

**The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day
December 25, 2024**

**SERVICE THEME:
Christmas, as a Little Child**



The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day December 25, 2024 – St. Andrew Lutheran Church

SERVICE THEME: Christmas, as a Little Child

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.

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INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S SERVICE

A light shines in the darkness, bursting forth into our hearts and lives as the Word is made flesh. The glory of the Lord marks the fulfillment of promise as the Light of the world is born into the world. We who have been purified and brought into the Light reflect that light in our present age. We proclaim what we have seen and heard: "A Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

34

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to
 3 Now through his Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di -
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly



voice; He from whom joy stream - eth Poor
 thee. Cheer my wea - ried spir - it, O
 vine. Death o'er us had reign - ed Through
 ground? Where the an - gels sing - ing With



in a man - ger lies; Not so bright - ly
 pure and ho - ly Child; Through thy grace and
 sin and van - i - ty; He for us ob -
 all his saints u - nite, Sweet - est prais - es



beam - eth The sun in yon - der skies.
 mer - it, Blest Je - sus, Lord most mild,
 tain - ed E - ter - nal joy on high.
 bring - ing In heav'n - ly joy and light.



Thou my Sav - ior art! Thou my Sav - ior art!
 Draw me un - to thee! Draw me un - to thee!
 May we praise him there! May we praise him there!
 Oh, that we were there! Oh, that we were there!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806-74, alt.

Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO (66 66 66 55) German melody, 14th century, alt.

Stand

DIALOGUE OF PRAISE, CONFESSION OF SINS, AND ABSOLUTION

M: Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord, let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

C: O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth. You have set your glory above the heavens.

M: Give thanks to the Lord of lords, to him who alone does great wonders, who by his understanding made the heavens, who spread out the earth upon the waters, who made the great lights – the sun, to govern the day, the moon and stars to govern the night.

C: Great is the Lord and mighty in power; his understanding has no limit.

M: But our iniquities have separated us from our God; our sins have hidden his face from us, so that he will not hear. We look for light, but all is darkness; for brightness, but we walk in deep shadows. We look for deliverance, but it is far away.

C: For our offenses are many in his sight, and our sins testify against us. Our offenses are ever with us, and we acknowledge our sins.

M: The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

C: From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

M: “The days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord our Righteousness.”

C: Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

M: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

C: Let the name of the Lord be praised forever and ever. Alleluia!

80 Angels from the Realms of Glory



1 An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 3 Ma - gi, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; Brigh - ter vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in



all the earth; Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry;
 flocks by night, God with us is now re - sid - ing—
 beam a - far. Seek the great de - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 Yon - der shines the in - fant light. Come and wor - ship,
 You have seen the Sav - ior's star.
 In his tem - ple shall ap - pear.



come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, abr., alt.
 Tune: REGENT SQUARE (87 87 87) Henry T. Smart, 1813–79.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that the birth of your only Son in the flesh may set us free from our old bondage under the yoke of sin; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING – Isaiah 52:7-10 (EHV)

⁷How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of a herald,
who proclaims peace and preaches good news,
who proclaims salvation,
who says to Zion, “Your God is king!”

⁸The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voices.
Together they shout for joy,
because with both eyes they will see it
when the LORD returns to Zion.

⁹Break out, shout for joy together, you ruins of Jerusalem,
because the LORD is comforting his people.
He is redeeming Jerusalem.

¹⁰The LORD lays bare^a his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations,
and all the ends of the earth will see the salvation from our God.

PSALM OF THE DAY – Psalm 98 – CWS p. 53 (text NIV)

Refrain

The Word be - came flesh and lived a - mong us.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Psalm Tone

Refrain

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

The LORD has made his salvation known
and revealed his righteousness to the nations.

^a Or *flexes*

He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Refrain

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music;

make music to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the sound of singing.

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Refrain

SECOND READING – Hebrews 1:1-9 (EHV)

In the past, God spoke to our forefathers by the prophets at many times and in many ways. ²In these last days, he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. ³The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact imprint of the divine nature. He sustains all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, ^a he took his seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high.

⁴The Son became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. ⁵For to which of the angels did God ever say:

You are my Son. Today I have begotten you?^b

And again:

I will be his Father, and he will be my Son.^c

^a Some witnesses to the text add *by himself*. (“Witnesses to the text” mentioned in footnotes may include Greek manuscripts, lectionaries, translations, and quotations in the church fathers.)

^b Psalm 2:7

^c 2 Samuel 7:14; 1 Chronicles 17:13

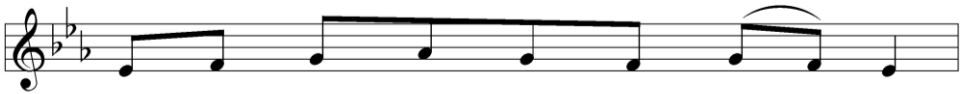
⁶And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:
Let all God's angels worship him.^d

⁷About the angels he says:
He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.^e

⁸But about the Son he says:
God, your throne is forever and ever,
and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.
Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy
beyond your companions.^f

35 Of the Father's Love Begotten



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten
2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed
3 This is he whom heav'n - taught sing - ers
4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him,
5 Christ, to you, with God the Fa - ther,



Ere the worlds be - gan to be, He is
When the vir - gin, full of grace, By the
Sang of old with one ac - cord; Whom the
An - gel hosts his prais - es sing, Pow'rs, do -
And the Spir - it cease - less - ly Hymn and



Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the
Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, Bore the Sav - ior
Scrip - tures of the proph - ets Prom - ised in their
min - ions bow be - fore him And ex - tol our
chant and high thanks - giv - ing And un - end - ing

^d Deuteronomy 32:43 (Dead Sea Scrolls and Septuagint); Psalm 97:7

^e Psalm 104:4

^f Psalm 45:6-7

end - ing he, Of the things that are, that
of our race, And the babe, the world's Re -
faith - ful word. Now he shines, the long - ex -
God and King. Let no tongue on earth be -
prais - es be, Hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, And that fu - ture years shall
deem - er, First re - vealed his sa - cred
pect - ed; Let cre - a - tion praise its
si - lent, Ev - 'ry voice in con - cert
min - ion And e - ter - nal vic - to -

see Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
face Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
Lord Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ring Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ry Ev - er - more and ev - er - more.

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–c. 413, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, st. 1-4, alt.; Henry W. Baker, 1821–77, st. 5, alt.
Tune: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM (87 87 877) Plainsong melody, 13th century.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. When the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. Alleluia. (*Galatians 4:4-5*)

C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL – Luke 2:1-20 (EHV)

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.

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

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.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY – *Once Again My Heart Rejoices* – CW93 #37 –
printed on the following page

^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*.



1 Once a - gain my heart re - joic - es As I hear
 2 Hear! The con - quer - or has spo - ken: "Now the foe,
 3 Should we still fear God's dis - pleas - ure, Who, to save,
 4 God be - comes the vic - tim, tak - ing Man - kind's place
 5 Soft - ly from his low - ly man - ger Je - sus calls



Far and near Sweet - est an - gel voic - es.
 Sin and woe, Death and hell are bro - ken!"
 Free - ly gave His most pre - cious treas - ure?
 By his grace, Full a - tone - ment mak - ing.
 One and all, "You are safe from dan - ger.



"Christ is born!" their choirs are sing - ing Till the air
 God is man, man to de - liv - er, And the Son
 To re - deem us he has giv - en His own Son
 For our life his own he ten - ders, And his grace
 Chil - dren, from the sins that grieve you You are freed;



Ev - 'ry - where Now with joy is ring - ing.
 Now is one With our blood for - ev - er.
 From the throne Of his might in heav - en.
 All our race Fit for glo - ry ren - ders.
 All you need I will sure - ly give you."

6 Come, then, banish all your sadness!
 One and all,
 Great and small,
 Come with songs of gladness;
 We shall live with him forever
 There on high
 In that joy
 Which will vanish never.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr. adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: FRÖHLICH SOLL MEIN HERZE SPRINGEN (8 33 6 D) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

SERMON – Luke 2:1-20 – Christmas, as a Little Child

53 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night



1 To shep - herds as they watched by night Ap - peared
2 "At Beth - le - hem, in Da - vid's town, As Mi -
3 Oh, then re - joice that through his Son God is -
4 What harm can sin and death then do? The true
5 Not one he will or can for - sake; His cov -



a host of an - gels bright; "Be - hold the ten - der
cah did of old make known. It is the Christ, your
with sin - ners now at one; Made like your - selves of
God now a - bides with you. Let hell and Sa - tan
'nant he will nev - er break. Let ev - 'ry scheme the



babe," they said, "In yon - der low - ly man - ger laid,
Lord and King, Who will to all sal - va - tion bring."
flesh and blood, Your broth - er is th' e - ter - nal God.
storm and rave, Christ is your broth - er— you are safe.
tempt - er try, You may his ut - most pow'rs de - fy.

6 You shall and must at last prevail.
God's own you are; you cannot fail.
To God forever sing your praise
With joy and patience all your days.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt.
Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR (LM) Latin melody, 15th century, adapt.

ATHANASIAN CREED – CW93 p. 132-133

The Athanasian Creed is one of the three ecumenical or universal creeds of the Christian Church (together with the Apostles' and Nicene Creeds). It emphasizes the biblical truths that God is triune – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one God – and that Jesus is fully God and fully man. The statements at the beginning and end should not be understood to mean that only with a perfect understanding of all the intricacies of the Trinity and of the two natures in Christ can we be saved, because these truths are impossible for our limited human minds to fully comprehend. Rather, if someone is aware of what the Bible says about these truths but rejects them, they are rejecting the only true God and the only Savior,

Jesus, and, therefore, cannot be saved. Also note that although, near the end, it seems that our good works are the basis on which we go to heaven or hell, actually, from all that we see in the Bible, it is faith in Jesus as Savior that is the basis for going to heaven or hell, and our good works simply serve as evidence of the presence or absence of faith in Jesus (cf. Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:18).

Whoever wishes to be saved must, above all else, hold to the true Christian faith. Whoever does not keep this faith pure in all points will certainly perish forever.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

We worship one God in three persons and three persons in one God, without mixing the persons or dividing the divine being.

For each person—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—is distinct, but the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, equal in glory and coeternal in majesty.

What the Father is, so is the Son, and so is the Holy Spirit.

The Father is uncreated, the Son uncreated, the Holy Spirit uncreated; the Father is infinite, the Son infinite, the Holy Spirit infinite; the Father is eternal, the Son eternal, the Holy Spirit eternal; yet they are not three who are eternal, but there is one who is eternal, just as they are not three who are uncreated, nor three who are infinite, but there is one who is uncreated and one who is infinite.

In the same way the Father is almighty, the Son is almighty, the Holy Spirit is almighty;

yet they are not three who are almighty, but there is one who is almighty.

So the Father is God, the Son is God, the Holy Spirit is God; yet they are not three Gods, but one God.

So the Father is Lord, the Son is Lord, the Holy Spirit is Lord; yet they are not three Lords, but one Lord.

For just as Christian truth compels us to confess each person individually to be God and Lord, so the true Christian faith forbids us to speak of three Gods or three Lords.

The Father is neither made nor created nor begotten of anyone.

The Son is neither made nor created, but is begotten of the Father alone.

The Holy Spirit is neither made nor created nor begotten, but proceeds from the Father and the Son.

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons;

one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And within this Trinity none comes before or after; none is greater or inferior, but all three persons are coequal and coeternal, so that in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be worshiped as one God and one God worshiped as three persons.

Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity.

It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

We believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, God's Son, is both God and man.

He is God, eternally begotten from the nature of the Father, and he is man, born in time from the nature of his mother, fully God, fully man, with rational soul and human flesh, equal to the Father as to his deity, less than the Father as to his humanity;

and though he is both God and man, Christ is not two persons but one, one, not by changing the deity into flesh, but by taking the humanity into God;

one, indeed, not by mixture of the natures, but by unity in one person; for just as the rational soul and flesh are one human being, so God and man are one Christ.

He suffered for our salvation, descended into hell, rose the third day from the dead.

He ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, and from there will come to judge the living and the dead.

At his coming all people will rise with their own bodies to answer for their personal deeds.

Those who have done good will enter eternal life, but those who have done evil will go into eternal fire.

This is the true Christian faith. Whoever does not faithfully and firmly believe this cannot be saved.

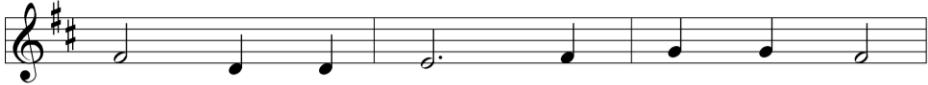
OFFERING

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. 22).



HYMN – O Jesus Christ, Your Manger Is – CW93 #40



1 O Je - sus Christ, Your man - ger is
 2 He whom the sea And wind o - bey
 3 Dear Chris - tian friend, On him de - pend;
 4 Pon - der a - gain What glo - ry then
 5 The world may hold Her wealth and gold;



My par - a - dise where my soul is re -
 Comes down to serve the sin - ner in great
 Be of good cheer and let no sor - row
 The Lord will give you for your earth - ly
 But you, my heart, keep Christ as your true



clin - ing. For there, O Lord, We find the Word
 meek - ness. Now God's own Son With us is one
 move you. For God's own child In mer - cy mild
 sad - ness. The an - gel host Can nev - er boast
 treas - ure. To him hold fast Un - til at last



Made flesh for us— your grace is bright - ly shin - ing.
 And joins us and our chil - dren in our weak - ness.
 Joins you to him—how great - ly God must love you!
 Of great - er glo - ry, great - er bliss or glad - ness.
 A crown is yours and hon - or in full meas - ure.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: On this holy day, dear Father, we rejoice to hear the good news of great joy that a Savior has been born for us. For fulfilling your prophecies and in the fullness of time sending your Son to be our Savior, we give you our heartfelt thanks and praise.

C: Unto us a child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

M: What a great mystery of our faith this is: that God has become fully human for our salvation! Even though he is the all-powerful Lord of all, he is wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

C: Help us always believe that this precious child was born as our substitute to be our Savior.

M: In the midst of our joy, we grieve for the many people in our world who do not know that Jesus has come to bring them forgiveness and healing. As the shepherds spread abroad the good news of the birth of the Savior born for all the world, may we also make use of the unique opportunities this holiday presents to tell others of what we have seen and heard concerning the child.

C: Grant that the true peace between God and fallen mankind may comfort all people.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: As the angels sang out their praise, move us also to sing out our praise to you, today and every day, as the joy of Christmas remains in our hearts.

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRAYER

M: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ; grant that, as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so may we also behold him with sure confidence when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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.

58 See in Yonder Manger Low



1 See in yon-der man-ger low, Born for us on earth be-low,
2 Lo, with-in a sta-ble lies He who built the star-ry skies,
3 Sa-cred In-fant, all di-vine, What a ten-der love was thine,
4 Teach, oh, teach us, ho-ly Child, By thy face so meek and mild,



See— the gen-tle Lamb ap-pears, Prom-ised from e-ter-nal years.
He who, throned in height sub-lime, Sits a-mid the cher-u-bim.
Thus to come from high-est bliss Down to such a world as this.
Teach us to re-sem-ble thee In thy sweet hu-mil-i-ty.

Refrain



Hail the ev-er bless-ed morn; Hail re-demp-tion's hap-py dawn;



Sing through all Je-ru-sa-lem, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!"

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.

Tune: HUMILITY (77 77 with Refrain) John Gross, 1800–80.

ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY THIS WEEK
December 25-29, 2024

Today	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!

NEW YEAR'S WORSHIP SCHEDULE

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 this worship service, and invite your family and friends to join us too!

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会有成人中文圣经学习。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.welscongregationalservices.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.



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