



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Website: [standrewsoshkosh.org](http://standrewsoshkosh.org)

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

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am and on Facebook

March 2025



## FROM YOUR PASTOR

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

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday. Lent has a rich history beginning in the early Christian church, in the second century CE. It was formalized at the Council of Nicea in 325 CE. It echoes the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness following his baptism, when he was tempted by Satan.

Lent originated as a time of preparation and fasting before Easter. It may have originated with the practice of baptizing those who were new to the faith at the Easter Vigil. The practice of fasting in the 40 days before Easter became the norm, following Jesus' experience of fasting in the wilderness.

The beauty and spirituality of the Lenten season continues these 1700 years later. Christian churches and their members observe Lent as a time of preparation for Easter, spiritual growth, self-denial, and service.

Martin Luther urged that Lent be observed, not out of obligation or as a way to earn God's love – since we already have God's love and grace. Instead, he saw Lent as an opportunity for the strengthening of faith, the opportunity to show the fruits of our faith in service to others, and the time for the proclamation of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection.

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church offers a variety of ways to enrich and deepen your Lenten

journey. Lenten devotional booklets with prayers for each day of Lent are on the table in the narthex – please help yourself. Sunday worship will follow the theme "Symbols of Lent," with an opportunity to make that week's symbol after worship in the Fellowship Hall. Brenda Francis will be leading that opportunity. Midweek Lenten services will be shared with the other ELCA congregations in Oshkosh. We will host the first one, on 12 March, at 6:30 pm. The schedule for the rest of the services is included in the newsletter. And Pastor Karen will be providing a midweek Lenten devotion on Facebook each Wednesday beginning Ash Wednesday and concluding the Wednesday of Holy Week.

Lent is a deeply spiritual time, providing us the opportunity to remove some things from our lives – entering a time of wilderness – in order to make the space, the time, and the opportunity to grow our faith and our relationship with Jesus our Savior. I encourage you to choose a way to simplify your life, and accept this opportunity to grow in your relationship with Jesus this Lent.

Blessings in Christ,

Pastor Karen E Tews



### Contact Information for Pastor Karen

Please add Pastor Karen's cell phone number to your cell phone contacts: 815-821-2426. Especially during hours when the office is not open, the cell phone number is the best way to reach her.

## Highlights of Council Meeting



### Council Notes

The Church Council met on Tuesday, 11 February 2025. Those in attendance included: Chris Ziegler, Sarah McAninch, Matt Moore, Peg Olson, Pam Nemmetz, Mary Beth Roby 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 24:36-44.

Chris welcomed the new Council members, and members introduced themselves to the group. Elections were held for Church Council Officers with a nominating paper ballot. Chris Ziegler was elected as President; Peg Olson – Vice President; Sarah McAninch – Secretary; Matt Moore – Treasurer.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted. The offerings exceeded the expenses in January due to some large special gifts. It was noted that some expenses have increased since last year, and pray that the congregation will continue to cover all operating expenses for 2025.

Old Business included a review of the Annual Congregational Meeting.

New Business began with a discussion of the committees, and the designation of Committee Chairs from the Council members. Pam Nemmetz will co-chair the Christian Action Committee; Peg Olson will chair the Congregational Life Committee; Mary Beth Roby and Chris Ziegler will co-chair the Fellowship Committee; Matt Moore will chair the Finance Committee; Pastor Karen will co-chair the Property Committee; there is no chair for the Stewardship Committee; Pam Nemmetz will chair the Worship and Music Committee; and Sarah McAninch will chair the Technology Committee.

Participation in the ecumenical VBS was discussed. Mary Beth and Matt agreed to attend the meeting to learn more about it.

A constitution review is needed before sending the constitution to the Synod Constitution

Committee for their approval. The Constitution Review Team will consist of Pastor Karen, Pam, Mary Beth, and Matt.

There was discussion about annual staff reviews. Pastor Karen will perform the annual reviews of the staff.

Pastor Karen presented her written report. There were no committee reports because none of the committees had met in the previous month.

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



## Our Prayers and Condolences

We extend our condolences and prayers to Mike Martinez and all the family and friends of Jane Martinez. Jane departed this earthly life, and entered her eternal home on Sunday, 9 February. Jane and Mike have been long-time members of St. Andrew's, and in recent years they have lived near Milwaukee to be near their daughter. They have been faithful worship participants through the Facebook streaming. We remember Jane's family in our prayers as they grieve her death.

Patricia A. Lehmann has also entered her eternal home. Her son, John, notified the church of Pat's death. Pat's parents, George and Bernice Lindner, were founding members of St. Andrew's, and Pat was active at St. Andrew's before moving out of state. We extend our condolences, and remember her family in our prayers as they grieve her death.



## Policies and Procedures Update

Because of some errors and mistakes that were discovered in some of the receipts for one of our congregation's ministries, we are tightening up some policies and procedures for submitting receipts for reimbursement. And a couple of new policies have been approved by the Church Council because they are best practices. The goal is to prevent such mistakes from happening in the future, and to protect the integrity of the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's. 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 all who were part of the primary voting team: Chris Ziegler, Matt Moore, Beth Moore, Jon Rucinsky, Xavier Rucinsky, Pam Nemmetz, Peg Olson, Sarah McAninch, and Jake Nerenhausen. Your help with opening the building, locking up, moving tables and chairs, and everything else that had to be done for the primary voting, is very appreciated!

Thanks to Warren Herwig for his work replacing the plastic parts on the chairs in the Fellowship Hall that have worn or broken. It is a time consuming job, and I appreciate his work on it.

Thanks to Pam Nemmetz for helping out with some odd jobs for the church office.

Thanks to Teri Rucinsky for taking the minutes for the Annual Congregational Meeting. I appreciate her stepping in to meet that need at the last minute.

**March**  
**Pop-Up Adult Forum**  
23 March, 10:45 am



In March, our Pop-up Adult Forum 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. Join us in the Church Council room on Sunday, 23 March, following worship at 10:45 am.



## **Shrove Tuesday** **Pancake Supper** **4 March**

On Shrove Tuesday – the day before Ash Wednesday – we will be having a Pancake Supper from 5:00 – 6:30 pm. Join us as you are able, in the Fellowship Hall. It would help us to plan, and have enough food, if you would either sign up at church or give the church office a call if you are planning on coming. But registration is not required – everyone is welcome!

The menu includes: pancakes, sausages, and apple sauce.

The food for the Pancake Supper is provided through a Thrivent Action Team, so we extend our thanks to Thrivent Financial. A free-will offering will be received, which will support the work of the ELCA Hunger Appeal. The ELCA World Hunger Appeal is in its 51<sup>st</sup> year of feeding the hungry both in the United States and around the world. This is a very important ministry of the church, and is one way that we are part of Jesus' work of feeding the hungry.

### ***The Story of Shrove Tuesday***

In many Christian churches, a popular Shrove Tuesday tradition is to hold pancake suppers. Traditionally during Lent, Christians would give up rich, tasty foods such as butter, eggs, sugar and fat. Shrove Tuesday was the last chance to eat them – and pancake suppers were a good way to use up the eggs, butter, and fats before Lent began.

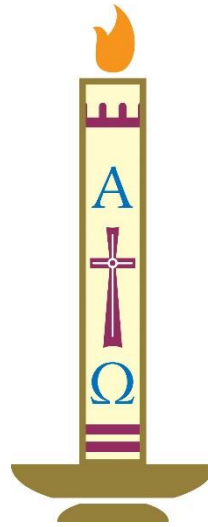
The name "Shrove" comes from the old word "shriving", which means to listen to someone's sins and forgive them. In Anglo-Saxon England, Christians would go to church on Shrove Tuesday to confess their sins and clean their souls. In other words, they would be "shriven."

In other countries, Shrove Tuesday has different names. In Germany, it's called Pis

called "Mardi Gras" from the French phrase meaning "Fat Tuesday."

And liturgically, Shrove Tuesday is also the day to burn the Palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration, in preparation for Ash Wednesday.

### **Worship in Lent**



In Lutheran churches it is traditional to put away the "alleluia" during the season of Lent, because "alleluia" is an expression of Easter joy. We will be burying the "alleluia" in worship on Transfiguration Sunday - 2 March. Throughout Lent we will refrain from singing "alleluia" in our liturgy and hymns. Instead of the usual Gospel acclamation which begins "Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go?", we will sing the Lenten Gospel acclamation which begins "Return to the Lord your God." On Easter morning our joy is expressed as we again proclaim "alleluia!"

In keeping with more somber Lenten worship, we will also refrain from lighting the Paschal/Christ candle during the season of Lent. The Paschal candle is a symbol of the resurrection. It is traditionally lit during the seven weeks of Easter, for baptisms, and for funerals, where it highlights Jesus' resurrection life. We light the Paschal candle each Sunday, celebrating Jesus' resurrection life. This year during Lent, we will observe the same practice of setting aside the "alleluia" as we set aside the lighting of the Paschal candle. Our Easter joy will be expressed as we again light the Paschal candle again on Easter morning.

# LENT

## Ash Wednesday



On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with ashes, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the ash traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

**Our Ash Wednesday service will be at 6:30 pm, March 5.** There will be imposition of ashes for those who desire it, and Holy Communion.

## Midweek Lenten Worship

The Oshkosh area ELCA congregations are holding midweek Lenten services together, with four of the churches rotating the services and two of the churches holding their own services each week. The pastors will rotate preaching at the churches.

The theme of the Lenten services is “Dwelling in the Shelter of the Lord.” The texts for the series are from the Psalms.

The schedule for the services:

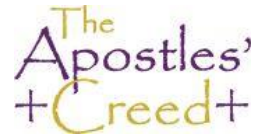
5 March – Each church holds its own worship service; St. Andrew’s service will be at 6:30 pm. Soup suppers will be an hour ahead of the service.

12 March	St. Andrew’s	6:30 pm
	Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16	
19 March	St. John’s	6:30 pm
	Psalm 32	
26 March	Calvary	7:00 pm
	Psalm 126	
2 April	Peace	6:30 pm
	Psalm 46	
9 April	Christ Our Savior	6:30 pm
	Psalm 63:1-8	

Calvary Lutheran Church (worship at 7:00 pm) and First English Lutheran Church (worship at 6:30 pm) will be holding their own services each week, with the pastor’s rotating at those services as well.

Each pastor will be presenting the same message at each church service they lead, so you will want to be sure that you aren’t going to worship with any of the pastors more than once.

## It’s the Anniversary of the Apostles’ Creed



The Confirmation Class discovered that the Apostles’ Creed is 1700 years old, this year. So, we are having a celebration. On Sunday, 9 March, during the Fellowship Coffee Time after worship, the Confirmation Class will be serving anniversary cake and coffee. There will be posters displayed, made by our Confirmation students, celebrating the anniversary and what the creed means to them.



## 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!!!

## Vacation Bible School



An ecumenical Vacation Bible School is being planned by a group of churches in Oshkosh. If you would be interested in volunteering to help with the Vacation Bible School, either on the planning team or helping the week of VBS, please see Pastor Karen and she will put you in touch with the group.



## 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.



## 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.



## Thanks Received..

*From the Oshkosh Area Humane Society...*

Dear Friends,

All of us here would like to thank you for your gift of \$85.77. Your donation will enable the Oshkosh Area Humane Society to continue saving the lives of animals and finding them loving homes.

Our donors are truly the heart and soul of this organization and your financial support enables us to continue our lifesaving mission to help every animal that comes to our door. You make it possible for thousands of animals to receive the specialized care they need.

Because you care, we can continue to make a difference, one animal at a time. Thank you for believing in second chances.

Sincerely,  
Ieva Engel, Executive Director

## Thrivent Choice Dollars



Current year Thrivent Choice Dollars must be designated by 31 March – or they expire and can no longer be designated to a ministry. Thrivent members with insurance and certain types of investments get Thrivent Choice Dollars to designate to a ministry each year. Please consider designating any Thrivent Choice Dollars to St. Andrew's. If you have questions about Thrivent Choice Dollars, contact your Thrivent representative.

## Crossways Camping Ministries



Scholarships are available for Crossways Camps! Crossways Camps is committed to making camp accessible for everyone.

Scholarships are available to help more youth experience camp. If you're interested, apply at [CrosswaysCamps.org/scholarship](http://CrosswaysCamps.org/scholarship) or contact the camp to learn more!



## Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

## Supporting the Work of the Day By Day Shelter

### Worship and Music Committee

Monday, March 10, at 10 am

### Christian Action Committee

Monday, March 10, at 5:30 pm

### Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 11, at 7 pm

### Property Committee

Thursday, March 27, at 9 am

### Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday –  
8:00 am – noon

### Staff

The Rev. Karen E. Tews, Pastor  
Sandy Last and Sue Redman, co-secretaries  
Kris Selk, Organist and Choir Director

**DAY BY DAY SHELTER**

## February Wish List

- ♥ Liquid Laundry Detergent
- ♥ Gloves
- ♥ Hand & Toe Warmers
- ♥ Women's Leggings (all sizes)
- ♥ Sweatpants/Athletic Pants (all sizes)
- ♥ Men's & Women's Pajamas (all sizes)
- ♥ Cereal, Granulated Sugar, & Powdered Coffee Creamer



## 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

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 10:45am Pop Up Adult Forum 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	24	25 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:30pm ACOA Meeting	26 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Choir Practice	27 9:00am Property Committee Meeting 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	28	1 11:00am Art and Soul 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
2 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	3 5:30pm Miravida Annual Meeting	4 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 5:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	5 <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship 7:30pm Choir Practice	6 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	7	8 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
9 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Anniversary Celebration of Apostles' Creed 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	10 10:00am Worship & Music Committee Meeting 5:30 Christian Action Committee	11 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:30pm ACOA Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	12 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 5:30pm Soup Supper 6:30pm Lenten Service at St. Andrew's 7:30pm Choir Practice	13 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	14	15 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
16 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	17	18 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	19 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 5:30pm Soup Supper and 6:30 pm Lenten Service at St. John's 7:30pm Choir Practice	20 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	21	22 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
23 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 10:45am Pop Up Adult Forum 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	24	25 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:30pm ACOA Meeting	26 NO Choir Practice 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 6:00pm Soup Supper and 7 pm Lenten Service at Calvary 6:30pm Lenten Service	27 9:00 Property Committee Meeting 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	28	29 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
30 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	31	1 PRIMARY ELECTION 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	2 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 5:30pm Girl Scouts 5:30pm Soup Supper and 6:30 pm Lenten Service at Peace 7:30pm Choir Practice	3 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	4	5 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting