



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Newsletter

Worship Sundays at 9:30 am in the sanctuary and 10:45 am on Facebook November 2024



**FROM YOUR
PASTOR**

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

November . . . crisp cool days with frost at night . . . pumpkins, and pumpkin spice . . . bonfires and s'mores . . . All Saints Day . . . Thanksgiving . . .

Whether I am sitting in my living room with a pumpkin spice latte, or gathered with friends around a bonfire, or gathered around the communion table sharing the body and blood of Christ, or sharing Thanksgiving with family and friends, I find that November is a month filled with gratitude. Gratitude for all of the blessings that God has provided for me.

During November we will have a stewardship focus.

- 3 November is All Saints' Sunday, when we will focus on the blessings that the saints have bestowed on us.
- 10 November, as we hear the story about the widow's offering, we will focus on the material blessings that have been placed in our care.
- 17 November, as we hear Jesus' lesson on the destruction of the temple and the end times, we will focus on the gift of relationship with Jesus and eternal life that have been placed in our care.
- 27 November, Christ the King Sunday, we will focus on the blessings of Christ's reign in our lives.

Each Sunday will provide us with the opportunity to reflect on what it means that God calls us to be managers, or stewards, of what belongs to God. We will reflect on where our stewardship is rooted, and what it takes to make it grow and bear fruit.

On the final Sunday, 27 November, we will have the opportunity to make a covenant – between us and God – for how we will live as stewards in the coming year. We will have the opportunity to acknowledge the challenges, the

sacrifices, and the blessings that come from growing in stewardship.

God's call to be stewards/managers of what belongs to God is a holy calling. I look forward to exploring that with you this coming month.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Karen



Pastor Karen's Thank You Notes

Thanks to the tree trimmers! On an October morning the tree trimmers were at work to trim branches behind the church. Our thanks to: Gary Bruce, Mike Racer, Jim Zinth, Steve Last, and Warren Herwig.

Thanks to everyone who made chili for the Chili Cook-off! And thanks to everyone who set up, served, and cleaned up! It was a fun and delicious day.



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.

Highlights of Church Council Minutes

October 8, 2024



The Church Council met on Tuesday, 8 October. Those in attendance included: Chris Ziegler, Carol Spiegelberg, Sarah Mcaninch, Matt Moore, Greg Egner, Kathy Bellaire and Pastor Karen Tews.

Chris called the meeting to order. Pastor Karen led an opening prayer. And the Council participated in Dwelling in the Word on Matthew 6:25-33.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Old Business included the report that the Girl Scouts are now meeting at the church two Wednesdays a month at 5:30 pm. The Nominating Committee has met, identified people to ask to serve on the Church Council, and sent letters to them which will be followed up by telephone calls. The budget continues to be in process.

New Business included the approval of Jacob and Desiree Nerenhausen as new members. The Time and Talent Sheets were discussed and approved to be sent out with the Third Quarter Giving Statements.

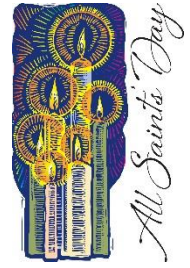
Pastor Karen shared her report highlighting ministries of the past month and what is coming up. She reported on plans for an Election Eve Worship Service, as well as the "Pastor's Tea" to be held 3 November. Chris shared his President's Report. He had attended a meeting with officers of other ELCA churches in Oshkosh. Coming out of that meeting he brought a survey to be completed by each Council member. The survey assesses church health in a variety of areas: evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, mission and ministry, worship, leadership, and stewardship.

Committee reports were received. The purchase of a tablet for the sound system was approved.

The next Church Council meeting will be Tuesday, 12 November at 7:00 pm. The meeting closed with prayer led by Pastor Karen.

All Saints Sunday

November 3



As we remember and celebrate the ministry of the saints of God on All Saints Sunday, we will name and light a candle for each of the saints of St. Andrew's who have passed on to life eternal since last All Saints Sunday. Those we will be remembering include:

Clariss Techlow
Margaret Guskey
Lorraine Negendank
Irene Snyder
Elmer Frank
Darryl Schmidt

In addition, we will have paper butterflies on the wall in the sanctuary surrounding the cross. The butterflies have the names of those being remembered by congregation members and friends this All Saints Sunday. If you wish to add butterflies with names to the wall, please pick up butterflies from the table in the narthex and return them to the church by Tuesday, 29 October.

Thanksgiving Eve

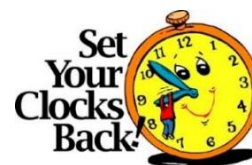
Worship,

Wed, Nov 27 6:30 pm



This year's Thanksgiving Eve Service will be a joint service with the other Oshkosh ELCA congregations. It will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church (808 N. Main Street, Oshkosh), Wednesday – 27 November at 6:30 pm. Area pastors as well as members of the churches will be participating. And there will be a combined choir.

Everyone is invited to come and offer your thanks to God.



Set Your Clocks Back

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night/Sunday morning – November 2nd/3rd, as Daylight Savings Time comes to an end.



Offering our Time and Talents to the Lord's Work

Time and Talent Sheets were mailed out with the quarterly financial giving statements. Please fill them out and return them as soon as possible. There is a box in the narthex to put them in. Thank you!



Pastor's Tea Sunday, 3 November 5:00 pm

The Pastor's Tea is an opportunity to express our appreciation to those who gave of their time and talents to renovate the church offices: Gary Bruce, Jim and Sue Zinth, Warren Herwig, Marcia Galica, Kay Procknow, Sandy Last, Dennis Rucinsky and Matt Moore.

Pastor Karen will provide some treats for the Pastor's Tea, those who gave their time and talents are invited as guests, and the congregation is invited to come and express their thanks and appreciation. Members of the congregation who would like to bring a dessert or snack are welcome to do so. The offices will be open so that everyone can see how wonderful they are. Please join in showing our appreciation at 5:00 pm.

Town Hall Meeting Sunday, 17 November

Thanks to everyone who participated in one of the Cottage Meetings, and thanks to our wonderful hosts who extended the invitations to the Cottage Meetings and provided the delicious treats. Pastor Karen is putting the information together into a report that will be with the Church Council at their November meeting, and then shared with the congregation in a Town Hall meeting on Sunday, 17 November. This report of our congregation will help the Church Council and committees move forward in ministry.



Election Day

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church is a polling site. Being that we will be welcoming our neighbors on this election day, we will have our sanctuary open throughout the day for those who wish to come and pray before or after they vote.



Pastor Karen would like to have a "greeter" sitting in the narthex to welcome those who come to pray. The greeters will just be a friendly and welcoming person. If you are willing to be a greeter on election day, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex.

Prayer Service on Election Eve



On the eve of the election, Monday, 4 November we will have a Prayer Service. Seeking the power and presence of the Holy Spirit as our nation elects its leaders, we will gather around scripture and prayer at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome, so please invite your friends and neighbors to join us in prayer.



NOON BIBLE STUDY

The Wednesday Noon Bible Study

The Wednesday Noon Bible Study has been studying the book of Jonah. We have been learning that it is more than a big fish story. In November we will begin a study of the Gospel of Luke. Beginning in Advent, and throughout 2025, the majority of the Gospel lessons in worship will be from Luke. We will be learning about Luke's special contributions to the Gospel story of Jesus.

Pop-Up Adult Forum



The November pop-up forum will be on Sunday, 10 November, at 10:45 am. We will be learning about the history of the Israel-Palestine conflict, including: the Christian presence in Israel, the creation of Israel in 1948, and what has happened since. Join us in the Council room for an informative time.

Christmas Poinsettia Orders

We will be decorating our Christmas altar area and narthex with poinsettias. Plants may be given in memory or honor of our loved ones, friends, or for a special occasion.



Ordering envelopes will be available soon and located by the flower chart – or call the church office (920) 235-6616.



Giving Tuesday 3 December

After Thanksgiving, and Black Friday, and Small Business Saturday and Sunday, and Cyber Monday, we have the opportunity to get into the spirit of both Thanksgiving and Christmas with Giving Tuesday. On Giving Tuesday we at St. Andrew's celebrate this day by receiving donations to the general operations of the church throughout the week – Monday, 2 December through Friday, 6 December. We are fortunate to have donors (personal and corporate) who will match up to \$6,000. of contributions. All offerings during that week can be done via Vanco or mailing or delivering your donation to the church office.

Thank you for your generosity!

Cleaning Service – or – A Custodian

The Property Committee is beginning conversations about whether to continue with a cleaning service or hire a custodian to clean the church. If you might be interested in the position of custodian, please let the church office or Steve Last know. Thanks!



Citywide Thanksgiving at First English Lutheran Church

Everyone is welcome to join a “Citywide Thanksgiving” Neighborhood Center celebration, Wednesday, 27 November at First English Lutheran Church – 1013 Minnesota Street, Oshkosh (enter through the 10th Avenue parking lot). The Thanksgiving service begins at 11:00 am, with Thanksgiving dinner at noon in the auditorium.

Reservations are appreciated, but not required, by 20 November at 920-203-4464, or outreach@firstenglish.org.

From the
Christian Action
Committee:



**Christian
Action
Committee**

50th Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger Food Collection



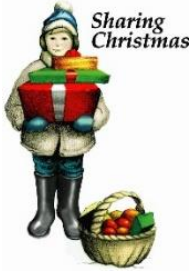
In honor of 50 years of the ELCA World Hunger program, we will be collecting canned goods and other non-perishable food items through the month of November. Thank you!

Upcoming dates:

Nov. 4th – All are welcome to join our Christian Action Committee. We will meet at 6:00 PM.

Nov. 17th – Come and enjoy a slice of pie in the Fellowship Area after the church service.



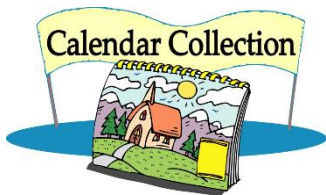


Winnebago Mental Health Christmas Needs

St. Andrew's will once again support the Winnebago Mental Health Institute's Christmas Project to provide Christmas gifts to the residents. Gifts can be brought to the church, and they are not to be wrapped. No glass bottles or bottles with pumps are accepted. Ingredients for self-care items cannot contain alcohol for 1st or 2nd ingredient.

Please bring the items to the church by 1 December, so that we can deliver them.

Requested items include: chocolate bars (no nuts), body wash (no pumps), deodorant sticks, lotion (no pumps), shampoo (no pumps), conditioner (no pumps), journals (no wire), toothpaste and toothbrushes, winter hats and gloves (no scarves) socks (ankle socks preferred) – warm or fun ones, new underwear/boxers Men's and Women's – all sizes, women's sports bras (no wire), postage stamps, puzzles, Perler beads, playing cards, stuffed animals, gift cards to stores including Walmart, Dollar Tree, Hobby Lobby, and Target. Or you could send a check made out to WMHI Patient Events GC #20. Funds in this account can ONLY be spent on patients.



Calendars

If you have extra 2025 calendars, would you consider donating them to the Oshkosh Correctional Institution for the inmates? We will be collecting until the end of December. Thank you for considering this mission!



Thanks Received..

From the Oshkosh Area Community Pantry:

Dear Friends at St. Andrew's Church,

The Oshkosh Area Community Pantry is very thankful for your generous donation of \$27.89. With help from donors like you, we have gone from serving less than 1,300 households in 2021 to proudly serving over 2,200 households per month in 2023 which is a 69% increase in just two years.

Your support plays a crucial role in our mission to alleviate food insecurity in our community and provide essential support to those in need. This contribution assists us in our efforts to offer a well-stocked pantry that provides access to essential groceries for individuals and families facing food insecurity in our community.

Thank you for your support and for making a difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity.

Sincerely,
Ryan Rasmussen, Executive Director