

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

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December 15, 2024

Service of Holy Communion

Third 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](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran),

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa](http://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: Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn**

WOV 637

**\*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:** (Steffi Gettler)

L: Today we light the third Advent candle, the shepherd's candle. This candle is offered in honor of the shepherds whose love and care for their sheep become the example of God's love for us. We remember that the shepherds were the first human witnesses of our Savior's birth. In honor of all good shepherds, and especially Jesus the Christ, we light this third candle.

*(Lighting of the third candle)*

We praise you, O God for this victory wreath that marks our days of preparation for Christ's Advent.

**C: As we light the candles on this wreath, strengthen our hearts as we await the Lord's coming in glory. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may serve our neighbors in need. Grant this Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. Amen.**

**Sung Response:**

Light three candles to Watch for Messiah  
let the light banish darkness  
Lift up your heads and lift high the gateway  
for the King of glory.

**WORD**

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

Please see Celebrate insert

**First Reading:** Zephaniah 3:14-20

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Psalmody:** Isaiah 12:2-6

Read responsively

**Ministry of Music:** Choir: Celebrate the Coming of the Lord

**Second Reading:** Philippians 4:4-7

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God**

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*Gospel: Luke 3:7-18**

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Message**

Rev. Angela Hammer

**Hymn of the Day:** All Earth is Hopeful

WOV 629

**\*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.**

**\*Closing Hymn:**

The King Shall Come

LBW 33

**\*Dismissal**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

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### **Our worshiping community:**

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

**Ministers:** The People of St. Luke

**Worship Assistant:** Mike DeLong

**Worship Assistant next week:** Jake Werner

**Today's Lay Reader:** Dolly Fasnacht

**Lay Reader next week:** Faith Thunberg

**Seminarian Field Student:** Wendy Harrison

**Live Streaming:** William and Beverly Hoffman

### Attendance/Offering 12/8

In person: 41    Online Plays: 76    Offering: \$4,241

### **Christmastide Services:**

6:30 PM                      St. Paul Christmas Eve Service

11:00 PM                     St. Luke Christmas Eve Service

(music precedes services)

Combined Service of Lessons and Carols

December 29 10:30 at St. Paul, Penryn

## This week at St. Luke

### Sunday, December 15—Advent 3

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

### Monday, December 16

8:00 AM	Advent Bible Study
6:30 PM	Council Meeting

### Tuesday, December 17

10:00 AM	Band Together
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### Wednesday, December 18

7:00 PM	Choir Rehearsal
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### Thursday, December 19

10:00 AM	Band Together
10:00 AM	Zoom Bible Study
11:00 AM	Newsletter Collating
11:30 AM-1:00 PM	Community Free Meal

### Sunday, December 22—Advent 4

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

### Office Hours

Monday 16 – 9:30-4:30	Tuesday 17 – 9:30-4:30
Thursday 19 – 9:30-3:30	Friday 20 – 9:30-3:30
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 Monday, December 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. If the zoom link is needed, contact the church office.



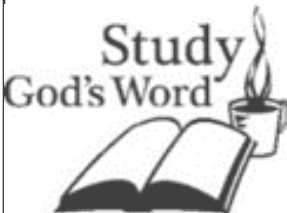
Annual Reports: Please begin to prepare your annual reports. The reports should be submitted to the office by the middle of December.



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 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



Ministry Emphasis for December: Habitat for Humanity



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!



## *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, 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

