

St. Luke Lutheran Church

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Fourth Sunday in Advent

December 18, 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: Prelude on Jewels, When He Cometh G. Young

***An Advent Call to New Life:**

L: Watch! Wait! The Day of God's reconciliation is at hand. Come, prepare for Emmanuel's coming, bringing a new beginning, a new creation,

C: a home coming born in reconciliation and the hope for renewed relationships.

L: This promised home coming, a new heaven and earth, means letting go of the hurts and fears that drag us down and separate us from one another.

C: Lord, help us let go of grudges and pouting. Help us to ask for forgiveness and stir in us the willingness to forgive others and ourselves.

L: This promised home coming means joy in the goodness of life.

C: Lord, help us find goodness in one another and embrace one another in hopes of life anew. May the inns of our hearts find room for everyone.

L: These walls are ready to reflect the sounds of Jubilee, debts forgiven, slaves set free, the Advent proclamation of reconciliation and renewal in the love of God.

C: God has built us these buildings and we shall use them to glorify and praise God's name and mighty acts of liberation, forgiveness, and restoration.

L: May the walls of these houses of worship and ministry be witnesses,

C: as we embrace the ministry of reconciliation to God and to one another.

L: Let us pray. Lord God, we pray that you will bring into our hearts and minds, our plans and actions, our hopes and prayers, a greater love for all people.

C: Demolish the walls of nationalism, prejudice, arrogance, and injustice. Lead us into healthy, nurturing, virtuous, and compassionate communication. Jesus, Lord of all, usher in the new home life of your reconciling compassion, in which we will be created anew and work to dispel the current, increasing darkness that overshadows and threatens all places and peoples. Amen.

***Opening Hymn: Rejoice, Rejoice Believers LBW 25**

L: Today we light the fourth Advent candle, the angels' candle. This candle is offered in honor of the angels who told the good news to the shepherds. "Glory be to God in the highest and on earth peace and goodwill toward all." The angels sang with joy so that all who heard were filled with joy. In honor of all the angels who continue to proclaim the good news of joy, we light this candle.

(Lighting of the candle)

L: 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

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.
3. Light three candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. Lift your heads and lift high the gateway for the King of glory.
4. Light four candles to watch for Messiah: let the light banish darkness. He is coming, tell the glad tidings. Let your lights be shining!

***Apostolic 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.

L: Let us pray...

***Prayer of the Day:** Please see Celebrate insert

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

For all readings, please see the Celebrate insert

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-16

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19 Read responsively

Ministry of Music: Sr. Choir: My Heart, Your Bethlehem

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25**

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Hymn of the Day:** Of The Father's Love Begotten LBW 42

***Apostles' Creed:**

L: Let us confess our faith using 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 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

***Passing the Peace:**

L: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: Let us share his peace with one another.

***Prayers of Intercession:** Please see Celebrate insert

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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

SENDING

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

*Blessing:

L: 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.

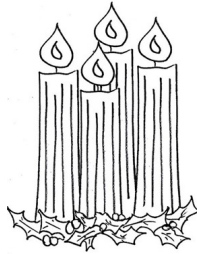
*Closing Hymn: The King Shall Come LBW 33

*Dismissal:

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

Postlude: O Come Let Us Adore Him

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*The Altar flowers are presented by
Diane Kurtz in memory of her parents:
Arthur and Louise Thompson.*

*The Rosebud on the altar is in honor of the birth of
Collen Pearson Moore,
son of Maggie and Kevin Moore; daughter and
son-in-law of Ann and Kirk Pearson.*

This week at St. Luke

Sunday, December 18—Advent 4

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

Tuesday, December 20

10:00 AM Band Together

Wednesday, December 21

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 22

10:00 AM Band Together
11:00 AM Newsletter and Bulletin Collating
11:30 AM-1:00 PM Community Free Meal

Saturday, December 24

7:30 PM—Candlelight Svc - St. Paul in Penryn
11:00 PM—Candlelight Svc — St. Luke

Next Sunday, December 25—Christmas Day

8:30 AM Contemporary Service—St. Luke
10:30 AM Carol Service—St. Paul Penryn

Our worshipping community:

Pastor: Rev. Angela Hammer **Minister of Music:** Linda Holt

Today's Worship Assistant: Donna Rhodes

Today's Lay Reader: Anna Mae Grubb

Live Streaming Assistant: William Hoffman

Ministers: The people of St. Luke Church

Next Sunday's WA: Sue DeLong **Next Sunday's LR:** Linda Holt

Last Week—December 11

Attendance and offering:

In-person: 31	Online: 16	Offering: \$1,115
Taizé: In-person: 13	Online: 24	Offering: \$62

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.

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.

Please contact the church office or one
of the Council Members for care.



NEWS IN OUR PEWS

Today's service is being led by lay ministers of our congregation. We send our prayers to Pastor Hammer for a speedy recovery from Covid.

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. Today is the last date—please join us in the kitchen area of the chapel after our service.

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

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.

Coffee Hour: held on the second and fourth Sundays following worship. Please see the signup sheet in the narthex.

Council and Congregational Meetings:

January 8—Congregational Meeting for council nominations and election of new council members

January 14—Council Retreat

January 29—Annual Congregational meeting

February 12—Council Installation

Community Free Meals: The 2023 schedule for meal teams is posted in the chapel and being circulated among the teams. Two volunteers are needed for Meal Team 4. Contact Jake Werner or Elaine Matternas if you can fill this need. Thanks to all who volunteered for the Thursday noon meals in November and December.

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.

January 1, 2023—Lessons and Carols—10:30 AM

We welcome St. Paul Penryn to St. Luke for a combined service of Lessons and Carols.

A time of fellowship will follow the service.

Please come and meet our neighbors in Christ from St. Paul.

Office hours for the remainder of the year:

Monday (19) through Thursday (22): 9:30-4:00

Closed Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26.

Tuesday (27) and Thursday (29): 9:30-4:00



Carols, Candlelight,



and Communion

*December 24 at 11:00 PM
Christmas Eve at St. Luke*