

But when the kindness and love of God appeared,

He saved us,

not because of righteous things we had done, but

because of His mercy.

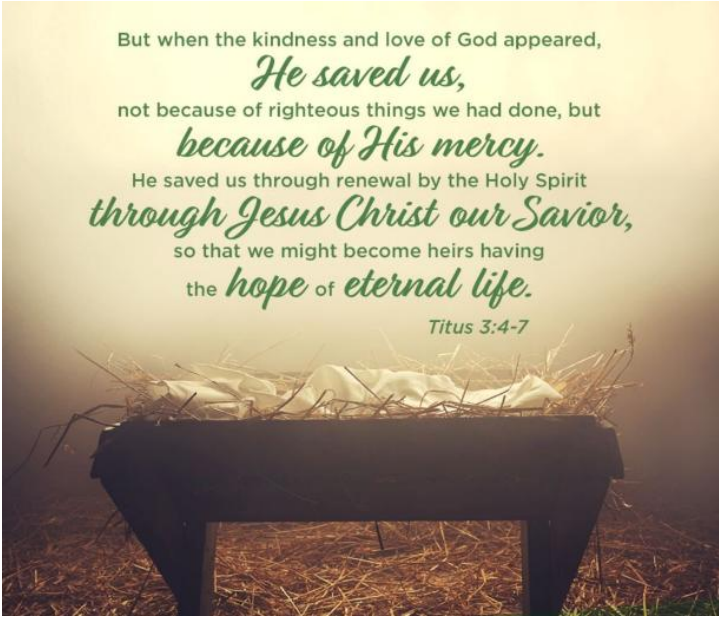
He saved us through renewal by the Holy Spirit

through Jesus Christ our Savior,

so that we might become heirs having

the *hope* of *eternal life.*

Titus 3:4-7



**The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2024**

**SERVICE THEME:
God's Christmas Gifts**



The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Eve December 24, 2024 – St. Andrew Lutheran Church

SERVICE THEME: God's Christmas Gifts

WELCOME — We are so glad that you have joined us for this worship service! Please let us know if there is any way we can be of service to you at this time.

OUR MISSION — The mission of St. Andrew Lutheran Church is to guide people to know Jesus as their Savior, to grow in their faith, and to show Jesus to others.

OUR BELIEF — We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and the only source of all Christian doctrine and teaching. We believe that the only true God is the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We believe that we are saved not by anything we do, but only through faith in Jesus Christ, who gave his life for our sins. We will be happy to tell you more about what we believe!

OUR HISTORY — St. Andrew Lutheran Church was established in 1888 and is a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), a confessional Lutheran church body with over 1,200 congregations in North America and with more than 30 sister church bodies worldwide.

Church Office: 3650 S. Honore St., Chicago, IL 60609 (next door to church)

Website: www.standrewchicago.org **Office Phone:** 773-376-5370

Office Email: churchsecretary@standrewchicago.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/standrewchicago/

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INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

When a father puts gifts under the Christmas tree, it is not to compensate his children for doing their chores. That would make whatever is inside that wrapping paper a wage, not a gift. A gift is given voluntarily, simply so the giver can show favor to the one receiving the gift, without any expectation of repayment. In the season of Christmas, we receive the gift of God. That does not simply mean we receive the gifts God gives. When we look into the manger, we see that God himself is the gift. In the

person of Jesus, God gave us himself. And because God became true man and did everything necessary for our salvation, he is able to give us so many other Christmas gifts: forgiveness, hope, peace, a place in his family, eternal life in paradise. "That is too much!" you object. "I don't deserve any of it!" True enough. However, none of these things are wages. We could not and need not earn them, because they are gifts, given by our gracious God to show us his favor.

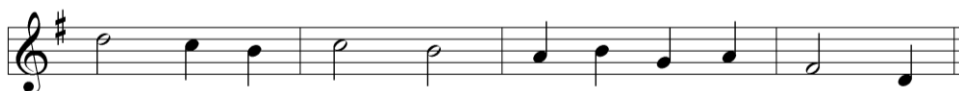
55 Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 Oh, come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, Oh,
 2 God from true God, and Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, oh, come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Born of a vir - gin, to earth he comes,
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold him, Born the King of an - gels.
 On - ly be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther.
 Glo - ry to God, all Glo - ry in the high - est.
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

Refrain



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Oh, come, let us a - dore him,



Oh, come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP 召唤

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

M: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

C: The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

M: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

C: We have seen the glory of the Christ, the glory of the only Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

M: To us a child is born. To us a Son is given.

C: In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

M: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR – *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* – 儿童合唱团

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not," then said the angel, "Let nothing you affright;
This day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
To free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Please stand 请起立

CONFESSION OF SINS and ABSOLUTION 认罪及赦罪

M: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

M: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

M: Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and, for his sake, forgives you all your sins. As a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

We join to sing Angels We Have Heard on High – CW93 #63, printed on the following page. 我们一起唱圣诗，在下一页。

Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the



o'er the plains, And the moun - tains in re -
 strains pro - long? What the glad - some ti - dings
 an - gels sing; Come, a - dore on bend - ed



ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glo -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Text: *Nouveau recueil de cantiques*, 1855; tr. *The Crown of Jesus*, Part 2, London, 1862, alt.
 Tune: GLORIA (77 77 with Refrain) *Nouveau recueil de cantiques*, 1855.

Be seated 请坐

FIRST READING – Isaiah 9:2-7 (EHV) – 以赛亚书 9:2-7

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.
For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has
dawned.

³You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.
They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.

⁴For you have shattered the yoke that burdened them.
You have broken the bar on their shoulders and
the rod of their oppressor,
as you did in the day of Midian.

⁵Every boot that marched in battle
and the garments rolled in blood will be burned.
They will be fuel for the fire.

⁶For to us a child is born.
To us a son is given.
The authority to rule will rest on his shoulders.

He will be named:
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.

⁷There will be no limit to his authority
and no end to the peace he brings.
He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
from now on, into eternity.

The zeal of the LORD of Armies will accomplish this.

HYMN – *Joy to the World* – CW93 #62 – printed on the following page –
圣诗 — 在下一页



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow Nor
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And



earth re - ceive her King; Let ev - 'ry
 all their songs em - ploy, While fields and
 thorns in - fest the ground; He comes to
 makes the na - tions prove The glo - ries



heart pre - pare him room And heav'n and
 floods, rocks, hills, and plains Re - peat the
 make his bless - ings flow Far as the
 of his right - eous - ness And won - ders



na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 curse is found, Far as the curse is found, Far
 of his love, And won - ders of his love, And



heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 as, far as the curse is found.
 won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Tune: ANTIOCH (CM with Repeat) George F. Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.

GOSPEL READING and SONGS 福音经文和诗歌

Luke 2:1-7 (EHV) – 路加福音 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³And everyone went to register, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the town of Nazareth, into Judea, to the town of David, which is called Bethlehem,

because he was from the house and family line of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, his wife,^a who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child.

⁶And so it was that while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR – *Away in a Manger* (CW93 #68) – 儿童合唱团

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And take us to heaven – to live with you there.

Luke 2:8-14 (EHV) – 路加福音 2:8-14

⁸There were in the same country shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock at night. ⁹An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified! ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. For behold, I bring you good news of great joy, which will be for all people: ¹¹Today in the town of David, a Savior was born for you. He is Christ^b the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³Suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude from the heavenly army, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward mankind.”^c

^a Some witnesses to the text omit *his wife*.

^b *Christ* is the Greek word for *Anointed One*. The Hebrew/Aramaic word is *Messiah*.

^c A few witnesses to the text read *among people of his goodwill*.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR – The First Noel – 儿童合唱团

“Noel” is a French word referring to the birth of Jesus, or a song or announcement about Jesus’ birth. In this song, it refers to the announcement by the angels to the shepherds about the birth of the Savior, Jesus.

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Luke 2:15-20 (EHV) – 路加福音 2:15-20

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Now let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they had seen him, they told others the message they had been told about this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it were amazed by what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

**HYMN – What Child Is This – CW93 #67 – printed on the following page
– the children’s choir will sing stanza 1; the congregation is
invited to sing stanzas 2-3 – 会众唱第二和三节**



1 What child is this who, laid to rest,
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh;

On Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
Where ox - en now are feed - ing?
Come, peas - ant, king, to own him.

Whom an - gels greet With an - thems sweet
Good Chris - tians, fear; For sin - ners here
The King of kings Sal - va - tion brings;

While shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
The si - lent Word is plead - ing.
Let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, Whom
Nails, this spear shall pierce him, through;
The Raise, raise the song on high; The

shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.
cross he'll bear for me, for you.
vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

Haste, haste to bring him laud,
Hail, hail to the Word made flesh,
Joy, joy, for Christ is born,

The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
The babe, the Son of Mar - y!
The babe, the Son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.
Tune: GREENSLEEVES (87 87 68 67) English ballad, 16th century.

SERMON – Titus 3:4-7 – God’s Christmas Gifts – 讲道：基于 提多书 3:4-7

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, ⁵he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified^b by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

APOSTLES’ CREED 使徒信经

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN – *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* – CW93 #61 – printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页

^b Or *declared not guilty*

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
 3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
 last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,
 Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
 Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
 Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
 God - head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
 glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

Refrain

born in Beth - le - hem!"
 our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald
 give us sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

OFFERING 奉献

Members of St. Andrew Lutheran Church use this time to respond to God's goodness with gifts of thanks and love. Our giving is guided by God's Word: "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the firstfruits from your entire harvest" (Proverbs 3:9); "Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver. God is able to make all grace overflow to you, so that in all things, at all times, having all that you need, you will overflow in every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:7-8, EHV).

Feel free also to make use of online giving options: 1) via our website: go to <http://standrewchicago.org/>, then click on the "Giving" tab; or just click on [this link](#); or scan this QR code with your mobile device; or 2) via the Vanco Mobile app: use our invite code: GEVWA7, or search for our church name and address (links to the app & more info on p. 21).



SOLO – O Holy Night – 独唱

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appears and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees; O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,
In all our trials born to be our friend.
Fall on your knees; O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH 教会公祷

M: O gracious and almighty Father, we praise you that you kept your ancient promises by sending your everlasting Son in human flesh.

C: On this holy night, receive our thanks and devotion, our songs and prayers.

M: You sent Jesus as a lowly child to demonstrate your concern for all, the weak and lonely, the troubled and frightened, the timid and helpless. No one is overlooked by your ever-seeking eyes. No one is excluded from your upholding arms. No one is denied the comfort and help of your outstretched hand.

C: Bless us with a childlike faith in the divine assurance that you love and care for us always.

M: You sent Jesus as the Savior of the world to deliver all from the curse of sin, the power of death, and the torment of hell. He took our place. He was born under the law to set us free. He became the innocent lamb of sacrifice. He came to die and rise again in order that we might live eternally. Firmly implant this good news in our hearts, and fill us with an eager desire to spread the Word concerning what we have heard tonight.

C: May all who hear the message, in every nation under heaven, be amazed and believe what is told them about the child.

M: You sent Jesus as the Light of the world to drive out all darkness that would rob us of the full life that you intend for us. May the “joy that will be for all people” be our joy. May the “peace on earth to all on whom his favor rests” be our peace. May the treasure that Mary pondered in her heart be our treasure.

C: For today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to us. He is Christ, the Lord. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER 主祷文

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

LIGHTING THE CANDLES 点燃蜡烛

*The pastor will light his candle from the Christ candle. The ushers will light their candles from the pastor's. The ushers will then light the candle of the worshipper at the end of each pew. Please light your candle from the person next to you, keeping the **lit candles upright** and only tipping the unlit candles, to avoid dripping wax. After blowing out your candle at the end of the service, please keep it upright for a minute, to let the wax dry.*

PRAYER 祷告

M: Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true light. Grant that as we have known on earth the wonder of that light, we may also behold him in all glory in the life to come; through your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING 祝福

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN – *Silent Night! Holy Night* – CW93 #60 – **Note:** the children's choir and director will sing stanza 1 in German *a cappella*; others who are able may sing along in German; then the congregation will sing stanzas 1-3 in English (see next page) – 圣诗：第一诗节儿童合唱团和能唱德文的人一起用德文唱；然后会众齐唱英文的第一到三诗节；参见下一页

Children's choir sings in German, with others joining as able:

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
 Alles schläft; einsam wacht
 Nur das heilige Eltern Paar,
 Das im Stalle zu Bethlehem war,
 Bei dem himmlischen Kind,
 Bei dem himmlischen Kind.

All sing in English:

1 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is
 2 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds
 3 Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of

calm, all is bright, Round yon vir - gin
 quake at the sight. Glo - ries stream from
 God, love's pure light Ra - diant beams from

moth - er and child. Ho - ly In - fant, so
 heav - en a - far; Heav'n - ly hosts sing,
 thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re -

ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is
 deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace, born! Sleep in heav - en - ly peace,
 born! birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Text: Franz Joseph Mohr, 1792–1848, abr.; tr. John F. Young, 1820–85.
 Tune: STILLE NACHT (Irregular) Franz X. Gruber, 1787–1863, alt.

ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY THIS WEEK
December 24-29, 2024

Today	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Service
Tomorrow	9:30 AM	Christmas Day Worship Service
Sunday (12/29)	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	11:00 AM	Sunday School for children
	11:00 AM	Ministry Council meeting

The paraments are white for the Christmas season. White is the color of purity and completeness. This color assists in bearing the message that "though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow" (Isaiah 1:18). Christ's purity before his Father becomes our purity. White reinforces that message of joy.

WELCOME, GUESTS! – We are glad to have you worship with us today! Please sign the guest book in the center church entryway so that we have a record of your visit. Our pastor, Adam Gawel, would be happy to speak with you if you would like; please contact him (see page 2 for contact information). Please join us for worship or Bible study again!

MEMORIALS – Please pick up a copy of the poinsettia memorials and thank-offerings folder on the podium in the center entryway. Thanks to all who donated to beautify our church for our Christmas celebrations!

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please join us tomorrow for Christmas Day worship at 9:30am. This coming Sunday (Dec. 29) at 9:30am, we will continue our Christmas celebration and ask for God's blessing as we close out the current year and look forward to the new year. (Note: the ministry council has decided not to hold a separate New Year's Eve service next week on Dec. 31, so we will incorporate the year-end emphasis in our regular Sunday worship service on Dec. 29 at 9:30am.) Please join us for these worship services, and invite your family and friends to join us too! All are welcome!

OFFERING ENVELOPES & STATEMENTS

If you made use of offering envelopes in 2024, there is a box of envelopes with your name on it for 2025 on the Bible study table in the back of the worship space (unless you picked it up already). If you would like to begin making use of offering envelopes in 2025, we have extras and can assign a box to you. Online giving is also available (see note on that below). ... And, if you made use of offering envelopes or online giving in 2024 and would like a statement of your offerings for tax deduction purposes, please sign up on the sheet on the podium in the center entryway.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: “Apologetics: Defending the Faith” – Sundays after worship

Apologetics: Defending the Faith is a six-lesson Bible study to help us thoughtfully and lovingly engage in conversation with people who are skeptical of the Christian faith. We do this using God’s gift of reason, rooted in gentleness and respect, all with the goal of love toward our neighbor. Each lesson includes video segments by Wisconsin Lutheran College professor Rev. Dr. Michael Berg, a study guide, and time for discussion. All are welcome! (If you missed a lesson or would like to rewatch one of the videos, you can find them here:

<https://welscongregationalservices.net/apologetics-defending-the-faith/>

SUNDAY SCHOOL – 11:00 / after worship

Sunday school is held after the worship service, either in the church basement or in the ministry center (next-door to church). Sunday school is open to children from age 3 through 8th grade. (High-schoolers are welcome to join adult Bible study in church during the same time.) All are welcome!

“TABOO QUESTIONS” PODCAST/VIDEOS WITH PASTOR MIKE NOVOTNY

Have you ever had questions you wanted to ask a pastor but felt silly or embarrassed to ask them? Questions about “taboo” topics (that is, topics that feel “off-limits”), like: sex, politics, porn, IVF, and mental illness? Well, there's a podcast for that! Hear how Pastor Mike Novotny from Time of Grace answers some real questions from people just like you, giving thoughtful, Bible-based answers that point people back to Jesus. New episodes published every week! Find even more questions and links to Apple and Spotify podcasts and YouTube videos at www.timeofgrace.org/tabooquestions . You can also order Pastor

Mike's book, *Taboo: Topics Christians Should Be Talking About but Don't*, at <https://www.tabobook.org/> . Pastor Gawel is also available for confidential, Bible-based conversation and prayer at any time, about these or any other matters.

“made. known.” WELS WEBSITE ON IDENTITY, GENDER, & SEXUALITY

Identity and human sexuality have become key spiritual concerns with numerous cultural pivots over time. Many people have questions about sexuality and gender in connection with their faith. This new WELS website, <https://madeknown.net/> , exists to walk with you in faith through identity, gender, and sexuality, so that together we can all see how wide and high and deep is the love of Christ (Ephesians 3:18). Formed at the request of the Conference of Presidents of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), *made. known.* is an effort of the WELS Committee on Identity, Gender, and Sexuality. The committee is made up of pastors, counselors, teachers, and other members of the WELS. Pastor Gawel is also available for confidential, Bible-based conversation and prayer at any time, about these or any other matters.

PASTORAL COUNSELING; PRIVATE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor Gawel is available for confidential pastoral counseling and for private confession and absolution. Please feel free to make an appointment to see him. (You may call or text Pastor Gawel on his cell phone: 773-217-8132.)

YOUTH CONFIRMATION CLASS – Mondays 6:30pm; other time possible

Youth confirmation class is open to youth in grades 5 through 8, and to high-schoolers who have not yet been confirmed. If you have a potential student in mind, please speak with Pastor Gawel. All are welcome! The class is currently held on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00, but we can adjust the class day or time or add a second class-time if needed, to accommodate the schedules of everyone who is interested.

BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS

This class is open to anyone who is interested in learning more – or who would like a review – about what the Bible teaches and what Lutheran Christians believe. At the conclusion of the class, those who are in agreement in faith are invited to join our church, though this is not a requirement for taking the class. Pastor Gawel is able to teach the class in English and Mandarin Chinese, and we have class materials in Spanish

available as well. If you or someone you know are interested in starting Bible information class, please contact Pastor Gawel.

SATURDAY EVENING CHINESE MINISTRY 周六晚上7:45中文圣经学习
On Saturday evenings at 7:45pm in our ministry center (the house next-door to church), we have Chinese ministry, which includes elements of a worship service, Bible study, and prayer, all in Mandarin Chinese. New friends are always welcome to join! Please invite any Chinese friends or neighbors. You may share with them the following invitation. (Note that there will be no Chinese ministry this Saturday [Dec. 28].)

每周六晚上 7:45, 圣安得烈基督教路德宗教会成人中文圣经学习。欢迎您参加! 我们在教会的事工中心(教堂旁边的房子)现场聚会; 地址是 3650 S. Honore St., Chicago。如果你想了解更多, 请联系高乐仁牧师: 手机: 773-217-8132。欢迎!(注意: 这周六(28日)没有中文圣经学习。下周六(1月4日)继续。)

WELS Family Devotions

Get your family into God's Word during the week! WELS has developed short devotions for the entire family to use. Each devotion comes complete with a set of questions for different age groups, a prayer, and hymn verses that can be sung or spoken. Downloadable printable versions are also available. Find the family devotions at

www.wels.net/family-devotions

Sign up today for Marriage Moments

Every marriage has its "moments." That's why marriages need moments of encouragement and refreshment. *Marriage Moments* are short, weekly videos highlighting one biblical marriage thought accompanied by a discussion question. Watch a video introduction and subscribe to receive the videos directly to your e-mail at

www.welscongregationalervices.net/marriagemoments

ONLINE GIVING INFORMATION

There are a number of ways to give to St. Andrew online: 1) via our website: go to <http://standrewchicago.org/>, then click on the "Giving" tab; or just click on [this link](#); or scan this QR code with your mobile device; or 2) via the Vanco Mobile app: use our church's invite code: GEVWA7, or search for our church name and address. You can download the Vanco Mobile app from



the [Apple App Store](#) for iOS devices or the [Google Play Store](#) for Android devices. Please contact St. Andrew's elder for stewardship, Sam DeLaurentis delarentis.sam@gmail.com with any questions.

Accompanist: Liz Fonseca

Soloist & children's choir director: Mike Starr, Jr.

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God bless you this week as you share the peace and joy of our Savior's birth with others!