

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

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

December 10, 2023

Second Sunday in Advent

Service of the Word



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](http://stlukelutheran.org)),  
you can find current events and links to our online worship services.

Direct access:

Facebook is at [www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran), or on YouTube:  
[www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa](https://www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa)

## GATHERING

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

### Welcome and Announcements

#### 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.

### Prelude

**\*Opening Hymn:** Wake, Awake for Night is Flying                      LBW 31

#### **\*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 candles)

P: Let us pray. We praise you, O God for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's 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.

**Sung Response:** 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:** Please see Celebrate insert

## WORD

### God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

The scriptures are printed on the Celebrate insert

**First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11**

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13** Read responsively

**Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-15a**

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

**\*Gospel: Mark 1:1-8**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

## The Message

Hymn of the Day: Prepare the Royal Highway      LBW 26

**\*Apostles' Creed:**

P: 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

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

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

### 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:** People, Look East                      WOV 626

**\*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

**Pianist:** Dave Deysher

**December Worship Assistant:** Mike DeLong

**Today's Lay Reader:** Richelle Deysher                      **Lay Reader next week:** Dollie Fasnacht

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

Attendance—December 3    In person: 38    Online: 41    Offering: \$4,566

## This week at St. Luke

### Sunday, December 10—Advent 2

8:30 AM	Service of the Word
9:30 AM	Sunday School (Children)
9:30 AM	Coffee Hour
1:00-2:00 PM	Visitation for Lois Mock
5:30 PM-7:00 PM	Community Free Meal

### Tuesday, December 12

10:00 AM	Band Together
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### Wednesday, December 13

9:00–2:00 PM	LWR Quilting
7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal

### Thursday, December 14

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

### Sunday, December 17—Advent 3

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

*The altar flowers are presented in  
loving memory of Lois Mock by her family.*



## *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 Griffie, 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 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, 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.**

