

# SAINT ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 7, 2025  
*Second Sunday of Advent*



What do  
you fear?

WHEN WE'RE RUNNING OUT  
OF HOPE, GOD IS AT WORK

**PROMISE, PRAYER, POSSIBILITY**  
Luke 11:1

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[www.saintandrewaz.org](http://www.saintandrewaz.org)

Find us on Facebook, St. Andrew Lutheran Church AZ

Welcome to worship as we come together in praise and thanksgiving  
to our living Savior!

Holy Spirit, blow through our church with power.

Open our hearts to follow your call.

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### GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

❖ Prelude

❖ Welcome

❖ Special Music      Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord

❖ Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader: In a world full of fear, where do you see glimmers of peace?

**Congregation: We see glimmers of peace in the quiet of early morning, when people shake hands, when loved ones say they're sorry, and when the church sings together.**

L: You are right. Even in a fearful world, peace is all around us. Today we light the candle of peace as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, peace is present. We only have to look for it.

**C: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*(Light the second candle of the advent wreath)*

❖ Advent Song      Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel  
*Handbells*

❖ Confession and Forgiveness

L: Near the end of his ministry, John the Baptist reached out to Jesus with a heart full of anxiety. John was in jail. He knew he might not get out, so he asked Jesus, "Did I make a mistake? Am I making a difference here? Or did I get it all wrong?"

Like John, let us be fully honest with Jesus about our innermost thoughts. We can pour our heart out to God because God always meets us with grace, tenderness, and mercy.

So beloved, let us go to God in prayer. Let us be honest, just like John the Baptist. Let us pray.

*(Time for personal reflection and prayer)*

L: God,

**C: we have every reason to hold onto hope. We have every reason to believe that spring will come, that flowers will bloom, that the sun will rise. And yet, too often hope slips through our fingers. With anxious hearts we cry out to you, "Will change ever come? Will things ever get better? Will I ever make a difference?"**

**Soothe our wandering hearts and show us the places where the sun is shining. Show us the places where you are on the move. With open hearts we pray, amen.**

L: Family of faith, in our honesty,

**C: we are heard.**

L: In our worries,

**C: we are held.**

L: In our failings,

**C: we are forgiven.**

L: In our fear,

**C: we are not alone.**

L: Beloved, this is the good news of the gospel! We are loved and forgiven.

**C: When we're running out of hope, God is still at work.**

L: Thanks be to God!

**C: Amen.**

### ❖ **Sharing of God's Peace**

L: The peace of God be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Let us share God's peace with one another.

### ❖ **Greeting**

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

**C: And also with you.**

### ❖ **Prayer of the Day**

L: Let us pray:

**C: Merciful God, we need bread and we need laughter. We need music and we need a hand to hold. We need a chair to sit in and we need work to do. But maybe more than anything, we need your Word and a reason to hope.**

**So move through this space today and speak to us as only you can. Speak a word of hope deep into our weary bones. For we need bread and we need laughter, but most of all, we need you. Amen**

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

### ❖ First Reading      Isaiah 43:19-21

<sup>19</sup> I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. <sup>20</sup> The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, <sup>21</sup> the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God**

### ❖ Gospel Acclamation      Alleluia No. V

### ❖ Gospel      Matthew 11:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus had finished instructing his twelve disciples, he went on from there to teach and proclaim his message in their cities. <sup>2</sup> When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me." <sup>7</sup> As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? <sup>8</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. <sup>9</sup> What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. <sup>10</sup> This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' <sup>11</sup> "Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

L: The Gospel of our Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ**

### ❖ Children's Message

### ❖ Hymn of the Day      Looking Out a Prison Window

### ❖ Sermon      Pastor Kari Williamson

### ❖ Choir Anthem      Be Not Afraid

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **❖ Words of Faith**

**L:** Let us join our hearts and voices together using the words of the Apostle's Creed:

**C:** 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 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.

### **❖ Prayers of the People**

#### **❖ Offering**

**❖ Offertory Hymn**                      **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**                      **ELW 244**

#### **❖ Prayer of Blessing**

**L:** Let us pray:

**C:** God of peace, bless these gifts and make them instruments of Your love. Where fear divides, let peace unite. Where anxiety overwhelms, let calm prevail. Use our offerings to sow peace in every corner of Your world. Amen.

## **GOD COMES TO US AT THE MEAL**

### **❖ Words of Institution**

#### **❖ Lord's Prayer**

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

### **❖ Communion Distribution**

❖ Prayer After Communion

L: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. Amen.

Let us pray:

**C: Loving God, you gather us together. You set the table. You meet us here. You nourish our bodies as you nourish our spirits. You remind us that this is a joyful feast, and that fear cannot win every time. So with renewed courage, with renewed hope, with renewed conviction, send us out into the world. Help us to feed others as you have fed us. With gratitude we pray, amen.**

❖ Blessing

L: In a fearful world, may you look for God's spirit. May you reach for each other's hands. May you choose courage whenever you can. And in all things, may you remember that good news is louder than fear. In the name of the one who calls, the one who sends, and the one who journeys with— go in peace and be not afraid.

**C: Amen**

**GOD SENDS US OUT TO SERVE**

❖ Sending

L: Go in peace. Keep awake.

**C: Thanks be to God. We will.**





Thank you for joining us for worship. A special welcome to our guests. If you are interested in learning more about Saint Andrew, please feel free to call Pastor Kari at 602-942-5811

***Thank you to our worship leaders:***

*Director of Music and Worship: Chip Love*

*Reader: Kelly Burkhardt*  
*Worship Assistant: Andrew Beamer*  
*Communion Assistant: Connie Bishop*  
*Ushers:*

*Audio-Visual: David DeLano  
Joy McCormick  
Alan Brown  
Andrea Lee  
Christian Beamer  
Valerie Moreno*



# ADVENT CRAFT FESTIVAL

SAINT ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Light Breakfast:	9:00 am
Worship Service:	9:30 am
Craft Hour:	10:30 am to ~12:00 pm
Lunch:	~12:00 pm

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church  
3101 West Cholla

*An offering of crafts will be available for everyone,  
all ages, for those who are crafty, and for those who aren't!  
Invite your family and friends.  
All are welcome.  
Door Prizes!*

Contact Cindy Guenther if you have any questions  
or want to help with the crafts.

Contact Information:  
cindy.guenther@gmail.com  
FB Messenger to Cindy

# Congregational Meeting

*December 14*

*Following Worship*

