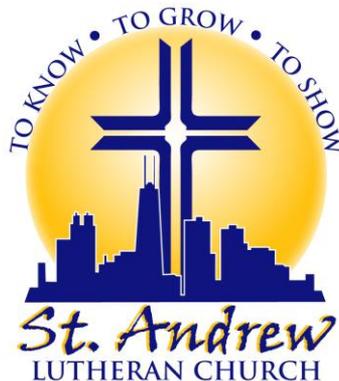




**The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Day
December 25, 2025**

**SERVICE THEME:
You Can Go Home Again**



The Nativity of Our Lord – Christmas Day December 25, 2025 – St. Andrew Lutheran Church

SERVICE THEME: You Can Go Home Again

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

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

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S SERVICE

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. Christmas Day is the festival of the Incarnation: the eternal Son of God was born in time as the son of Mary (Verse of the Day) so that in his flesh he might free us from the bondage of sin (Prayer of the Day). From the beginning, the solution to sin was the flesh and blood of God.

34

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice



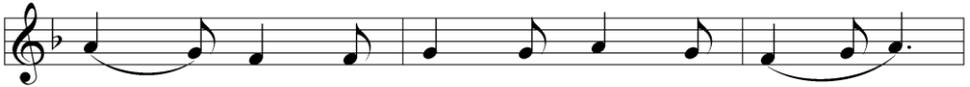
1 Now sing we, now re - joice, Now raise to heav'n our
 2 Come from on high to me; I can - not rise to
 3 Now through his Son doth shine The Fa - ther's grace di -
 4 Oh, where shall joy be found? Where but on heav'n - ly



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



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



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



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

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

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

Stand

DIALOGUE OF PRAISE, CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION 赞美, 认罪及赦罪

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

80 Angels from the Realms of Glory



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



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



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



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

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY 本日共祷文

M: Let us pray.

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

C: Amen.

FIRST READING – Isaiah 62:10-12 (EHV) – 以赛亚书 62:10-12

¹⁰Go through, go through the gates.

Prepare a way for the people.

Build up, build up the highway.

Clear it of stones.

Raise a banner for the peoples.

¹¹Listen, the LORD is making a proclamation to the end of the earth.

Tell the daughter of Zion:

“Look, your salvation is coming.

Look, his reward is with him,

and his compensation is out in front of him.”^a

¹²Then they will be called holy people,

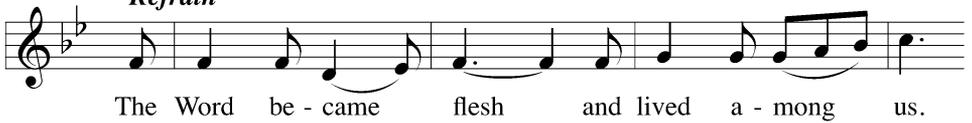
the redeemed of the LORD.

Then you will be called Sought After,

A City Not Abandoned.

PSALM OF THE DAY – Psalm 98 – CWS p. 53 (text NIV84) – 诗篇 98

Refrain



Psalm Tone



Refrain

Sing to the LORD a new song,

for he has done marvelous things.

^a This may refer to the people whom the Messiah has won by his labor, or it may refer to the gifts he brings for his people.

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

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

Refrain

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

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

Shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

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

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

Refrain

SECOND READING – Hebrews 1:1-9 (EHV) – 希伯来书 1:1-9

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

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

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

And again:

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

^b Psalm 2:7

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

⁶And again, when he brought his firstborn into the world, he said:

Let all God's angels worship him.^d

⁷About the angels he says:

He makes his messengers winds and his ministers flaming fire.^e

⁸But about the Son he says:

God, your throne is forever and ever,

and the scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom.

⁹You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of joy
beyond your companions.^f

35 Of the Father's Love Begotten



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



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



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

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

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

^e Psalm 104:4

^f Psalm 45:6-7

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

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

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

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

VERSE OF THE DAY 备福音词及哈利路亚

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

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

GOSPEL – John 1:1-14 (EHV) – 约翰福音 1:1-14

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 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.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

HYMN OF THE DAY – A Great and Mighty Wonder – CW93 #36 – printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页

^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.)

^b Or *grasped*

^c Literally *tented*

36

A Great and Mighty Wonder



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.

SERMON – Isaiah 62:10-12 – You Can Go Home Again – 讲道：基于以赛亚书 62:10-12

HYMN – *To Shepherds as They Watched by Night* – CW93 #53 – printed on the following page – 圣诗 — 在下一页

53 To Shepherds as They Watched by Night



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



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



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

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

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

ATHANASIAN CREED – CW93 p. 132-133 – 亚他那修信经

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

or hell, actually, from all that we see in the Bible, it is faith in Jesus as Savior that is the basis for going to heaven or hell, and our good works are simply evidence of the presence or absence of faith (cf. Ephesians 2:8-9; John 3:18).

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

Now this is the true Christian faith:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So there is one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three Sons; one Holy Spirit, not three Holy Spirits.

And within this Trinity none comes before or after; none is greater or

inferior, but all three persons are coequal and coeternal,
so that in every way, as stated before, all three persons are to be
worshiped as one God
and one God worshiped as three persons.

Whoever wishes to be saved must have this conviction of the Trinity.
It is furthermore necessary for eternal salvation truly to believe
that our Lord Jesus Christ also took on human flesh.

Now this is the true Christian faith:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OFFERING 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).



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



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



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



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



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

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–76, abr.; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, alt.
 Tune: O JESU CHRIST, DEIN KRIPPLEIN IST (44 11 D) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH 教会公祷

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

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

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

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

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

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

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent prayer.

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

C: Glory to God in the highest! Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER 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.

PRAYER 祷告

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

C: Amen.

BLESSING 祝福

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

C: Amen.

58 See in Yonder Manger Low



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



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

Refrain



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



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

Text: Edward Caswall, 1814–78, alt.
Tune: HUMILITY (77 77 with Refrain) John Gross, 1800–80.

ST. ANDREW'S MINISTRY THIS WEEK
December 25-28, 2025

| | | |
|----------------|----------|--------------------------------------|
| Today | 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 |
| | 10:45 AM | Sunday School |

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'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!

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please join us on Sunday (Dec. 28) at 9:30am as we continue our Christmas celebration and ask for God's blessing as we close out the current year and look forward to the new year. All are welcome!

PASTOR BORGWARDT LEADING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY (Dec. 28)

Pastor Jake Borgwardt of Crossroads (our sister church on the north side of Chicago), will be leading our worship service on 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.

POINSETTIA 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!

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/CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONS IN PRINT & ONLINE

Our church-body's college of ministry, Martin Luther College, in New Ulm, MN, has prepared a devotion booklet for Advent and Christmas. 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/>. The quarterly *Meditations* booklets contain daily devotions for the season as well. May God bless your meditation on his Word!

FREE BIBLE APP "YouVersion" INCLUDES AUDIO BIBLE RECORDINGS & TIME OF GRACE DEVOTIONS AND VIDEOS

In the new year, why not resolve to read or listen to more of God's Word – the Bible? One great way to do that even when you're on the go is to listen to audio Bible recordings. The free YouVersion Bible app includes dozens of English Bible versions (I recommend the NIV, CSB, or EHV), many of which have audio recordings available – and many other languages (Spanish, Chinese, etc). Download the YouVersion Bible app from your phone's app store (eg: Google Play), or click this link: <https://www.bible.com/app>, or scan this QR code. ...

When you open the app, tap the "Bible" icon at the bottom of the screen to read or listen to the Bible. Then select version (eg, NIV) and Bible-book, chapter, and verse at the top. Bible versions that have audio available will appear with a volume icon next to the name. Some versions have multiple audio options (different narrators).



Once you've opened a Bible version that has audio, there will be a triangular play button near the bottom of the screen that you can press to start the audio playing. You can switch narrators (if available) by pressing the volume icon at the top of the screen. You can also find Time of Grace (a WELS-affiliated ministry) devotions and videos from Pastor Mike Novotny and others by searching "Time of Grace" in the "Plans" or "Discover" tabs at the bottom of the screen. Ask Pastor Gawel if you need any help. God bless you as you read and meditate on his Word!

WELS DAILY DEVOTIONS – VIA WELS APP, EMAIL, ONLINE

Read or listen to WELS Daily Devotions on the WELS App (download here: <https://m.wels.net/>), or subscribe to receive them by email: <https://wels.net/daily-devotions-subscription/>, or read them online. These devotions are for a general adult audience. Family devotions, teen devotions, and devotions for military service members are also available, on the app or here: <https://wels.net/serving-you/devotions/>, to subscribe to receive by email or read online.

DISCOVERY DAY AT WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS – Jan. 19 (MLK Day)

High school students and parents are invited to attend Discovery Day at Wisconsin Lutheran College on Monday, January 19. By attending our special visit event, you'll have a great opportunity to tour campus and talk with professors, current students, coaches, your admissions counselor, and have lunch on us. Reserve your place today! Register today: <https://wlc.news/discovery-day>, call 414.443.8811, email admissions@wlc.edu, or snap the QR code.



WELS WOMEN'S MINISTRY ONLINE BIBLE STUDY STARTING Jan. 17/19

WELS Women's Ministry is offering the online course "Heirs Together," a study of what the Bible says about men and women and God's design for them. This course lasts 11 weeks with the option to attend on Saturday mornings or Monday evenings, starting January 17/19. Register here: <https://gf.wels.net/heirs-together/>. Purchase of a study guide for the class is required (\$12): <https://online.nph.net/heirs-together-of-gods-gracious-gift-student.html>

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 on Sundays

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. 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.

PASTORAL COUNSELING; PRIVATE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor Gawel is available for confidential pastoral counseling on the basis of God's Word, 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.)

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, 圣安得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!

TEEN ONLINE BIBLE STUDY – Feb. 15 (Sun.), 6:00pm

“Strength Made Perfect in Weakness” (Gideon – Judges 6-7) -- The account of Gideon convinces us that we need to alter our stereotypes of what a servant of Christ is like. We are duped into thinking that a real servant of Christ is dynamic, assured, confident, fearless, witty, glamorous, fit for the Christian TV network – you get the idea! Don't think you are unusable because you don't have that air about you. ... Rev. Dave Scharf, professor of theology at Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN, will lead this online interactive Bible study via Zoom. Register here: <https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/discipleship/national-teen-bible-study/>

CONQUERORS THROUGH CHRIST – resources supporting purity online

Conquerors Through Christ is a WELS ministry that exists to help people reject, resist, and recover from the wreckage of porn, with gospel motivation and practical encouragement. A number of resources are available at <https://conquerorsthroughchrist.net/>. ... Pastor Gawel is also available for confidential, Bible-based conversation and prayer at any time, about this or any other matter.

“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. Find 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). Pastor Gawel is also available for confidential, Bible-based conversation and prayer at any time, about these or any other matters.

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 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 November |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| \$15,545.33 | \$9,279.23 |

Offerings received 12/11—12/18: \$2,305.38; 12/19—12/23: \$4,864.22
(budgeted need each week: \$3,587.38)

Total offerings received so far this month: \$8,498.29

Ministry Attendance Last Week

Worship attendance last Sunday in church: 46 (33 adults, 13 children)

Live-stream peak concurrent viewing devices (Sunday): 6

Last weekend’s Saturday Chinese ministry: 6

Adult Bible study attendance: n/a

Sunday school: 13 Youth confirmation class: n/a

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