

St. Luke Lutheran Church

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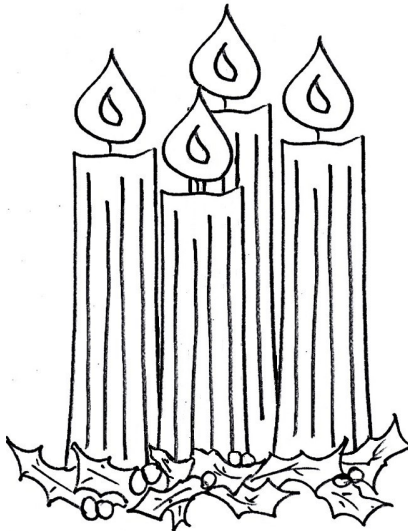
St. Paul Lutheran Church

Worshiping Together

December 22, 2024

Service of Holy Communion

Fourth Sunday of Advent





PO Box 278 Schaefferstown, PA 17088 717-949-3375
office@stlukelutheran.org www.st.lukelutheran.org

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 to our online services:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran,

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

***Confession and Forgiveness:**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world,
reviving creation, arriving soon.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God of mercy,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.

We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

P: God of might,

**C: we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from
our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

P: God in our midst,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

P: A righteous branch springs forth:

it is Christ the Lord, our Savior,

in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy.

By the power of the Holy Spirit,

receive the grace and forgiveness of God

through † Christ Jesus,

whose day draws near.

C: Amen.

***Opening Hymn:** It Came Upon the Midnight Clear LBW 54

***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

***Lighting the Advent Candle:** (Rothenberger family)

P: 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)

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.

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.

Sung Response:

Light four candles to watch for Messiah
let the light banish darkness.
He is coming, tell the glad tidings.
Let your lights be shining!

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

Please see Celebrate insert

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a
The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

Psalmody: Luke 1:46b-55 Read responsively

Ministry of Music: Choir: We Await You

Second Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10
The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the first chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel:** Luke 1:39-45 [46-55]

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.



The Message

Rev. Angela Hammer

Hymn of the Day: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

***Apostles' Creed:**

P: United by the Holy Spirit, let us profess 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 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

***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
the peace with a gesture)*

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

***Offering Prayer:**

P: Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our 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 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)**

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.

***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.

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.

P: God, 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**

*** Invitation to Communion**

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

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

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

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, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

C: Amen.

SENDING

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

***Blessing:**

P: God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ✚ bless and keep you now and forever.

C: Amen.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

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

Worship Assistants:

12/22: Sarah Kneller; **12/24:** All; **1/5/25:** Sarah Kneller

Lay Reader: 12/22: Faith Thunberg

Lay Reader's: 12/24: Donna Moyer; 1/5/25: Sarah Kneller

Seminarian Field Student: Wendy Harrison

Live Streaming: William and Beverly Hoffman

Attendance/Offering 12/15

In person: 47 Online Plays: 77 Offering: \$2,007

*The altar flowers are presented
Paula Benson to wish everyone a
Merry Christmas and healthy Happy New Year.*

Christmas Services:

6:30 PM St. Paul Christmas Eve Service

11:00 PM St. Luke Christmas Eve Service

(music precedes services)

Lessons and Carols: December 29—10:30 AM

Combined Service at St. Paul in Penryn

This week at St. Luke

Sunday, December 22—Advent 4

- 8:30 AM Combined Service of
Holy Communion at St. Luke with St. Paul
- 9:30 AM Coffee Hour
- 9:30 AM Sunday School (Children/Adults)
- 5:30 PM-6:30 PM Community Free Meal

Monday, December 23

- 8:00 AM Advent Bible Study

Tuesday, December 24

- 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service—St. Paul
- 11:00 PM Christmas Eve Service—St. Luke

Thursday, December 26

- 11:30 AM-1:00 PM Community Free Meal

Saturday, December 28

- 10:00 AM-3:00PM Private Event in Miller Chapel

Sunday, December 29—Christmas 1

- 10:30 AM Combined Service of Lessons and Carols
at St. Paul in Penryn
- 5:30 PM-6:30 PM Community Free Meal

St. Paul Office

The Office at St. Paul will be closed from
December 24 through January 2.

St. Luke Office Hours

Monday 23—9:30-4:30 Thursday 26—9:30-4:30
Saturday 28—9:30-4:30 Monday 30—9:00-12:00

The secretary will be on a seminary trip until January 17.
Phone messages and emails will be monitored during this
time. Please see Mike DeLong for any questions.

NEWS IN OUR PEWS

Advent Bible Study: Join us on zoom tomorrow Monday, December 23 at 8:00 AM for our final Advent devotion. We will gather around the scripture, coffee, and our screens for a time of prayer and reflection as we begin our week. If the zoom link is needed, contact the church office.



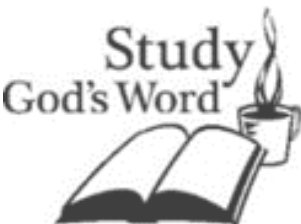
Annual Reports: If your report is ready, please submit to the office.



Band Together: meetings Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00-11:00 AM in the Chapel. Contact Sue DeLong for additional information.

Beer & Bible: A Thursday evening monthly meeting for dinner, drinks, and conversation. Join us on January 23 at 6:30PM. The location will be announced at a later date.

Bible Study—Thursday morning ZOOM: Join Pastor Angie online on Thursday mornings at 10:00 AM to explore 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.



Next dates are:

January 9 – Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 23 – Luke 4:14-21

Book Club: Next meeting is on Thursday, January 23rd at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. We will be discussing *The Cartographers* by Peng Shepherd. All are invited to attend for a great discussion. Please contact Richelle Deysher with any questions.



Choir Rehearsals – come share your musical gifts!

Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Contact Linda Holt for more information.



Coffee Hour: Join us on the Second and Fourth Sundays following worship. Volunteers are invited to sign up in the narthex.

Council Invitation: For the upcoming year, new members are needed. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. Being on Church Council is a great way to share some love, faith, and perspective to help the church grow in its ministry and service toward the community and each other.

Please prayerfully consider serving on the church council. See a council member for information. Congregational Meeting on January 5 for nominations and elections.



Ministry Emphasis for December: Habitat for Humanity



Pastor Angie: will be taking time off between Christmas and the New Year (December 26-January 2). She can be reached for emergencies only.

Support for the Iwambi Orphanage: Our Advent giving ministry is in support of the Iwambi orphanage in the Konde Diocese, Tanzania. Please consider supporting this ministry how you feel called. Your gift of support can be placed in the weekly offering. Be sure to leave a note or memo your check "Iwambi Orphanage Advent.



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.



Women of the ELCA: Meetings are on the second Monday of every month (excluding summer months). The meeting time is 7:00 PM in the Chapel. Everyone is welcome to attend!



Worshipping Together:

St. Luke and St. Paul will share a service of Lessons and Carols next Sunday at St. Paul in Penryn. December 29 at 10:30 AM.



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, Kim Lenhart Hale, John Hassinger, Barbara Hehny, Dean Hettinger, Lilly Higgins & Family, Richard and Nancy Hollen, Christopher Johnson (D Hettinger), Landon Kreider, Richard Leshner, Donald and Sue McClure, Steven McCracken, Casey McGarvey, Dana McKinney, Maureen Marinkov, Harold (Spike) Moore, Howard Moore, Brian Navarre, 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: David Deysher, Tyler Fleagle, Shane Gettler, Steven Ginder, 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 Deysher, 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

