



# St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am and on Facebook

April 2025



## FROM YOUR PASTOR

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

I used to have a beautiful Chinese vase. It was blue with white lotus flowers on it. Unfortunately, it got broken. And I threw it away. I

discarded it because it was broken. That's what we do, isn't it?

I wish I had known about Kintsugi. Kintsugi is a centuries-old Japanese art of repairing broken pottery and transforming it into a new work of art with gold. The name of the technique is derived from the words "Kin" (golden) and "tsugi" (joinery), which translate to mean "golden repair." The scars and cracks of the broken ceramic become the focus and turn the object into something unique and exquisite.

That is what God does in our lives. Grace-repair. Instead of gold to repair the brokenness caused by sin, God repairs and heals us through grace. Through God's love in the death and resurrection of Jesus our Savior we are forgiven our sins, and made whole. And in God's grace-repair, God gives us new beauty and worth.

That is what we celebrate as we worship during Holy Week and Easter – that we are healed and made whole through Jesus' death and resurrection.

The schedule for our Holy Week and Easter services is included in this newsletter – and on the calendar. Experience again God's work to make you whole through worship in this season.

May this season fill you with peace, may it strengthen your faith, and may the joy of the risen Christ be with you always!

In Christ's Love,  
Pastor Karen E Tews

## Highlights of Council Meeting



### Council Notes

The Church Council met on Tuesday, 11 March 2025. Those in attendance included: Chris Ziegler, Matt Moore, Sarah McAninch, Matt Moore, Pam Nemmetz, Peg Olson, 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 Psalm 46.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted. It was noted that the offerings were less than expenses for February. Some costs have increased resulting in a need for more offerings to stay current with expenses.

Old Business included Matt and Mary Beth sharing information from the ecumenical VBS. They have a space theme for their program this year, and VBS will be held the week of 28 July – Monday through Thursday, from 4:30 – 7:30 pm. It was decided to support the VBS up to \$500.00.

The Constitution Review taskforce has met and will continue to work on updating the St. Andrew's constitution. After updating it to include the changes that are required because of changes to the ELCA constitution in 2022, it will be given to the synod for their approval, and then presented to the congregation for the congregation's approval.

Annual staff reviews have been completed. Pastor Karen shared a summary of them with the Council.

The Church Council meeting date has been changed to the second Monday of the month to accommodate all Church Council members' schedules. This begins in April.

New Business began with plans for the Easter Breakfast. A Thrivent Action Team will be

applied for, to help with the cost of the food. A free will offering will be received to go to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Other new business included discussing the Oshkosh Conference dues that are paid annually. We will contribute \$350.00 as we have in the past. Also on the agenda was the approval of signers for the Mission Investment Fund account. Matt and Peg are the authorized signers. And having a police officer come and present a program on fraud prevention was also discussed. With the recent increase in scams, including those affecting churches, it was decided to ask Captain Andrew to come and provide information about how members can protect themselves from scams and fraud. Chris will contact Captain Andrew to find out available dates.

A summer round robin mid-week service was discussed. This has been proposed by the Oshkosh ELCA Cooperative Group. After discussion it was decided to participate in this. St. Andrew's will host one service. There will be two mid-week services in each of the months of June, July, and August. Dates and locations are to be determined.

The Pastor's Report and committee reports were heard. For the full Pastor's and committee reports, see the complete minutes that are posted on the bulletin board in the narthex.

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



### 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.



## Pastor Karen's Thank You Notes

Thanks to Warren Herwig and Marcia Galica for setting up the tree limb for the Lenten worship services. And thanks to Gary Bruce for donating the tree limb.

Thanks to our Shrove Tuesday team: Pam Nemmetz, Gretchen Gandt, Sue Zinth, Sherry Seabul, Marcia Galica, and Chris Ziegler. I appreciate all that you did: set up, cooking, clean up – and everything else!

Thanks to everyone who came out and enjoyed the food and fellowship at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Thank you for your donations – we were able to contribute \$130.00 to the ELCA World Hunger Appeal.

Thanks to Steve Last for his work to put the downspouts together so that they aren't coming apart every few days.

Thanks to everyone who brought items for the Help for the Homeless hygiene drive! Our box was overflowing! Thanks for your generosity.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Lenten Soup Supper! Thanks to all those who brought soup, crackers, bread, salad, desserts, and other items. And thanks to all who helped in the kitchen, setting up, serving, and cleaning up. It was a wonderful time of fellowship with members of the other churches before our midweek Lenten worship.

Thanks to Gary Bruce for driving when the ad hoc pews committee went to Thiensville to see a church that has recently remodeled their sanctuary, to get ideas for possibly replacing our pews.



## 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.

There are two remaining midweek Lenten services in April:

2 April Peace 6:30 pm Psalm 46  
9 April Christ Our Savior 6:30 pm Ps. 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.

## Holy Week Worship



Holy Week begins with Palm and Passion Sunday – 13 April. Worship, at our regular 9:30 am time, will begin with

the celebration of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem, and continue with the Passion reading.

Maundy Thursday worship will be at 6:30 pm. This will be a service of Holy Communion, with First Communion for several of our young people.

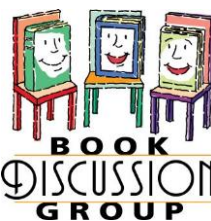
The Good Friday Tenebrae (Service of Darkness) will be at 6:30 pm.

Easter Morning begins with worship at 7:00 am. The Easter Breakfast will be available from 8:00 – 9:00 am. Easter Festival Worship will be at 9:30 am.

## Easter Breakfast



Our traditional Easter Breakfast will be served from 8:00 am to 9:00 am (between services) on Easter Sunday, April 20th. We will be serving bacon, sausage, eggs, hash browns, pancakes, mixed fruit, and various pastries. If you have a dish that you would like to make and share, or would be interested in cooking or serving, please sign up on the sheets outside the office or call the office for you to volunteer. We have applied for a Thrivent Action Team grant to help offset the cost of the breakfast, and there will be a free-will offering basket to collect donations for ELCA World Hunger. You are all welcome to come share food and fellowship Easter morning.



## Do You Like to read? Here’s a Book Discussion Opportunity

Rob Bell has written a wonderful and thought provoking book entitled “Love Wins.” You are invited to read the book and join Pastor Karen for discussion on Tuesday, 6 May at 6:30 pm.

The description of the book from the book jacket has this to say about the book:

Millions of Christians have struggled with how to reconcile God’s love and God’s judgment: Has God created billions of people over thousands of years only to select a few to go to heaven and everyone else to suffer forever in hell? Is this acceptable to God? How is this “good news”?

Troubling questions – so troubling that many have lost their faith because of them . . . . But what if these questions trouble us for good reason?

The book has been around for a few years, so it is available on Abebooks.com and other used book sites. Abebooks has a few copies for \$3.76 including shipping.



## 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.

## Folding Chairs Available



Warren Herwig has gone through our large collection of folding chairs and replaced cracked and broken ends on the legs as well as connectors. In the process he has identified some older chairs that are scratched and dented and not needed inside the church. Some of these are being retired to the pavilion for outdoor use and loan.

There are also some excess chairs – about two dozen – that we will be discarding. They are scratched and/or dented, but are still useable. Those chairs are available to church members. Help yourself – they are currently in the youth room. They are available first come – first served.

Thanks to Warren for all of his work on the chairs!

## Thanks Received..

*From Christine Ann  
Domestic Abuse Services:*



Thank you for your generous gift of \$84.12. Your support makes such a difference for survivors of domestic abuse during their most vulnerable moments. Because of you, more survivors than ever will find safety and support this year in our recently expanded facility. Your gift is not just helping us grow; it's ensuring that more individuals and families have a safe place to heal, rebuild, and find hope.

With gratitude,  
Emily James, Development Manager

## Lutheran Disaster Response Provides Humanitarian Aid

The landscape of humanitarian aid is changing, but the need is not. Many of those served are facing an unexpected and sometimes significant gap in support. **Lutheran Disaster Response has already rushed \$925,000 to meet immediate needs here in the United States and around the world.**

"We may not know what tomorrow brings, but we have each other," said Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton in a recent update. "And we have the promise of a God who meets us in our fear, who walks with us in our struggles, and who calls us to be bearers of hope."

Your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response support people around the world during their most difficult times, many of whom may increasingly feel there is no one to accompany them. With the support of generous donors like you, Lutheran Disaster Response:

- Meets the immediate needs of disaster survivors including food, water and shelter.
- Helps communities recover by repairing and rebuilding homes for survivors of disasters such as wildfires, hurricanes, floods and tornadoes.
- Supports refugees and others displaced by conflict with basics like shelter, food, water and clothing.
- Provides mental health support and spiritual and emotional care for people impacted by disasters.

... and much more. In 2024, Lutheran Disaster Response served our neighbors in 55 countries, including the United States.

**Our work together as a church — and our presence caring for people in crisis around the world — is as important as ever. Be a bearer of hope today by supporting Lutheran Disaster Response.**



## Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

JOIN US!

### **Worship and Music Committee**

Monday, April 7, at 10 am

### **Christian Action Committee**

Monday, April 7, at 6 pm

### **Council Meeting**

Monday, April 14, at 7 pm

### **Property Committee**

Thursday, April 24, at 9 am

## Supporting the Work of the Day By Day Shelter



Mark your calendars for the Day By Day Shelter Spring Cleaning Drive: April 1-8.

As you freshen up your home this spring, consider helping them do the same! They are in need of cleaning supplies to keep the shelter a safe and welcoming space for the guests. Drop off the items at the shelter, 420 Ceape Ave, or contact them to learn more.

### **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



April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	31	1 PRIMARY ELECTION	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 9:30am Food Pantry Tour	5 ECSW Racial Justice Conference 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
6 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	7 10:00am Worship & Music Committee Meeting 6:00pm Christian Action Committee Meeting	8 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:30pm ACOA Meeting	9 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 5:30pm Soup Supper and 6:30 pm Lenten Service at Christ Our Savior 7:30pm Choir Practice	10 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	11	12 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
13 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	14 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	15 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	16 9:00am Floral Design Meeting (Liz Murken) 7:00pm Choir Practice	17 <b>MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion	18 <b>GOOD FRIDAY</b> 6:30pm Good Friday Worship	19 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
20 <b>EASTER</b> 7:00am Easter Worship 8:00am Easter Breakfast 9:30am Holy Communion 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	21	22 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:30pm ACOA Meeting	23 NO Choir Practice 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class	24 9:00am Property Committee Meeting 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	25	26 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
27 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	28	29 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	30 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 6:00pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Choir Practice	1 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	2	3 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting