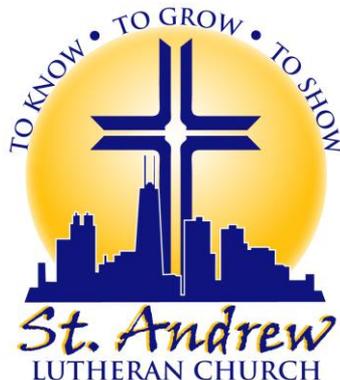


4th Sunday in Advent
December 21, 2025

SERVICE THEME:
The Greatest Gift of All



4th Sunday in Advent

December 21, 2025 – St. Andrew Lutheran Church

SERVICE THEME: The Greatest Gift of All

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.

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

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

Office Email: churchsecretary@standrewchicago.org

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/standrewchicago/

Pastor: Adam Gawel, cell: 773-217-8132, pastor@standrewchicago.org

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP SERVICE

God will come to save his people, just as he promised. He saves them through the virgin-born Son of David who is also the Son of God, Immanuel. The Church prays for God to come in power to take away the burden of our sins. Since the Garden of Eden, there has been only one promised plan to do that: God would take on flesh and blood. Immanuel comes—God in the flesh—exactly as promised, to save his people.

Communicant members are encouraged 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).

OPENING DIALOGUE AND PRAYER



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

C: On those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2)

M: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

C: And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

M: Christ himself has come down from heaven, has become incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and has become fully human.

C: He shared in our humanity. By his death he destroyed the devil and the power of death, and freed us from fear and slavery forever. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

M: Let us pray.

Almighty God, your Son, our Savior, Jesus, became flesh and made his dwelling among us. In him you have revealed yourself, your love, and your plan for all humanity. By his Word, make us ready for his coming. Keep our hearts repentant, constantly turning to your path of righteousness. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with your free Spirit; through him who came to give himself to us and to make us his own, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

Four Advent candles are lit during the OPENING HYMN.

OPENING HYMN – *Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates* – CW93 #4 –
printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页



1 Lift up your heads, you might - y gates! Be -
 2 The King is born in pov - er - ty, His
 3 How blest the land, the cit - y blest, Where
 4 Fling wide the por - tals of your heart; Make
 5 Re - deem - er, come! I op - en wide My



hold, the King of glo - ry waits. The King of kings is
 char - iot is hu - mil - i - ty, His king - ly crown is
 Christ the rul - er is con-fessed! O peace - ful hearts and
 it a tem - ple set a - part From earth - ly use for
 heart to you; here, Lord, a - bide! Oh, en - ter with your



draw - ing near; The Sav - ior of the world is here.
 ho - li - ness, His scep - ter, pit - y in dis-tress.
 hap - py homes To whom this King in tri - umph comes!
 heav'n's em - ploy, A - dorned with prayer and love and joy.
 sav - ing grace; Show me your kind and friend - ly face.



Life and sal - va - tion he will bring; There -
 The end of all our woe he brings; There -
 The cloud - less sun of joy is he Who
 So shall your Sov - 'reign en - ter in And
 Your Ho - ly Spir - it guide us on Un -



fore re - joice and glad - ly sing. To God the Fa - ther
 fore the earth is glad and sings. To Christ the Sav - ior
 comes to set his peo - ple free. To God the Spir - it
 new and no - bler life be - gin. To God a - lone be
 til our glo - rious goal is won. E - ter - nal praise and



raise Your joy - ful songs of praise.
 raise Your grate - ful hymns of praise.
 raise Your hap - py shouts of praise.
 praise For word and deed and grace!
 fame We of - fer to your name.

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 O Lord of Light, Who Made the Stars – CW93 #31 – on the following page



1 O Lord of light, who made the stars,
2 In low - li - ness you came to earth
3 To pay the debt we owed for sin,
4 But now you reign, the King of kings,
5 Great Judge of all, on earth's last day



O Dawn, by whom we see the way,
To res - cue us from Sa - tan's snares,
Your pain - ful cross was made the price;
A - dored in high - est maj - es - ty;
Have pit - y on your chil - dren's plight.



O Christ, Re - deem - er of the world:
O won - drous Love that healed our wounds
From bless - ed Mar - y's womb you came,
Your ver - y name is held in awe
Rise up to shield us with your grace;



Come now and lis - ten as we pray.
By tak - ing on our mor - tal cares.
A vic - tim pure for sac - ri - fice.
From pole to pole and sea to sea.
De - liv - er us from Sa - tan's might. A - men.

6 To God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
Praise, honor, might, and glory be
From age to age eternally. Amen

Text: Latin hymn, c. 9th century; tr. Melvin Farrell, b. 1930, alt. © 1993 World Library Publications,
Franklin Park, IL, www.wlpmusic.com. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM (LM) Sarum plainsong, c. 9th century.

PRAYER OF THE DAY 本日共祷文

M: Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. Take away the burden of our sins and make us ready for the celebration of your birth, that we may receive you in joy and serve you always; for you

live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING – Isaiah 7:10-14 (EHV) – 以赛亚书 7:10-14

¹⁰The LORD spoke to Ahaz again. He said, ¹¹“Ask for a sign from the LORD your God. Ask for it either in the depths below or in the heights above.”

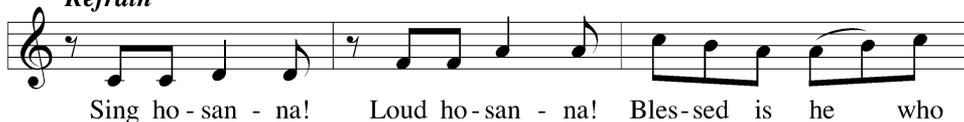
¹²But Ahaz responded, “I will not ask. I will not test the LORD.”

¹³So Isaiah said:

Listen now, you house of David. Is it not enough for you to test the patience of men? Will you test the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give a sign for all of you.^e Look! The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and name him Immanuel.^f

PSALM OF THE DAY – Psalm 24 – CWS p. 42 (NIV84) – 诗篇 24

Refrain



Psalm Tone



Refrain

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

^e The pronoun *you* is plural here, so it is translated in a way that makes this apparent.

^f *Immanuel* means *God with us*.

for he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the LORD?

Who may stand in his holy place?

He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
he will receive blessing from God his Savior.

Refrain

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in
battle.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?

The LORD Almighty—he is the King of 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

Music: © 2006 John Reim.

SECOND READING – Romans 1:1-7 (EHV) – 罗马书 1:1-7

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, ²which he promised in advance through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures. ³This gospel is about his Son—who in the flesh^a was born a descendant of David, ⁴who in the spirit^b of holiness was declared to be God's powerful Son by his resurrection from the dead—Jesus Christ, our Lord. ⁵Through him we received grace and the call to be an

^a Here *flesh* is a reference to Christ's state of humiliation. See 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18.

^b Here *spirit* is a reference to Christ's state of exaltation. See 1 Timothy 3:16; 1 Peter 3:18.

apostle on behalf of his name, to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, ⁶including you, who were called by Jesus Christ.

⁷To all those loved by God who are in Rome, called to be saints:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

VERSE OF THE DAY 备福音词及哈利路亚

M: Alleluia. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel. Alleluia. (*Matthew 1:23*)



GOSPEL – Matthew 1:18-25 (EHV) – 马太福音 1:18-25

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ took place. His mother, Mary, was pledged in marriage^b to Joseph. Before they came together, she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Joseph, her husband, was a righteous man and did not want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her privately. ²⁰But as he was considering these things, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,^a because he will save his people from their sins.”

²²All this happened to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³“Look, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son. And they will name him Immanuel,”^b which means, “God with us.”

²⁴When Joseph woke up from his sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him. He took Mary home as his wife, ²⁵but he was

^b Or betrothed

^a Jesus means the LORD saves.

^b Isaiah 7:14

2

Savior of the Nations, Come



1 Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's
 2 Not by hu - man flesh and blood, By the
 3 Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the
 4 From the Fa - ther's throne he came And as -
 5 Praise to God the Fa - ther sing, Praise to



Son, make here your home. Mar - vel now, O
 Spir - it of our God Was the Word of
 vir - gin un - de - filed, Though by all the
 cend - ed to the same, Cap - tive lead - ing the
 God the Son, our King, Praise to God the



heav'n and earth, That the Lord chose such a birth.
 God made flesh, Wo - man's off - spring, pure and fresh.
 world dis - owned, Yet to be in heav'n en - throned!
 death and hell— High the song of tri - umph swell!
 Spir - it be Ev - er and e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Ambrose, 340–97, abr.; German version, Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. William M. Reynolds, 1812–76, alt.
 Tune: NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND (77 77) *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

SERMON – Matthew 1:18-25 – The Greatest Gift of All – 讲道：基于 马太福音 1:18-25

HYMN – *Rise, Arise* – CW93 #30 – printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页



1 Rise, a - rise! Rise, a - rise! Chris-tians, rise to
 2 Oh, re - joice! Oh, re - joice! Christ has come as
 3 Crown him King! Crown him King! His ex - alt - ed



greet your King. O - pen wide the gates be - fore him;
 long fore - told. The Mes - si - ah long - ex - pect - ed,
 name con - fess. From his heav'n - ly throne de - scend - ing,



Let the glad ho - san - nas ring; Haste to wor - ship
 The in - car - nate Word be - hold! Though by earth - ly
 Je - sus, Lord our right - eous - ness, Brings us joy and



and a - dore him. Hark! The watch - man on the moun - tain
 kings re - ject - ed, Hail him Lord of all with might - y
 peace un - end - ing. Oh, let heart and tongue his prais - es



cries: Rise, a - rise! Rise, a - rise!
 voice. Oh, re - joice! Oh, re - joice!
 sing! Crown him King! Crown him King!

Text: Anna B. D. Hoppe, 1889–1941, abr., alt. © 1928 Augustana Book Concern. All rights reserved.

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Tune: FAHRE FORT (67 87 89 6) Johann E. Schmidt, 1670–1745, 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. 24).



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH 教会公祷

*The Great O Antiphons of Advent have been cherished for centuries by Christian worshippers. Each one consists of a title given to Christ in the Old Testament and a petition asking him to come and fulfill the scriptural promise or prophecy. **The congregation is invited to sing the responses, to the tune of Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel (CW93 #23).***¹

M: Let us pray.

O Emmanuel, our King and our Lord, the anointed of the nations and their Savior, come and save us, O Lord our God.

**C: Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily order all things; come and teach us the way of prudence.

**C: Oh, come, our Wisdom from on high,
Who ordered all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And teach us in her ways to go.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Adonai and ruler of the house of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai, come with an outstretched arm and redeem us.

**C: Oh, come, oh, come, our Lord of might,
Who to your tribes on Sinai's height**

¹ © 1999 Northwestern Publishing House. Reprinted by permission.

**In ancient times gave holy law,
In cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Root of Jesse, standing as an ensign before the peoples, before whom all kings are mute, to whom the nations will do homage, come quickly to deliver us.

**C: Oh, come, O Rod of Jesse's stem.
From every foe deliver them
That trust your mighty pow'r to save:
Bring them in victory through the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and no one can close; you close and no one can open; come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness and the shadow of death.

**C: Oh, come, O Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O Dayspring, splendor of light everlasting, come and enlighten those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death.

**C: Oh, come, O Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by your drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

M: O King of the nations, the ruler they long for, the cornerstone for uniting all people, come and save us all, whom you formed out of clay.

**C: Oh, come, Desire of nations, bind
In one the hearts of all mankind;
Oh, bid our sad divisions cease,
And be yourself the King of Peace.**

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to you, O Israel!**

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

for Living Hope Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin:

Lord God, bless the spread of your gospel in every land, including Madison, Wisconsin. Provide opportunities to share your Word with the people of the community and make your witnesses bold in testifying to your saving grace in Christ. As you have told us to ask for laborers, we pray that you would provide a pastor soon to serve this home mission. Give patience and continued zeal to the core-group members of Living Hope as they wait on you, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Additional special prayers may be included.

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

Silent prayer.

M: Come quickly, Lord Jesus, in your grace, in your power, and in your glory.

C: Come, Lord Jesus! 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared when he called people to repentance and pointed to Jesus as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. 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 – *Prepare the Royal Highway* – CWS #702 – printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页

702

Prepare the Royal Highway



1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen To
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; It



King of kings is near! Let ev - 'ry hill and
 own e - ter - nal King! Palm branch - es strew be -
 greet your prom - ised King! Your King, yet ev - 'ry
 comes from heav'n a - bove. His rule is peace and



val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
 fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 na - tion Its trib - ute too should bring.
 free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall
 All lands, bow down be - fore him! All na - tions,
 So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness



sa - cred sto - ry:
 doubt as - sail you!
 now a - dore him! Ho - san - na to the
 so a - bound - ing:



Lord, For he ful - fills God's Word!

This hymn reminds us that Advent is a season of preparation, as King Jesus comes to rule in our hearts and lives and leads us to his heavenly kingdom.

Text: F. M. Franzen, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978. © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*; admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN (76 76 77 and Refrain) Swedish folk tune, 17th century

ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY THIS WEEK
December 21-28, 2025

Today	9:30 AM	Worship Service w. Lord's Supper
	11:00 AM	Adult Bible study; Kids' song practice for Christmas Eve
Monday	10:00 AM	Kids' song practice for Chr. Eve
Wednesday	7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship Service
Thursday	9:30 AM	Christmas Day Worship Service
Saturday	7:45 PM	中文聚会 (Chinese Ministry)
Sunday (12/28)	9:30 AM	Worship Service
	11:00 AM	Sunday School

The paraments are blue for the season of Advent. Our Christian faith rests on the hope that Christ, who came in history taking on human flesh, will also return on the last day of time from that same blue sky into which he ascended long ago.

WELCOME, GUESTS! – We're 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 (773-217-8132 / pastor@standrewchicago.org). Please join us again soon!

MEMORIAL — In loving memory of Mrs. Anna J. Kluge who passed away December 17, 1981, by Frank and Sandy Thompson.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please join us for Christmas Eve worship this Wednesday evening (Dec. 24) at 7:00pm, and Christmas Day worship this Thursday morning (Dec. 25) at 9:30am. Next Sunday (Dec. 28) 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. Please join us for these worship services, and invite your family and friends to join us too! All are welcome!

PASTOR BORGWARDT LEADING WORSHIP NEXT SUNDAY (Dec. 28)

Pastor Jake Borgwardt of Crossroads (our sister church on the north side of Chicago), whom a number of you met at the Christmas party on Dec. 14, will be leading the worship service for us next Sunday (Dec. 28). Pastor Gawel will be out of town for most of Dec. 26 through Jan. 3 (back in town for part of Dec. 27). If you have need of pastoral assistance during that time, please contact either our church office, chairman Brian Garcia, or Pastor Gawel, and one of us will help get you in touch with a WELS pastor in our area.

OFFERING ENVELOPES & STATEMENTS

If you made use of offering envelopes in 2025, there's a box of envelopes with your name on it for 2026 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 2026, we 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 2025 and would like a statement of your offerings (eg, for tax deduction purposes), please sign up on the sheet on the podium in the center entryway.

ADVENT DEVOTIONS IN PRINT & ONLINE

This year again, our church-body's college of ministry, Martin Luther College, in New Ulm, MN, has prepared a devotion booklet for Advent. We have some hard copies left, and it is available online to download or read online as well: <https://mlc-wels.edu/publications/seasonal-devotions/>. WELS Women's Ministry has also produced daily devotions for Advent that you can subscribe to receive by email here: <https://wels.net/womens-ministry-devotions-subscription/>. And, the quarterly *Meditations* booklets contain daily devotions for Advent as well. May God bless your meditation on his Word this Advent!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY: "Christ Through Us" – Sundays 11:00

This study gives an overview of the 175-year history of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), highlighting the blessings God has poured out on the WELS as it carries out its mission across the nation and the world, and the theological and cultural challenges that refined

WELS into a distinctly Christ-centered, confessional Lutheran church body. Join us for this study to learn more about the history of our church body and give thanks to God for all his blessings through it! All are welcome! If you're interested but aren't able to join us, you can find the PowerPoints and study guides here: <https://welshistoricalinstitute.org/175th-resources/#congregational> , and the pictorial 175th anniversary history book is available for purchase here: <https://online.nph.net/175annivbook>

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 – Thursdays 6:30pm

Youth confirmation class is open to youth starting from grade 5 or 6 (depending on individual readiness) and above. (Young adults nearing the end of high school and beyond who have not yet been confirmed in the WELS or ELS can arrange for adult confirmation class with Pastor Gawel.) The class is currently held on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00, but we could discuss adjusting the class day or time if needed, to accommodate the schedules of everyone who is interested. If you have a potential student in mind who would be ready to start class, please speak with Pastor Gawel. All are welcome!

BIBLE INFORMATION CLASS

This class is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about what the Bible teaches and what our church believes – and for those who would like a review. 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, and we can schedule the class at a time and place that's convenient for you.

SATURDAY EVENING CHINESE MINISTRY 周六晚上7:45中文圣经学习
Chinese ministry is held on Saturday evenings at 7:45pm in our ministry

center (the house next-door to church), 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, 圣安德烈基督教路德宗教会 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!

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
\$15,545.33	\$9,279.23

(budgeted need each week: \$3,587.38)

Ministry Attendance Last Week

Worship attendance last Sunday in church: 48 (35 adults, 13 children)

Sunday service live-stream peak concurrent viewing devices: 11

Last weekend’s Saturday Chinese ministry: 8

Adult Bible study attendance: 11 (Sun.: 7; Tue.: 2, 2)

Sunday school: 4 Youth confirmation class: n/a

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