



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

December 2025



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

- 1 The advent of our God shall be our theme for prayer; come, let us meet him on the road and place for him prepare.
- 2 The everlasting Son incarnate stoops to be, himself the servant's form puts on to set his people free.
- 3 Come, Zion's daughter, rise to meet your lowly king, nor let your faithless heart despise the peace he comes to bring.
- 4 As judge, on clouds of light, he soon will come again, and all his scattered saints unite with him on high to reign.
- 5 Before the dawning day let sin be put to flight; no longer let the law hold sway, but walk in freedom's light.
- 6 All glory to the Son, who comes to set us free, with Father, Spirit, ever one through all eternity.

Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. John Chandler, 1806-1876, alt.

This Advent hymn, from the LBW, sums up the season of Advent. God comes to us in Jesus. And we meet our Lord and Savior on the road as we welcome, and take to heart, the message he brings of God's love made incarnate. God's love transforms us, and transformed – we go forth to share God's love.

In the midst of our Advent season we are also lifting up the stewardship of our resources to support Christ's mission here at St. Andrew's. You are invited to come out on Giving Tuesday and partake of the coffee and donuts/cookies, the activities, the displays, the giveaways, and sign up for the door prizes. And prayerfully consider the commitment that you will make to the church – both in financial giving as well as giving of your time and talents. Through our giving, we make straight the way of the Lord and welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives.

May this Advent season be a blessed time for each of you, as you experience again the wonder of God's love made flesh, for the world.

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.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, 25 January, following worship. Please plan to attend.

The agenda for the meeting includes approving the Annual Book of Reports, approving the 2026 budget, electing Church Council members and representatives to Conference and Synod meetings, and thanking our outgoing leadership.

Because the Church Council is recommending some changes to the budget for 2026, there will be a budget forum after worship on Sunday, 4 January. Everyone is encouraged to attend this meeting to be informed about the changes. This meeting will be held in the Fellowship Hall.



Church Council Highlights

The Church Council minutes will be emailed to church members and friends who are on the newsletter mailing list. For those who don't receive the newsletter by email, you can pick up a printed copy of the Church Council minutes at the church – from the same place that you pick up a print copy of the newsletter.

The next Council meeting will be held Monday, 8 December at 7:00 pm in the Yellow Room off of the Fellowship Hall. Church Council meetings are open meetings, and everyone is welcome to attend.



Furnace Update

54 St. Andrew's members attended the Special Congregational Meeting to approve purchasing two furnaces to replace furnaces that are no longer functioning. The new furnaces were installed on 20 November. The office staff is very grateful for the heat!

Hospital  Visitation

A Reminder . . .

It is good to call Pastor Karen when:

- You or a family member is in the hospital;
- You move or have a new telephone number;
- Prayers would be a helpful support;
- You have a question or concern about something going on in the church.

The hospitals do not notify the church when people are hospitalized, so Pastor Karen appreciates it when members notify her or the church office. Thank you!

CHRISTMAS 2025

Christmas Eve, 24 December,
we will have two services.

2:00 pm – A service of hymns, lessons, a message, and Holy Communion.

6:30 pm – Carols by Request, before the 7:00 pm service.

7:00 pm – A service of hymns, lessons, a message, the choir will sing, Holy Communion, and candle lighting while singing "Silent Night."

There will be a children's message at each service.

Christmas morning we will worship at 9:30 am, and welcome members and friends of Peace Lutheran Church.





Pastor Karen's Thank You Notes

Thanks to Pam Nemmetz for the beautiful harvest display in front of our altar. It is a wonderful reminder of the bounty of the harvest, and the blessings we receive.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Special Congregational Meeting, to approve the purchase of the furnaces! Your extra effort to come for yet another meeting is very appreciated!

Thanks to Peg Olson, Peg's cousin, and Sandy Last, for making the nativity ornaments for our homebound members and the children who will attend worship on Christmas Eve. I appreciate your work to make them!

Thanks to everyone who brought gifts for the Winnebago Mental Health Institute's Christmas Project. Because of your generosity, the residents will have a brighter Christmas.

Thanks to those who took a pie to the Thanksgiving Eve worship service and pie fest! All of the pies were delicious!

Thanks to those who decorated their cars, donated candy, created the photo op station, or in other ways supported the Trunk-or-Treat at St. Andrew's: Pam Nemmetz, Sherry Seabul, Sandy Walth, Tracy Hawley, Sandy and Steve Last, Brenda Francis, Greg Egner, and Chris Ziegler. It was a great event, and we had a chance to greet quite a number of our neighbors.

Madrigals to Sing at St. Andrew's

The Oshkosh North High School Madrigals will sing at St. Andrew's on Sunday, 14 December at 10:15 am. We will shorten our worship service that day to end early so that we can enjoy the special music they bring.



Join us for the special music they bring to us!

An Opportunity for Christmas Caroling



The OECG (the Oshkosh ELCA Collaborative Group) is coordinating Christmas Caroling at the Festival of Lights at the EAA. People from the seven ELCA churches in Oshkosh will join together in singing carols at Santa's Workshop, from 6 – 7 pm, on a yet-to-be-determined evening. Please watch the NET and bulletin announcements for the date of the caroling, and contact the church office for additional details including where to park.



Giving Tuesday 2 December

We are celebrating Giving Tuesday with a special event focused on support of our ministries and generous, joyful response to the blessings that God has entrusted to us. We are again blessed to have \$6,000 in matching funds for special offerings that are made at our Giving Tuesday event, or any day – Monday through Friday – of that week. All offerings during that week can be done via Vanco or mailing or delivering your donation to the church office.

Come out to the church on Tuesday, 2 December, and share in the celebration of giving. The event will be from 7:00 – 10:00 am, and from 3:00 – 7:00 pm. In the morning, join us for donuts and coffee; in the afternoon we will have cookies and coffee. There will be displays, activities, giveaways, and door prizes.

And be sure to pick up a copy of the St. Andrew's Advent Devotional Booklet. It is filled with stories, written by our members and friends, of times when they experienced God at work in their lives.

Thank you for your faithful support of St. Andrew's mission and ministry.



Lunch Bunch!

The “Lunch Bunch” will be gathering at Pizza Ranch on Tuesday, 9 December, at noon. It is a great opportunity for good food, fellowship, and a way to show our support to Pizza Ranch which is one of our supporters for our Feeding Hungry Kids ministry.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex, so that we will know who to expect. Walk-ins are always welcome – so if you are thinking how nice it would be to join the group, please come.



Book Discussion in February

Pastor Karen has been hearing about the book “I Think You’re Wrong (But I Am Still Listening): A Guide to Grace-Filled Political Conversations” by Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth A. Silvers. At a recent Oshkosh Conference Meeting, several pastors said they had read it with members of their congregation. The title was intriguing, so Pastor Karen picked up a copy and found the book engaging.

In the slower and cold days of January, if you are looking for a good book, pick up a copy of this book. And watch the February newsletter for the date and time when we will have a book discussion.

New Offering Envelopes for 2026



The 2026 Offering Envelopes will be available early in December. They will be available to pick up in the narthex. This year we are renumbering the envelopes in order to save money by ordering fewer boxes of envelopes. So, don’t be surprised if you have a new offering envelope number. And please – to help our offering counters and office staff – do not use 2025 envelopes in 2026.

If you are unable to pick up your envelopes, please give the church a call (920-235-6616) and we will be glad to get them to you.



Pop-Up Adult Forum

December gets to be a really busy month, with so many extra activities going on. So we won’t be having a Pop-Up Adult Forum in December.

There will also not be a Pop-Up Adult Forum in January. **Please plan to attend the “Budget Forum” on Sunday, 4 January following worship in the Fellowship Hall.** This is an opportunity to take a look at the budget ahead of the Congregational Meeting, and have the Church Council explain some of the changes in the budget.

The February Pop-Up Adult Forum topic will be some take-aways from Pastor Karen’s trip to Israel-Palestine. Join us on Sunday, 8 February. We gather in the Council Room at 10:45 am.



Serving Students at Emmeline Cook School

We have become aware that there are some needs for clothing at Emmeline Cook School – to help children out when there has been an accident. As our Christmas project this year we ask for contributions of gently used or new clothing items, as follows:

Leggings/joggers –

Little girls size 5/6 and 7/8

Joggers with an elastic waistband –

Little boys size 6 and 7/8

Shirts –

Girls size 7/8, 10/12, and X-large

Boys size 7/8, 10/12, and X-large

Underwear –

Little girls size 4

Little boys size 6 and 8

Thank you for any of the items listed above, for Emmeline Cook Elementary School

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>30</p> <p>9:30am Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time</p> <p>1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Giving Tuesday 7-10am & 3-7pm</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00am Worship & Music Committee Meeting</p> <p>12:00pm Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>4</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes</p> <p>4:00pm Christian Action Committee Meeting</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting</p>
<p>7</p> <p>9:30am Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time</p> <p>1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church</p>	<p>8</p> <p>7:00pm Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>9</p> <p>12:00pm Lunch Bunch at Pizza Ranch</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes</p> <p>6:30pm ACOA Meeting</p>	<p>10</p> <p>12:00pm Bible Study</p> <p>6:30pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>11</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:30am Holy Communion</p> <p>10:15am North High Madrigal singers</p> <p>10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time</p> <p>1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes</p>	<p>17</p> <p>6:30pm Choir Practice</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00am Property Committee Meeting</p> <p>12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting</p>
<p>21</p> <p>9:30am Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time</p> <p>1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm ACOA Meeting</p>	<p>24</p> <p>2:00pm Christmas Eve Worship</p> <p>6:30pm Carols by Request</p> <p>7:00pm Christmas Eve Worship</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30am Christmas Day Worship</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting</p>
<p>28</p> <p>9:30am Holy Communion</p> <p>10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time</p> <p>1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>7:00pm NO Choir Practice</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>12:00pm Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting</p>

