



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

May 2025



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

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!!!

On Easter Sunday we gather to proclaim the Easter message that Christ is risen and the tomb is empty. We raised the Alleluia on our banner and in our liturgy. Our hymns are filled with the proclamation of Jesus' resurrection, and our glad Alleluias! The church is filled with the sight and scent of beautiful Easter flowers. And then, after Easter dinners, we return to our every-day lives and routines.

On a recent evening I was driving home just as the sun was setting. The sky was largely covered with dark clouds, but along the western horizon there was just a slim band of brilliant color as the sun was slipping below the horizon. It was the very last remnants of the setting sun's light.

As I drove the color faded, until it was just a pale smudge along the horizon. And then, too quickly, it was dark.

But though I couldn't see it any longer, the light was still there beyond the darkness. When I arrived home, parked my car in the garage and walked toward my apartment, I saw the moon shining brightly behind a film of clouds. The moon was reflecting the light of the sun, showing that – even though I couldn't see it – the sun continued to shine. It was moving

ahead and preparing for the sunrise to come, with all its glory, in the morning.

The disciples saw the light of Christ fading as he was crucified, died, and was buried. For them, the darkness was total, without even a band of light on the horizon, when Jesus' tomb was sealed with the stone.

And though the light seemed to have gone out of the world, the light of Christ was still there shining the love and the life of God. It was moving ahead and preparing for the resurrection of life to come on Easter morning.

In the midst of the darkness in our lives and in the world, the light of our God continues to shine. Sometimes it is beyond our vision – but always there. Because of Jesus' resurrection, we know that – even when life seems dark – God's light continues to shine. In the cross of Christ we see the light of God's love reflected when we cannot see God's love directly. Like the moon reflects the light of the sun!

No matter the darkness that permeates the world, and our own lives, it cannot ever extinguish the light of Christ, the light of God's love and grace. The light of Christ continues to shine – forever!

And we see glimpses of that light – like the band of color along the horizon – as we gather as God's people. We see the flickers of resurrection light in God's word, and the meal of Holy Communion. God does not leave our world in darkness, but continues to break through the darkness to show the light and hope and life of Jesus' resurrection.

Easter blessings!

Pastor Karen E Tews

Highlights of Council Meeting



The Church Council met on Tuesday, 14 April 2025. Those in attendance included: Chris Ziegler, Matt Moore, Sarah McAninch, Pam Nemmetz, Peg Olson, Mary Beth Roby and Pastor Karen Tews. Stew Rieckman attended as a guest.

Chris called the meeting to order. Pastor Karen led an opening prayer. Stew shared information and insights and the request to have discussion of St. Andrew's potentially providing Land Acknowledgment.

Following initial discussion, the Council participated in Dwelling in the Word on Isaiah 50:5-9.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted. It was noted that the offerings were less than expenses for March. In comparison with March 2024, expenses are higher due to having a pastor.

Old Business included Matt and Mary Beth sharing information from the ecumenical VBS. Those who are interested in helping with the VBS are to check with the church office. Background checks are required, and will be paid for by the church. Fliers will be ready soon.

Constitution Update: The synod has reviewed the proposed constitution and made their comments. There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, 1 June after church to vote on the constitution. After the congregation approves the constitution it will be sent to the synod for final approval. Copies of the constitution will be available two weeks before the meeting, along with notes about what changes were made.

Plans continue for the summer round robin midweek worship services with the other ELCA churches in Oshkosh. We will host the service on Wednesday, 25 June at 6:30 pm. The service will be held outdoors – weather permitting.

There will be a workshop on Fraud and Scam Awareness and Prevention on Sunday, 4 May following worship. Police Captain Andrew

Lecker will present the program. Breakfast will be provided, thanks to a Thrivent Action Team grant. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

New Business began with the decision to contribute the offering from the midweek Lenten service that was held at St. Andrew's to the Lutheran Food Pantry.

Other new business included the decision that the Council will read the book "Autopsy of a Deceased Church" by Thom Rainer. The book is being read by others in the Oshkosh ELCA Collaborative Group.

Donna Lohry is being received as a member of St. Andrew's.

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, 12 May 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 Steve Last for the many things he does around the church! During Holy Week and Easter he made extra changes to the church sign. And I also want to thank him for making the cross that we used in our Good Friday service.

Thanks to Chris Ziegler for heading up the Easter Breakfast, and to his fine team: Beth Moore, Matt Moore, Sandy Walth, Gary Bruce, Darlene Bruce, Gretchen Gandt, Sue Redman, Carol Harper, Candace Anderson, Marni Ziegler, Katie Ziegler, Mike Wallen, and Rachel Ziegler. It was a delicious breakfast!

Thanks to all who contributed to the meal, and to those who made the delicious desserts!

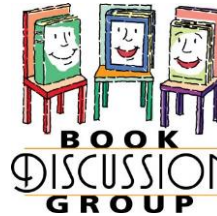
Thanks to Brenda Francis for preparing and leading the Lenten crafts each week of Lent!

Thanks to all who assisted in various ways to add to our Holy Week and Easter services: assisting ministers, communion assistants, altar guild, the choir, Kris Selk – our organist and choir director, ushers, those who helped with the stripping of the altar and setting up the sanctuary for Easter. Thanks to Paula Kundert for singing the Psalm during the stripping of the altar – that added so much to the service. And thanks to John Selk, Kathy Bellaire, and Pam Nemmetz for participating in the reading the Gospel at the 7:00 Easter service, as well as singing a beautiful trio. Each of you added so much to make our Holy Week and Easter services very special.

Setting up and taking down for voting requires a crew. Thanks to Matt and Beth Moore, Chris Ziegler, Marcia Galica, Jason and Buffi Kremers, Peg Olson, Jim Zinth, and Steve and Sandy Last. Each of them has an important role in being a polling place, and I appreciate each of them.

Thanks to Diane Miller for procuring a wheelchair for St. Andrew's. If anyone has need of a wheelchair, it is in the hallway that is alongside the sanctuary.

Thanks to Pam Nemmetz for the wonderful bulletin boards she created for Lent and Easter.



Love Wins

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 says this:

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 is available from the library, as well as online used book sites.

Fraud and Scam Prevention – an Education Event

Fraud, phishing, and scams are on the rise, ever creating new ways to scam people. A number of churches in our area, including St. Andrew's, have been used by scammers to try to perpetuate a scam.



To help us all be more aware, and keep us safe from phishing and scams, the Church Council has arranged for Captain Lecker from the Oshkosh Police Department (and a member of Calvary Lutheran Church) to come to present an educational program after church on Sunday, 4 May.

Join us after church in the Fellowship Hall (10:30 am) for the fraud and scam prevention program, and a breakfast provided through a Thrivent Action Team and our Fellowship Committee.

Mother's Day, 11 May

We will be remembering and giving thanks for mothers on Mother's Day. There will be a Mother's Day observance as we give God thanks for the mothers in our lives.



Confirmation Sunday **18 May**

Our St. Andrew's congregation will celebrate with Alexis Haen as she affirms the faith of her baptism through the rite of Confirmation. We rejoice with Alexis as she reaches this stepping stone in her faith life.

Emmeline Cook **Showcase Night**

Members and friends of St. Andrew's are invited to the Emmeline Cook Showcase Night on Monday, 12 May from 5-7 pm. It is an evening to celebrate academic and artistic talents and accomplishments this year. Artwork will be displayed throughout the halls. And there will be tables set up to provide information about summer activities – including information about Feeding Hungry Kids.



Vacation Bible School

The ELM Tree Vacation Bible School is an ecumenical Vacation Bible School, provided by a group of nine Oshkosh churches. This year's VBS has a Space Camp theme, and will be held 28-31 July, from 4:30 – 7:30 pm, at Wesley United Methodist Church. Our Church Council has decided that we will be a participating congregation. If you are interested in helping with the Vacation Bible School in some way, please see Matt Moore, Mary Beth Roby, or Pastor Karen for further information.

Constitution Update

There will be a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, 1 June 2025, following worship, for the purpose of approving the revised congregation constitution.

A constitution committee was formed, consisting of: Matt Moore, Pam Nemmetz, Mary Beth Roby, and Pastor Karen. They have worked to bring the St. Andrew's constitution into line with the synod and churchwide constitutions, as well as addressing several areas that are determined by the congregation. The constitution has been submitted to the East Central Synod of Wisconsin for review. Copies will be available at the church two weeks prior to the meeting.

Lay Communion **Ministers**

We will be training members of the congregation to serve as visitors and communion ministers to our homebound members. In response to the desire of members of the congregation to serve as lay communion ministers, the Church Council has approved training members to serve our homebound members in this way. Those who serve will take the elements of communion from our celebration to those who are homebound, as an extension of our service. Each communion minister will be assigned one or two homebound members to be in touch with on a monthly basis. This will not replace Pastor Karen's visits to those who are homebound, but will increase our congregation's ministry. If you are interested in serving as a lay communion minister, please contact Pastor Karen.





Tech Team

Tech Team for Online Services

We are establishing a tech team for putting our worship services online.

Pastor Karen has been doing most of it, but it would work better if others took charge of it on Sunday mornings. We have several people who are interested in serving the church in this way, and it would be good to have a few more. If you would be interested in being part of the team please see Pastor Karen. There will be training – so that you can see how easy it is, and learn how to do it.

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!

ELCA Social Message

On March 21, the ELCA released a draft social message on child protection and maltreatment. This draft social message is in response to a request from the 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly and addresses the church's calling to protect and nurture children and youth, both within the church and within society more broadly.

There are two opportunities for us at St. Andrew's to discuss the document: Tuesday, 20 May at 6:30 pm, and Thursday, 22 May at 10:30 am. You can read the draft social message by visiting tinyurl.com/3fpcjeec. There will also be copies of the draft document on the table in the narthex. The survey and public comment period will be open until June 30.

ELCA social teachings are developed through a process of communal deliberation across the church, and your feedback (through a survey at tinyurl.com/3fpcjeec) will be prayerfully considered as this draft is revised. Your perspective is important to this process, so we hope you will find time to review the draft and share your comments.

A revised, proposed social message will be sent to the ELCA Church Council this fall for possible adoption as the newest social teaching of our church. If adopted, this social message will serve as a guide for people of faith to think theologically and ethically about children and the church. It will also serve as an official policy document to guide the church's public witness and to support policies at the congregational, synodical and churchwide level.



Thanks Received..

From the Day by Day Shelter:

Thank you for your generous gift of \$63.18 to Day by Day Shelter on 3/17/2025. Your kindness helps support the most vulnerable adults in our community.

Because of your support, Day by Day has been able to make a significant difference in the lives of those who have nowhere else to go. With the transition from a seasonal to a year-round shelter, we provide over 1500 meals each month, ensuring those in need have access to nutritious food daily. We offer more than 18,000 nights of shelter annually to 50 guests each night, providing a safe and comfortable place for them to rest and find stability. We also complete approximately 1200 loads of laundry every month, so our guests have access to clean bedding, towels, and personal laundry services.

Your continued confidence in Day by Day Shelter is what makes the growth and development of our Case Management and Guest Programming possible. Through these programs, Day by Day will continue connecting individuals we serve with resources they need, empowering them to rebuild their lives and work towards a brighter future.

With deep gratitude,
Molly Yatso Butz, Executive Director

Committee Meetings

All members welcome!



Worship and Music Committee

Monday, May 5, at 10 am

Feeding Hungry Kids Planning

Monday, May 5, at 6 pm

Council Meeting

Monday, May 12, at 7 pm

Congregational Life Committee

Thursday, May 15, at 6:30 pm

Property Committee

Thursday, May 29, at 9 am

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Office Hours:

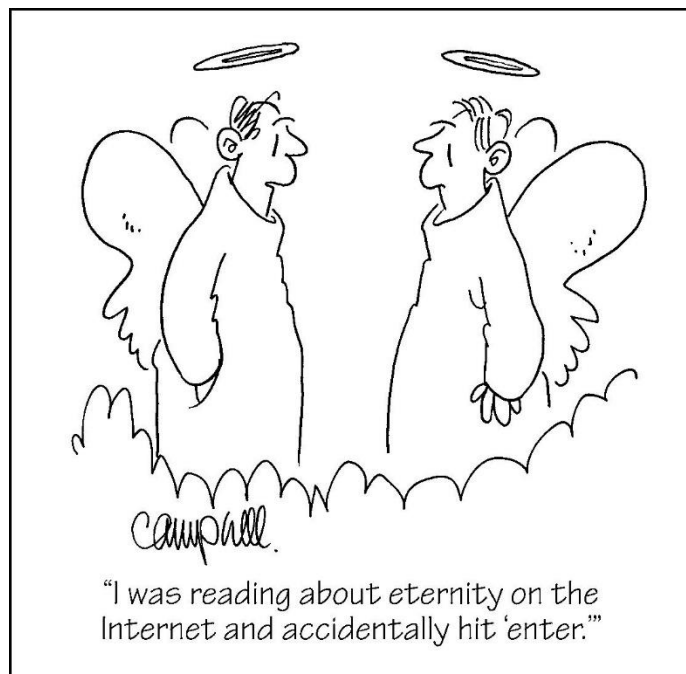
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday –
8:00 am – noon

Staff

The Rev. Karen E. Tews, Pastor

Sandy Last and Sue Redman, co-secretaries

Kris Selk, Organist and Choir Director



May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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
4 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 10:30am Fraud & Scam Prevention 11:30am Pavillion Reserved 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	5 10:00am Worship & Music Committee Meeting 6:00pm Feeding Hungry Kids Planning Meeting	6 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:30pm Book Discussion "Love Wins"	7 12:00pm Noon Bible Study 5:30pm Girl Scouts 6:00pm Confirmation Class	8 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	9 5:00pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	10 10:00am Fellowship Hall Reserved 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
11 Mother's Day 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	12 7:00pm Council Meeting	13 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:30pm ACOA Meeting	14 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	15 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:30pm Congregational Life Committee Meeting	16	17 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
18 Confirmation 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	19 1:30pm Bella Vista Worship	20 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:30pm Social Message Discussion	21 10:00am Social Message Discussion 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	22 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	23	24 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
25 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	26 Memorial Day	27 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes 6:30pm ACOA Meeting	28 12:00pm Noon Bible Study	29 Ascension Day 9:00am Property Committee Meeting 12:00pm WALC Women & Children Engl Classes	30	31 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting