday – 6:00 pm – hosted by Marcia Galica and Pam Nemmetz
- 1 October – Tuesday – 1:30 pm – hosted by Kathy Bellaire
- 5 October – Saturday – 10:30 am – hosted by Liz Murkin
- 6 October – Sunday – 1:30 pm - hosted by Steve and Sandy Last
- 8 October – Tuesday – 1:30 pm - hosted by Mike and Gail Knier
- 10 October – Thursday – 6:00 pm - hosted by Matt and Beth Moore

- 14 October – Monday – 6:30 pm – hosted by Sue Zinth and Judy Groff
- 17 October – Thursday – 6:00 pm - hosted by Gary and Darlene Bruce
- 24 October – Thursday – 6:30 pm - hosted by Pastor Karen

Following the Cottage Meetings a summary report will be prepared. That will be shared with the Church Council at their November meeting, and then shared with the congregation in a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, 17 November.



October Pop-Up Adult Forum

20 October 10:45 am

The October pop-up forum will be on Sunday, 20 October, at 10:45 am. We will learn about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 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. Join us for an introduction to his life, and the influence he had on the church of his day – and continues to have on the church today.

Wednesday Noon Bible Study

Join us on Wednesdays at noon for Bible Study. We will



start studying the book of Jonah in October.



Prayer Chain

St. Andrew's Prayer Chain

If you or someone you know is in need of prayer, St. Andrew's Prayer Chain is here for you! All prayer requests should now be sent to: prayerchain@standrewsoshkosh.org. All prayer requests are held in confidence. If you are interested in becoming a member of the prayer chain, please contact Pastor Karen or the church office at 920-235-6616.



Christian Action Committee

Thank you to all who helped with God's Work.

Our Hands. Day. The police and fire departments were glad to get the toys, blankets, and food. We made 4 fleece blankets that went to the fire department. We also put together school kits going to Lutheran World Relief, and stapled booklets for the Literacy Group that meets here. The Christian Action ladies made lunch for all, which consisted of bar-b-que, relishes, hips, and desserts.

We will be working with the fire department at the end of November on their toy drive. Watch for more information coming as the event gets closer.



Coats for Kids

Coats for Kids Sept. 23 through Oct. 24

St. Andrew's is once again serving as a drop off location for the **2024 Salvation Army Coats for Kids** season. The campaign runs from **September 23rd through October 24th**. Coats (only new or gently used coats are accepted), hats, mittens and gloves are being collected to be distributed to area children. The donation box may be found in the hallway near the Sanctuary. So many of our local children benefit from this collection of needed items. We thank you for your generosity!

School Kits For Lutheran World Relief

Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies for the Lutheran World Relief School Kits.



Through a Thrivent Action Team we were able to get the school bags – made by a women's cooperative in Bangladesh.

And through your generosity we were able to assemble 35 bags enabling children to get an education. Thank you!



God's work.
Our hands.

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday Report

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday was a fun and meaningful day. Starting with some special parts in our liturgy that were prepared for God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday, the service concluded with the opportunity to donate toys, blankets, and food for our neighbors through the police and fire departments.

Thanks to the Christian Fellowship group that prepared the lunch that followed worship. Delicious barbeque and desserts were enjoyed by all. Then many people joined in service projects – which was a wonderful way to serve our neighbors. Thanks to everyone who participated and served as hands to do God's Work.

Word in Season
Devotional
Booklets



The October, November, December issue of *Word in Season* devotional booklets are now available. We also have large print editions if you would prefer that. Please let us know if you would like a copy (920-235-6616). We will make sure you receive one. Carry out, Curbside and Delivery available

Noisy Offering

The Noisy offering donations for September and October have been designated for the [Oshkosh Area Humane Society](#). OAHS is a private, independent nonprofit charity organization whose mission is to provide compassionate care and comfort to animals in need and to build a community that promotes humane treatment of all animals. Thank you for your donations to this worthy cause!



**All members
welcome!**

Worship and Music Committee
Thursday, Oct. 3 at 9 am

Christian Action Committee
Monday, October 7 at 6 pm

Council Meeting
Tuesday, Oct. 8 at 7 pm

Property Committee
Thursday, Oct. 31 at 9am



Thanks Received..

From Miravida Living:

Dear Friends at St. Andrew's Church,

As we feel the full force of summer's heat, we eagerly anticipate the cool breezes of fall just weeks away. Miravida's campus is alive with activity – rickshaw rides, gardening in our raised beds, leisurely walks, dinner outings, and peaceful moments by the memorial garden pond. The beauty and opportunities across our campus are greatly enhanced by the contributions of those dedicated to improving their community.

Thank you for your generous \$500 donation, which will go directly toward purchasing an air conditioner for our residents to borrow during the heavy heat. Your support is invaluable in ensuring their comfort and well-being. We are honored to have you as a partner in providing a comfortable and vibrant environment for our residents.

Gratefully,
Theresa M. Bertram, President/CEO/CFO

From the Women and Children Literacy Class:

Thank you for stapling the booklets and cleaning the toys. We appreciate your help. Thanks so much for giving us a home for our Women and Children class. We are grateful.

This is signed by Michele, Sally, Jeanne, Lucy, Diane, Paula and many of the women who attend the classes.

*From the University of Wisconsin
Oshkosh Foundation:*

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin Foundation, I would like to thank you for your generous gift. Your commitment to UW Oshkosh and its students plays a vital role in our ability to enhance student success, promote academic excellence, and expand our impact on the community and the lives of our students.

Your confidence in UW Oshkosh Foundation is deeply appreciated. It is an honor and a privilege to count you among our family of donors. By coming together through philanthropy, we can make a difference. Thank you for your generous support!

Sincerely,
Brooke L. Tabbert, Interim Executive
Director

*Note: This is for the Able Performing Arts
Scholarship*

From the Back to School Fair:

Thank you all for your consideration and donations to this year's fair. We helped over 1300 children to get a new outfit! Such a blessing! Thanks again & Hope to see you all next year,

Connie Hay



“Streets of Hope” Fundraiser
For Day by Day Shelter

The *Day by Day* Shelter's second annual fundraiser will be held on 11 October at Becket's Center Atrium, from 6 - 9 pm. You can look forward to a variety of delicious flavors from local favorites, including Manila, La Taqueria, Becket's & Thunderbird Bakery. Tickets are available online at the Streets of Hope website.

Building on the success of 2023, Streets of Hope is Day by Day Shelter's second annual fundraiser! Streets of Hope is an immersive art fundraiser that connects to the heart of street culture.

The mission of Streets of Hope is to tell the stories of the Day by Day Shelter and its guests, shift public perceptions of homelessness in our community, and grow this fundraiser. Streets of Hope supports the daily operations and expanded services of Day by Day Shelter.

Streets of Hope engages a diverse audience of supporters and volunteers while creating a colorful, immersive and memorable street culture themed event. Street culture is revered across the world as a leading influence in modern music, art, dance, fashion and food. Streets of Hope is a night of appreciation for this culture and a celebration of Day by Day Shelter.

J.J. Keller has once again generously offered a matching grant up to \$10,000 for this year's Streets of Hope Fundraiser. This means that for every dollar donated, J.J. Keller could match it, doubling the impact of your donation. If you're unable to attend the event, you can still participate by donating online. Together we can make a change in our community!



World Food Day

Celebrating 50 Years of ELCA World Hunger
15 October 2024

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

Mark your calendar for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin Learning Day.

SYNOD LEARNING Day

East Central Synod of Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Workshops, collaboration, and networking in cohorts for church people to inspire, strengthen, and nourish your ministry.

Save the Date!

NOV 9th 2024

Ascension Lutheran Church
(2911 Libal St, Green Bay)

Registration opens October 1st and caps at 120 participants
\$40/person includes lunch and materials
QR code or www.ecsw.org/upcoming-events/SLD
for more information and to register