



St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Church

1100 E. Murdock Avenue

Oshkosh, WI 54901

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Website: standrewsoshkosh.org

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

Sunday Worship at 9:30 am and on Facebook

September 2026



**FROM YOUR
PASTOR**

St. Andrew's Living and Serving God in the Community

And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together...but encouraging one another. Hebrews 10:24-25

St. Andrew's is such a blessed community to be in! Your blessed care and compassion shines through in so many ways: in worship, fellowship, outreach, prayers, and in your partnership with other area churches and organizations.

You have welcomed folks of all kinds for worship and for ministry. And you have shown strangers, neighbors and relatives the face and love of Jesus in your welcome. When we as individuals and church welcome strangers and neighbors for worship at St. Andrew's, it's not without the occasional challenge or quandary about what to expect or how it's going. But it often results in spiritual growth for those who do the welcoming (that's us!), along with those who are welcomed! It's a mutual blessing.

You have provided direct care for children and families in the neighborhood by leading the Feeding Hungry Kids Program. You have prepared, packaged and given meals to kids and their families who are neighbors. Providing meals for these children does more than deliver nutrition for kids in need. You are making a connection, showing kindness, giving unconditional welcome and care, extending respect, and opening the door for future relationships between families and St. Andrew's. This is a safe place with people who

care. That is valued more than just the price of a lunch; it's the kind of "Kingdom of Heaven" value that Jesus has been telling us about in scripture in the last couple months.

These examples are just a few of the ministries you are involved in. Thank you for your heart of welcome and mission in this neighborhood and community.

Now the challenge: what other ways can St. Andrew's respond in love and care towards our neighbors? The present and future possibilities are wide open for you as faithful folks in this awesome congregation.

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. ¹¹ Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 4:10-11

Pastor Tabitha



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.



Pastoral Search update

Good news!! The Church Council and Pastor Tabitha have determined that continuing to work together for the next three months, September through November, will be beneficial for all involved. The agreement fills St. Andrew's need for pulpit supply as well as allowing Pastor Tabitha to be available for call. As with previous agreements, if anything changes for Pastor or for St. Andrew's, 4 week's notice would be given.

Thank you for taking time to complete our first Ministry Site Profile Survey.

Ministry Site Profile Survey Two is available on the table in the back of the church. It is also attached to this newsletter. Please pick one up, read through it, ponder it, pray about it and then consider the questions and complete it. Your answers are valuable and give voice to our future. Results will be shared during coffee hour Sunday September 20.

Let us pray: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Here is a brief synopsis of the results, shared on August 9 during a Fellowship forum after worship:

1. *What have we done well as a congregation in the past year?*
 - a. Feeding Hungry Kids program
 - b. Worship ad music, coffee fellowship, lay leadership
 - c. Church maintenance
 - d. Homebound outreach

2. *What as a congregation do you wish we would have done as a congregation that we didn't do?*
 - a. Use our space such as the court yard more often
 - b. Sharing more information about what's happening with pastoral services and the call process
 - c. Reach out to visitors, new members, confirmed members
 - d. More communication from the Church Council
3. *What did we once do, that you miss now?*
 - a. Bible study, Christmas programs
 - b. Kids and youth
 - c. Use With One Voice hymnal
4. *What keeps you coming back to St. Andrew's?*
 - a. Worship, liturgy, sermons, good music
 - b. I feel at home here
 - c. Loyalty to members and friends
 - d. Faith, people, want to support the neighborhood



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, September 14 at 7:00 pm in Room 103 off of the Fellowship Hall. Church Council meetings are open meetings, and everyone is welcome to attend.



Please hold the family of our member Tracy Hawley in your prayers. She passed away August 8.

Also, please include in your prayers the family of Patrick Krings, a longtime visitor and friend of St. Andrew's. Patrick passed on August 3.

God's Work. Our Hands Sunday **Sunday, September 13**

We will be assembling the School Kits for Lutheran World Relief, and boxing them to take to the drop-off site.

There will be cake and ice cream following the projects, so stay and work – and then enjoy a treat and fellowship.



Feeding Hungry Kids



Thank you to all who helped in any way to make Feeding Hungry Kids 2026 so successful. Whether you helped with your time, donated food or supplies, or donated financially, you are truly appreciated. This year, 915 meals were served to children and parents. We were also able to give an additional 267 meals to the Christine Ann Center, for a total of 1182 meals prepared. This is up from 977 meals served in 2025! The meals were appreciated by all.

It's Lutheran World Relief School Kits Time



The school supplies are on sale now, 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. There are bins 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. Supplies will be collected through September 6, 2026.

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.





More thanks to summer musicians:

The St. Andrew's Choir sang once again in August.

The following folks also contributed special music:

Peg Olson and John Selk, duet; Sue Redman, Kris Selk and Sandy Walth, trio; Emily Selk Loper, cello; Greg Egner, Mike Knier, Tom Schmitz and John Selk, men's ensemble. Nancy Netys played her flute for us on Labor Day weekend to end the summer music for this year. Many thanks to all these folks for generously sharing their gifts of music in praise of God.

Labor Day is fast approaching (September 7 this year!), so choir will begin rehearsing on Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 PM. We generally rehearse for one hour in the choir room. We will sing immediately at worship on Sunday, September 13. I am looking forward to getting back together to sing, and I can say with confidence that we would all welcome additional voices. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining us.

Kris Selk

From the Community....

Oshkosh Area Humane Society Low Cost Vaccine Clinic

Sept. 20, 2026 and October 11, 2026
Low cost rabies, distemper and bordatella shots, as well as micro chips
Donation-based rummage sale for pet accessories of all kinds

For more information, contact the Oshkosh Area Humane society at 920-424-2128 or <https://www.oahs.org/>

Feuding for Families Salvation Army Thursday, September 10

The Salvation Army of Oshkosh is hosting a fundraiser on September 10, at LaSure's Hall, 3125 S. Washburn St. Oshkosh. 5 pm social, 5:30 dinner. Proceeds will go to help fund the feeding programs of the Salvation Army, as well as towards the Hygiene/Shower Room Project. After dinner there will be a "Family Feud" type competition. More teams and audience members are needed. For more information, contact Patricia Zastrow 920-232-7660 or see

<https://donate.salvationarmywi.org/event/oshkosh-feuding-for-families/e783425>

From the Synod...

the weekly

WAVE

Have you heard the news? The Weekly Wave is the e-newsletter for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, our regional church. It contains inspiring stories, devotions, resources, announcements, videos, and more!

You may find recent editions of The Weekly Wave and/or sign up at www.ecsw.org/wave.



CROSSWAYS

CAMPING MINISTRIES

Join us for a Fond Farewell, a day to worship, remember, laugh, play, tell stories, share a meal, and celebrate all that God has done at **Waypost**. Come for an hour or stay for the whole weekend. Bring your family. Bring your old camp friends. Bring the stories you haven't told in years. And come ready to sing one more song.

Saturday | The Main Event | September 19th,

11:00 AM — Camp Music

11:30 AM — Holy Closure Service

12:45 PM — Circle Songs

Because there really isn't a better way to celebrate Waypost than singing together in a circle. Lunch to Follow.

The Main Event is Free and Open to All; Worship, lunch, and all Saturday afternoon activities are free.

Registration is encouraged so we know how many people to expect for lunch and activities.

Register for the main event here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScXbdfefNk29aa9mK0-cTmLROODsvzOEhDiFUXDjpyluve06A/viewform>

Then spend the afternoon making the most of Waypost one more time: Field Games, Arts & Crafts, Pit Games, Story Sharing.

You may register here for the optional add-ons:

<https://www.ultracamp.com/info/sessiondetail.aspx?campCode=CCM&idCamp=1375&idSession=588434>

Additional lodging and meals are available so you can gather with old friends, bring your family, and spend a little more time in a place that holds a lot of memories.

Friday Night | Staff Alumni Gathering | September 18th

Lodging: \$35/person per night: shared lodging by gender; \$150/cabin per night: reserve a cabin

for your group and decide who stays with you. Friday dinner: \$12/person.

As we prepare for Waypost's Fond Farewell weekend, we'd love your help telling the story of this special place. Do you have photos, stories, or memories you'd be willing to share? We'd love to include them as we celebrate the generations of ministry that have happened at Waypost.

We'd also love to hear from you if you'd like to help during the weekend. Do you have a gift to share that would help make this gathering meaningful?

Email waypost@crosswayscamps.org with photos or to volunteer.

One important reminder: Programming at Imago Dei Village (Clintonville) and Pine Lake Camp (Waupaca) continues to thrive! All scheduled camps, retreats, and events at those sites are moving forward as planned, and we can't wait to welcome you.

St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
1100 E. Murdock Avenue, Oshkosh,
WI 54901

Staff

The Tabitha Gallatin, Supply Pastor
Sandy Last, Secretary
Sue Redman, Secretary
Kris Selk, Organist and Choir Director

Telephone: 920-235-6616
Email: office@standrewsoshkosh.org
website: <https://standrewsoshkosh.org>
Facebook: St Andrews Oshkosh

Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8 am - noon

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	31 Fellowship Hall floor cleaning 10:00am Worship & Music Committee Meeting	1 Fellowship Hall floor cleaning 12:00pm Lunch Bunch - Cinders	2 Fellowship Hall floor cleaning	3 Fellowship Hall floor cleaning	4 Fellowship Hall floor cleaning	5 Fellowship Hall floor cleaning 12:00pm ACA Meeting
6 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	7 Labor Day - Office Closed	8 12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes 2:00pm Christian Action Committee Meeting 6:30pm ACA Meeting	9 7:00pm Choir Practice	10 12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	11	12 12:00pm ACA Meeting
13 God's Work. Our Hands. Day 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time God's work. Our hands. Project with cake and ice cream 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	14 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	15 12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	16 7:00pm Choir Practice	17 12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	18	19 12:00pm ACA Meeting
20 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 10:30am MSP Survey 2 Results Shared 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	21	22 Rock the Block 9:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes 6:30pm ACA Meeting	23 7:00pm Choir Practice	24 9:00am Property Committee Meeting 12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	25 6:00pm Wedding rehearsal	26 12:00pm ACA Meeting 3:00pm Seibold/Sagen wedding
27 9:30am Holy Communion 10:30am Fellowship Coffee Time 1:00pm Cross & Crown Alliance Church	28 10:00am Worship & Music Committee Meeting	29 12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	30 7:00pm Choir Practice	1 12:00pm WALC Women & Children English Classes	2	3 12:00pm ACA Meeting

**St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
Oshkosh, Wisconsin**

"Ministry Site Profile Survey Two: Our Future"

Please return by September 16.

Background: The Availability of Pastoral Candidates

The number of pastoral candidates to fill vacant congregations regardless of denomination has declined significantly in the last 20-25 years. This is due to many factors: a change in our culture, a change in the significance of religion in peoples' lives, and a change in what are considered important careers.

One issue for clergy has been and still is compensation. Clergy have eight years of post-high school education, many with student debt, they are both unable to afford to enter ministry or work for salaries that are not significant for the living expenses of today.

Even with women in ministry and second career persons in ministry, the supply of clergy has declined. And the average of age of clergy is near 60 years of age across all denominations, and expected retirement will take reduce clergy another 20-25 percent in the years to come. As this is most clearly seen in the number of Seminary graduates assigned to East Central Synod this year: 2. These graduates have been ordained and called by congregations, and yet that still leaves 27 openings in the Synod and that is similar to other Synods in Wisconsin.

This has led to congregations adapting. Some denominations close churches, some allocate clergy across multiple congregations, and some form multiple point parishes. ELCA Lutherans leave this decision to the congregations. Within Oshkosh, there have been conversations about how many ELCA congregations are needed, but without clear outcomes. The decision is ours to make.

Background: St Andrew's Pastoral Needs and Financial Capability

After adjustments to the membership rolls early this year, St. Andrew's is at 225 members with an average worship attendance of about 45. We are an older congregation in terms of ages across all members, and we no longer have Sunday school, Women's Group, Men's Group and other groups associated with larger churches. We do outreach to our community especially through Feeding Hungry Kids. We do worship well involving many lay volunteers. And we strive to support our home bound members. Even with that said, there may not be enough work for a full-time pastor.

Along with this, there is our annual budget and our giving. The two primary areas we need to support with our giving are staff costs and building costs. Staff costs are controllable but building repairs are not. Currently undesignated funds are about \$100,000. And this year, we have a budget that has more going out than coming in. With financial limitations either with a budget that spends more than takes in or with building repairs, this makes it challenging to even consider a full-time pastor.

Given both backgrounds, we ask you to consider the following options and rank them from first choice, second choice, or third choice:

- Pursue a part-time pastor serving St. Andrew's
- Pursue a pastor shared with one or more congregations
- Pursue a supply pastor only serving Sunday mornings, and any other ministry work provided by the congregation.
- Train lay leaders to lead worship and preach and have ordained ministers sanctify Holy Communion.
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- Please leave any comments below and thanks for voting.