

Sunday, December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent
10:00 AM



John the Baptist Preaching in the Wilderness, Pier Francisco Mola

Welcome to Worship!
As we prepare for worship, please silence your mobile devices.
We invite you to a time of silence and focus.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP: It is our joy to welcome you to worship today, in-person and from wherever you may be viewing. We give thanks for whatever brought you, and pray that you may experience the love of God surrounding you and upholding you as we gather together to give thanks to God through Word and Sacrament.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are available to use in the Sanctuary for worship. They are located in the Sound Booth; ask the Sound Booth operator if you would like to use one.

WORSHIP IS LIVESTREAMED in the Faith and Family Center (located near the entrance doors to the large parking lot). Anyone is welcome to worship in that space.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN IN WORSHIP! Like Jesus who welcomed children to his ministry, Saint Andrew's welcomes children to our worship services.

Re-usable activity bags (for readers and non-readers) with books, stickers, crayons, paper, and a snack are available from the usher/hospitality team; please return the bags following worship.

- "Younger Disciples Tips" are in the bulletin with ideas to engage children in worship.
- "A Time for Younger Disciples" during worship invites all God's children to listen to a message.

Health Practices in place to help reduce the spread of viruses and illness:

- Mask wearing is optional. Anyone who wishes to mask is welcome to do so.
- Hand sanitizer is available throughout the building.

For other activities, events, meetings check our website: <https://SALC.church>

VIDEO AND AUDIO RECORDING IN PROGRESS

Saint Andrews livestreams and records its worship services to YouTube.

Video and Audio recording is currently in progress. It is possible that video footage and/or audio conversations of worshippers in the Saint Andrew's Sanctuary may appear on the YouTube livestream/recording.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Creator of the Stars of Light”

tune: Conditor Alme Siderum setting, Anne Krentz
Grete Norquist, Flute Will Simpson, Piano

WELCOME

Pastor Lara

Worship leaders will say text in light print.
Congregation will say/respond with bold text.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE (*sing v. 1 - 3*)

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah



- ** 1 Light one can-dle to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
** 2 Light two can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
** 3 Light three can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.
4 Light four can-dles to watch for Mes-si - ah: let the light ban-ish dark - ness.



- ** He shall bring sal - va - tion to Is - ra - el, God ful - fills the prom - ise.
** He shall feed the flock like a shep-herd, gent - ly lead them home-ward.
** Lift your heads and lift high the gate-way for the King of glo - ry.
He is com - ing, tell the glad tid - ings. Let your lights be shin - ing!

The third Advent candle is lit as the hymn is sung.

Holy God,

**In the wilderness of the Jordan, you sent a messenger to point the way to Christ.
Grant that we may hear his words and prepare our hearts, that we may bear witness
to Jesus with our lives, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever. Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

People, Look East

1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new

of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim, shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming

trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course and the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look

east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation,
arriving soon. **Amen**

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

KYRIE



Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring your mercy to birth in us.

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.

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together.
Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

A TIME FOR YOUNGER DISCIPLES

Doug Johnson

WORD

The prophet describes the return from the Babylonian captivity as a joyous procession to Zion. God's coming reign will bring a renewal of creation in which health and wholeness will be restored. There is no need for fear, for God is coming to save.

READING: ISAIAH 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
“Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.”
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God’s people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sing two (2) times



ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to John.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 1:19-23

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, “I am not the Messiah.” And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the prophet?” He answered, “No.” Then they said to him, “Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” He said,

“I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ ” as the prophet Isaiah said.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

You may be seated.

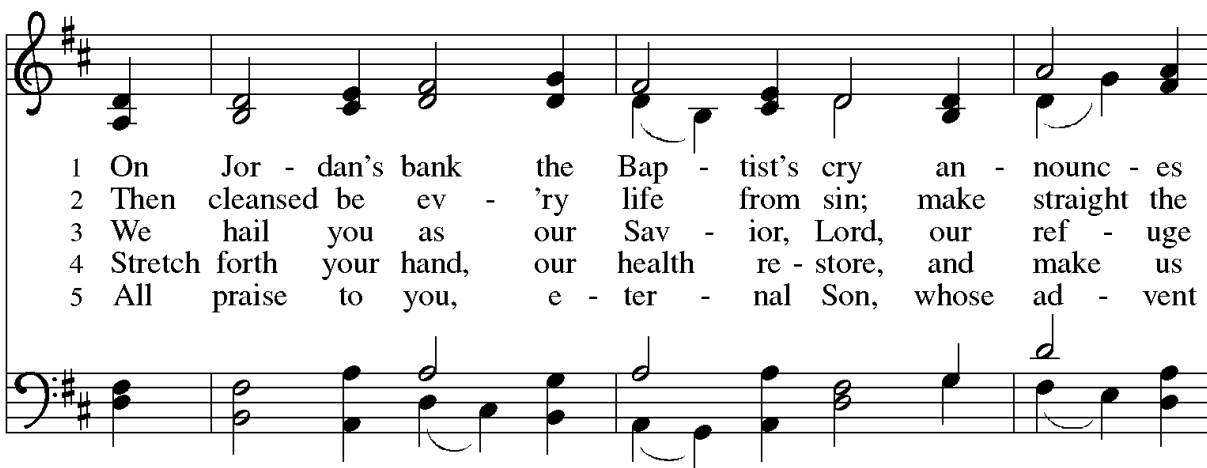
SERMON

Pastor Lara

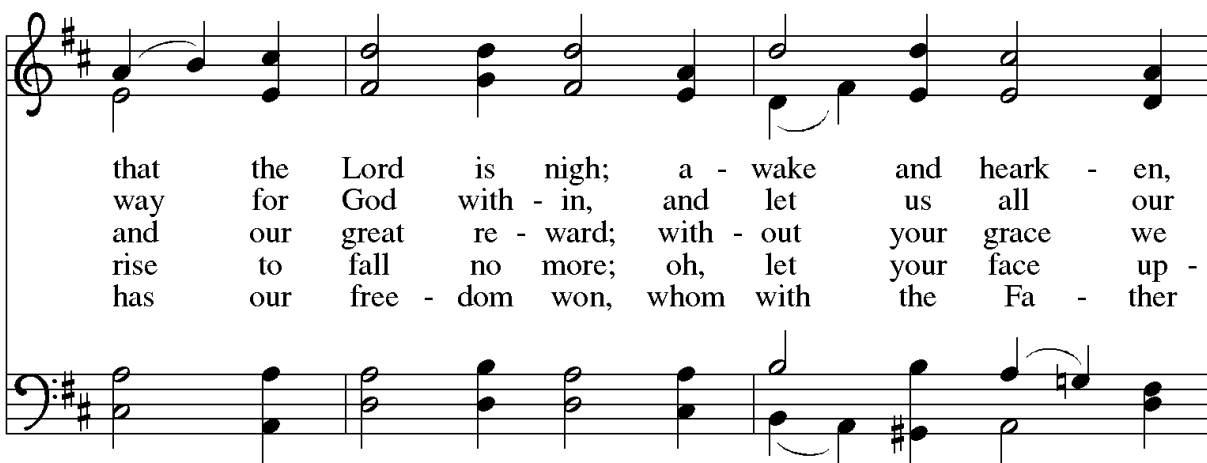
Please stand as you are able.

HYMN

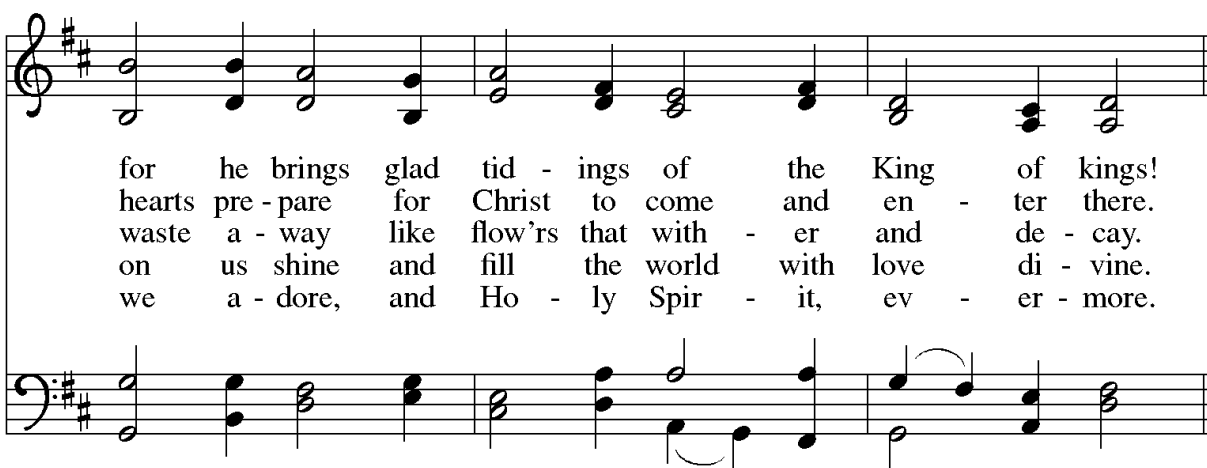
On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry



1 On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry an - nounc - es
 2 Then cleansed be ev - 'ry life from sin; make straight the
 3 We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, our ref - uge
 4 Stretch forth your hand, our health re - store, and make us
 5 All praise to you, e - ter - nal Son, whose ad - vent



that the Lord is nigh; a - wake and heark - en,
 way for God with - in, and let us all our
 and our great re - ward; with - out your grace we
 rise to fall no more; oh, let your face up -
 has our free - dom won, whom with the Fa - ther



for he brings glad tid - ings of the King of kings!
 hearts pre - pare for Christ to come and en - ter there.
 waste a - way like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
 on us shine and fill the world with love di - vine.
 we a - dore, and Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

Trusting in God's baptismal promises,
we affirm our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried; he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy *catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

** here, "catholic" means the wholeness of the church in all times and places.*

Younger Disciples Tip ~ Prayers/Offering: Invite children to write down who they want to pray for this week and one way they can serve their family/community.

THE PRAYERS

*After each petition, the leader will say, Hear us, O God,
Your response is, **your mercy is great.***

THE PEACE

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

Please greet people around you as you are comfortable.

Please be seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Lara

OFFERTORY MUSIC

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People”

tune: Freu Dich Sehr

setting, Jayne Southwick Cool

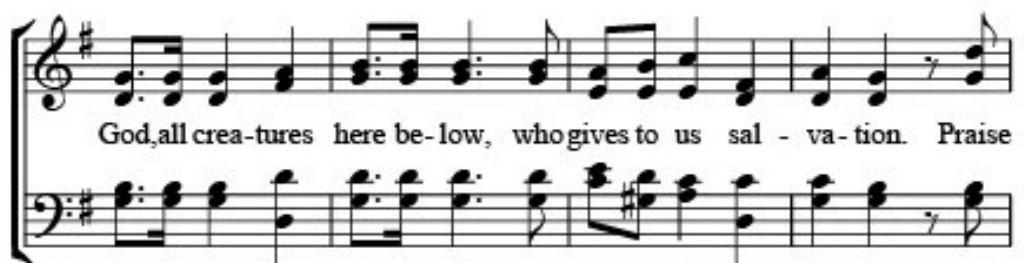
Grete Norquist, Flute Will Simpson, Piano

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY VERSE



Praise God from whom all blessings flow, in ev-ery gen-er - a - tion. Praise



God, all crea-tures here be-low, who gives to us sal - va - tion. Praise



God a - bove, ye heaven-ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Let



all cre - a - tion praise the Lord with love and ad - or - a - tion.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

We pray together. Creator God,
you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us.
We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that
we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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:



SANCTUS

Gently [in One]

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,
God of pow'r and_ might,____ heav'n and earth are
full of your glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.
Blessed is he, is he who comes in the
name of the Lord.____ Ho - san - na in the
high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

On the night that Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, blessed and broke it and shared it with his friends, saying, "Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After they had eaten, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and shared it with his friends, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

We pray together the prayer Jesus taught us:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

Please be seated. We wait silently as the participants who are worshiping online are communed.

LAMB OF GOD

The St. James Christmas Service

Gently [In One]

O Lamb of God, O Ho - ly
Child, who takes the sin of the world a - way; Have
mer - cy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the
son of Ma - ry. This, this is your bo - dy
giv'n, Your pre - cious blood, the gift of heav'n.
Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the
son of Ma - ry.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Today, Communion is received continuously at two stations.

Please follow the directions of the ushers and use the hand sanitizer provided.

Bread is placed in the hands. Red wine and White grape juice are offered by individual cup. Please ask if you would like a gluten-free option.

If you wish to be communed in your seat, please let one of the ushers/hospitality team know.



COMMUNION HYMN

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

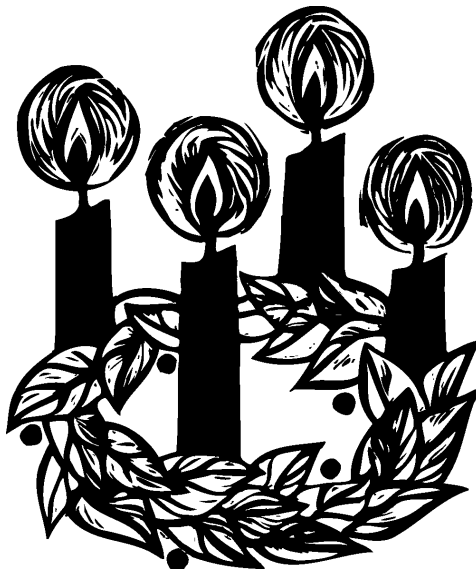
Let us pray together. Generous God,
**we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation, for coming among us,
and for leading us into peace. Go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.
Amen.**

SENDING

Younger Disciples Tip ~ Blessing: Mark the sign of the cross on your child's forehead as a reminder of this sending blessing

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light,
God, our hope for the journey, ✠ bless and keep you now and forever.
Amen.



SENDING HYMN

He Came Down

1 He came down that we may have love; he came down that we may have love;
2 He came down that we may have light; he came down that we may have light;
3 He came down that we may have peace; he came down that we may have peace;
4 He came down that we may have joy; he came down that we may have joy;

he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have light; hal-le - lu - jah for-ev - er - more.
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have joy;

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 7/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with several triplet markings (indicated by a bracket with the number 3) over groups of three notes. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with some lines of text spanning across multiple measures. The score ends with a double bar line.

SENDING

All children and youth are invited to come forward to participate in the sending.

Go in peace. Prepare for Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”

tune: *Puer Nobis*

setting, Aaron David Miller

Grete Norquist, Flute Will Simpson, Piano



Thank you to all who are assisting with worship today:

Pastor Lara Forbes, *Preaching and Presiding*
Will Simpson, *Director of Music*
Elaine Koga, *Accompanist*
Shana Nielsen, *Assisting Minister*
Jean Wahlstrom, *Lector*
Luke Davis, *Acolyte*
Mark Davis and Tom Benson, *Ushers*
Jan Bowerman and Christine Koch, *Altar Guild*
Johannes Grad, *Livestream video*
Melanie Grad, *Audio*
Howard & Judy Johnson, *Greeters*
Terri Anderson, *Coffee host*

*Volunteers are always welcome! Contact Sherry (sherry@salc.church)
to serve as a greeter or coffee host!*

Worship Texts for December 21

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Luke 1:39-45

Luke 1:46-55

LITURGY and MUSIC: Unless otherwise noted, liturgy, liturgical music, and hymns are from Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) and All Creation Sings (ACS), and Scripture readings are from New Revised Standard Version Bible (NRSV) Liturgy and NRSV text from Sundays and Seasons.com. Kenneth L. DeJong Liturgy, Copyright 2025 Augsburg Fortress; streamed/reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS006660. All rights reserved. New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under OneLicense.net #A-718073. All rights reserved. Reprinted / podcast / streamed with permission under CCLI #2042297 and #CSPL048062. All rights reserved

Announcements

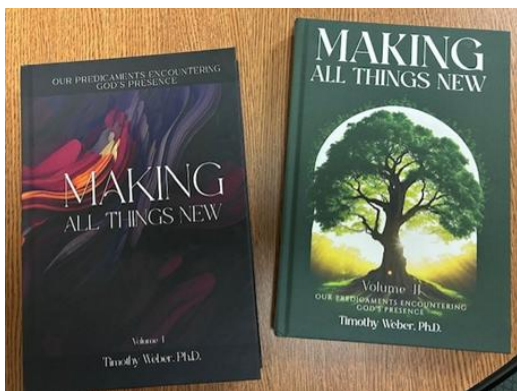


Our *Older, Wiser Lutheran Saints* will have a festive gathering on **Tuesday, December 16th** !

We will gather at 11:45 AM, enjoy our potluck lunch* at 12:00 PM, then Dr. Will will lead us in Christmas Carols!

What's your favorite tune? Be ready to share and sing!!

**We are providing the ham, you bring the sides!*



In "Making All Things New: Our Predicaments Encountering God's Presence," Timothy Weber integrates decades of experience as a Clinical Psychologist and a Lutheran Pastor in linking the multitude of life's predicaments with the living and active power of God's presence. In these essays delivered as homilies to Christian congregations, Weber artfully blends the real life circumstances that perturb and plague us with the resources offered in the Christian faith. Weber unpacks Christian theology in a refreshing manner that opens up

new insights and hopeful pathways that will "make all things new." There are two volumes in this series, Volume I and Volume II, both entitled "Making All Things New", both available from the [Amazon website](#). Pastor Weber is donating all proceeds to Saint Andrew's.

Sunday, January 25, 2026

There is a
CALLED MEETING OF THE
CONGREGATION



11:15 AM

Fellowship Hall



Business:

Approve the Budget

Receive a slate of nominees for Council Positions

Quiet Servant recognitions



Holiday Office Hours

Wednesday, December 24: **Office is Closed**
Thursday, December 25: **Office is Closed**
Friday, December 26: **Office is Closed**
Monday, December 29: 9 AM - 12:00 PM
Tuesday, December 30: 9 AM - 12:00 PM
Wednesday, December 31: 9 AM - 12:00 PM
Thursday, January 1: **Office is Closed**
*Friday, January 2: **Office is Closed.** *

Invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us on Christmas Eve!



Christmas Eve at Saint Andrew's

6:45 PM

Special Music

7:00 PM

Worship

• Candlelight and Holy Communion

Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, 2650 148th Ave SE, Bellevue, WA

Sunday, December 14

9:00 AM Adult Education, LCSNW
 Sunday School, preschool – 5th Grade
 10:00 AM Worship

Monday, December 15

1:00 PM Staff meeting
 7:00 PM Discipleship Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 16

8:30 AM Tuesday Morning Men
 10:00 AM Bible Study
 11:45 AM OWLS - Caroling
 7:00 PM Bell Choir

Wednesday, December 17**Thursday, December 18**

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Friday, December 19

Office is closed.

Saturday, December 20**Sunday, December 21**

9:00 AM Adult Education
 Sunday School (preschool – 5th grade)
 10:00 AM Worship

Monday, December 22

1:00 PM Staff meeting
 7:00 PM Outreach Committee Meeting

Tuesday, December 23

8:30 AM Tuesday Morning Men
 7:00 PM Bell Choir

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve – office is closed.

6:45 PM Special Music begins
 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship

Thursday, December 25

Merry Christmas – office is closed

Friday, December 26

Office is closed.

Saturday, December 27**Sunday, December 28**

10:00 AM Worship

The Reverend Lara Forbes, Lead Pastor
 pastor@SALC.church

The Reverend Timothy T. Weber,
 Shared-Time Pastor
 timweber@yaho.com

Dr. Will Simpson,
 Director of Music Ministries
 will@SALC.church

Doug Johnson,
 Director of Youth and Family Ministries
 doug@SALC.church

Sherry Grindeland, Fellowship Coordinator
 sherry@SALC.church

Kurt Lutterman, Facilities Manager
 kurt@SALC.church

Kathy Fisher, Communications Director
 kathy@SALC.church

Vanessa Wilkie, Handbell Choir Director

Elaine Koga, Choir Accompanist

Abby Kasper, Facilities Set-up

April Daniel, Records Administrator

Ann Thorpe, Sunday Church School Coordinator

Joan Tweten, Kitchen Team

**We welcome your support of
 our mission and ministry. Use
 the QR Code to give to SALC.**



SCAN ME



**We are a Reconciling in
 Christ congregation.**



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