

St. Luke Lutheran Church

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First Sunday of Advent — November 27, 2022

Contemporary Service of the Word

Our Guiding Story and Mission:

The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

**As the Body of Christ, we proclaim the Gospel by
serving and doing God's will in a manner that
meets the needs of our changing world.**

Welcome!

We are glad you have joined us today.

Visitors: please sign the visitor book upon entering the sanctuary.

Guide to abbreviations:

P: spoken by the Pastor **C:** **Congregation responds**

WOV—With One voice— blue hymnal

LBW—Lutheran Book of Worship—green hymnal

* stand as you are able

For more information, please see “News in the Pews” in this bulletin or speak to an usher. On our website, you can find current events and links to our online worship services via Facebook or YouTube.

Direct access to Facebook is at www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran, or on YouTube: www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa

Bulletins are emailed weekly, but are also available at in-person services. We welcome your feedback, recommendations, suggestions, or improvements regarding the current online transmissions. We also need volunteers to assist with the technical aspects of livestreaming and all the legwork and support this requires. Please send your feedback or volunteer availability to the Church Office.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering Song: Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel—LBW 34

Lighting the Advent Candle

Today we begin the season of Advent by lighting the first of five candles in our Advent wreath. This candle is called the prophets candle. From ancient and modern prophets we hear of the coming of a Savior. Sometimes prophetic words are hard to believe. We are uncertain of their truth. We must wait and be patient. In honor of all the prophets we light this first candle.

Lighting of the candle

Prayer: Let us pray. We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels.

C: Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and day draws near. Amen.

Sung Response: Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah
Light one candle to watch for Messiah,
let the light banish darkness
He shall bring salvation to Israel
God fulfills the promise.

***Opening Song: Jesus Messiah**

Chris Tomlin; Daniel Carson; Ed Cash; Jesse Reeves

2008 sixsteps Music (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Vamos Publishing (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing); Wondrously Made Songs (Admin. by Music Services, Inc.) CCLI Song # 5183443

Verse 1

He became sin who knew no sin
That we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross
Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus

Jesus Messiah Name above all names
Blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners
The Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all

Verse 2

His body the bread His blood the wine
Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn
Love so amazing love so amazing

Bridge

All our hope is in You
All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God
The Light of the world

Ending

Jesus Messiah Lord of all The Lord of all The Lord of all

Apostolic Greeting:

P: 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:** Please see the *Celebrate* insert

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

For all readings, please see the *Celebrate* insert

First Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 122

Read responsively

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel:** Matthew 24:36-44

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The Message

***Hymn:** People, look east—WOV 626

***Apostles' Creed**

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostles' 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, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 Intercession:** Please see *Celebrate* insert

***Passing the Peace:**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us share his peace with one another.

***Hymn of the Day:** In the Bleak Mid-winter

CCLI Song # 2399539—Christina Georgina Rossetti—Public Domain

Verse 1

In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone
Snow had fallen snow on snow
Snow on snow
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago

Verse 2

Heav'n cannot hold Him
Nor earth sustain
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign
In the bleak midwinter
A stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ

Verse 3

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air
But His mother only
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss

Verse 4

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 can I give Him
Give my heart



***Prayers for the Blessing of the Church Family
and Individual Families**

On this day, as we embrace the Promised coming of Emmanuel, let us all realize that prayer is not so much our effort to find God, but a response to our Father's finding us. Our Father is always with us, embracing us with love and mercy, and is blessing us so that we be a blessing to others. Let us strive to recognize and live into God's relationship with us. Therefore, let us pray.

Father, inspire the church family near and far to diligently search and find those missing in the chaos of this world – the homeless, the addicted, the ill, the immigrant, the aged, the rejected, the grieving, and the lonely – that we welcome them into our households of faith. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace them.

For all who are far from home, that they will live in safety. For all who are alienated from us and who stay away from this table, that they may return to this faith home, and that we are prepared to greet them. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace them.

For the sick, the aged, the lonely, and any who cannot be with us this day, especially those we now name in voice and heart, ... that they may know of our concern for them and feel your healing embrace. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace them.

That an Advent yearning for the long awaited peace and forgiveness shine within us, and be visible in our lives together as families. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace us.

Lord Jesus, you lived among us as part of a particular family and the larger family of faith to enrich both with your blessings. We humbly ask for your favor and protection on our faith family known as St. Luke. Make this congregational home and every member's home a place where your Father is worshiped in peace-filled joy and awe. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace us.

Lord Jesus, you lived among us as part of a particular family and the larger family of faith to enrich both with your blessings. We humbly ask for your favor and protection on our faith family known as St. Luke. Make this congregational home and every member's home a place where your Father is worshiped in peace-filled joy and awe. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace us.

Jesus, through your own obedience to your Mother Mary and Stepfather Joseph you consecrated family life, and made your own family the model of prayer, love, and obedience to your Father's will. You loved those who were close to you and they returned your love. Bind all families together in the bonds of peace, faithfulness, and love for one another. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace us.

O God, you created the Church in love and mercy. Through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it become a sign of Christ's love for his Church. Shower your blessing on this faith family and each family gathered here this day. Enable us who are joined by one love to support one another in fervor of spirit and devotion to prayer. Make us responsive to the needs of our community and be witnesses of your Son in all we say and do. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace us.

Lord make us instruments of your peace.

C: Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon;

**where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.**

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

P: This we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray:

C: 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.

SENDING

God sends us boldly into the world to share the good news

***Blessing:**

P: Return to living in the world refreshed, renewed, and empowered.

C: We have met the living Jesus here in worship and praise.

P: Let us go now into our communities and homes knowing Jesus is eagerly there waiting for us.

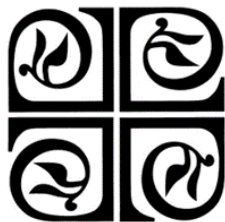
C: May our eyes be opened and our spirits attuned to our Lord's welcoming and compassionate presence in all places and relationships. Amen.

***Closing Song:** Awake, awake and greet the new morn
WOV 633

***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and our neighbors!

C: Thanks be to God!



*Be Welcome...
and Worship
with Us!*

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COVID GUIDELINES: Masks are recommended for those who are unvaccinated & optional if you are vaccinated. Thank you

Today's worshipping community:

Pastor: Rev. Angela Hammer **Minister of Music:** Linda Holt
Cont. Worship Team: Linda Holt and Todd Snyder

Worship Assistant (WA): Paul Benson **Lay Reader (LR):** Linda Holt
Live Streaming Asst: William Hoffman
Ministers: The people of St. Luke Church

Next Sunday (4th): WA: Sue DeLong **LR:** Donna Moyer

Christmas Eve Services:

St. Paul Penryn 7:30 PM St Luke Schaefferstown 11:00 PM

Annual Meeting reports are due by January 14. Reports would be appreciated before that date if possible.

Annual Meeting is Sunday, January 29 at 9:30AM

This week at St. Luke

Sunday, November 28

8:30 AM Contemporary Service of the Word
9:30 AM Sunday School/Advent Bible Study
9:30 AM Coffee Hour
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Community Free Meal

Tuesday, November 29

10:00 AM Band Together

Wednesday, November 30

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 1

10:00 AM Band Together
10:00 AM Zoom Bible Study with Pastor Angie
11:30 AM-1:00 PM Community Free Meal

Next Sunday, December 4—Advent 2

8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:30 AM Sunday School/Advent Bible Study
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Community Free Meal

Last Week –November 20

Worship Attendance: **In-person:** 43 **Online views:** 30 **Offering:** \$1,234

NEWS IN OUR PEWS

Advent Bible Study: “GROUNDED” *A Coffee Themed Devotional Journey Through Advent.* The study is “grounded” in James 5:7-10, encouraging our patience as we wait for the Lord. We will meet every Sunday during the season of Advent in the kitchen area during the Sunday School hour.

Beer & Bible - A monthly meeting at a local pub for dinner, drinks, and conversation. Next date is December 15 at 6:30 PM. The location is to be determined.

Bible study: Thursday morning on Zoom - 10:00 AM online with Pastor Angie to look at the texts coming up for the Sunday lectionary. A ZOOM link will be emailed out the week of each study. Contact the church office to be added to the email invitation. Upcoming dates are December 1 and 15.

Book Club: Will meet on Thursday, January 26th at 7:00pm in the Chapel. We will be discussing Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by: Jennifer Chiaverini. All are welcome to join in on the discussion.

Christian Education: Sunday School meets at 9:30 in the chapel. Children's class meets weekly and is led by Faith Thunberg, Richelle Deysher, and Sarah Kneller. Adult class is led by Scott Rights and meets on the first, third, and fifth Sundays.

Community Free Meals: Volunteers are needed for our Thursday meals. Sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the chapel. Thank you all for your support of the meal programs.

Musical Arts at St. Luke: Thank you to the contemporary ensemble for assisting in worship today. If you are interested in becoming involved in the musical arts at St. Luke, please see Linda Holt.

November Monthly Ministry Emphasis: Lebanon County Food Bank

Poinsettias Please see order envelopes in the narthex. Orders are due by December 4.

Warmth for Winter: As the temperatures start dropping, we know that many in our community will appreciate some extra warmth this winter. WELCA are asking for donations of new blankets and pillows. Collection is through November in baskets at the back of the church or leave in the chapel. We are still compiling information on needs for warm clothing and will be seeking your assistance or financial contributions for that segment of the Warmth program. Thanks to all of you for your generosity in supporting this outreach program.

Janice Miller entered the Church Triumphant on Sunday, November 20. We extend our thoughts and sympathies to her family.

Prayers for:

Those who are ill, recovering, or shut-in, especially:

John Adams, Claudia Addison, Brenda Boyer, Leon Boyer, Amanda Cupernall, Alexandria (Lexxi) Ditzler, Cathy Dunkelberger, Henry Fasnacht, Deb Glassmoyer, Peg Griffe, Bill Gundrum, Kim Lenhart Hale, John Hassinger, Earl Hehnly, Dean Hettinger, Lilly Higgins & Family, Richard and Nancy Hollen, Christopher Johnson (D Hettinger), Landon Kreider, Delores Leshner, Richard Leshner, Ken Light, Donald and Sue McClure, Steven McCracken, Casey McGarvey, Dana McKinney, Maureen Marinkov, Harold (Spike) Moore, Brian Navarre, Barry and Tom Nolt, Kathy O'Roark, Gerald and Ruth Parson, George Pastore, Ronald Ream, Lance Rhodes, Al Shade, Barry Shriver, Linda Simmers, Lloyd Smith, Richard Strohl, Caitlyn, Gretta and Mike Stuber, Robert Todisco, Landis Wenger, Josephine Wenrich, Janet Wharton, Josie Williams, Eddie Wolfe, Marian Yoder, Maggie Zartman, and Ashton Zohn.

Those who are serving in the military, especially:

Timothy Beamesderfer, David Deysher, Tyler Fleagle, Shane Gettler, Steven Ginder, Matthew Plummer, Greg Rocker, and Matthew Sanders.

Congregations and ministries with whom we share mutual ministry:

The congregations and pastors of the Heidelberg Ministerium and Lebanon Conference, Agape House, Lebanon Co. Christian Ministries, Lebanon Taizé Violence Intervention Women's Shelter, Lancaster/Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Support Connections of Lebanon County, Our Synod Bishop James S. Dunlop and his staff, and our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff.

The St. Luke Vision to Mission Team - Kit Ahnert, Richelle Deysher, Elaine Matternas, Scott Rights, and Todd Snyder.

If you need Pastoral care, please contact the church office or one of the Council Members.

