



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

July 2026



Connecting in Life, Community and Ministry at St. Andrew's

Let love be genuine...hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Romans 12:9-10

It has been such a gift to be with you at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church for these past months. I have so enjoyed meeting St. Andrew's Members, relatives, neighbors and visitors!!

You have such a wonderful community of saints here! In an effort to continue to build relationships with each other, connecting with each other here, meeting new friends and supporting current friendships with each other, we wish to give you some resources to stay connected.

In the following couple of weeks, we're asking for your input to update your contact information: your Name, phone number, address, email address.

You can review and update your personal/family information in one of the following ways:

1. See the telephone directory draft on the table outside the worship space, find your name and mark changes, updates and additional information on the page.
2. Pick up the form entitled, "**St. Andrew's Family Contact Information Sheet**", complete and place on the narthex table or to the church office.

3. Either email/drop by or call the church office and share your current contact information.

If you have been visiting St. Andrew's or if you are a friend/neighbor of St. Andrew's and wish to be included in the directory, please utilize the form indicated above to share your information with St. Andrew's staff. We are blessed by your presence and connection to this congregation!

Following this step, we will publish an updated St. Andrew's Telephone/Contact Directory and make it available for all St. Andrew's members and friends.

The goal is for you to be able to connect with each other, your fellow St. Andrew's Members and friends when you need, for communication and connection purposes.

We are more than a congregation of members on Sunday. We are a community we can count on outside of worship on Sundays, in all other times too!!

Pastor Tabitha

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, just as you are doing..."



If you are in need of pastoral or spiritual care, please contact Pastor Tabitha at the church office, 920-235-6616, or at pastor@standrewsoshkosh.org. Messages will be returned as soon as possible.

A message from the ELCA Presiding Bishop, The Rev. Yehiel Curry

All Together in One Place - June 23, 2026

America at 250: Holding gratitude and humility

Dear church,

As we look toward the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, many of us will celebrate with fireworks, parades and barbecues. Independence Day often brings us together with family and friends. Yet there is more that connects us than our communal celebrations. We are also connected through a common vision.

Signed in 1776, the Declaration of Independence proclaims a vision of equality for all people. While there were other nations pushing for equality at the time, the declaration was and is a monumental document in the way it names the aspiration so boldly. As we observe and celebrate the 250th anniversary of that signing, we also affirm the vision of freedom and equality it casts. We can be grateful.

And with contrition and humility, we acknowledge all the ways we have failed to embody that vision. As members of this church, we are called to “pray, participate in, and advocate for civic life in the United States that reflects God’s activity and call, which seek both the well-being of all people and a creation marked by justice and peace” (ELCA social statement [*Faith and Civic Life*](#), p. 89).

As Lutherans, we know the importance of naming realities for what they are. As citizens, we confess the ways we have not yet realized the vision of the Declaration of Independence and, more importantly, as Christians we confess the ways we have participated in or been complicit in failures to live into the vision God provides. This vision is rooted in creation and redemption. God crafts each person in God’s own image and sends Jesus Christ to redeem us, setting us free to follow Christ’s new commandment to love one another.

The history of the United States is complex, and all too often we have fallen short of our

stated values. Indigenous peoples across this land have been forced to cede their ancestral homes and pushed to reservations. Women and men have been prevented from voting because of their sex and race and spat on and jailed when they demanded their rights. Japanese American families were interned during World War II. Queer and transgender people’s lives are obstructed by federal and state orders.

There is a photograph of Elizabeth Eckford, one of the nine Black teenagers who integrated Little Rock Central High School in



Little Rock, Ark., in 1957. Books under her arm, she faces forward as angry white people crowd behind her. She was just trying to go to school.

Holding both the failures and the vision in our hearts and minds, I invite us to ask ourselves, “What does it mean to celebrate a promise that is real and yet still unfolding? What does it mean to be a people who always live in ‘the already but not yet’?”

This is a central question for us not only as we mark the anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence but also in our daily lives as people of faith. The prophets repeatedly remind us of the vision God casts for all of creation, and they call us to account when, as God’s own people, we fall short.

When we fall short, we remember we are rooted in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We think, speak and live out faith through God’s future. God’s future is resurrection. As a church, we are turned not only to the past but to the future God is making possible right now through us as we love and serve others.

As Lutheran Christians, we believe that God calls us to:

- Remember our connection to each other through baptism, as Scripture teaches us: “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and

individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:5).

- Name sin for what it really is and to repent of it, as the Augsburg Confession and the catechisms remind us.

- Serve the common good in society as “earthly measures toward God’s intention” ([Faith and Civic Life](#), p. 11).

As we celebrate 250 years of the Declaration of Independence, we can hold gratitude and humility, possibilities and shortcomings. We continue to live in the already and the not-yet.

And we hold fast to the most important promise of all: the presence of God with us, the power of the resurrection of Christ, the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit and the ever-unfolding grace of God.

We celebrate this occasion neither as a perfect nation nor as a perfect church but as a people held in God’s grace and called into community in service to all neighbors and for the sake of the world God so loves.

In Christ,



The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2026 Synod Assembly Highlights



Submitted by Sue Redman and Shirley Guse

The East Central Synod of Wisconsin of the ELCA met June

4-6, 2026 at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

Delegates from St. Andrew’s were Shirley Guse and Sue Redman. Each day began and ended with worship led by pastors and staff from across the synod and neighboring synods around the theme “To Strive for Justice and Peace in All the Earth.”

Our keynote speaker was Bishop Meghan Johnston Aelebouni from the Rocky Mountain Synod.

We received reports from synod staff, synod council and committees (Women of the ELCA, Youth Team, Misconduct Prevention, Endowment, and Candidacy) as well as partner agencies including Crossways Camps, ELCA Property Resource Hub, ELCA Federal Credit Union, ELEA, Linwood Community, Luther College, St. Olaf College, Lutheran Office on Public Policy in

Wisconsin (LOPPW), Lutheran School of Theology, Mission Investment Fund, Lutheran Social Services, Portico, Wartburg Theological Seminary, and Wisconsin Council of Churches.

Resolutions approved were: 1. To confer status of Bishop Emeritus on Rev. Dr. Gerald Mansholt; 2. To work for Civic Life as described in the ELCA social statement “Faith and Civic Life;” 3. To promote fair and ethical compensation for professional lay staff; and 4. To encourage education and advocacy for ELCA World Hunger and LOPPW. Minor revisions to the Synod Constitution were also approved. An online study of the social statement “Faith and Civic Life” will be coming out.

Several Synod Council positions were filled by lay members and clergy elected to serve various terms as well as by Pastor Bryan Schmidt for Secretary. The election of Bishop began with a nominating ballot which could include any rostered leader (2 former pastors and our current supply pastor were among the nominees); those consenting proceeded to the next ballot. Bishop Anne Edison-Albright was re-elected as Bishop on the second ballot.

Pastor Clay Salmela from Grace in Ripon was recognized by the ELCA Chaplain Corp and the Pentagon for his service as a Chaplain, including a deployment in Ukraine; he received an award and a medal. Our companion synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in South Africa, was unable to send a representative because of the increasing difficulty of obtaining travel visas.

The spending plan for the next fiscal year was approved with a reduction in expenses to reflect an 18% decrease in revenues. Current cash accounts are being converted to short-term CD’s at an average interest rate of 5% with Mission Investment Fund. The Endowment Fund (some restricted funds) has an anticipated growth rate of 8% currently. As a synod, we supported ELCA World Hunger with over \$536,000, Lutheran Disaster Response with more than \$670,000 and Mission Support in excess of \$510,000.

The 2027 ECSW Synod Assembly will take place on June 5, 2027 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Wausau.



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, July 13 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.

Pastoral Search..



The MSP (Ministry Site Profile) committee has met and is beginning to refine a profile of our congregation and its needs for a called pastor. Input from the entire congregation is desired. Please take time to answer 4 brief questions and submit your answers to the office by July 15.

The survey can be found at the end of this newsletter. Copies of the survey are also found on the table outside of the worship space. Thank you so much!

Feeding Hungry Kids Fundraiser **At Pizza Ranch**



We are again having a fundraiser at Pizza Ranch to raise money for the Feeding Hungry Kids ministry. It will be on Monday, July 20, from 4 – 7 pm. Come out and enjoy pizza, chicken, salad and dessert buffet. Feeding Hungry Kids receives a portion of the proceeds from the evening's sales, as well as the tips.

Members of St. Andrew's will bus the tables that evening, so if you want to help with that – please let Sherry Seabul know. The more – the merrier!

Feeding Hungry Kids



Feeding Hungry Kids is a congregational ministry that continues to be a big part of our mission and ministry, as an important outreach for our

members as we help to meet the needs of our neighbors.

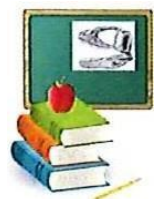
We will be distributing meals for six weeks, beginning July 20 – Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays.

There will be a sign-up sheet to join this ministry – choose the days that you would like to come and serve. Those serving are asked to arrive by 8:00 am.

There will also be sign-up sheets to donate parts of the meal. For each day we have two food items that can be donated. Sign your name – and how many of that item you are offering to bring. We ask that food donations be brought to the church on Sunday morning, so that we can plan for the shopping that needs to be done for the week.

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

Community Back to **School Fair**



We are gathering resources that will be distributed at the

Community Back to School Fair to 1000+ students and their families that need some help getting off to a good start at school this fall. Our Christmas in July display will have little backpack "ornaments" that you can take with you, if you wish. You may donate clothing, department store gift cards, or cash to help provide the needed items for the children and youth. No need to wrap your items. Please bring them to church by Sunday, July 26 to give the organizers time to complete their preparations. Thank you for all you do!

It's Lutheran World Relief – School Kits – Time



The school supplies will go on sale soon, so it is time to make School Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

One good way to make the school kits is to provide all of the items on the list to make one school kit, and bring them all together. If it is better for you, you are welcome to bring an item or two per week during August. There will be boxes in the narthex for the School Kit items.

Each School Kit is to contain the following items:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper
- One pencil sharpener
- One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2 1/2 inch eraser

We have a supply of pens, pencils and rulers from last year. Drawstring backpack-style bags will also be provided.

Prayer Chain



Did you know that St. Andrew's has a prayer chain? We pray for members, friends, and others for whom we are requested to pray. Prayer requests are communicated through emails. If you would like to be on the Prayer Chain email list to receive prayer requests and support our members and friends through prayer, please be in touch with Pastor Tabitha or the church office.

If you have prayer requests, please contact Pastor Tabitha or the office. You may also contact the prayer chain directly by emailing prayerchain@standrewsoshosh.org

Thrivent Choice Dollars



All Thrivent clients with membership can now direct Choice Dollars® to support St. Andrew's. With every Choice Dollar directed, Thrivent provides \$1 in grant funding—helping generosity go even further. *In 2026, St. Andrew's has already received \$682 in Choice Dollars, thanks to many folks like you!* If you would like to see if you have Choice Dollars available to direct to St. Andrew's and to learn more, visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

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 will be held July 27 - 30, from 4:00 – 7:30 pm, at Christ Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1860 Wisconsin St, Oshkosh. Attendees are kids entering 4K (and potty trained) through 5th grade. 6th graders are welcome to volunteer or attend. Registration information for attendees and volunteers can be found at campelmtree.org.

Confirmation Classes



Confirmation classes will be starting in fall for those in sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. Anyone in those grades who have not yet started Confirmation Class and would like to, please contact the church office. As plans are made for the fall we will share more information about orientation and start date of classes.

July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	29	30 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	1 6:30pm MSP Committee Meeting	2 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	3	4 12:00pm ACA Meeting
5 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	6	7 12:30pm Lunch Bunch-The Chalice 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	8	9 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	10	11 12:00pm ACA Meeting
12 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	13 6:00pm Nicolet Waterway Assoc. Mtg. 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	14 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes 6:30pm ACA Meeting	15 9:00am Floral Design Meeting	16 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	17	18 12:00pm ACA Meeting
19 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	20 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids 4:00pm FHK Fundraiser at Pizza Ranch	21 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	22 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids 6:30pm MSP Committee Meeting	23 9:00am Property Committee Meeting 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	24 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids	25 12:00pm ACA Meeting
26 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	27 10:00am Worship & Music Committee Meeting 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids 4:30pm VBS at Christ our Savior	28 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes 4:30pm VBS at Christ our Savior 6:30pm ACA Meeting	29 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids 4:30pm VBS at Christ our Savior	30 1:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes 4:30pm VBS at Christ our Savior	31 11:00am Feeding Hungry Kids	1 12:00pm ACA Meeting

MSP - Ministry Site Profile

We are working on putting together the profile for St. Andrew's and we would like your help. Would you please take the time to answer these four questions?

1. What have we done well as a congregation in the past year?

2. What do you wish we as a congregation had done more of that we didn't do?

3. What did we as a congregation used to do, that we are not doing now, do you miss?

4. What keeps you coming back to St. Andrews?

Please fill out and return to the office by JULY 15, 2026.

If no one is in the office, simply slide it under the door! If you wish, you may also mail or email your responses to:

St. Andrew's
1100 E. Murdock Ave
Oshkosh, WI 54901

office@standrewsoshkosh.org

Thank you!