



This mystery is that
through the gospel
the Gentiles are heirs
together with Israel,
members together
of one body,
and sharers together
in the promise
in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:6

**The Epiphany of Our Lord (observed)
January 5, 2025**

**SERVICE THEME:
Sharing the Secret**



The Epiphany of Our Lord (observed)

January 5, 2025 – St. Andrew Lutheran Church

SERVICE THEME: Sharing the Secret

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

The Eastern Church celebrates January 6th as the Nativity of Our Lord. For the West, the Epiphany of Our Lord is the continued celebration of the birth of the Savior of Nations. So bright is the dawning of the Son, so great is the fullness of his glory, that his light not only fills the dark streets of Bethlehem, but also the ends of the earth. Jew and Gentile alike gather to worship him who is born ruler of Judah and Shepherd of all Israel.

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).

Arise and Shine in Splendor



1 A - rise and shine in splen - dor; Let night to day sur -
 2 See earth in dark - ness ly - ing, The hea - then na - tions
 3 Lift up your eyes in won - der— See, na - tions gath - er
 4 Your heart will leap for glad - ness When from the realms of



ren - der. Your light is draw - ing near. A - bove,
 dy - ing In hope - less gloom and night. To you
 yon - der From sin to be set free. The world
 sad - ness They come from near and far. Your eyes



the day is beam - ing, In match - less beau - ty
 the Lord of heav - en— Your life, your hope—has
 has heard your sto - ry; Your sons come to your
 will wake from slum - ber As peo - ple with - out



gleam - ing; The glo - ry of the Lord is here.
 giv - en Great glo - ry, hon - or, and de - light.
 glo - ry, And daugh - ters haste your light to see.
 num - ber Re - joice to see the Morn - ing Star.

Text: Martin Opitz, 1597–1639, abr.; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, b. 1899–1987, alt.

Tune: EPIPHANY (776 778) Bruce R. Backer, b. 1929. © 1993 Bruce R. Backer. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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.

87 Hail, O Source of Every Blessing



1 Hail, O Source of ev - 'ry bless - ing, Fa - ther of our
2 Once far off but now in - vit - ed, We ap - proach your
3 Hail, O all - in - vit - ing Sav - ior! Gen - tiles now their



hu - man race! Gen - tiles now, your grace pos - sess - ing,
sa - cred throne, In your cov - e - nant u - nit - ed,
of - f'ings bring, In your tem - ples seek your fa - vor,



In your courts ob - tain a place. Grate - ful now, we fall be -
Rec - on - ciled, re - deemed, made one. Now re - vealed to east - ern
Je - sus Christ, our Lord and King. May we, bod - y, soul, and



fore you, In your Church re - jice to live, See your glo -
sa - ges, See the star of mer - cy shine, Mys - t'ry hid
spir - it, Live de - vot - ed to your praise, Glo - rious realms



ry and a - dore you, Thank - ful for the grace you give.
in for - mer a - ges, Mys - t'ry great of love di - vine.
of bliss in - her - it, Grate - ful an - thems ev - er raise.

Text: Basil Woodd, 1760–1831, alt.

Tune: O DURCHBRECHER ALLER BANDE (87 87 D) Freylinghausen, *Geist-reiches Gesang-Buch*, Halle, 1704, alt.

PRAYER OF THE DAY 本日共祷文

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, by the leading of a star you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith, to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly 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 – Isaiah 60:1-6 (EHV) – 以赛亚书 60:1-6

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD is dawning upon you.

²Look, darkness covers the earth,
and deep darkness covers the peoples,
but the LORD will dawn upon you,
and his glory will be seen over you.

³Nations will walk to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴Look up. Look all around and see!
All of them have been gathered. They are coming to you.
Your sons will come from far away,
and people will carry your daughters on their side.

⁵Then you will look and be radiant.
Your heart will race with excitement and burst with joy.
For great riches from the sea will be delivered to you.
The wealth of the nations will come to you.

⁶Caravans of camels will cover your land,
young camels from Midian and Ephah.
All those from Sheba will come.
They will carry gold and incense,
and they will announce the good news of the praise of the LORD.

PSALM OF THE DAY – Psalm 72 – CWS p. 51 (NIV84) – printed on the
following page – 诗篇 72 — 在下一页

Psalm 72

Refrain



The light of Christ shines up - on us.



Praise his glo - ri - ous name.

Psalm Tone



Endow the King with your justice, O God,
the royal son with your righteousness.
He will defend the afflicted among the people
and save the children of the needy.

He will endure as long as the sun,
as long as the moon, through all generations.
He will be like rain falling on a mown field,
like showers watering the earth.

Refrain

All kings will bow down to him
and all nations will serve him.
All nations will be blessed through him,
and they will call him blessed.

May his name endure forever;
may it continue as long as the sun.
Praise be to the LORD God, who alone does marvelous deeds.
May the whole earth be filled with his glory.

**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 – Ephesians 3:2-12 (EHV) – 以弗所书 3:2-12

²Surely you have heard of the administration of God’s grace given to me for you, ³namely, that the mystery was made known to me by revelation (as I have already written briefly). ⁴When you read this, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. ⁵This mystery was not made known to people in past generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that in Christ Jesus the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and people who also share in the promise through the gospel.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel, in keeping with the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸To me—even though I am the very least of all the saints—was given this grace: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ ⁹and to enlighten everyone about the administration of this mystery. In past ages this mystery remained hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰He did this so that, through the church, the multifaceted wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹This was done according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him we can freely approach God with confidence through faith in him.

VERSE OF THE DAY 备福音词及哈利路亚

M: Alleluia. We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him. Alleluia. (*Matthew 2:2b*)



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

GOSPEL – Matthew 2:1-15 (EHV) – 马太福音 2:1-15

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



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

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, when Herod was king, Wise

Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, ²“Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose^d and have come to worship him.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was alarmed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴He gathered together all the people’s chief priests and experts in the law. He asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, because this was written through the prophet:

⁶You, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not least among the rulers of Judah: because out of you will come a ruler, who will shepherd my people, Israel.”^e

⁷Then Herod secretly summoned the Wise Men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. When you find him, report to me, so that I may also go and worship him.”

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. Then the star they had seen when it rose^f went ahead of them, until it stood still over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with overwhelming joy. ¹¹After they went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹²Since they had been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their own country by another route.

¹³After the Wise Men were gone, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, because Herod will search for the child in order to kill him.”

¹⁴Joseph got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt. ¹⁵He stayed there until the death of Herod. This happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”^a

After the reading of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



^d Or in the east

^e Micah 5:2

^f Or in the east

^a Hosea 11:1

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 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY – *How Lovely Shines the Morning Star* – CW93 #79 –
printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see and
2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, True Son of God and
3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son You loved me ere you
4 Oh, joy to know that you, my Friend, Are Lord, be - gin - ning
5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, Let all glad sounds of



hail a - far The light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
Mar - y's Son, The high - born King of a - ges!
had be - gun This an - cient world's foun - da - tion.
with - out end, The first and last, e - ter - nal!
mu - sic ring In God's high prais - es blend - ed.



O Da - vid's Son of Ja - cob's race, My Bride - groom
In your blest bod - y let me be, E'en as the
Your Son has made a friend of me, And when in
And you at length— O glo - rious grace— Will take me
Christ will be with me all the way, To - day, to -



and my King of grace, For you my heart is pin - ing.
branch is in the tree, Your life my life sup - ply - ing.
spir - it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.
to that ho - ly place, The home of joys su - per - nal.
mor - row, ev - 'ry day Till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



Low - ly, Ho - ly, Great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
Sigh - ing, Cry - ing For the sa - vor Of your fa - vor
What bliss Is this! He is liv - ing, To me giv - ing
A - men, A - men! Come and meet me, Quick - ly greet me!
Sing out, Ring out Tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



Prince of gra - ces, Fill - ing all the heav'n - ly pla - ces.
Rest - ing nev - er Till I rest in you for - ev - er.
Life for - ev - er; Noth - ing me from him can sev - er.
With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.
Chos - en na - tion; Praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

SERMON – Ephesians 3:2-12 – Sharing the Secret – 讲道：基于 以弗所书 3:2-12

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

83 As with Gladness Men of Old



1 As with glad - ness men of old Did the guid - ing
2 As with joy - ful steps they sped, Sav - ior, to your
3 As they of - fered gifts most rare At your cra - dle,
4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - 'ry day Keep us in the
5 In the heav'n - ly coun - try bright Need they no cre -



star be - hold, As with joy they hailed its light,
low - ly bed, There to bend the knee be - fore
rude and bare, So may we with ho - ly joy,
nar - row way; And, when earth - ly things are past,
a - ted light; You its light, its joy, its crown,



Lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright, So, most gra - cious
You whom heav'n and earth a - dore, So may we with
Pure and free from sin's al - loy, All our cost - liest
Bring our ran - somed souls at last Where they need no
You its sun which goes not down. There for - ev - er



Lord, may we Ev - er - more your fol - lowers be.
will - ing feet Ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
treas - ures bring, Christ, to you, our heav'n - ly King.
star to guide, Where no clouds your glo - ry hide.
may we sing Al - le - lu - ias to our King!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98, alt.
Tune: DIX (77 77 77) Conrad Kocher, 1786-1872, 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).



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH 教会公祷

M: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

C: You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

M: Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

C: You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

M: Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

C: Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

M: Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn:

C: Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

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

for WELS Christian Aid and Relief:

Lord Jesus, you met our greatest need when you saved us from sin and death with your precious blood and restored our relationship with you. Trusting in you we can focus on helping others, like you have helped us. Bless WELS Christian Aid and Relief as they support people through humanitarian aid, disaster relief, and personal relief grants. Help us see the opportunities you provide to love and support our neighbors and, in doing so, point people to you. Amen.

Additional special prayers may be included.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

C: 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, our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. 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.

CLOSING HYMN – *O Jesus, King of Glory* – CW93 #94 – printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页

O Jesus, King of Glory



1 O Je - sus, King of glo - ry, Both Da - vid's
 2 The east - ern Ma - gi, com - ing Their gifts of
 3 You are a might - y mon - arch, As by your
 4 Oh, look on me with pit - y Though I am the
 5 Then let your Word with - in me Shine as the



Lord and son! Your rule en - dures for - ev - er;
 love to bring, Bear wit - ness to your glo - ry
 Word is told, And yet you care but lit - tle
 weak and poor; Ad - mit me to your king - dom
 fair - est star; Keep sin and all false doc - trine



In heav - en is your throne. Help that in earth's do -
 And wor - ship you, their King. To you the star is
 For earth - ly goods or gold. You do not come dis -
 To dwell there, blest and sure. I pray, Lord, guide and
 For - ev - er from me far. Help me con - fess you



min - ions, From pole to farth - est pole, Your reign may
 point - ing And the pro - phet - ic Word; So joy - ous -
 play - ing Your pow - er and re - nown. You dwell in
 keep me Safe from my bit - ter foes, From sin and
 tru - ly And with all Chris - ten - dom Here hail you



spread sal - va - tion To each be - night - ed soul.
 ly we hail you: Our Sav - ior and our Lord.
 no high cas - tle; You wear no jew - eled crown.
 death and Sa - tan; Free me from all my woes.
 King and Sav - ior And in the world to come.

Text: Martin Behm, 1557–1622, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1-2, 4-5, alt.; *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnal*, Columbus, OH, 1880, st. 3, alt.

Tune: VALET WILL ICH DIR GEBEN (76 76 D) Melchior Teschner, 1584–1635, alt.

ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY THIS WEEK
January 5-12, 2025

Today	9:30 AM	Worship Service w. Lord's Supper
	11:00 AM	Sunday School & Adult Bible study
Monday	6:30-8:00 PM	Youth Confirmation Class
Saturday	7:45 PM	中文聚会 (Chinese Ministry)
Sunday (1/12)	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	11:00 AM	Sunday School & Adult Bible study

The paraments are white for the Epiphany of Our Lord. 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!

THANK OFFERING — A thank offering for God's blessing on our family through the year, by Frank & Sandy Thompson.

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!

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.

“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.)

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。如果你想了解更多, 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 del Laurentis.sam@gmail.com with any questions.



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Budgeted need each month	Total offerings received in December
\$14,517.92	\$9,245.89

Offerings received last week (through 12/31): \$1,053.21
(budgeted need each week: \$3,350.29)

Ministry Attendance Last Week

In-church worship attendance last Sunday: 28 (22 adults, 6 children)
Sunday service live-stream peak concurrent viewing devices: 8
Adult Bible study attendance: 2 (Tue.: 2)

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