



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

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

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am and on Facebook

January 2025



FROM YOUR PASTOR

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

It's a fresh, new year. The calendar has few marks on it, and the cover still looks clean and unmarred.

At the turn of the year we often reflect on the year that is just ending. News programs often report on the top stories of the year, provide statistics on a large number of things, and basically recap the year ending. And many of us do that as well, as the year comes to a close.

And then we look to the future. We consider and make plans for what we want to do and accomplish in the coming year – turning some of them into New Year's resolutions.

The church does all of that, too, in our Annual Book of Reports, our budget for the coming year, elections of Church Council members and representatives to various meetings, and action taken at the Annual Congregational Meeting.

The Annual Congregational Meeting is more than a formality that is required by our constitution. It is the opportunity to set direction and goals for the coming year – our congregation's New Year's resolutions, so to speak.

So I encourage every member and friend of the congregation to come and be part of the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, 26 January 2025. Pick up a copy of the Annual Book of Reports a week ahead of the meeting, spend some time reviewing it so that you can ask questions and make recommendations for our mission and ministry in the year ahead.

This is a time of celebrating all the mission and ministry that have been part of St. Andrew's –

and beginning the process of rebuilding and growing in response to Jesus' call.

Thank you for all that you do to participate in, and support, the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's. May God's blessings abound in the new year!

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 26, 2025 immediately following worship.

The Annual Meeting of the St. Andrew's congregation will be held on Sunday, 26 January, following worship. There will be an opportunity to discuss the reports in the annual book of reports, approval of the reports, approval of a budget for 2025, and election of Church Council members, Nominating Committee members and representatives to various ministries.

There is still time to indicate your interest in serving on the Church Council, the Nominating Committee, or as a representative to various ministries. Please contact Kathy Bellaire or Pastor Karen if you would like to serve St. Andrew's in any of these capacities.



Pastor Karen's Thank You Notes

Thanks to our members who put the Christmas tree up in the sanctuary: Gary Bruce, Steve Last, Jim Zinth, and Bryar Malnory. And thanks to those who decorated the tree: Sandy Walth, Marcia Galica, and Pam Nemmetz. And – thanks to those who came and put up the wreaths around the church: Marcia Galicia, Judy Groff and Sue Zinth.

Thanks to everyone who brought gifts for the Winnebago Mental Health Institute's Christmas project. We had a large box, overflowing, and several bags of items to contribute to provide gifts for the people they serve. Thanks for all of the socks, body lotions, shower gels, toothbrushes and toothpastes, journals, and all of the rest of the gifts you gave!

Thanks to Kay Procknow!



Kay has resigned from being a part-time church secretary, effective 10 December. Kay has always been source of a warm and friendly welcome to everyone who stopped by the church office. We thank her for her dedicated service to St. Andrew's, and the many gifts she brought to the office. We wish her well in her new job, and whatever the future holds for her.

Giving Tuesday 3 December

Thanks to everyone who contributed to St. Andrew's mission and ministry on Giving Tuesday. The contributions exceeded \$16,000.00, with the \$6,000.00 matching funds on top of that.

Thank you for your generosity!



Highlights of Council Meeting

The Church Council met on Tuesday, 10 December. Those in attendance included: Chris Ziegler, Sarah Mcaninch, Matt Moore, Greg Egner, Kathy Bellaire and Pastor Karen Tews. Pam Nemmetz attended as a guest.

Chris called the meeting to order. Pastor Karen led an opening prayer. And the Council participated in Dwelling in the Word on Isaiah 9:1-7.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted. Expenses are down from last year, but offerings are still less than operating expenses. There was a good response to the Giving Tuesday appeal with over \$16,000 contributed, plus the \$6,000. matching fund provided by sponsors.

Old Business included a report from the Nominating Committee. They continue to work to get a variety of people to serve in the various capacities. The draft of the 2025 budget was reviewed. It will be approved for presentation to the congregation at the January Council meeting. New Offering Counting Sheets have been approved for use by the offering counters. They are being introduced to the offering counters.

New Business included the reminder of the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, 26 January following worship. Committee reports for the Annual Book of Reports are due to the office by 27 December. It was reported that Kay Procknow has resigned as office secretary. We are thankful for her service to St. Andrew's over the past nine years. Sandy Last is taking over the duties for both positions through the Annual Meeting, or until a replacement is found.

Pastor Karen provided her report of highlights of the previous month, what is coming up in December and January, and her plans for vacation after the 1st of the year and a week in March.

Committee Reports were received. For those reports, please see the full minutes that are posted on the church bulletin board.

The next Church Council meeting will be held Tuesday, 14 January 2025 at 7:00 pm. The meeting closed with prayer led by Pastor Karen and the Lord's Prayer.

**Pastor's Public Service
Announcement: Beware of Scams!**

Another member of our congregation received a spam purporting to be from Pastor Karen. This spam was sent through a text message.

Please be aware that Pastor Karen will NEVER contact members of the church and ask you to do her a favor and purchase gift cards. Any time that gift cards are requested, that is a big red flag that the request is a spam. Please be cautious and even if it says that Pastor Karen is busy and can't take calls – call her if you have any concerns. If it sounds suspicious, it is most likely a spam.

**January
Pop-Up Adult Forum**
19 January, 10:45 am



The January Pop-up Adult Forum will be held on Sunday, 19 January, following worship at 10:45 am. The topic will be Christian Nationalism. We will look at what Christian Nationalism is, and the ELCA's position on Christian Nationalism. Join us in the Church Council room.



Pastor's Tea
Sunday Feb 16, 6pm

Mark your calendar for the next Pastor's Tea – Sunday, 16 February - at 6:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Karen will be recognizing the Church Council members, including those who completed their terms in January, those staying on the Council, and those who will be newly elected at the January Annual Congregational Meeting. Pastor Karen will provide treats. Everyone is invited to come and express your appreciation to our Church Council Members.



**National Day of Racial Healing and
Inclusion**

January 21 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Oshkosh ELCA Churches Event

January 21 – the Tuesday after Martin Luther King Jr. Day – each year is observed as the National Day of Racial Healing and Inclusion. Working with other ELCA churches in Oshkosh, we are hosting an event to promote racial healing and inclusion.

We will show the documentary "A Time for Burning." It was made in 1966, about a congregation in Omaha that was trying to integrate. The Nebraska Synod's RARE committee (Racial Awareness, Reconciliation and Engagement) has prepared a study guide for A Time for Burning that we will use to guide conversation following viewing the documentary. We will conclude the event with using the "Lamenting Racism" liturgy in All Creation Sings.

The event will be held on Tuesday, 21 January, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at St. Andrew's. Everyone is invited – and please extend the invitation to others you think might be interested in attending. It is a public event.



Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering for January has been designated for the Day by Day Shelter, helping those who are unhoused. Thank you for your support of this organization.

Pew Replacement Information

The property committee has been asked why we are considering replacing the pews when they all look so good. Well, to be honest, looks are deceiving. All the pews in the sanctuary are sagging to various degrees, in fact we had one pew break while someone was sitting on it. We were able to replace that pew with the one we took out to make room for people with wheelchairs and walkers.



After that happened, we decided to put together an AD HOC committee to research what, if anything, could be done to repair the current pews or if they could not be repaired could we replace them.

This AD HOC committee will research repair / refurbish companies to look at the pews and to give us a suggestion as to what can be done. If the pews cannot be repaired, the committee will consider what we could do to replace them. This committee would then report the findings to the Property Committee who will make the final report to the congregation.

Anyone interested in joining this AD HOC committee please contact me @ 920.202.0547 or the church office @ 920.235.6616

Thank you for considering this.
Gary Bruce



Mark Your Calendar!

The East Central Synod of Wisconsin is holding a Racial Justice Conference on Saturday, 5 April 2025, at Ascension Lutheran Church in Green Bay. Featured speakers include Vance Blackfox (Cherokee), the ELCA Director for Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations, and the Rev. Angela !Khabeb, the editor of *Call to Allyship: Preparing Your Congregation for Leaders of Color*.

This event is presented by the ECSW Women of the ELCA and the ECSW Racial Equity Team.



Thanks Received..

From NAMI..

Thank you for your donation to NAMI Oshkosh. Your generosity helps us touch many lives. We offer support groups, educational series, and advocacy events. In the coming year, we will offer Crisis Intervention Partners training and Crisis Intervention Training for police officers. Additionally, many other support groups and educational events will take place.

Our motto here at NAMI Oshkosh is "You Matter" and it describes people like you who, because of your generosity, help us support, educate, and advocate for all affected by mental illness. Together we can end the stigma associated with mental health concerns and provide successful solutions.

Thank you again for your contribution.

With Deep Gratitude,

Mary Lord Janness, Executive Director

Thrivent Choice Dollars



It is that time of year – to designate [Thrivent Choice Dollars](#). Thrivent members with insurance and certain types of investments get Thrivent Choice Dollars to designate to a ministry each year. Thrivent Choice Dollars that are not designated to a ministry by the end of March expire, and can no longer be designated. Please consider designating any Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. Andrew's.



The Living Lutheran

A year ago the ELCA's magazine ceased print publication and moved to a digital-only serve due to financial constraints. Since then Bishop Eaton and staff have heard from many people who are concerned about those who don't have access to computers or don't read content online for various reasons. As a result, people have felt disconnected from the ELCA.

Therefore, the magazine's print publication is being brought back. Beginning in 2025, Living Lutheran will provide four issues per year (spring, summer, fall, winter). The cost for one year will be \$19.95 for an individual subscription.

To start receiving your print magazine, you can:

- Call 800-328-4648.
- Sign up at www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe.
- Get a form from the church office and mail it to the address on the form.



Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

Christian Action Committee

Monday, January 6, at 6 pm

Worship and Music Committee

Monday, January 13, at 10 am

Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 14, at 7 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, January 30, at 9 am



DAY BY DAY SHELTER

2024 in Generosity:

334 unique individuals were served at the Day by Day Shelter in 2024.

Almost 20% of those served were over the age of 55.

46 individuals secured housing.

Six guests transitioned to secured housing.

Eleven guests moved to transitional housing.

Day by Day collaborated with over 25 community partners to offer programs and services to guests.

Almost 1400 hours of work were completed by guests through the Guest Employment Program.

Nearly 1000 hours of programming were offered to guests at Day by Day in 2024.

Day by Day Shelter has a wish list that is accessible on their website -

daybydayshelter.org. They are also signing up meal teams for 2025 dates – contact Jessica at jessica@daybydayshelter.org for more information about providing a meal.



Church Directory

It's time for a church directory update. It has been a few years since we have done a thorough update of the church directory. Some people have given up their landline phone, or have different phone numbers from what the church has listed. People's addresses and email addresses have changed. Pastor Karen has found a number of incorrect phone numbers as she has tried to reach out to people. So, it's time! Please fill out the bottom portion of this page and return it to the church office. Even if you think we have all of your contact information correct, and nothing for you has changed, please fill it out and return it - that will make our process smoother.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Email address: _____

Preferred phone number: _____

This is a ___ cell phone; _____ landline