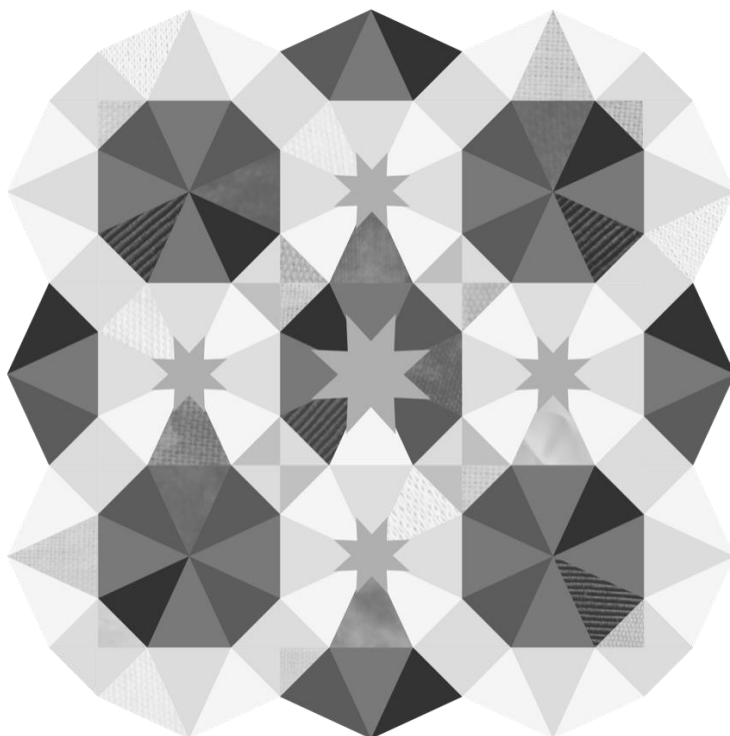


Nativity of Our Lord

Service of Lessons, Carols, & Candlelight

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
December 24, 2024 | 4:00 pm



FOR THE **BEGINNING**

— LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME —

Welcome to St. Andrew!

At St. Andrew Lutheran Church, we strive to be a loving and welcoming community of faith. We are centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ, who calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world of alienation and brokenness.

All are welcome, without exception, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, physical or mental ability, education, income, or family status.

All are welcome here to worship God, receive the sacraments, and share in fellowship, leadership, and service. We commit to treasuring one another's similarities and differences as one body in Christ.

We are called to provide a safe space in the community as we break down the barriers of isolation. We will continue to discover what it means to be "Reconciling in Christ."

"Welcome one another therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."
- Romans 15:7

Orientation to the Service

This bulletin will guide you through the entire service. Started on page 3, words printed in **bold** are for everyone to say aloud together. Instructions and information are printed in *italics*.

Hymns (songs) are found in the hymnals in the pew racks in front of your seat.

ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (red hymnal)

ACS = All Creation Sings (blue hymnal)

Green-topped Welcome Cards are found in the pew racks in front of your seat. We would love for guests, visitors, and anyone in need of prayer or more information about the church to fill one out. Please place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service.

Children are welcome in worship! God put the wiggle in children, so please do not feel you have to shush or suppress those wiggles in God's house. All are welcome here! Consider sitting toward the front where it is easier for children to see and hear what is happening in the service. There are worship activity bags available for children just outside the sanctuary, and a staffed nursery is available for very young ones. Ask an usher if you need help locating it.

Restrooms can be found by exiting the back of the sanctuary and turning right. Walk straight until you pass the coffee bar, and you will find the women's and men's restrooms to your right. A gender-neutral, ADA-compliant restroom will be found to your left, near the entrance to the kitchen.

Online access to the bulletin and hymns: standrewlutheran.com/worship/worship-bulletins/



WORDS
FOR THE BEGINNING
— LOVE KNOWS YOUR NAME —

INTRODUCTION

Christ's birth makes the vastness of God personal. The God who made the seas and the stars is also the God who made your beautiful hair and striking eyes. The God of creation takes on flesh, which means you are fully known. When the angels visit the shepherds in the fields, their message is global but also personal: "To you...a savior is born." This birth is good news for everyone, especially those who are ignored or disenfranchised. On this night, God is born, and this God of love knows your name.

PRELUDE

"Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella"

Christopher Uehlein

Susan Werner Reiser, organ

GATHERING

THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

WELCOME

The congregation may stand.

PROCESSIONAL CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful (ELW 283, verses 1 & 3)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;

come and behold him, born the king of angels:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God in the highest:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

CALL TO WORSHIP

In those days, in the beginning, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.
He was to be registered, and she was expecting a child.

The time came for Mary to give birth, so she delivered her child,
wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger.

**And the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth, peace to all whom God favors."**

Let us worship our with-us God.

Let us sing songs of praise!

CAROL OF PRAISE Angels We Have Heard on High (ELW 289, verses 1 & 3)

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn king.**

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In a weary and worn world, how do we begin again? Where do we start?

Let us begin with hope. Let us begin with peace.

Let us begin with joy. Let us begin with love.

Yes, let us begin with love, for surely love knows your name.

Today, in addition to the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love,
we light the Christ candle. For surely God is in this place.

Surely the Spirit is near. Surely love knows our name.

May we rest in that good news. Unto us a child is born.

A light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

The Christ candle is lit.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Let us pray.

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace: We are leaning forward. We are craning our necks, straining to hear a murmur of the angels' song, or an echo of a "gloria." We always long for you, but on this night, on this holy Christmas Eve, we long for you to feel as close as possible. So are we prepare to hear this ancient story once again, we ask that you would awaken something new in us. Awaken in us a fire for your Word. Awaken in us proof of your proximity. Awaken in us your love, which is bigger than the sky, and as close as our very breath. We are listening. We give thanks.

Amen.

The congregation is seated.

WORD

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING, AND SONG.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Allison Bengfort

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 4, 6 & 7 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

The people walking in darkness are seeing a brilliant light – upon those who live in a land of deep shadows, light is shining! God, you have brought them abundant joy! For the yoke that burdened them, the weight on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressors – you have shattered it. For a child is born to us, an heir has been given to us, upon whose shoulders dominion will rest. This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God, Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace. This dominion and peace will grow without end, sustained with justice and fairness now and forever.

CAROL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (ELW 254, verse 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.**

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 11:6-9 (*Spark Story Bible*)

God says, "I love you more than all creation. I want you to love me too. This child will know and love me. He will show you how to love me. I love all people. I want you to love all people. Whether the people are rich or poor, I want you to love them. Whether they are hungry or full, love them. Whether their skin is the color of chocolate, snow, butterscotch, roses, or anything in between, love them. Then you can live in peace. Wolves and lambs can live together in peace. So can leopards and baby lambs, as well as lions and calves. If animals who are natural enemies can live together, then people can too. This is going to happen because the Lord of heaven has dedicated Himself to do it!

CAROL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (ELW 254, verse 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.**

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38 (*The Learning Bible*)

God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David. Gabriel greeted Mary and said: "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you!" Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you. You will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great, be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. He will rule the people of Israel forever--and his kingdom will never end." Mary said to the angel, "But how can this happen? I am not married." The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God." Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." Then the angel left her.

CAROL

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came (ELW 265, verse 1)

**The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
“All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady.” Gloria!**

FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-24 (*The Learning Bible*)

Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided quietly to call off the wedding. While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after the baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, “A virgin will have a baby boy and he will be called ‘Immanuel’, which means ‘God is with us’.” After Joseph woke up, he and Mary were soon married, just as the angel had told him to do.

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279, verse 1)

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-6a (*Contemporary English Version*)

About that time, Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all people to be listed in record books. These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to go to their hometown to be listed. So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago, Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family. Mary traveled with him, though she was very soon going to have a baby.

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem (ELW 279, verse 2)

**For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:6-7 (*The Inclusive Bible*)

While they were there in Bethlehem, the time came for her delivery. Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She put him in a simple cloth wrapped like a receiving blanket, and laid him in a feeding trough for cattle, because there was no room for them at the inn.

CAROL

Away in a Manger (ELW 277)

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-14 (*The Message Bible*)

There were some sheep herders camping in the fields. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them, and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody worldwide. A Savior has been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in

blankets and lying in a manger." At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises: "Glory to God in the heavenly heights! Peace to all people on earth who please God!"

CAROL

Go Tell It on the Mountain (ELW 290, verses 1 & 2)

Refrain: **Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.** *Refrain*

**The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.** *Refrain*

EIGHTH LESSON

Luke 2:15-20 (*The Message Bible*)

When the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the shepherds talked it over. "Let's get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, lying in the manger. Seeing was believing! They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child, while Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying, and praising God for everything they had heard and seen.

CAROL

The First Noel (ELW 300, verse 1)

**The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

The congregation may stand.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We believe that on a night like this one,
a baby was born and placed in a manger.
We believe that baby was God's love in the flesh,
who grew up to love the outcast and change the world.
We believe that Jesus' love was so big and so personal
that the world will never be the same.
So despite the mystery of this holy night,
we believe that a star shone, that the shepherds ran,
that the angels sang, and that love was born.
Yes, we believe it when the prophets say
that unto you, unto us, a savior is born.
Glory to God in the highest heaven! We believe.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Remind us that no matter where we go or what we do,
you took on flesh for us.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

*All are invited to share a sign of peace with one another (handshake, hug, peace sign, etc.).
Placing your hands together in a praying position will signal to those around you that you
prefer not to physically touch others.*

The congregation is seated.

INVITATION TO OFFERING

In worship, we offer our full selves to God, the Source of all that is. We give thanks for the financial resources we have been granted through God’s grace to steward in this life. As an act of gratitude and faith, we share these financial resources with our church community.

At this time, all are invited to contribute, either by placing a gift in the offering plate or making a donation online. Now is also the time for children to take the heart out of their their Christmas bag and place it in the offering plate, symbolizing the commitment of our full selves to God.

Contributions to St. Andrew Lutheran Church may be placed in the offering plate or made online (standrewlutheran.com/give). Thank you for your generosity!

OFFERING	“To Bethlehem to be Born”	Helmut Walcha
	Susan Werner Reiser, organ	

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY VERSE In the Bleak Midwinter (ELW 294, verse 3)

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
 if I were a wise man I would do my part;
 yet what I can I give him – give my heart.**

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.

PREFACE

CAROL OF PRAISE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (ELW 270, verse 1)

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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

The congregation is seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

A child has been born for us, a Son given to us.
Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

All are invited to commune without exception! At the direction of an usher, those wishing to commune may proceed down the center aisle. A piece of gluten-free bread will be placed in your hands. You may dip the bread in the cup of wine (red chalice) or the cup of grape juice (light-colored chalice), or you may choose to partake of the bread only. If you prefer not to receive communion but would like to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please alert an usher, and the elements will be brought to you.

DISTRIBUTION CAROL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (ELW 257, verse 1)

**O come, O 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.**

DISTRIBUTION CAROL

What Child Is This (ELW 296)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

DISTRIBUTION CAROL

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord (ELW 286)

Your little ones, dear Lord, are we, and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind, that we the way to you may find.

With songs we hasten you to greet, and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night that gave you birth, our soul's delight.

Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord, and to us all your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart, that we may hold you in our heart.

Until at last we too proclaim, with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew, and praise you as the angels do.

The congregation may stand.

LITANY OF LIGHT

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and lived among us.
We have beheld Christ's glory.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

CANDLELIGHT CAROL

Silent Night, Holy Night! (ELW 281)

During the introduction, light is passed from the Christ candle to each worshiper. Light your candle by tipping your unlit candle over your neighbor's burning candle. Never tip a burning candle. Young children are invited to use the battery-operated candle found in their Christmas bag.

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

BLESSING

May the Light that Mary brought to birth
carry you into new and abundant life.
May the Light that the angels proclaimed in song
bring harmony to our world.
And may the Light that is the all-loving God,
Creator, † Christ, and Holy Spirit,
burn within you now and always.
Amen.

SENDING CAROL

Joy to the World (ELW 267, verses 1 & 4)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Merry Christmas!
Thanks be to God! Merry Christmas!

Please extinguish your candle by placing one hand behind the flame and gently blowing the candle out. Wait a minute for the wax to harden, and then place your candle in the basket at the exit.

POSTLUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”
Susan Werner Reiser, organ

Alex Wyton

Serving in Worship

Presider: Pastor Allison Bengfort
Assisting Minister: Sister India Jensen Kerr
Altar Guild: Susan Werner Reiser
Cantor: Janet Vorvick
Musician: Susan Werner Reiser
Nursery Assistant: Sonja Ackman
Ushers: Fran & Ted Miller
Zoom Host: Marlan Bell

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