

*Since the children have flesh and blood,
he too shared in their humanity
so that by his death
he might break the power of him
who holds the power of death
—that is, the devil—
and free those who all their lives were held
in slavery by their fear of death.*

- Hebrews 2:14-15 -

**1st Sunday after Christmas
December 29, 2024**

**SERVICE THEME:
Christmas Brings Life in the midst of Death**



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December 29, 2024 – St. Andrew Lutheran Church

SERVICE THEME: Christmas Brings Life in the midst of Death

WELCOME — We're so glad that you've joined us for this worship service! Please let us know if you need any assistance while you're here.

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 WORSHIP SERVICE

In the family of believers, it is our brother Jesus who changed the future for Abraham's descendants. To be our Savior meant sharing in our humanity and destroying the power of death.

Communicant members may wish to prepare for the Lord's Supper using the "Personal Preparation for Holy Communion" on p. 156 in the front part of the hymnal (the red book in the pew rack: Christian Worship).

78 O Light of Gentile Nations



1 O Light of Gen - tile na - tions, O
 2 Dear Lord, your ser - vants meet you In
 3 Lord, when life's trou - bles touch us, You
 4 Let us, O Lord, be faith - ful Like



Sav - ior from a - bove, Drawn by your Spir - it's
 ev - 'ry ho - ly place Where your true Word has
 seem to hide your face, And through our tears we
 Sim - eon to the end So that his prayer ex -



lead - ing, We come with joy and love In -
 prom - ised That we should see your face. To -
 of - ten Can scarce - ly sense your grace. Then
 ul - tant May from our hearts as - cend: "O



to your ho - ly tem - ple And wait with
 day you still al - low us Who gath - er
 be our joy and bright - ness, Our cheer in
 Lord, now let your ser - vant De - part in



rev - 'rent mind As Sim - eon once had
 round you here In arms of faith to
 pain and loss, Our sun in dark - est
 peace, I pray, Since I have seen my



wait - ed His God and Lord to find.
 hold you As did that a - ged seer.
 ter - ror, The glo - ry round our cross.
 Sav - ior And here be - held his day."

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: MUNICH (76 76 D) *Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch*, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693, alt.

INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION 召唤，认罪及赦罪

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

M: Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I 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 A Great and Mighty Wonder – CW93 #36 – on the next page



1 A great and might - y won - der, A
 2 The Word be - comes in - car - nate And
 3 While thus they sing your mon - arch, Those
 4 Since all he comes to ran - som, By
 5 All i - dols then shall per - ish And



glo - rious mys - ter - y: A vir - gin bears an
 yet re - mains on high, And cher - u - bim sing
 bright an - gel - ic bands, Re - joice, O vales and
 all be he a - dored, The in - fant born in
 Sa - tan's ly - ing cease, And Christ shall raise his



in - fant Who veils his de - i - ty.
 an - thems To shep - herds from the sky.
 moun - tains, And o - ceans, clap your hands.
 Beth - l'em, The Sav - ior and the Lord.
 scep - ter, De - cree - ing end - less peace.

Refrain



Re - peat the hymn a - gain: "To God on high be



glo - ry And peace on earth to men."

Text: Germanus, c. 634-734; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-66, alt.

Tune: ES IST EIN ROS (76 76 676) *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, Köln, 1599.

PRAYER OF THE DAY 本日共禱文

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, in mercy you sent your one and only Son to take upon himself our human nature. By his gracious coming deliver us from the corruption of our sin and transform us into the likeness of his glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING – Genesis 17:1-7 (EHV) – 创世记 17:1-7

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty. Walk before me and be blameless. ²I will make my covenant between me and you, and I will make your descendants very numerous.”

³Abram fell on his face. God spoke with him. He said, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you. You will be the father of many nations. ⁵Your name will not be Abram anymore, but your name will be Abraham,^e for I have made you the father of a large group of nations. ⁶I will make you extremely fruitful, and I will produce nations from you. Kings will come out of you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you as an everlasting covenant throughout their generations. I will be your God and the God of your descendants after you.

PSALM OF THE DAY – Psalm 148 – CWS p. 61 (NIV84) – 诗篇 148

Refrain



We have seen his glo - ry; he shines forth with truth and grace.

Psalm Tone



Refrain

Praise the LORD from the heavens,
praise him in the heights above.

Praise him, all his angels,
praise him, all his heavenly hosts.

Praise him, sun and moon,
praise him, all you shining stars.

^e *Abram and Abraham* are variants of the same name. Both mean *exalted father*, but *Abraham* sounds more like the Hebrew for *father of a multitude*.

Refrain

Praise the LORD from the earth,
lightning and hail, stormy winds that do his bidding,
you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars,
wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds,
kings of the earth and all rulers on earth,
young men and maidens, old men and children.

Refrain

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his splendor is above the earth and the heavens.

**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

Music: © 2005 Ronald Shilling.

SECOND READING – Hebrews 2:10-18 (EHV) – 希伯来书 2:10-18

¹⁰Certainly it was fitting for God (the one for whom and through whom everything exists), in leading many sons to glory, to bring the author of their salvation to his goal through sufferings. ¹¹For he who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified all have one Father. For that reason, he is not ashamed to call them brothers. ⁱ ¹²He says:

I will declare your name to my brothers.

Within the congregation I will sing your praise.^a

¹³And again:

I will trust in him.^b

And again:

ⁱ When context indicates it, the Greek word for *brothers* may refer to all fellow believers, male and female.

^a Psalm 22:22

^b Isaiah 8:17

Here I am and the children God has given me.^c

¹⁴Therefore, since the children share flesh and blood,^d he also shared the same flesh and blood, so that through death he could destroy the one who had the power of death (that is, the Devil)¹⁵ and free those who were held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death.¹⁶ For surely he was not concerned with helping angels but with helping Abraham's offspring.^e ¹⁷For this reason, he had to become like his brothers in every way, in order that he would be a merciful and faithful high priest in the things pertaining to God, so that he could pay^f for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Indeed, because he suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

VERSE OF THE DAY 备福音词及哈利路亚

M: Alleluia. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts. Alleluia.

(Colossians 3:15a)



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

GOSPEL – John 1:1-18 (EHV) – 约翰福音 1:1-18

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Glo - ry be to you, O Lord!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³Through him everything was made, and without him not one thing was made that has been made. ⁴In him was^a life, and the life was the light of mankind. ⁵The

^c Isaiah 8:18

^d Literally *blood and flesh*

^e Literally *seed*

^f Or *atone*

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

light is shining in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^b it.

⁶There was a man, sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as an eyewitness to testify about the light so that everyone would believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but he came to testify about the light.

⁹The real light that shines on everyone was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, yet his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, to those who believe in his name, he gave the right to become children of God. ¹³They were born, not of blood, or of the desire of the flesh, or of a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelled^c among us. We have seen his glory, the glory he has as the only-begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵John testified about him. He cried out, "This was the one I spoke about when I said, 'The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.' " ¹⁶For^d out of his fullness we have all received grace upon grace. ¹⁷For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. The only-begotten Son,^e who is close to the Father's side, has made him known.

After the reading of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

NICENE CREED 尼西亚信经

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and

^b Or *grasped*

^c Literally *tented*

^d Some witnesses to the text read *And*.

^e Some witnesses to the text read *The only-begotten God*.

became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

41 Let All Together Praise Our God



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God Be - fore his
 2 He leaves his heav'n - ly Fa - ther's throne, Is born an
 3 He veils in flesh his pow'r di - vine A ser - vant's
 4 A won - drous change which he does make: He takes our
 5 He serves that I a lord may be— A great ex -



high - est throne; To - day he o - pens heav'n a - gain And
 in - fant small, And in a man - ger, poor and lone, Lies
 form to take; In want and low - li - ness must die Who
 flesh and blood, And he con - ceals for sin - ners' sake His
 change in - deed! Could Je - sus' love do more for me To



gives us his own Son, And gives us his own Son.
 in a hum - ble stall, Lies in a hum - ble stall.
 heav'n and earth did make, Who heav'n and earth did make.
 maj - es - ty as God, His maj - es - ty as God.
 help me in my need, To help me in my need?

6 For us he opens wide the door
 Of paradise today.
 The angel guards the gate no more;
 To God our thanks we pay,
 To God our thanks we pay.

Text: Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
 Tune: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN (86.866) Nikolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561.

SERMON – Hebrews 2:10-18 – Christmas Brings Life in the midst of
 Death – 讲道：基于 希伯来书 2:10-18

After the sermon, the congregation sings: – 讲道后，会众齐唱：

86

The Only Son from Heaven



1 The on - ly Son from heav - en, Fore - told by
 2 Oh, time of God ap - point - ed, Oh, bright and
 3 A - wak - en, Lord, our spir - it To know and
 4 O Fa - ther, here be - fore you With God the



an - cient seers, By God the Fa - ther giv - en,
 ho - ly morn! He comes, the King a - noint - ed,
 love you more, In faith to stand un - shak - en,
 Ho - ly Ghost And Je - sus, we a - dore you,



In hu - man form ap - pears. No sphere his
 The Christ, the vir - gin - born, Grim death to
 In spir - it to a - dore, That we, through
 O Pride of an - gel host. Be - fore you



light con - fin - ing, No star so bright - ly
 con - quer for us, To o - pen heav'n be -
 this world mov - ing, Each glimpse of heav - en
 mor - tals low - ly Cry "Ho - ly, ho - ly,



shin - ing As he, our Morn - ing Star.
 fore us And bring us life a - gain.
 prov - ing, May reap its full - ness there.
 ho - ly, O bless - ed Trin - i - ty!"

Text: Elizabeth Cruciger, c. 1500–35, abr., st. 1-3; *Lutheran Book of Worship*, Minneapolis, 1978, st. 4;
 tr. Arthur T. Russell, 1806–74, st. 1-3, alt.

Tune: HERR CHRIST, DER EINIG GOTTS SOHN (76 76 776) *Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein*, Erfurt, 1524, alt.

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. 22).



M: As the year comes to a close, we remember the members and friends of our St. Andrew family who passed away during this year.

- Michael Nadasky – February 17
- Raymond Katz – November 2
- George Bray – December 5

RESURRECTION COMFORT 复活应许的安慰

M: Let us remember today before God all those who rejoice with us still, but upon a more distant shore, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who now live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another in Christ.

C: Death has been swallowed up in victory! Thanks be to God!

M: When Christ, who is our life, appears,

C: Then we also will appear with him in glory.

M: We will be before the throne of God

C: And serve him day and night in his temple.

M: Never again will we hunger;

C: Never again will we thirst.

M: For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be our shepherd; he will lead us to springs of living water.

C: And God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.

M: Let us pray:

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH 教会公祷

M: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

C: Every day I will praise you and extol your name.

M: It is fitting, O Lord, as this year draws to a close, to express our gratitude for the countless gifts of grace we have received from you.

C: You have been faithful to your promises and loving toward all you have made.

M: You clothe your creation with beauty; you feed even the birds and tell us that we are much more valuable than they.

C: You know what we need, and you give us all good things.

M: Clothing and food, safety and health, possessions and money, even life itself—all these come to us from your generous hand.

C: We thank you for these blessings, and we ask that you continue to grant them to us.

M: We thank you especially for your Word and Holy Supper, which strengthen our faith, shield us from temptation, and equip us for service.

C: Increase our commitments to these precious gifts, so that we may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow, including the following special prayer:

for our sister synod in Uganda:

Lord of the Church, you have brought Obadiah Lutheran Synod in Uganda into fellowship with WELS and our sister church bodies. We thank and praise you for the fellowship we enjoy across continents that are thousands of miles apart. We ask for your blessing on the special gifts shared with our fellow believers in Uganda. May they be a wonderful assistance in carrying out

gospel ministry in Uganda. Bless the spread of the gospel in this land so that they may reach thousands more with the sweet message of salvation through Jesus Christ alone. Amen.

Additional special prayers may be included.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Almighty and eternal God, you have been gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, and rich in love. As you led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night, so lead us by the light of your Word that we may live our lives to your glory and be prepared to die in your peace.

C: **We ask these things in the name of Jesus. In his name we began this year; in his name we bring it to a close. 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.

THE SACRAMENT 圣餐礼

Our Lord Jesus has given us a holy Supper in which we receive his true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of our faith. In this Supper, we celebrate the gift of his redemption, we bear witness to the fellowship we share as confessors of the truth, and we proclaim his death until he returns.

Following the teaching of the Bible (1 Corinthians 10:17; 11:27-29; etc.), our church practices closed communion. We ask that only those who are current communicant members of this church or another congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) or Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) partake of the sacrament today. If you are not a current member of this church or one of our sister churches, our pastor would be happy to speak with you about receiving the Lord's Supper with us in the future. Please mention it to him after the service.

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, for in the wonder and mystery of his birth you have opened our eyes to the glory of your grace and renewed in our hearts the fervor of your love. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

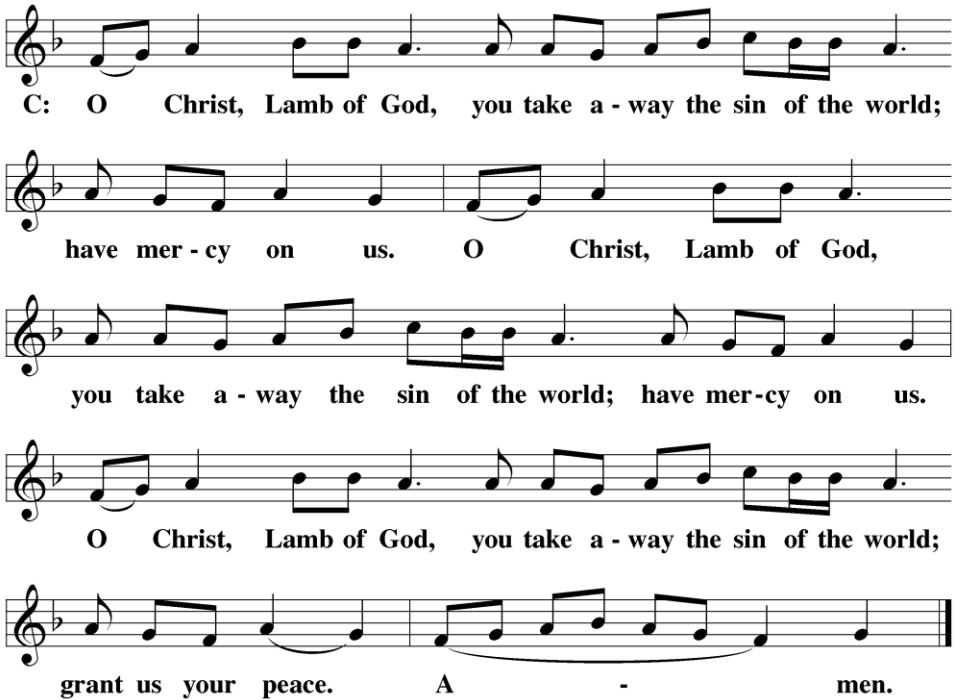
WORDS OF INSTITUTION 耶稣设立圣餐的话

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. A - - men.

DISTRIBUTION 分发圣餐 – 只邀请已经受坚信礼的本会成员来领受
At the direction of the usher, current communicant members of St. Andrew and our sister churches in the WELS and ELS may come forward down the center aisle, then wait until directed by an usher to go to the communion rail. Communicants may kneel or stay standing. Please hold out your hand to receive the bread. If you wish to partake of the

common cup, do not take an individual cup when the assistant comes by with the tray. Those who need to receive grape juice instead of wine may take the purple individual cups in the center of the tray. The minister and assistant will use hand sanitizer before and/or wear sterile gloves during communion setup and distribution. Gluten-free wafers are available; please speak with the pastor or an usher to receive one.

After the distribution, the congregation sings: – 分发圣餐后，会众齐唱：

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
 to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
 pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
 Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

PRAYER and BLESSING 祷告及祝福

M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

M: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

NEW YEAR

71 The Old Year Now Has Passed Away



1 The old year now has passed a - way; We thank you,
2 We pray you, O e - ter - nal Son, Who with the
3 Take not your sav - ing Word a - way, Which lights and
4 Oh, help us to for - sake all sin, A new and
5 Where - in as Chris - tians we may live Or die in



O our God, to - day That you have kept us
Fa - ther reigns as one, To guard and rule your
cheers our souls each day. A - bid with us and
ho - lier life be - gin! For - give the old year's
peace that you can give, To rise a - gain when



through the year When dan - ger and dis - tress were near.
Chris - ten - dom Through all the a - ges yet to come.
keep us free From er - ror and hy - poc - ri - sy.
sins, and bless The new year with true hap - pi - ness,
you will come And en - ter your e - ter - nal home.

6 There shall we thank you and adore
With all the angels evermore.
Lord Jesus Christ, increase our faith
To praise your name through life and death.

Text: attr. Johann Steurlein, 1546–1613; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
Tune: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND (LM) *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628.

ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY THIS WEEK
December 29, 2024 – January 5, 2025

Today	9:30 AM	Worship Service w. Lord's Supper
	11:00 AM	Sunday School for children
	11:00 AM	Ministry Council meeting
Saturday	7:45 PM	中文聚会 (Chinese Ministry)
Sunday (1/5)	9:30 AM	Worship Service w. Lord's Supper
	11:00 AM	Sunday School & Adult Bible study

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 register 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!
- In loving memory of all departed loved ones at Christmas, by Frank & Sandy Thompson.
- In loving memory of Mrs. Anna Kluge whose birthday falls on Dec. 23rd and Mr. Eugene Kahler who passed away Dec. 23, 1986, by Frank and Sandy Thompson.

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.

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。如果你了解更多, 请联系高乐仁牧师: 手机: 773-217-8132。欢迎!

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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Budgeted need each month	Total offerings received in November
\$14,517.92	\$8,230.84

Offerings received last Sunday & online: \$1,352.99
Offerings received Christmas Eve: \$1,977.00
Offerings received Christmas Day: \$370.00
(budgeted need each week: \$3,350.29)
Total offerings received so far this month: \$8,192.68

Ministry Attendance Last Week

- In-church worship attendance last Sunday: 43** (29 adults, 14 children)
- Sunday service live-stream peak concurrent viewing devices: 8**
- In-church worship attendance Christmas Eve: 56** (34 adults, 22 kids)
- Christmas Eve live-stream peak concurrent viewing devices: 7**
- In-church worship attendance Christmas Day: 21** (19 adults, 2 kids)
- Christmas Day live-stream peak concurrent viewing devices: 6**
- Last weekend’s Saturday Chinese ministry: 5**
- Adult Bible study attendance: 7 (Sun.: 7)**
- Sunday school: 10**
- Youth confirmation class: n/a**

God bless you this week as you share the joy of the gospel with others!