



Section 3
Congregation Council
Reports
2018

Council Reports

Church in Society by Jeannine Eddy

St. Andrews Vision Statement: *St. Andrews's Lutheran Church is a fellowship of believers who gather to join our hands as we receive God's Blessing, and who Go Out to extend our hands to share God's goodness.*

ELCA Day of Service (God's Work, Our Hands)

In September St. Andrew's participated in this annual service weekend with the following service projects:

Volunteers met and assembled 46 hygiene/care kits. These were used by the interfaith shelter guests we hosted in November; the extras were donated to the Interfaith Shelter Program. Some children and adults met and created "welcome notes" (which were included in the hygiene/care kits) and decorated table placemats which were used to help welcome the shelter guests when they stayed at St. Andrew's.

Several volunteers met at Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church and sorted, tagged, and hung clothing for the "God's Closet Ministry" that is offered there.

Members of some of our music groups and others visited a local "Acute Care Center" and shared the gift of song with the patients.

Our Prayer Quilt ministry offered the opportunity for others to help with the making and assembling of Prayer quilts that are given throughout the year. Several people helped in this way.

Some people met to write letters of "Thanks and Appreciation" to mail to our Military Service men and women.

Pastor Manuel and a group of volunteers made a trip to Miracle Ranch Orphanage to bring supplies and to visit and play with the children.

Soup'er Bowl

In February, the confirmation students of St. Andrew's solicited cans of soup to be given to the hungry. On Super Bowl Sunday, the congregation was asked to put a can of soup in the box of the team they thought would win the Super Bowl. Many cans of soup were collected and donated to help those in need.

Interfaith Shelter

St. Andrew's opened its doors in November to help provide much needed shelter and food to a number of Interfaith Shelter guests. Many congregational groups and individuals donated breakfast and lunch items for the guests. Others volunteers provided hot meals and spent the night as overnight chaperones. The congregation was very supportive of this ministry and was very willing to donate and quickly respond to items that were needed by the guests. Special Thanks to Ryan McElvain for the tremendous job he has done in overseeing this ministry and helping it run smoothly.

Food Drive

Starting in November and through the month of December we held our annual food drive at St. Andrew's. Several large boxes of canned food and non-perishable food items were collected and given to local food banks for distribution to families in need. There was also the opportunity to give a monetary donation through ELCA World Hunger.

Alternative Christmas

In December the congregation was given the opportunity to shop for the holidays by using the following "Alternative Christmas" gift giving options: The ELCA Good Gifts Catalog and Lutheran World Relief "Fair Trade" products. Approximately \$3000 in ELCA Good Gifts and Fair Trade Products were purchased to help share God's Love and improve the lives of others around the world.

Miracle Ranch

St. Andrew's continued its support of the Miracle Ranch Children's Home in Valle de Las Palmas, in Mexico. Throughout the year, Pastor Manuel and several adult and youth volunteers made trips to the Ranch to help improve the grounds, conduct maintenance on the buildings, and to show God's love to the children. During Christmas many people in the congregation had the opportunity to sponsor and provide a Christmas gift that was requested from a child at the Ranch.

In the Community

Throughout the year and often on a weekly basis, St. Andrew's opens its doors to provide meeting space for a variety of groups and support groups such as: A.A. (Alcoholic Anonymous), Scouts, NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness), and Crafters, to name a few. During these times these groups are able to meet and offer support, care, and fellowship to people in our community as well as members of our congregation.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our congregation on council for Church in Society.

Jeannine Eddy

Education by Damon Shaffer

In keeping with our mission statement to be disciples and to make disciples, St. Andrews offers a variety of educational activities for all age groups that help us in our faith walk.

Adult Sunday School

Grace Anatomy, meets at 9:30 on most Sunday mornings. This group is making their way through “Falling Up” by Richard Rohr. The discussion is led by Steve Berry and Megan Werland. All adults and High School students are welcome to join this lively class. They do not meet on the first Sunday of each month.

Sunday School

We are deeply grateful for the service, energy, and talent of our Sunday School team Erica Nauta, Christine Dobbins, Katie Kozlik, Teri Potts, Kevin Sumner-Eisenbraun, Maddie Dobbins, Grace Douglas, Barbara D’Aversa, and Alice Belknap. During the program year these wonderful adults, along with some middle and high school assistants, led our preschool and elementary students in Sunday School each week during the 9:30 worship service. On the first Sunday of each month, families of elementary age students observe “Kids in Worship,” where the children remain in the entire worship service with their families. A corner of the community center, near the stone window ledge, has a cart filled with games, puzzles, and books for those children who might have a harder time paying attention throughout the whole service. Preschool and kindergarten-age children are able to attend Sunday School with Miss Alice and Miss Barbara every Sunday during the school year.

In the summer, all the elementary age students met in a large group for Summer Sunday School. This fun time includes games, stories, and crafts. We are thankful for all the adults and high school students who led this summer fun.

Confirmation

In May, four middle school students affirmed their faith (confirmation) and became full voting members of the congregation. Some of those youth went on to attend the high school summer trip to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston. In September we began a new program year, with about 25 middle school students and their guides Kristin DuVall, Tyler DuVall, Ellen McMullen, Malora Tweet, Matt Rempel, and Brian McClellan. Pastor Manuel and Pastor Sarah share the instruction for this weekly gathering. We are blessed and grateful to have these adults guiding our middle school students at this point in their faith journey.

Kids Club and Tutoring

Each Wednesday during Wednesday Intergenerational Night (WIN) we have an open tutoring session led by Nick Ferrante. Any student needing extra help with any school subject, but particularly math, is welcome to drop in between 3:30 and 5:00. “Kids Club” is for preschool and elementary students. They gather between 3:30 and 5 for crafts, games, and fun. Our childcare staff oversees this program, with supervision and support from Teri Potts.

Bible Study

Hope Circle meets the second Wednesday of every month at 9:30 am – This women’s Bible Study Group uses the Women of the ELCA Bible Study from the magazine Gather.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study meets at 9:30 am. Meri Jo Petrivelli leads the discussion for this lively group most weeks, with occasional guest facilitators Pastor Manuel and Pastor Sarah. In 2018 they studied a variety of Biblical books and topics. New people are always welcome to attend this study.

On Friday mornings you can find a faithful and seasoned group of men meeting for coffee, donuts, and conversation about faith and the state of the world. This group takes its time reading and discussing various books, and veers off on many side conversations on how to solve the world’s problems. They tried changing their day to Thursday mornings for awhile, so Pastor Manuel could continue to attend (his day off is now Friday), but it just didn’t work out so they have resumed their Friday morning habit. This close knit group also does many service projects around the church and community and sets an example for others who are looking to serve this congregation. Thanks, guys!

Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Vacation Bible School in July attracted more than 100 preschool and elementary age youth, as well as about 40 adult and high school leaders. The staff from LRCC (our Lutheran Outdoor Ministry) brought energy and enthusiasm each day, with songs, games, stories, and crafts. VBS is a long-standing tradition at St. Andrew’s and we are extremely fortunate to have the camp staff lead this week. Kristin DuVall and Ellen McMullen shared the role of VBS Director, with the office staff providing administrative support. It was a great week, and we look forward to 2019!

Preschool

Director Stephanie Alexander and teachers Teri Potts and Sandra Erickson serve about 32 community families in our preschool. These delightful 2-5 year olds are here anywhere from two to five days per week and thrive in our enrichment program designed to enhance their spiritual, cognitive, physical and social-emotional development. Our preschool staff works very hard to provide a safe and supportive environment with fun, educational, and developmentally appropriate curriculum. We are blessed to have them on our campus.

Outside our Congregation

In addition to our congregation educational opportunities and ministries, we partner with California Lutheran University (Cal Lutheran) and Agape House at SDSU in a variety of ways. We currently have two students from St. Andrew's attending Cal Lutheran, as well as many alumni. The school provides information to us each year during Cal Lutheran Sunday, and our youth group tours the campus each spring. Pastor Manuel is a Convocator, which means he serves as an ambassador, recruiter, and all around supporter of the university.

Pastor Sarah and Ryan Frisella are on the board for Agape House, and each year we hold a Chili Cook-off / Cookie Chill-off fundraiser here at St. Andrew's in anticipation of the Regional Chili Cook-Off / Cookie Chill-Off held for the ELCA and Episcopal congregations in San Diego.

Respectfully Submitted,

Damon Shaffer
Council Liaison for Education

Facilities by Jerry Selah

Many new and exciting things have taken place on the church campus over the last year.

Community Center:

- The roof mechanical units 1 & 2 have been repaired and are now operational.
- Roof leak in upstairs classroom is repaired with new ceiling tile which is also being replaced.
- Window operating mechanisms and exterior door adjustments are pending estimate from California Custom Builders.
- East classrooms reconfiguration making two rooms into one is pending estimate from California Custom Builders.
- Review of contract for various fire suppression systems from Cintas Co. noted and passed along to Pastor Manuel.

Sanctuary:

- Roof leak repair in sound booth room has begun. Work to commence in 2019.

Courtyard:

- Replacement of Directory board in display case with updated information.

North Parking Area:

- Metal yard drain cover repaired by Rancho Paving Co.

Council would like to thank everyone who generously donates their time and skills to help with the upkeep of our buildings and grounds. Without this generosity, our campus would not be the beautiful place it is.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jerry Selah

Financial Support by Ken Kozlik

In an effort to encourage stewardship and financial support of our ministries, St. Andrews tried a few new things in 2018. In the late Spring, an electronic giving drive was held with an aim of signing up 20 members to utilize regular electronic giving. Regular electronic giving is a way to provide consistent support to St. Andrews that can be relied upon for budgeting purposes and can help members meet their personal stewardship goals. The drive was well received, and we met our goal of signing up 20 members to electronic giving.

The theme of the fall 2018 Stewardship Campaign was “#Blessed” and centered around the passage from II Corinthians 9:8, “And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.” The “#Blessed” messaging was incorporated into sermons throughout the campaign and supported by daily devotionals. The daily devotions were written by members of the Council and members of the congregation, and described the unique ways we are all blessed in our own lives.

Through the generous support of our members, we are able to support not only the ministries here at St. Andrews, but also many other organizations through our benevolences. In addition to the General Fund offerings, we also continue to receive donations to the Building Fund. For much of the year income fell short of expenses, causing the Council to decide to stop making extra payments on the mortgage principal from Building Fund in order to keep a reserve of cash on hand for emergency purposes. We did see a number of generous year end gifts which improved the overall financial picture for 2018.

The Council would like to thank the members of St. Andrews for their continued generosity and support. Looking forward to 2019, we will continue to emphasize ways that financial contributions benefit our community and work towards expanding the use of electronic giving through the new St. Andrews app.

Ken Kozlik

Hospitality by Kristin Timmons

We had a wonderful year of fellowship in 2018 at St. Andrews. We had many great opportunities throughout the year to come together as a church community. We started in April with the Annual Chili Cook off/Cookie Chill off. This year our winners were Thomas Timmons for his Not my Mom's Chili; and the Sinford/Ruckle/Dobbins girls with their Special K cookies. Both teams competed in the Regional cook off for Agape house at St. Dunstan's where the girls took the Golden Spatula (in memory of Emma) for their cookies raising over \$2600 for Agape house. They also took home the Judges Favorite Award. Thomas did not place for the Golden Ladle; but did earn the Judges Favorite Award for his white chicken chili.

Our annual Church Picnic was held at the St Andrews Campus on Sunday June 3rd following the Annual Congregational meeting. We had a good turnout with many families represented. There were games and a Bounce House for the kids and lots of wonderful food to share.

The Pie Social was again well attended on Wednesday November 21th following the Thanksgiving Eve worship Service. Sandy Konar once again did a great job in hosting the event this year.

The Volunteer reception was held on Thursday December 6th. We had 2 separate times; 11am-1pm and 5pm-7pm. There was a vast array of tasty treats to share along with punch and coffee. The virtual "fire" was going and made the room warm and toasty. It was a great way to say thank you to all our wonderful volunteers for their dedicated service to St. Andrew's.

The Family Christmas Festival took place on Sunday December 9th. There were about 60 people in attendance. We had a good variety of appetizers and Christmas goodies. Scott and Nick provided some wonderful music along with the Joyful Noise Choir and our SALT group who joined the in singing. The SALT group read the Christmas story while the children dressed in costumes acted out the scenes. The night was closed with a rousing rendition of the 12 Days of Christmas and the singing of Silent Night.

Membership by Doug Thompson

Our Membership Team embodies St. Andrew's vision, which is "To Be Disciples, and Make Disciples." Our purpose is to strengthen the membership of the church, and provide loving care for its individuals.

In 2018 we continued our one time new member class format. These classes were led by our pastors and our part-time **Welcome Ministries** Coordinator, Sara Zimmerly. The new classes were a success, and St. Andrew's welcomed 27 new members in 2018! As Welcome Coordinator, Sara also greets visitors before church services, answers inquiries, and follows up with a welcome letter.

Our **Stephen Ministry** continues to thrive and grow—ready to support anyone who is facing life’s challenges. The Stephen Ministers’ mission is “To bring Christ’s love to people who are hurting.” In 2018, the Stephen Ministers began an outreach program to serve more members of the community. They began a regular column of interest in the Salt Shaker, and hosted three programs for the entire church: Dr. Steven and Pastor Jan Rippentrop taught “Moving from Burnout to Engagement;” Pastor Jan returned to teach a program about Hope; and there was an 8-week study on the book, Cancer, What Now? In addition, St. Andrew’s Stephen Minister Leaders met with area Stephen Ministry churches twice a year to share ideas, and all former Stephen Ministers were invited to join in the after-church prayer ministry.

We continue to write a regular column in The Salt Shaker and the *Pinch of Salt* with information regarding Stephen Ministry.

Our current Stephen Ministers for 2018 are: Carolyn Schnell (leader), Jo Shortreed (leader), Joanne Beets, Paul Chopin, Connie Lenk, Larry Sherry, and Joyloraine Wilson.

Christ Bearers, now led by Kim and Rob Stabley, take communion to members unable to attend church for extended periods. At present, we have six trained for this ministry, with two to be trained. Two of the six make regular visits with members. We hope to recruit more soon for 2018.

We continued to provide a robust **Prayer Ministry** for our members and their family and friends. Sara Hench and Pauline Hankel lead 9 teams of “prayer warriors”, who pray over concerns for a three month period, or longer upon request. Work in the prayer ministry blesses both those who receive the prayers and those who give them. In 2019 Pauline Hankel will pass this role on to Marilyn Duba, who will help Sara Hench continue in this very important ministry.

Help, Embrace, Love, Provide, Our H.E.L.P. Ministry, has been rebranded from **Emergency Action Teams**. They coordinate provisions for Memorial Service Receptions, Meals in homes, an **occasional** trip to drug/grocery store, or a ride to a doctor’s appointment. This Ministry has functioned for over nineteen years. Currently we have fifteen Teams, each with a Contact Person with 12 to 16 Members on a Team; these Teams provide food for these needs. We provide SET-UP and CLEAN-UP HOSTS; their tasks are numerous. In 2018 we provided for seven Memorial Service Receptions and meals for one family. Meri Jo Petrivelli serves as our Office Contact in keeping the Teams & Hosts lists current; of which I am very grateful! I am privileged and humbled as I serve as Manager of this H.E.L.P. Ministry. **Thank you** to everyone who participates to make this the success that it is. We should make note that St. Andrew’s provides this HELP to members **and** non-members of our Congregation. (Marilyn Tabor Duba)

Worship by Mimi Porter

Worship Liaison has the responsibility of providing support to, and recruiting leaders for various ministries involved with the worship services. While the worship service seems to run smoothly with everything in place, a large group of volunteers and support people make it all happen.

Long before the Saturday and Sunday services, a leader from each one sets up a schedule for the assisting ministers, acolytes, lectors, and ushers. The music director works with each group to be ready to provide music for each service. He also makes sure the sound system is working and appropriate. The Sanctuary Art committee selects appropriate decorations for the liturgical year. Their work is especially taxing during the Christmas and Easter seasons with special flowers and art displays.

At the start of each service ushers make sure the bulletins are in place. They greet each parishioner with a hymnal and bulletin. They then make a count so they can be prepared to lead people forward for communion. The day before, the Altar Guild makes sure that the host for the communion service is set up and ready.

The church provides four weekend services in which the congregation gathers to hear God's word and receive Holy Communion. The services range from traditional to contemporary to accommodate various styles and taste but all provide the same gift of God's word.

The congregation also gathers for special services for the liturgical year--Advent, Lent, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, Christmas Eve, and Christmas.

Each service requires a host of individual and group efforts to run smoothly. These include leaders for the following tasks:

Altar Guild	Sanctuary Art
Assisting Ministers	Communion Assistants
Music Groups	Special Music
Lectors	Acolytes
Ushers	Sound System
Drama	Flowers

Our thanks to all who have served to keep these positions running smoothly so that we may experience the Word of God with reverence and beauty.

Our children participate in worship through the **Spirit Movers**, our dance group, and **Joyful Noise**, our children's choir. Our thanks to the children, their leaders, and their parents.

Our **music director**, Scott Skinner, led and coordinated musical offerings from the Chancel Choir, Folk/Gospel Group, Celebrate Singers, Taize' Singers, Peacemakers, and Second Saturday music. He also arranges for special music including soloists and small group offerings providing a wide range of music genre.

The **Altar Guild** prepares and oversees the gifts of bread, wine, and juice for the sacrament of Holy Communion at each of the four regular services as well special services. They are a team of many volunteers who faithfully provide this gift.

The **Sanctuary Art Committee** are tasked with creating and providing a wide assortment of banners to celebrate the seasons of the liturgical year. They also are responsible for special decoration for our worship spaces for Christmas and Easter.

Preparing the community center for worship requires a daunting task of chair arranging and moving. The **Chair Setup crews** have faithfully provided this service so that we may worship in both sanctuary and community center.

In the background are our faithful **bulletin stuffers**.

All these coordinators, volunteers, and many not listed above come together in service to God and St. Andrews to ensure that the worship experience is welcoming, seamless, and reverent. We are blessed to have such a supportive and giving congregation who work together to provide God's work with their hands.

Finally, thanks to all who worship, raise their voices to sing, bow their heads in prayer, and seek God's presence and guidance through the worship offerings provided at St. Andrew's Church. We are richly blessed and much to be thankful for.

Yours in Christ,

Mimi Porter

Youth Liaison by Ryan Frisella

The congregational support given to our youth programs starts our children off on their faith journey and guides them on the path to discipleship. Our youth have the opportunity to grow in faith and friendship because of the constant love and support shown to our youth ministries by this congregation.

In 2018, St. Andrew's supported the following youth programs:

Elementary School:

Joyful Noise Children's Choir, Spirit Movers dance and Wednesday School activities are available for children through the 5th grade. Carmen Berry, Mona Nesheim, Pastor Sarah Sumner-Eisenbraun, Teri Potts and our nursery staff give their time to make these ministries possible. In addition to these weekly activities, elementary school camp at Luther Glen Camp and Farm was offered.

Middle School:

Confirmation instruction for 6th to 8th graders takes place on Wednesday nights. Pastor Manuel Retamoza and Pastor Sarah Sumner-Eisenbraun, along with the Confirmation Guides, lead our middle school youth through three years of preparation for their affirmation of baptism.

Confirmation Guides in 2018 were Malora Tweet, Ellen McMullen, Jessica Sanks, Kristin DuVall, Tyler DuVall, Matt Rempel, and Brian McClellan. On May 20, 2018, 4 youth affirmed their baptism and were confirmed. They were Katelyn Bona, Emily Sedlund, Jack Peterson, and Gavin Potts. Middle School youth also attended the Middle School Gathering in Anaheim.

High School:

SALT (St. Andrew's Lutheran Teens) meets Sunday nights for fellowship, Bible study and games. Adult sponsors in 2018 were Pastor Manuel Retamoza, Pastor Sarah Sumner-Eisenbraun, Nick Ferrante, Lori Herman, Tyler DuVall, Cindy Page and Saige Walding. The time the high school youth spend together is relational, educational, supportive and fun. 2018's summer trip was to the National Youth Gathering in Houston and then to the San Antonio area. The other summer trip was to Rancho El Milagro, or Miracle Ranch, in Tecate, MX – a week of service and playing with the children.

Fundraising and Congregational Support:

The high school youth are actively involved in fundraising for their adventures together. The congregation's support of the coffee cart, bake sales and formal dinner, in addition to the support given through the annual budget, are a true blessing and a sign that our mission statement applies to every age.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve our congregation on council as Youth Liaison.

Ryan Frisella