



# 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

February 2025



## FROM YOUR PASTOR

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

One of the many things that I learned from the Cottage Meetings that we held last fall was the congregation's desire to rebuild and grow its ministry, welcoming families with children to St. Andrew's. In complete honesty, while I have led a number of congregations through a rebuilding and revitalization process, I have not done that with a congregation that has as few children as St. Andrew's has. In my early months here at St. Andrew's I realized that I would need some continuing education to help equip me and the congregation in that area.

A friend shared with me an opportunity that I hope will help in this area. Luther Seminary is offering a year-long program for clergy in "missional leadership." It involves three 3-day retreats (each of them is Monday through Wednesday) over the coming year, and monthly coaching with a cohort. I have applied to that program, and been accepted. A grant from the Siebert Foundation will cover the majority of the expenses, leaving the congregation only responsible for travel expenses to the three events. My time away from the congregation is part of my two weeks of continuing education time.

As part of the program there will be opportunities and experiments for us to try in our congregation. I will engage our congregation's leadership in conversations about what we try together. Some will produce good results, some will lead us to try something different, and some will spark other ideas. I ask you to be open to the ministry opportunities that this program on missional leadership will bring to St. Andrew's.

Personally, I am excited about the program. I like to learn. I enjoy doing new and different things. And I don't get discouraged when something doesn't turn out like I had hoped, because I appreciate the new things we learn along the way. And, as I am sure many of you have already seen or heard, "FAIL" only means that it is the First-Attempt-In-Learning. And in order to grow, and expand our ministry, we need to try new things.

Together we will learn, and grow, try some new things, and follow the Holy Spirit's leading as we seek to continue and grow the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's. This is going to be an exciting, Spirit-led journey!

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.



## Highlights of Council Meeting

The Church Council met on Tuesday, 14 January 2025.

Those in attendance included:

Chris Ziegler, Sarah Mcaninch, Matt Moore, Kathy Bellaire and Pastor Karen Tews. Greg Egner's absence was excused.

Chris called the meeting to order. Pastor Karen led an opening prayer. And the Council participated in Dwelling in the Word on Matthew 9:9-17.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted. Donations exceeded expenses allowing the church to stay current with accounts. Though this blessing is a wonderful gift, increased giving throughout the year is necessary to cover operating expenses for 2025.

Old Business included a report from the Nominating Committee. The slate of nominees for election at the Annual Congregational Meeting was approved. The slate of nominees is included in the Annual Report. The final draft of the 2025 budget was approved to present to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The agenda for the Annual Meeting was discussed and approved. Committee reports for the Annual Meeting have been submitted and the Annual Report is in the works.

Pastor Karen reported that we had received an application from a very qualified candidate for the position of part-time church secretary – Sue Redman. Pastor Karen interviewed her and recommended that the Council hire her. She will work Mondays and Tuesdays. The motion to hire Sue was passed.

New Business included receiving the request from Jason Procknow and the Horjes family to remove their membership from St. Andrew's. That request was approved with sadness and regret.

Pastor Karen provided her report of highlights of the previous month, what is coming up in January and February, and her participation in the Missional Leadership Cohort that is provided by Luther Seminary, through a grant from the Siebert Foundation. Also, plans are in the works for Lenten services.

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

Chris expressed thanks to everyone who has served on a committee, volunteered, or taken the time to share their ideas.

The next Church Council meeting will be held Tuesday, 11 February 2025 at 7:00 pm. The meeting closed with prayer led by Pastor Karen and the Lord's Prayer.

Welcome!



### Welcome to Sue Redman

We are delighted to have hired Sue Redman to fill the open secretarial position at St. Andrew's. Sue has recently retired and has moved to Oshkosh from Fairmont, MN, to be closer to family. She and her husband, Scott Nagel, have recently joined St. Andrew's. Sue comes from a background in office work and social services. One of her goals in retirement was to find a part-time position with a non-profit. We are grateful that Sue's desire and our need in the office has matched up. Sue will be working in the office on Monday and Tuesday mornings.

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

**This is a new debit card scam** that Pastor Karen just became aware of, that is worth letting others know about.

It comes as a phone call, and the person calling says they are from your bank, calling about your debit card. They have the last four numbers of the card. They report some suspicious charges that happened at out of state stores. When you say that it wasn't you, they say they will send a new card. They know your address. They know your phone number. They send a verification to your phone, and have you read off the number to them. Then they ask for your PIN number so they can deactivate it. **DO NOT** give out your PIN number. And even though it looks like they are calling from the number on the back of your debit card, it is not your bank calling. Hang up and report it to your bank's fraud department. Your bank will never ask for your PIN number.



## Policies and Procedures Update

In order to protect the integrity of the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's, as well as our staff, council members, and members, the following policies have been approved by the Church Council. If you have questions or suggestions about the policies and procedures, please see Pastor Karen.

- Reimbursable expenses are those used in the ministry of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church.
- Contributions for church ministries are not to be given to committee chairs or members. All contributions to the church – both monetary and gift cards – are to be made through the Sunday offering or the church office. This allows for accurate and transparent accounting of the receipts and the costs of the various ministries of the church.
- Gift cards are to be kept in the church office until signed out by authorized purchasers to be used for specific expenses. All gift cards are to be returned to the church office along with the store receipts.
- Purchases made using gift cards will not be reimbursed by the church. Purchases to be reimbursed must be made using cash, debit card, or credit card.
- Receipts submitted for reimbursement must be the original receipts, not copies.
- Items purchased for church ministries are to be made separate from personal purchases. When shopping for personal items at the same time as items for the church, please separate them and get separate receipts.
- If items are purchased for multiple ministries, an itemized list must be attached to the receipt listing which items are for which committee or ministry.
- All receipts must be reviewed by the pastor before being submitted to the treasurer.



## Pastor Karen's Thank You Notes

Thanks to Marcia Galica, Sue Zinth, and Judy Groff for taking down the Christmas decorations! Thanks to Pam Nemmetz, Kathy Bellaire, Darlene Bruce, and Sandy Walth, for taking down the Chrismons! Thanks to Gary Bruce, Jim Zinth, Steve Last and Bryar Malnory for taking down the Christmas tree. We have great team that works together and I appreciate their work to put all of the Christmas decorations away.

I also want to thank Pam Nemmetz for helping out in the office, as well as taking care of a few miscellaneous jobs around the church to help our office staff.

Thanks to our outgoing Church Council members for their faithful and dedicated service to the congregation: Kathy Bellaire, Greg Egner, and Carol Spiegelberg. I am grateful for their service.

Thanks to those who provide and prepare the Fellowship Coffee Hour for us week after week. Their generosity provides for an important fellowship time in our congregation. Thanks to Sherry Seabul, Candy Luce, Judy Groff, Marcia Galica, Sue Zinth, Pam Nemmetz, Sandy Walth, Shirley Guse, Carol Spiegelberg, and all those who bring treats to share.

Thanks to Sue Redman and Sandy Last for their help with the New Year's Eve event for children.

Thanks to Nancy Netys, Pam Pawlak, the choir, and Kris Selk, for the special Christmas music. You all added so much to our Christmas Eve services!

Thanks to Steve Last for his quick response when we had some very cold rooms at the church. Steve was at the church within a couple of hours to check it out and get a furnace repaired.



## Pastor's Tea

This month's Pastor's Tea will honor and recognize our Church Council members. Pastor Karen will be recognizing the Church Council members, including those who are completing their terms in January, those staying on the Council, and those who are elected at the January Annual Congregational Meeting. The Pastor's Tea is Sunday, 16 February - at 6:00 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Karen will provide treats. Everyone is invited to come and express appreciation to our Church Council Members.

## February Pop-Up Adult Forum 23 February, 10:45 am



The February Pop-up Adult Forum will be held on Sunday, 23 February, following worship, at 10:45 am in the Church Council room. We will take a look at one of the resolutions that was passed at last year's Synod Assembly – which deals with racial justice. This resolution encourages all people to student the impact of racism using resources curated by the ELCA, "Now is the Time" and "A Declaration of the ELCA to American Indian and Alaska Native People." Pastor Karen will provide an overview of these materials, and we will have discussion about how racism impacts us.

And looking ahead to March – our topic will be land acknowledgment. We will look at what this means, why many synods and churches are making land acknowledgments, and begin the conversation about St. Andrew's making a land acknowledgement.



## Noisy Offering

The Noisy Offering for February has been designated for the [Day by Day Warming Shelter](#),

helping those who are unhoused. Thank you for your support of this organization.



## Help Wanted!

\*\*We have run out of **baptismal napkins**. The ones we had were made by a member of the congregation. We are hoping to have a couple of people who would be willing to each make a couple of baptismal napkins to restock our supply. If you like to do handwork, and would be willing to give it a try, please see Pastor Karen. Thanks!!!

\*\***Primary Election** will be held Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup> and St. Andrew's is a polling place. We need some helpers to set up tables Sunday evening or Monday morning. Please let Pastor Karen know if you can help with this (and there will be another chance on April 1<sup>st</sup>). Thank you!



## 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](http://www.livinglutheran.org/subscribe).
- Get a form from the church office and mail it to the address on the form.



## Racial Justice Conference

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..

Dear Friends at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church:

As the spirit of the holiday season echoes throughout Volunteer Services at Winnebago Mental Health Institute, I can only reflect on what it means to be surrounded by such gratitude. Thank you so much for your very generous donation of the following: a personal check, hair care products, self-care products, journals, socks, winter hats and gloves. Your gifts will make an impact on patients throughout the year and will help our patients as they work toward their recovery and wellness.



JOIN US!

On behalf of the staff at Winnebago Mental Health Institute and patients, we would like to thank you for your donation. Thank you for making a difference.

Warmest Regards,  
Kerry O'Sullivan, Volunteer Services Coordinator and Museum Curator

## 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.

## Crossways Camps is Getting Ready for the Summer



The Early Bird Discount for Camp Ends Soon. Save on youth camp by registering early. The Crossways Camps' Early Bird Discount is available for a limited time, so register soon to lock in the savings. Give your kids a summer filled with adventure and growth. Register with the code EARLY2025 at [CrosswaysCamps.org](http://CrosswaysCamps.org) today!

## Annual Reports

If you missed the annual meeting and would like a copy of the annual report, there are copies on the table in the Narthex.



## Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

### **Council Meeting**

Tuesday, February 11, at 7 pm

### **Property Committee**

Thursday, February 27, at 9 am

## California Wildfires



Multiple wildfires have broken out across Los Angeles County in California, with tens of thousands of people under evacuation orders. Sparked by dry conditions, strong winds and a limited water supply, these fires have destroyed homes and businesses and have led to injuries and loss of life. News is still unfolding about the full impact as firefighting efforts continue.

Lutheran Disaster Response is coordinating with the Southwest California Synod, Pacifica Synod and other partners to assess the needs of people impacted by the wildfires. We will work with them

to provide for immediate needs and recovery amid the widespread destruction. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to accompanying recovering communities for months and years to come.

Please pray for communities in California impacted by the wildfires. May God's healing presence bring them peace and hope in their time of need and give strength to those working diligently to contain the fires and care for affected communities.

And, your gifts to [Lutheran Disaster Response](#) empower the church to be an instrument of care, healing, hope, and relief to those who suffer from the fires. These gifts also empower the church to respond to disasters whenever and wherever they strike. Gifts to "[U.S. Wildfires](#)" will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by wildfires until the response is complete.

To give by phone, call **800-638-3522**. Checks or money orders can be mailed to:

**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
**P.O. Box 1809**  
**Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**



## 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

## February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>26</p> <p>9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Annual Congregational Meeting 1:00pm Cross &amp; Crown Alliance Church</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women &amp; Children Engl Classes 6:30pm ACOA Meeting</p>	<p>29</p> <p>12:00pm Noon Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>30</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women &amp; Children Engl Classes</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting</p>
<p>2</p> <p>9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Hour 1:00pm Cross &amp; Crown Alliance Church</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women &amp; Children Engl Classes</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Pews Ad Hoc Comm 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women &amp; Children Engl Classes</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p> <p>12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting 3:30pm Miller's Bay Neighborhood Assoc Mtg</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Hour 1:00pm Cross &amp; Crown Alliance Church</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women &amp; Children Engl Classes 6:30pm ACOA Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting</p>	<p>12</p> <p>12:00pm Noon Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women &amp; Children Engl Classes</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Hour 1:00pm Cross &amp; Crown Alliance Church 6:00pm Pastor's Tea</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>PRIMARY ELECTION 12:00pm WALC Women &amp; Children Engl Classes</p>	<p>19</p> <p>NO Choir Practice 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women &amp; Children Engl Classes</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Hour 10:45am Pop Up Adult Forum 1:00pm Cross &amp; Crown Alliance Church</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women &amp; Children Engl Classes 6:30pm ACOA Meeting</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:00pm Noon Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:00am Property Committee Meeting 12:00pm WALC Women &amp; Children Engl Classes</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>1</p> <p>12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting</p>