



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

June 2025



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

Recently, at a meeting of the Oshkosh Area Collaborative Group (a leadership group representing the seven ELCA churches in Oshkosh), Pastor Jenn Pockat from the synod staff presented information about the life cycle of churches.

She presented a graphic that showed the four stages in the life cycle of a church. Churches begin in the "Growing" stage, which is vital but not sustainable. The next stage of a congregation is "Thriving," which is both vital and sustainable. The third state is the "Declining" stage. That is sustainable, but not vital. And the fourth stage is the "Struggling" stage, which is neither sustainable nor vital. The challenge, as a congregation moves from the "Thriving" stage, is to redefine, or redevelop, the congregation in order to keep it vital. When congregations move into the declining stage of the congregational life cycle, it is important that they look again at their mission and ministry, to refocus again. That can lead to rebirth. Congregations that continue to decline without assessing how to redefine, redevelop, and experience rebirth in their mission and ministry will most likely enter the struggling stage.

The conversation around the Congregational Life Cycle was thought-provoking to me, and I believe it was also thought provoking to the other congregational leaders at the meeting. I

realize how easy it is, when things are going well, to continue to ride the wave and not assess where the future will take us. However, planning for the future is always important.

I remember an old Chinese proverb that says, "If we don't change direction we will end up where we are headed." That proverb has guided me in my work of congregation revitalization. And I believe it is important to heed those words in all circumstances.

I hope that reflecting on the Congregational Life Cycle will spur some conversations over the coming months. I encourage us to do the hard work of looking at our ministry, redefine our mission, and assess where we can redevelop and experience rebirth. There are ministry resources available from our synod to guide us in this work. And synod staff are also available to assist us.

I will post a copy of the graphic of the Congregational Life Cycle on the bulletin board in the narthex. The picture probably explains it far better than the description I have provided.

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 **May 12, 2025**



The Church Council met on Monday, 12 May 2025. Those in attendance included: Chris Ziegler, Matt Moore, Sarah McAninch, Pam Nemmetz, Peg

Olson, Mary Beth Roby and Pastor Karen Tews. Gary Bruce attended as a guest.

Chris called the meeting to order. Pastor Karen led an opening prayer. Gary Bruce shared information from the ad hoc pews taskforce. The Council approved developing a funding campaign to raise the funds needed to replace the pews. The Building, Grounds, and Facilities Committee will work on reinforcing the pews to meet the immediate need, until funds are raised for replacing the pews.

The Council participated in Dwelling in the Word on Luke 16:19-31.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted. Offerings were less than expenses for March, because operating expenses have increased.

Old Business included Matt and Mary Beth sharing information from the ecumenical VBS. Information can be found in the newsletter.

Constitution Update: The Congregational Meeting to approve the proposed constitution will be Sunday, 1 June, following worship.

New Business included approval of dates for Pastor Karen's vacation plans. Also, it was approved to use Memorial Funds to purchase four home communion kits for church members to use to take communion to our homebound members. And, the new Church Council members will be trained so that they can be added to the Offering Counter teams.

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 Building, Grounds, and Facilities Committee raised two issues for discussion and decision. Steve Last had an evaluation of the roofs done, and it is estimated that they

should be good for about five more years. The exception to that is the flat roof over the offices, lounge, and narthex. That is currently leaking, and at a special Church Council meeting the Council had approved repair of that roof this spring, for a cost not to exceed \$5,000. The Council needs to begin planning for the work that needs to be done on the remaining roofs, to be able to meet the financial expense. The second issue is that the parking lot needs to be patched, have the cracks sealed, be seal-coated and line striped. Steve got one bid for \$8095. The Council approved the work to be done at a cost not to exceed \$8095. Steve will get additional bids to check that we are getting the best price.

The next Church Council meeting will be held Monday, 9 June 2025 at 7:00 pm. The meeting closed with prayer led by Pastor Karen and the Lord's Prayer.



Constitution Update

On Sunday, 1 June 2025, following worship, we will have a special Congregational Meeting to approve the revised congregation constitution.

Copies of the proposed constitution are on the table in the narthex.



Newsletter Quiz

As you read the newsletter, you will find a few “quiz” questions sprinkled throughout the newsletter. Find the answers to the

questions, write them down on a piece of paper, and drop them in the “Newsletter” box on the table in the narthex. Those that have the correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a fun prize.

Thanks to the Congregational Life Committee for this fun addition to the newsletter.

Summer Sermon Series

From the middle of June through August, we will have a sermon series featuring some of the lesser known people of the Bible. This will give us a chance to get to know more about some of the people we may have heard about but not know much about. We will be learning about the life and ministries of the following people:



22 June	Amos
29 June	Jethro (Moses' father-in-law)
6 July	Daniel
13 July	Esther
20 July	Nahum
27 July	Deborah
3 August	Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego
10 August	Elisha
17 August	Zephaniah
24 August	Haggai



Summer Midweek Worship Services Begin in June

The Oshkosh ELCA Collaborative Group (OECG) has been meeting for some time, with one of their purposes being to plan events that the seven ELCA congregations in Oshkosh can share.

One of the plans is for midweek summer worship services. There will be six midweek services this summer – all held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm – rotating among the churches. Some of the services will be outdoor services, while others will be indoor services. Each pastor will prepare their own service, so we will be able to experience a variety of services throughout the summer.

Midweek services in the summer months can be helpful to those who are away on the weekends during the summer. We hope these services will help to meet the needs of our members as well as reach out to our neighbors.

This is the schedule:

18 June – Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church
25 June – St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
9 July – First English Lutheran Church
16 July – St. John's Lutheran Church
6 August – Calvary Lutheran Church
20 August – Peace Lutheran Church



1. What will we do special for Pentecost?

Pastor Karen's Thank You Notes



Thanks to Jim Zinth, for filling the planters by the doors of the church with beautiful spring flowers for Easter!

Thanks to everyone who has hosted the Coffee and Fellowship time this year. Your hospitality and treats are greatly appreciated! The time to sit and catch up with each other is an important part of the life of St. Andrew's.

Thanks to Chris Ziegler for arranging for Police Captain Andy Lecker to come and present the program on scam and fraud prevention. It was a very informative program.

Thanks to those who baked cookies for the Emmeline Cook teachers: Judy Groff, Marcia Galica, Candy Luce, Carol Harper, Wendy Cable, Sue Zinth and Pam Nemmetz. We took trays of cookies for the teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week.



Pentecost

On the Day of Pentecost we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit, as it descended like tongues of fire upon the heads of the disciples who were gathered in Jerusalem. In the spirit and celebration of Pentecost, everyone is invited to wear red clothing that day.

Father's Day 15 June

We will be remembering and giving thanks for Fathers on Father's Day. Join us for this opportunity to give thanks to God for fathers and father figures in our lives.



Summer Reading

"How We Learn To Be Brave: Decisive Moments in Faith and Life," by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde is the next book for our readers. Bishop Budde was the speaker at National Post-inauguration Prayer Service on 21 January 2025. This is what Barnes and Noble has to say about the book:

On January 21, 2025, many Americans were introduced to Bishop Mariann Budde thanks to what The New York Times called "an extraordinary act of public resistance." During her prayer service for Donald J. Trump's second inauguration, Bishop Budde addressed the president directly, imploring him "to have mercy on the people in our country who are scared now," from those who are part of the LGBTQ+ community to immigrants and refugees.

But for Bishop Budde, this moment was the culmination of a lifetime spent thinking about those pivot points when we're called on to push past our fears and act with strength. With *How We Learn to Be Brave*, she teaches us that being brave is not a singular occurrence; it's a journey that we can choose to undertake every day.

You are invited to take some time to read the book, and join in the discussion on Monday, 7 July, at 6:30 pm.



2. When does Feeding Hungry Kids start?

Synod Assembly

This year's East Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly will be held on 7 June, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Green Bay. Our congregation's delegates are Brenda Francis and Karyn Schmitz, along with Pastor Karen. Please hold them, and the assembly, in your prayers.



Feeding Hungry Kids



Our Feeding Hungry Kids team has been at work making plans for the upcoming ministry. We will be providing meals from 21 July through 29 August. Menus have been planned around the entrees that local restaurants have generously offered to provide.

There will be opportunities for members of the congregation to provide food for the meals, and to come and serve. There will be sign-up sheets for both the food items we need and giving of your time, as we get closer to July.

Donations of money and gift cards are welcome, and they are to be given through the offering plate or to the church office. Gift cards for either Aldi or Piggly Wiggly are welcome contributions.



3. What is the theme of the ecumenical Vacation Bible School?

Take Me Out To The Ballgame!!!



A trip to the Timber Rattlers is being planned for Sunday afternoon, 13 July. The Timber Rattlers are playing the South Bend Cubs. The game starts at 1:10 pm.

Tickets are \$11.00 for bleacher seats. We would need to have 20 people going to the game to qualify for a group rate.

Please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board if you are planning on going to the ball game. Family and friends are welcome to come, as well. Please sign up and pay the church office by 15 June, so that we can purchase the tickets.



Pews

Our Ad hoc Pews Taskforce has been meeting for several months, to put together a proposal for replacing the pews in our sanctuary. In order to introduce the proposal, explain why new pews are needed, and get your input on a couple of things, we will be holding small group meetings. We ask everyone in the congregation – members and friends of the congregation – to attend one of the meetings. There will be sign-up sheets on the bulletin board in the narthex for you to sign up for the meeting you plan to attend. The meetings will be held in the church lounge on the following dates.

Tuesday, 24 June	10:00 am
Thursday, 26 June	6:30 pm
Tuesday, 15 July	6:30 pm
Wednesday, 16 July	1:30 pm
Thursday, 17 July	10:00 am

Please let the office know if none of these meetings work with your schedule and we will try to schedule another meeting. It is very important that everyone knows why the pews need to be replaced, and the proposal for replacing them.



4. What is the subject of our special congregational meeting?



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.



5. Which of the lesser-known Bible characters from our summer sermon series is of most interest to you?



Thanks Received..

From the Teachers' Closet:

The Teachers' Closet thanks you for your generous donation.

Thank you for your donation of new school supplies to The Teachers' Closet. We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Kay



Committee Meetings

All members welcome!

Worship and Music Committee

Monday, June 2, at 10 am

Christian Action Committee

Monday, June 2, at 6 pm

Council Meeting

Monday, June 9, at 7 pm

Worship Assistant Meeting

Saturday, June 14, at 9 am

Property Committee

Thursday, June 26, at 9 am



6. When will you attend a meeting to learn about the proposed project to replace the pews?



Remembering our Baptism

At a recent meeting of the Worship and Music Committee, we discussed the baptismal font. It was generally agreed that everyone appreciates the baptismal font being uncovered as it more easily reminds us of the centrality of our baptism to our faith.

Discussion moved to whether there should be water in the font so that people can dip their fingers in the baptismal water and make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism. It was decided that we will have water in the font beginning in June.

Remembering our baptism at the font is one way to keep our baptismal life at the center of our life and faith. You can remember your baptism in this way as you enter worship or as you come to the altar rail for Holy Communion.

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. St. Andrew's is 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. Registration is open and can be done online using this QR code.



The poster has a dark blue background with a space theme. At the top left is a small icon of a newsletter with the text "NEWSLETTER QUIZ". To its right is a rocket ship and a blue planet. The text "Camp ELM Tree Presents" is in white. Below this, "VBS" is in large red letters and "Space CAMP" is in large white and yellow letters. On the left, it says "July 28-31" in yellow, followed by "Evenings from 4:30-7:30, including dinner." in white. Below that, it says "Hosted by Wesley United Methodist Church 761 Florida Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54902" in yellow. At the bottom left, it lists the churches: "All Saints Lutheran, Calvary Lutheran, Christ Our Savior, First English Lutheran, Peace Lutheran, St. Andrew's, St. John's, Trinity Episcopal and Wesley United Methodist" in white. At the bottom right, there is a white space helmet with the "CAMP ELM TREE" logo, surrounded by white stars. Below the helmet, "SPACE CAMP" is written in large white letters. At the very bottom right, it says "Register Now! Space is limited" in yellow.

July 28-31
Evenings from 4:30-7:30,
including dinner.

Hosted by
Wesley United Methodist Church
761 Florida Ave, Oshkosh, WI 54902

Brought to you by:
All Saints Lutheran, Calvary Lutheran,
Christ Our Savior, First English Lutheran,
Peace Lutheran, St. Andrew's, St. John's,
Trinity Episcopal and Wesley United Methodist

SPACE CAMP

Register Now! Space is limited



7. When does St. Andrew's host the summer midweek service?

June 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Congregational Meeting 10:45am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	2 10:00am Worship & Music Committee Meeting 6:00pm Christian Action Committee Meeting	3	4 5:30pm Girl Scouts	5	6	7 ECSW Synod Assembly 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
8 Pentecost 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	9 7:00pm Council Meeting	10 6:30pm ACOA Meeting	11	12	13	14 9:00am Worship Assistants Meeting 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
15 Father's Day 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	16	17 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	18 6:30pm Midweek Worship at Christ Our Savior	19 Juneteenth 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	20	21 10:00am Fellowship Hall Reserved 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
22 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	23	24 10:00am Pews Meeting 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes 6:30pm ACOA Meeting	25 6:30pm Midweek Worship at St. Andrew's	26 9:00am Property Committee Meeting 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes 6:30pm Pews Meeting	27	28 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting
29 9:00am Pop Up Choir Practice 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	30	1	2	3	4	5 12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting