

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

Setting 3, ELW p.138



**St. Andrew's
Lutheran Church**

914 West Boulevard South

Columbia, MO 65203

573-449-5674 † SaintAndrewsLutheran.org

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Welcome to worship! Whether you are here for the first time or have been a life-long member, we pray that you experience God's presence in worship.

All God's Children are Welcome! If you have children, know that all of you are welcome in worship. Little people sounds tell us that everyone is here. If your little one becomes fussy, feel free to step out for a moment. Families may want to sit near the pray ground in the front left side of the Worship space. There are speakers in the gathering space.

Pastoral Concerns occasionally come up. In cases of severe illness, hospitalization, death, birth of a child, marriages, joys and sadness, many people would like a pastor to visit with them. Please be sure to contact the office to let us know of your desire.

Offering is received as a response to God's grace and blessing, and as an expression of our faith. Jesus tells us, 'For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.' (Matthew 6:21)

Holy Communion is celebrated at nearly every service. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. All are welcome.

Interested in growing in faith? If you have questions about what it means to enter into partnership in our shared ministry feel free to contact Pastor David.

Announcements: The announcements begin on page 20, following the worship service.

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church Welcome Statement



At St. Andrew's Lutheran Church (ELCA), we hold space for you—the full you—including your race, age, ethnic background, personality, experiences, gender identity, sexual orientations, gender expressions, and mental, spiritual, and physical needs. Here, you are invited to worship, pray, play, be baptized, get married, and celebrate Holy Communion.

Together, we strive to eliminate human-caused barriers to a holy relationship with Jesus Christ and with one another. We hear the call to love our neighbor as a commitment to antiracism and welcome for our LGBTQIA+ siblings. We pledge to work intentionally to further justice and inclusion. We strive to glorify God in the ways we care for each other, our communities, and our planet. Recognizing that we are all siblings in Christ, we celebrate, affirm, and welcome individuals and families in all their beautiful and varied compositions. As a church that holds space just for you, we are better for having you and your unique voice here! Come just as you are!

Welcome to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

Page number references (such as p.203 refer to numbers in the lower corners of the front of Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) or All Creation Sings (ACS).
Hymn numbers (such as ELW 605) refer to large numbers associated with songs—typically at the top of the page.

‡GATHERING‡

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* setting, Edwin T. Childs

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ‡ one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Long-expected God,

**we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.**

**We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.**

**We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**

**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.**

**Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.**

Amen.

God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

‡ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

Amen.

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation,
joy of ev'ry longing heart.
- 2 Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

LIGHTING OF ADVENT WREATH AND CHILDREN'S TIME

The Children's Time concludes with lighting the Second Advent Candle while this prayer is offered.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
John the Baptist calls all people to prepare the Lord's way
for the kingdom of heaven is near.
Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Baptize us with the fire of your Spirit,
that we may be a light shining in the darkness
welcoming others as Christ has welcomed us,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

Amen.

SONG AFTER ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING*All Earth Is Hopeful*

ELW 266, st.2

- 2 People of Israel, you heard the prophet tell:
"A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel";
she conceived him, "God with us,"
our brother, whose birth
restores hope and courage to children of this earth.

GREETING

ELW p.138

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Messiah

Dakotah Road

- 1 Someone's shouting from the desert
Someone's shouting from the sea
Someone's shouting from the mountain
Someone's shouting from the valley

Chorus

Messiah, come and be our King
Messiah, come and be our King

- 2 Someone's shouting from the city
I am young, I am cold
Someone's shouting from the country
I am lonely, I am old *Chorus*

- 3 Someone's shouting I am broken
Someone's shouting make me whole
Someone's shouting come and change me
Someone's shouting save my soul *Chorus*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

ELW p.142

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

‡**WORD**‡

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

³ His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see
or decide by what his ears hear,

⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb;
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the lion will feed together,
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the
nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

- ¹ Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the king's son;
² **that he may rule your people righteously
and the poor with justice;**
³ that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,
and the hills, in righteousness.
⁴ **Let him defend the needy among the people,
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
⁵ May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,
from one generation to another.
⁶ **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,
like showers that water the earth.**
⁷ In his time may the righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.
¹⁸ **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel;
you alone do wondrous deeds!**
¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

A reading from Romans.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles
and sing praises to your name”;

¹⁰ and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

¹¹ and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,
and let all the peoples praise him”;

¹² and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Wait for the Lord

ELW 262

Sung three times

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight.' "

⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings
glad tidings of the King of kings!
- 2 Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare
for Christ to come and enter there.
- 3 We hail you as our Savior, Lord,
our refuge and our great reward;
without your grace we waste away
like flow'rs that wither and decay.
- 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health restore,
and make us rise to fall no more;
oh, let your face upon us shine
and fill the world with love divine.
- 5 All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

NICENE CREED

ELW p.104

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 truly 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE INTERCESSION

In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

Each petition concludes:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

The final petition concludes:

...trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

ELW p.143

We open Zoom microphones to speak Peace to one another.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

✠MEAL✠

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Please remember that Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church continues important ministry. Consider making offerings by any of these means:

- **Offering Basket:** Place your offering in the basket as you enter or leave worship;
- **Mail:** send offerings to Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church weekly or monthly;
- **Online:** visit the SaintAndrewsLutheran.org website and click the Donate Now button;
- **Bill pay:** use the convenience of the bill pay feature through your financial institution.
- **Give by Text:** Use a smart phone to text the contribution amount to 844-989-4094. Return text will provide a link for recording credit/debit card information and your contact information.

MUSICAL OFFERING

8:30

Even So Come (Radio Version) - Passion

by Chris Tomlin

- 1 All of creation
All of the earth
Make straight a highway
A path for the Lord
Jesus is coming soon
- 2 Call back the sinner
Wake up the saint
Let every nation
Shout of Your fame
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus

Like a bride
Waiting for her groom
We'll be a church
Ready for You
Every heart longing for our King

We sing
Even so come
Lord Jesus come
Even so come
Lord Jesus come

- 3 There will be justice
All will be new
Your name forever
Faithful and true
Jesus is coming soon

Chorus

Like a bride
Waiting for her groom
We'll be a church
Ready for You
Every heart longing for our King
We sing
Even so come
Lord Jesus come
Even so come
Lord Jesus come

Bridge

So we wait
We wait for You
God we wait
You're coming soon
So we wait
We wait for You
God we wait
You're coming soon

Chorus

Like a bride
Waiting for her groom
We'll be a church
Ready for You
Every heart longing for our King
We sing
Like a bride
Waiting for her groom
We'll be a church

We will be ready for You
Every heart longing for our King
We sing
Even so come
Lord Jesus come
Even so come
Lord Jesus come
Even so come
Lord Jesus come
Even so come
Lord Jesus come

11:00

Comfort, Comfort Now My People

ELW 256

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
Nourishing God,
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,
that we may rejoice and be for the world
signs of your kingdom come.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

ELW p.144

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ELW p.144

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p.144

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

ELW p.145

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

ELW p.145

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is life. God is with us.

Come, receive what God has promised.

Holy Communion at Saint Andrew's

- *At the table of our Lord Jesus Christ, God nourishes faith, forgives sin, and calls us to be witnesses to the Gospel. In this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink. This real presence is a mystery. Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. This Table of the Lord is open to all the baptized.*
- *Grape juice is available in the center ring of glasses. Gluten-free wafers are available: Please speak to those serving the bread when you come to the rail.*
- *Please follow the guidance of the Worship Hosts, going forward on one side of your section and returning to your seat on the other side.*

COMMUNION

ELW p.146

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

setting, Craig Curry

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ make you strong do God's will and keep you in grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray,

God our host,

at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.

Send us forth, eager to share the feast,

welcome the stranger,

and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

✠SENDING✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING AND SENDING OF LUTHERAN FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICE'S GIFTS

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we send these gifts for Lutheran Family and Children's Services families to for their Christmas celebration.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.

We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.

Renew in us the commitment

to use our gifts in the service of others, and especially of those in need.

Let us be your hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless,

clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast,

welcome the stranger, care for creation,

and be loving neighbors to all people.

Bless these gifts.

May those who receive them be sustained through them,

and may these gifts be a sign of your love to all people.

To you, O God, be glory and honor through your Son, Jesus Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in your church and in the world, now and forever.

Amen.

OUR COMMUNITY OF FAITH

ELW p.146

BLESSING

May God who comes among us,

Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,

grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,

and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

- 1 Prepare the royal highway;
the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:

Refrain

Hosanna to the Lord,
for he fulfills God's word!

- 2 God's people, see him coming:
your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! *Refrain*
- 3 Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev'ry nation
its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: *Refrain*
- 4 His is no earthly kingdom;
it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding: *Refrain*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Keep awake.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

8:30

Reprise: Prepare the Royal Highway

ELW 264

11:00

Prepare the Royal Highway, variation V

setting, Elaine S. Dykstra

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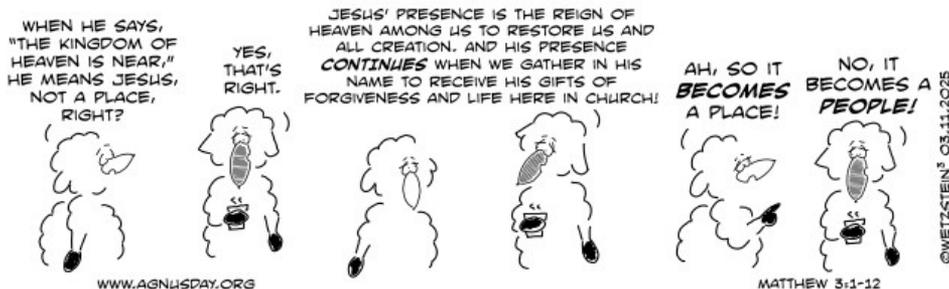
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Agnus Day

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TODAY'S MINISTERS FOR WORSHIP

Presiding Minister: Pr. David Frerichs
Minister for Music: Megan Lyon
Organist Sheryl Mehrhoff

	8:30	11:00
Greeter	Glenda Moum	Gage & Tara Alstatt
Worship Hosts	TBD Kim Hickey	Bryce Bock Robert Bock
Assisting Minsters	Read Susan Candea Pray Cindy Vedder	Larry Leip Emily Anderson
Acolyte	TBD	TBD
Communion Preparer	Merri Wente-Chapman	Gwen Gray
Communion Cleanup		Susan Krings
Visual Projectionist	Gwen Gray	Michael Volz
Zoom Worship Host		Michelle Froese
Zoom Tech Director		Susan Goldammer
Building Opener	TBD	
Building Closer		Meg Darkow

Rev. David Frerichs, Senior Pastor: pastordavid@saintandrewslutheran.org
Megan Lyon, Minister for Music: mlyon@saintandrewslutheran.org
Sheryl Mehrhoff, Organist: smehrhoff@saintandrewslutheran.org
Wilson Freyermuth, Church Council President: freyermuthr@missouri.edu
Jamie Langbart, Parish Administrator: office@saintandrewslutheran.org

Video Disclaimer: When you enter a Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church worship service/event, you will be entering an area where photography, video and audio recording may occur.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Contributions and expenses through October 31, 2025

	October	YTD
Offerings	\$26,579	\$360,308
Expenses	\$34,655	\$371,522
Over/(under) expenses	(8,076)	(11,214)
Nonbudget Special Offerings	\$2,447	\$10,221



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church

914 West Boulevard South, Columbia, MO 65203

saintandrewslutheran.org

Email: office@saintandrewslutheran.org

Office Phone: 573-449-5674

Office Hours: Sun: 7:00 am–1:00 pm; 1:30 pm–3:30 pm

Mon-Thurs: 8:00 am–12:30 pm; 1:00 pm–4:30 pm

Sunday Forum: December 7th 9:45 am: "Lutheran Family and Children's Services". Presentation from Truman Orson about LFCS's important work here in Mid-Missouri. Lutheran Family and Children's Services celebrates 30 years of service here in Mid-Missouri. At the heart of their work is a personal mission: to improve the lives of others each day with kindness and compassion, recognizing that no matter our circumstances, we are all equal and deserving of respect.

The Lutheran Family and Children Services Donation Tree: Please return all tags and gifts to the office by Sunday December 7th to ensure they can be distributed at the upcoming LFCS Christmas party on December 11th.

!ELFY Christmas Extravaganza! On Sunday, December 7th from 6 - 7:30 @ Calvary, we're having our annual Christmas themed Advent party! Bring an item to share for the white elephant gift exchange game (no more than \$5- \$10). We'll have snacks, play games, and have fun & fellowship. Please come to the entrance off of the 8th Street parking lot. Because of the holiday schedule, this is our last gathering until January 18th!

Holy Communion at Lenoir Woods. All who worship with Saint Andrew's Lutheran or Calvary Episcopal may join the community at Lenoir Woods for Holy Communion in Epple Chapel, at 11:00 am on Thursday, December 11. For those who desire the rite of healing with anointing, Rev. Josh and Pastor David offer this rite following the worship service. Come! Be church with some who cannot attend at regular weekly worship.

LFCS Parent Cafe and Christmas party December 11th 5:00 pm: St. Andrew's provides the meal for the LFCS Parent Cafe and Christmas party for the parents LFCS supports and their small children. Sign up to help in the narthex! Fill St. Andrew's with parents and small children! Lutheran Family and Children's Services is holding their Parent Café support group's Christmas party at Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church on Thursday, December 11th at 5:00 pm and St. Andrew's is helping with the meal. Sign up in the Narthex to help in the kitchen, set up tables, or donate food. Yet another way to help support LFCS and the families that they serve.

Quilt Tying in December: For those looking for a way to serve and for fellowship, join in at 9:00 am on December 12 in the Fellowship Hall. That is the LAST date we will meet in 2025.

Sunday Forum: December 14th 9:45 am: “Election Policy Committee”
Presentation by Carol Elliott. Our Sunday Forum session will present, review, and discuss a draft proposed policy on Civic Engagement activities. St. Andrew’s has a policy for election activities outside the church building. This draft policy will also address such advocacy inside our building.

LFCS Cookie Walk: December 14th Between services (& after 11:00 if we still have cookies): The St. Andrew’s Christmas Cookie and Christmas Card Bash with proceeds from the cookie walk going to LFCS. Bring 3 dozen of your favorite cookies and take some home! Please consider baking some of your best Christmas cookies -or try that new recipe you’ve been curious to try- and donating them to the walk. All proceeds benefit Lutheran Family & Children’s Services.
ELFY Youth Group: All families with youth in grades 6 through 12 will want to sign up for the GroupMe group for announcements about ELFY Gatherings and events. On December 7 at 6:00 pm, we will meet at Calvary for a holiday party which includes a white elephant exchange. For the link to GroupMe or more information contact Pastor David. For the link to GroupMe contact Pastor David.
pastordavid@saintandrewslutheran.org

Christmas Eve Services: Saint Andrew’s Lutheran Church will celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord with two worship services on Wednesday, December 24, at 5:30 and 7:30 pm. The 5:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship service will follow the “ABC’s of Christmas” as a way to engage the promise, hope and love of God in the birth of Jesus. The service will include many beloved Christmas Carols, Holy Communion and candlelight. Some members of the Praise Band will assist in leading the music. The 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Worship Service follow a liturgy of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion and candlelight. The Choir will lead congregational song as well as offer additional music.

Playing & Singing in the Band: If you play an instrument or would like to sing with the band, please email MLyon@saintandrewslutheran.org. If you’re interested in singing in the choir, we’d love to have you join us as well – feel free to reach out for more information. And if you play an instrument or sing but neither of these opportunities seem like the right fit, please don’t hesitate to contact me – we’d be glad to find a place for your gifts in our music ministry.

Call for Annual Reports: The Congregation Council has established the date for the Annual Congregation Meeting for Sunday, January 25, 2026. We ask leaders and facilitators of all St. Andrew's committees and teams to submit a summary of 2025 activities for the Annual Report no later than January 2, 2026. This report will inform all members of St. Andrew's about your accomplishments this past year. If you have questions, please contact Wilson Freyermuth for additional information. Please submit reports as a Microsoft Document to office@saintandrewslutheran.org

Prayers for December 7, 2025

We add to our prayers this week:

For family and friends of Rich Waudby who died this past week.

We continue to offer prayers of hope and healing for:

Linnea Geenen	Cathy	Candi Glancy
Jan Levensgood	Katie Koopman	Patric
Dale Whitman	Suzi	Joanne Boomer
Mark Landow	Mo Champion-Garthe	
Howard Weber	Arlene Cunningham	

We pray for those in the military:

Eric Childers, Matthew Lee, and those serving throughout the world.

We pray for those with other kinds of needs:

For all who are recovering from natural disasters near and far.

For all who live in times of war and conflict, particularly in Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Sudan and Congo; we pray in particular for these Palestinian detainees: Mohammed Ibrahim, Layan Nasir, and Hadeel Shatara.

Those who are incarcerated with whom we minister: Brooke, Chastity, Daylene, Estelle, Zayla, Korey, Kylie, Lashonda, Amber, Marilyn, Amy, LaTavia, Breashia, Heidi, and Miranda

We pray for our partners in ministry in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Central States Synod and these congregations: Andover Lutheran Church, Windom, KS; Salem Lutheran Church, Lenexa, KS; St. John Lutheran Church, Lancaster, KS.

Background on Palestinian detainees for whom we pray:

We are grateful for the release of Mohammed Ibrahim, a Palestinian - American child from Florida imprisoned by Israeli soldiers in February 2025. The hearing for Mohammed Ibrahim was recently held and he has since been freed by the Israeli government.

We pray for Layan Nasir, a Christian Palestinian student. She has been subjected to ongoing military trials for four years. In 2024, she was re-arrested and held for eight months under administrative detention. Today, she still faces the threat of an 8-month prison sentence, based on proceedings in a military court system that denies basic legal protections and presumes guilt rather than justice.

We pray for Hadeel Shatara, our FOSNA Palestinian partner, an advancement officer at Birzeit University near Ramallah. She is a fierce advocate of Palestinians and has been detained in the past for speaking out. She asks us to pray for peace for her homeland.

THIS WEEK AT ST. ANDREW'S

Sunday, December 7

- 8:30 am Worship (IP)
- 9:45 am Sunday Forum: Lutheran Family & Children's Services (IP&Z)
- 11:00 am Worship (IP&Z)
- 2:00 pm Friends of Palestine Meeting (IP&Z)
- 6:00 pm ELFY Youth Group (IP)

Monday, December 8

- 4:45 pm ELCM Bible Study (IP-[Calvary Episcopal Church](#))
- 6:00 pm Campus Ministry Evening Prayer and Dinner (IP-[Calvary Episcopal Church](#))

Tuesday, December 9

No Events

Wednesday, December 10

- 8:00 am Men's Bible Study (Z)
- 10:00 am Women in the Word (IP&Z)
- 6:15 pm Wednesday Worship (IP&Z)
- 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (IP)

Thursday, December 11

- 11:00 am Lenoir Woods Holy Communion (IP)

Friday, December 12

- 9:00 am Quilt Tying (IP)

Saturday, December 13

No Events

Sunday, December 14

- 8:30 am Worship (IP)
- 9:45 am Sunday Forum: Election Policy Committee (IP&Z)
- 9:45 am Christmas Cookie Walk (IP)
- 11:00 am Worship (IP&Z)
- 12:30 pm Ambassadors for Christ (IP)

Reading for Next Wednesday December 10, 2025

Matthew 1:18-20

Readings for Next Sunday December 14, 2025 Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146:5-10
James 5:7-10
Matthew 11:2-11

*Key: IP—In Person; Z—Zoom; IP&Z—In Person and Zoom

Online Resources

- Find St. Andrew's Lutheran Church at SaintAndrewsLutheran.org.
 - Links to all online services and meetings are posted on our website. SaintAndrewsLutheran.org/online-events
 - Links to all worship bulletins are at SaintAndrewsLutheran.org/worship.
- Go to StAndrewsLutheran.flocknote.com or text StAndy to 84576 to get church email and text communications.
- Miss the livestream of worship? If you want to hear the sermon from Sunday worship, there is now a podcast available at SaintAndrewsLutheranChurch.podbean.com.