

St. Luke Lutheran Church

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December 1, 2024

Service of Holy Communion

Greens Dedication

First Sunday of Advent





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: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

LBW 34, vv. 1-5

***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 (Samuel and Nicholas Kneller)

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.

Lighting of the candle

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.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 21st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

***Gospel:** Luke 21:25-36

[Jesus said:] ²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.



The Evergreens

(Dave and Richelle Dysher)

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:

(Dave and Richelle Dysher)

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: Each Winter As the Year Grows Older

WOV 628, vv. 1-3

The Chrismons: (Sarah Kneller and family)

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 place stars and doves on our tree.

The Star: (Donna Moyer)

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:

(Donna Moyer)

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: Choir: A Litany for Advent

The Doves:

(Faith Thunberg)

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:

(Faith Thunberg)

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. (Chrismon of Dove is 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.

***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

***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:**

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.

Musical Interlude: In the Bleak Midwinter

***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.

***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.

SENDING

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

***Closing Hymn:** Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LBW 25

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 Assistant: Jake Werner

Worship Assistant next week: Karen Stump

Readers: Donna Moyer, Faith Thunberg, Deyshers, Knellers

Lay Reader next week: Richelle Deysher

Seminarian Field Student: Wendy Harrison

Live Streaming: William and Beverly Hoffman

Attendance/Offering 11/24:

In person: 55 Online Plays: 102 Offering: 881

Christmastide Services:

Christmas Eve 7:00 PM—St. Paul, Penryn

Christmas Eve 11:00—St. Luke, Schaefferstown

(music precedes each service)

Sunday, December 29—Lessons and Carols combined service
at St. Paul, Penryn. 10:30 AM

This week at St. Luke

Sunday, December 1—Advent 1

8:30 AM Holy Communion/Greens Ded.
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children/Adults)
5:30 PM-6:30 PM Community Free Meal
7:00 PM Community Advent Service
(Trinity UMC, Kleinfeltersville)

Monday, December 2

8:00 AM Advent Bible Study (Zoom)
7:00 PM Lions

Tuesday, December 3

10:00 AM Band Together

Wednesday, December 4

7:00 PM Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 5

10:00 AM Band Together
11:30 AM-1:00 PM Community Free Meal
7:00 PM Book Club

Friday, December 6

3:00-6:00 PM TEFAP

Next Sunday, December 8—Advent 2

8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:30 AM Coffee Hour
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children/Adults)
5:30 PM-6:30 PM Community Free Meal



NEWS IN OUR PEWS

Advent Bible Study: Join us on zoom Monday December 2, 9, 16, and 23 at 8:00 AM for a Advent devotion. We will gather around the scripture, coffee, and our screens for a time of prayer and reflection as we begin our week. A zoom link will be provided this coming week along with an electronic version of the devotional.

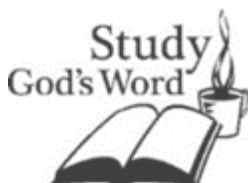


Annual Reports: Please begin to prepare your annual reports. The reports should be submitted to the office by the middle of December.

Band Together: Meets on 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 Thursday, December 12 at 6:30PM. The location will be announced.

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 date is December 19.



Book Club invitation: Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, December 5 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. We will be discussing *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters. All are invited to attend. 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.



Community Advent Service: 7:00 PM tonight at Trinity UMC in Kleinfeltersville.



Council Invitation: For the upcoming year, new members are needed. Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. Serving on the 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.



Ministry Emphasis for December: Habitat for Humanity

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: "WELCA will be hosting a night out at the Lebanon Community Theater on Friday, December 13 at 7:30 to see White Christmas. A sign-up sheet is in the chapel. The cost is \$25 for adults, \$20 for students. Details are in the chapel. The deadline to sign up is today. Everyone is welcome!



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!

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

