

St. Luke Lutheran Church

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Second Sunday of Advent

December 4, 2022

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: [@stlukeschaefferstownpa](http://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

Prelude: O Come, O Come Emmanuel—piano and flute

***Opening Hymn:** Each Winter as the Year Grows Older—WOV 628

***Advent Prayer:**

P: Let us pray. O God of Eternal Light, we have come this morning searching for you in a special way. As your Son came upon the bewildered travelers on the road to Emmaus, walked with them, and explained the events of the time,

C: we are reminded that you also come among us through the Holy Spirit so that we may experience again the light of your word made flesh, understand the events of our time, and praise his holy name; Jesus Messiah, Prince of Peace, our Lord.

P: We give you thanks that you continue to come into the hearts of all who are prepared by your Spirit to be open to you and to your will.

C: May your coming give us strength in our many conflicts and throw light on the dark paths that we must travel in our disjointed and violent world.

P: Make us ready for this season of celebration,

C: that we may receive you with the same generous hospitality of the Emmaus travelers, and serve you forever as the messengers of your gifts of grace to the hearts and lives of others. Amen.

***Lighting the Advent Candles:**

Today we light the second Advent candle, the Bethlehem candle. This candle is offered in honor of the birthplace of Jesus as well as of the many places where Christ is born in the hearts of believers. While Bethlehem was so busy with commerce that it had only a stable to offer Jesus, may our Bethlehems be places of warmth and hospitality. In honor of Bethlehem we light this candle.

(Lighting of the candle)

P: Let us pray. We praise you, O God for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christs advent. As we light the candles on this wreath kindle within us the fire of your spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness.

C: Enlighten us with your grace, that may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.

***Hymn:** Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah—vv. 1-2

1. Light one candle to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

2. Light two candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He shall feed the flock like a shepherd, gently lead them homeward.

***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.

P: Let us pray...

***Prayer of the Day:**

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the third chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” ³This 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.’ ”

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

⁷But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruit worthy of repentance. ⁹Do 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. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹“I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His 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.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Ministry of Music: Sr. Choir: Litany for Advent

The Evergreens:

A reading from Hosea 14:

Return, O Israel, to the LORD your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity. Take words with you and return to the LORD; say to him, "Take away all guilt; accept that which is good, and we will offer the fruit of our lips. ... [Our God says,] "I will heal their disloyalty; I will love them freely, for my anger has turned from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he shall blossom like the lily, he shall strike root like the forests of Lebanon. His shoots shall spread out; his beauty shall be like the olive tree, and his fragrance like that of Lebanon. They shall again live beneath my shadow, they shall flourish as a garden; they shall blossom like the vine, their fragrance shall be like the wine of Lebanon. O Ephraim, what have I to do with idols? It is I who answer and look after you. I am like an evergreen cypress; your faithfulness comes from me. Those who are wise understand these things; those who are discerning know them. For the ways of the LORD are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.

The Tradition:

As we prepare our worship space for Advent and Christmas, the greens – the pine, the fir and the cedar – have been set in their places, for all are a part of this season. Their spicy fragrance and never changing color of green remind us that even when all else is barren, Abraham's children cling to his promise of new life. As our place of worship is decked with boughs of evergreen, may they be reminders for Jesus' brothers and sisters of God's promise in the resurrected Jesus Christ, that we might have abundant life, and have it for all eternity.

Hymn: On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry—LBW 36

The Star:

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew Chapter 2:

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

The Tradition:

In Christian art, a four-pointed star is usually styled to resemble a cross and is used as the "Star of Bethlehem" or "natal star." The cross shape reminds us both of Jesus' birth and the forgiveness provided for us through Jesus' crucifixion. Similarly, the five-pointed star is also considered a reminder of the Star of Bethlehem. However, it is shaped roughly like a human being, and represents Jesus' incarnation.

Ministry of Music: One Star—Emily and Linda Holt

The Chrismons:

Chrismons, meaning "Christ monograms," traditionally are white and gold designs made from Christian symbols that signify Christ. Often displayed on an evergreen tree during the Christmas season, symbols such as stars, crosses, fish, crowns, and the alpha and omega remind us of Christ's identity, his story, and of the Holy Trinity. Chrismons were first developed in 1957 by Frances Spencer and the women of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA. Many churches today display a Chrismon tree during the Advent and Christmas season decorated with handmade ornaments. This year we will have placed the following Chrismons on our tree:

The Babe in the Manger, The Scroll,
The Lyre, The Shell, The Crown, The Alpha and Omega.



The Doves:

A reading from Genesis Chapter 8:

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark which he had made, and sent forth a dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but the dove found no place to set her foot, and she returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put forth his hand and took her and brought her into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent forth the dove out of the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and lo, in her mouth a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth.

The Tradition:

In Christian Iconography, a dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit, in reference to Matthew 3:16 and Luke 3:22, where the Holy Spirit is compared to a dove at the Baptism of Jesus.

However, the early Christians in Rome also incorporated into their funeral art the image of a dove carrying an olive branch, often accompanied by the word "Peace". It may be construed that they derived this combined image from the Gospels and the olive branch of Genesis. However, prior to the birth of Jesus and the formation of His church, the olive branch was used by the Greeks and Romans to symbolize peace. By the fifth century, Augustine of Hippo wrote in his treatise "On Christian Doctrine" that "perpetual peace is indicated by the olive branch which the dove brought with it when it returned to the ark." The dove was popularized by the artist Pablo Picasso in 1949 and became widely used in the post-WWII peace movement. (Dove Christmon Placed on the tree)

Hymn: Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me; Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be. With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, Let this be the moment now. With ev'ry step I take, Let this be my solemn vow: To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally. Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

***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.



***Offering Prayer:**

P: Blessed are you, Maker of all things.

As you have entrusted us with all that you have created,
now gather our gifts, nourish us with this sacrament,
and send us to those who hunger and thirst,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

P: Holy God, we dedicate these symbols of the Advent and Christmas seasons to be reminders of your promises of forgiveness, reconciliation, peace, new life, and a new heaven and earth.

C: Likewise, we dedicate our lives anew to the service of Christ and our neighbors near and far, and pray that we may be filled with your mercy and compassion, so perfectly revealed to us through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

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.

MEAL
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ



***Great Thanksgiving:**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***Preface for Advent:**

P: 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 (Holy, Holy, Holy)**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***Eucharist Prayer for Advent**

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

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.
Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling
among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling
among us, full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
C: Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
C: Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
 Holy One of Israel,
 Word of God incarnate,
 Power of the Most High,
 one God, now and forever.
C: Amen.

***Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)**

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

***Invitation to Communion:**

P: Come to the Banquet for all is now ready.

Distribution of Communion:

All are welcome and encouraged to receive the forgiveness and community that are given in the bread and wine. Come forward as directed.

***Prayer after Communion:**

P: Faithful God, in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

*Blessing:

P: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

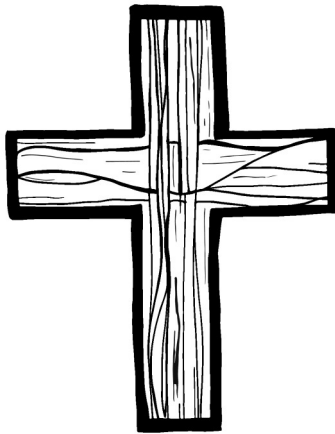
C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn: Prepare the Royal Highway—LBW 26

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Christ is near. C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came
flute and piano



*The altar flowers are giving in memory of Scott,
loving husband and father, by Donna Moyer.*

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Our worshipping community:

Pastor: Rev. Angela Hammer **Minister of Music:** Linda Holt
Worship Assistant: Sue DeLong **Lay Reader:** Melissa Gettler
Dedication Readers: Steffi Gettler, Nicholas and Samuel Kneller
Live Streaming Assistant: William Hoffman
 Ministers: The people of St. Luke Church
Next Sunday's Worship Assistant: Mike DeLong
Next Sunday's Lay Reader: Richelle Deysher

Last Week—November 27

Attendance: In-person: 32 Online: 51 Offering: \$860

This week at St. Luke

Sunday, December 4—Advent 2

8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children/Adults)
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Community Free Meal
 Poinsettia orders due today please

Tuesday, December 6

10:00 AM Band Together
11:00 AM Worship and Music Meeting

Wednesday, December 7

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 8

10:00 AM Band Together
11:30 AM-1:00 PM Community Free Meal
7:30 PM WELCA Theatre Trip

Next Sunday, December 11—Advent 3

8:30 AM Service of the Word
9:30 AM Coffee Hour
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children)
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Community Free Meal
7:00 PM Taizé

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.

Band Together: meets on Tuesday and Thursday at 10:00 AM. They will not be meeting December 27 and 29.

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. Next date is December 15.

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

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.

Candles needed: Votive candles are needed for the Christmas Eve luminaries. Please leave donations in the chapel.

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.

Christmas Hymn Sing: Tonight at 7:00 PM at Zion United Methodist Church, Schaefferstown.

Coffee Hour: Volunteers are needed for coffee hour, held on the second and fourth Sundays following worship. Please see the signup sheet in the narthex.

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.

December Monthly Ministry Emphasis: Habitat for Humanity

History Books: St. Luke History—\$20.00. Contact Anna Mae Grubb 717-273-7035 or mrgrubby@comcast.net.

Musical Arts at St. Luke: If you are interested in becoming involved in the musical arts at St. Luke, please see Linda Holt.

Upcoming Christmastide Services:

Christmas Eve:
St. Paul Penryn—7:30 PM
St. Luke—11:00 PM



Christmas Day:
Contemporary Service at St. Luke - 8:30 AM
Service of the Word at St. Paul Penryn—10:30 AM

January 1, 2023—Lessons and Carols

We welcome St. Paul Penryn to St. Luke for a combined service of singing, sharing, and fellowship as together we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

The Service time will be at 10:30 AM.



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.

