

St. Luke Lutheran Church

PO Box 278 Schaefferstown, PA 17088 717-949-3375

December 3, 2023

First Sunday of Advent

Service of Holy Communion



St. Luke 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

On our website (stlukelutheran.org)
you can find current events and links to our online worship services.

Direct access:

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

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Opening Hymn: O Come, O Come Emmanuel—LBW 34

*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.

Chrismon Placement: At the direction of the ushers, all are invited to place a Chrismon on the tree.

Lighting the Advent Candle (Faith)

L: 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.

The candle is lit

L: 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,
let the light banish darkness
He shall bring salvation to Israel
God fulfills the promise.

The Crowns: Tradition and Scripture – Isaiah 9:2-7 (Mike)

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness — on them light has shined.

³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.



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

vv. 1 and 5

The Harp: Tradition and Scripture – Psalm 150 (Steffi)

¹Praise the LORD!

Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!

²Praise him for his mighty deeds;

praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

³Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

⁴Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

⁵Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

⁶Let everything that breathes praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD!



Ministry of Music: Choir: Pass the Advent Light

The Shell: Tradition and Scripture – Matthew 3:1-11 (Sharon)

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.

¹¹I 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.



Hymn On Jordan's Banks the Baptist Cry—LBW 36

vv. 1 and 2

The Scroll: Tradition and Scripture – Luke 4:14-21 (Missy)

¹⁴Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

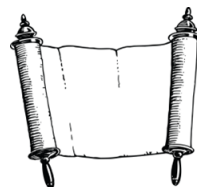
¹⁶When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."



Hymn: Hark, the Glad Sound! - LBW 35 vv. 1 and 2

The Manger: Tradition and Scripture – Luke 2:1-7 (Steffi)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Hymn: What Child is This — LBW 40 vv. 1 and 2



AΩ: Tradition and Scripture – Revelation 1:1-8 (Faith)

¹The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ²who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

³Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near.

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

⁸I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.



Hymn: Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending — LBW 27

vv. 1 and 2

Prayer of Dedication

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.

Amen

***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.

(Congregation may share a sign of peace with each other)

C: Amen.

***Offering Prayer:**

P: God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C: 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:**

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.

*Eucharistic Prayer:

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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

P: 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**

***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: In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together.
Come, take your place at the table.

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.

***Communion Blessing:**

P: The body of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen.

***Prayer after Communion:**

P: Generous God,
in bread and cup you have revealed your glory
for all people to see together.
Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim
your good news of liberation and release,
brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior.
C: Amen.

SENDING

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

*Blessing:

P: The God of peace bless you,
the love of Christ sustain you in hope,
and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you
now and forever.

C: Amen.

***Closing Hymn:** Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers—LBW 25

*Sending:

P: Go in peace. Keep awake.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Our worshipping community:

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

Ministers: The People of St. Luke

December Worship Assistant: Mike DeLong

Today's Lay Reader: **Lay Reader for December 10:**

Live Streaming Technician: William Hoffman **Technical Assistant:** Beverly Hoffman

Attendance— November 26 In person: 32 Online: 48 Offering: \$1,404



*The altar flowers are given by Donna Moyer
in memory of her husband Scott.*

This week at St. Luke

Sunday, December 3—Advent 1

8:30 AM Service of Holy Communion/Dedication of Greens
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children/Adults)
5:30 PM-7:00 PM Community Free Meal

Tuesday, December 7

10:00 AM Band Together

Wednesday, December 8

6:30 PM Zoom Advent Bible Study
7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 9

10:00 AM Band Together
11:30 AM-1:00 PM Community Free Meal

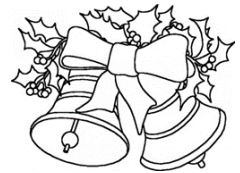
Next Sunday, December 10—Advent 2

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



Christmastide Services:

December 24—no morning services



Christmas Eve:

December 24—Family Service at St. Paul in Penryn—6:30 PM

December 24—Candlelight Service at St. Luke—11:00 PM

Sunday, December 31

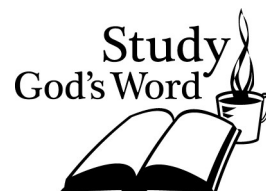
Combined Service of Lessons and Carols at St. Luke—10:00 AM

NEWS IN OUR PEWS

Advent Bible Study: Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Link and information is emailed weekly.

Beer & Bible:

A Thursday evening monthly meeting at the Franklin House for dinner, drinks, and conversation. Join us on December 14 at 6:30 PM.



Bible Study—Thursday morning ZOOM:

Join Pastor Angie online to take a 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 14 at 10:00 AM.



Book Club:

Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, January 11 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. They will be discussing “Beyond That, the Sea” by Laura Spence-Ash. All are invited to join us for a great conversation. Please see Richelle Deysher for additional information!

Coffee Hour: Volunteers are always welcome!

Please sign up in narthex.



Contemporary Service Updates:

We're revamping the contemporary worship service! We're taking the rest of the year off from the contemporary services, but will bring it back at the beginning of the new year. Pastor Angie will be creating a new liturgy, while the music team will be welcoming a variety of new musicians into the mix. We'll be experimenting with music and the word and we invite you to give your feedback as we explore new ways to engage with a contemporary service!



Council Invitation: Please prayerfully consider serving on council. The terms of 4 members of council are concluding at the annual congregation meeting in January. One of those 4 has consented to another term and at this time 2 other church members have agreed to serve. Council needs 3 more people to serve. If interested or would like more information, please talk to a current council member or notify the church office.

History Books: These are available for \$20.00. Please contact Anna Mae Grubb: 717-273-7035 or mrgrubby@comcast.net.

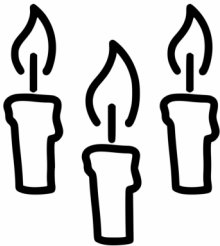
Ministry Emphasis for December:
Habitat for Humanity



Yes, you can sing!

Share your musical gifts with the congregation. Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Contact Linda Holt for more information.

Votive candles and cups needed for Christmas Eve: We are need of donations of 3 oz paper dixie style cups and votive candles for Christmas Eve. Questions, please see Mike Reber.

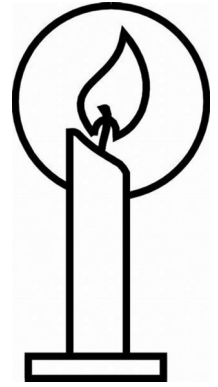


*Be Welcome...
and Worship
with Us!*

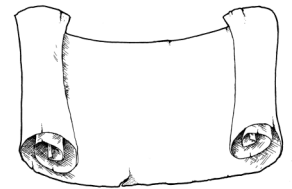
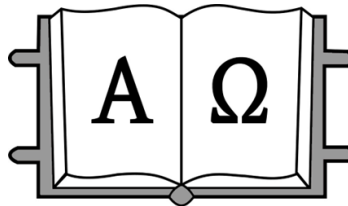
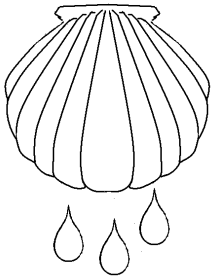
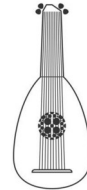




*Dedication
Of
Greens*



*Hanging of
Chrismons*



Chrismons are Christmas decorations featuring Christian symbol ornaments that remind people of the holiday's true meaning. The word Chrismon is derived from words "Christ" and "monogram," meaning "symbols of Christ."

These decorations can take many forms. Some can be made from wood or glass, be embroidered, beaded, engraved, or painted. They are usually made from paper. They do not have to be fancy as each have a different purpose. Traditionally, Chrismons are made in gold and white.

Prayers for:

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

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

Those who are serving in the military, especially:

Timothy Beamesderfer, David Deysler, Tyler Fleagle, Shane Gettler, Steven Ginder, Matthew Plummer, Greg Rucker.

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, Women's Shelter, Lancaster/Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Support Connections of Lebanon County, St. Paul's Penryn, Our Bishops: James S. Dunlop and Elizabeth Eaton and their staff.

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

Please notify the church office and Pastor Angie
when the prayer chain is activated and for pastoral care & emergencies.
For revisions to the above list, please contact the church office.

