



St. Luke Lutheran Church in Schaefferstown
1st Sunday of Advent/Blessing of Families - November 28, 2021
Contemporary Worship Service

Telephone Number - Office: 717-949-3375 churchoffice@stlukelutheran.comcastbiz.net
Web-Site: www.stlukelutheran.org

Our 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.

HEALTH QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS FOR ATTENDEES:

Please Do Not Stay If You Answer Yes to the Following Questions:

1. Do you have a cough, fever or flu-like symptoms? (some flu-like symptoms could be: fatigue, chills, fever, muscle pain, cough, headache, sore throat) – **if yes, please go home and call your Doctor**
2. Have you had a COVID-19 test in the past 10 days? – **if yes, please do not stay**
3. Have you come in contact with someone with COVID-19 in the past 10 days? – **if yes, please do not stay**

Being Mindful of Others: Masks, Distancing, and Other Mitigation Protocols

So that we may safely worship together, please follow these steps with due diligence to mitigate the possibility of spreading illness.

Masks are strongly recommended for persons both vaccinated and unvaccinated for all indoor gatherings in the Church and Chapel.

Social distancing is still required if not a member of the same household.

Please use hand sanitizer upon arrival (dispenser is on the table by the stairway).

Please take bulletins home.

Please place Offerings in the receptacle on the table by the stairway – Thank you!!

Passing the peace will take place with gestures.

Returning to Altar Communion with a specific procedure.

Welcome/Announcements

Gathering Music LBW #34 Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel
Oh, come, oh, come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

Oh, come, oh, come, great Lord of might, who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty, and awe. *(Refrain)*

Oh, come, strong Branch of Jesse, free your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *(Refrain)*

Oh, come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by your advent here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. *(Refrain)*

Oh, come, O Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. *(Refrain)*

Text: Psalterium Cantionum Catholicarum, Köln, 1710; tr. John M. Neale, 1818-1866, alt.

Lighting the Advent Candle

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.

Prayer: 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.

Hymn WOV #630 Verse 1 "Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah"

Light one candle to watch for Messiah, let the light banish darkness
He shall bring salvation to Israel, God fulfills the promise.

Song Jesus Messiah Page 73

He became sin who knew no sin that we might become His righteousness
He humbled Himself and carried the cross Love so amazing love so amazing

Chorus:

Jesus Messiah Name above all names blessed Redeemer Emmanuel
The Rescue for sinners the Ransom from heaven
Jesus Messiah Lord of all.

His body the bread His blood the wine Broken and poured out all for love
The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn Love so amazing love so amazing *(Chorus)*

Bridge

All our hope is in You All our hope is in You
All the glory to You God The Light of the world. *(Chorus)*

Ending

Jesus Messiah Lord of all The Lord of all The Lord of all.

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The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 21:25-36

God will fulfill God's purposes and, already, hidden signs of that fulfillment abound. On that great day there will be dismay, perplexity, confusion, and terror, but God's people shall be given strength to stand boldly and receive God's promised redemption.

Jesus said "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. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. "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, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. 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."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Hymn ELW #248

People, Look East

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today-Love, the Guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today-Love, the Rose, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today-Love, the Star, is on the way.

Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Text: Eleanor E. Farjeon, 1881-1965

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

Message**Hymn ELW #294**

In the Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heav'n and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign; in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give him-give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830-1894

Confession of Faith: Apostles' Creed

Let us confess our faith.

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 Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 of our Lord

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you

Let us share his peace with one another.

(Share the peace with a Gesture)

Offering: Thank you for faithfully mailing your offering envelope or placing them in the container today.

Prayers for the Blessing of the Church Family and Individual Families

On this day, as we embrace the Promised coming of Emmanuel, let us all realize that prayer is not so much our effort to find God, but a response to our Father's finding us. Our Father is always with us, embracing us with love and mercy, and is blessing us so that we be a blessing to others. Let us strive to recognize and live into God's relationship with us. Therefore, let us pray.

Father, inspire the church family near and far to diligently search and find those missing in the chaos of this world – the homeless, the addicted, the ill, the immigrant, the aged, the rejected, the grieving, and the lonely – that we welcome them into our households of faith. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace them.

For all who are far from home, that they will live in safety. For all who are alienated from us and who stay away from this table, that they may return to this faith home, and that we are prepared to greet them. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace them.

For the sick, the aged, the lonely, and any who cannot be with us this day, especially those we now name in voice and heart, ... that they may know of our concern for them and feel your healing embrace. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace them.

That an Advent yearning for the long awaited peace and forgiveness shine within us, and be visible in our lives together as families. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace us.

Lord Jesus, you lived among us as part of a particular family and the larger family of faith to enrich both with your blessings. We humbly ask for your favor and protection on our faith family known as St. Luke. Make this congregational home and every member's home a place where your Father is worshiped in peace-filled joy and awe. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace us.

Jesus, through your own obedience to your Mother Mary and Stepfather Joseph you consecrated family life, and made your own family the model of prayer, love, and obedience to your Father's will. You loved those who were close to you and they returned your love. Bind all families together in the bonds of peace, faithfulness, and love for one another. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace us.

O God, you created the Church in love and mercy. Through the bond of marriage you have established the family and willed that it become a sign of Christ's love for his Church. Shower your blessing on this faith family and each family gathered here this day. Enable we who are joined by one love to support one another in fervor of spirit and devotion to prayer. Make us responsive to the needs of our community and be witnesses of your Son in all we say and do. Lord, in your love and mercy,

C: hear our prayer and embrace us.

Lord make us instruments of your peace.

**C: Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.**

**Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love.**

**For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

Return to living in the world refreshed, renewed, and empowered.

C: We have met the living Jesus here in worship and praise.

Let us go now into our communities and homes knowing Jesus is eagerly there waiting for us.

C: May our eyes be opened and our spirits attuned to our Lord's welcoming and compassionate presence in all places and relationships. Amen.

Sending Song: ELW #242 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn
 Awake! Awake, and greet the new morn, for angels herald its dawning.
 Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! the Child of our longing.
 Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,
 he opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.

To us, to all in sorrow and fear, Emmanuel comes a-singing,
 his humble song is quiet and near, yet fills the earth with its ringing;
 music to heal the broken soul and hymns of loving kindness,
 the thunder of his anthems roll to shatter all hatred and blindness.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,
 as morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder,
 the weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,
 the rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;
 may God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and our neighbors!

C: Thanks be to God!

**Liturgy and Hymns are covered under Sundays and Seasons Subscription # SB 147834
 Onelicense.net #A-710139.**

St. Luke Contemporary Worship Team is:

Vocal: Sarah Kneller

Guitar/vocals: Linda Holt and Todd Snyder

Supply Pastor: The Rev. Angela Hammer

Worship Assistant: Paula Benson

This Week at St. Luke

Tuesday 10:00 AM Band Together
Wednesday 7:00 PM Sr. Choir
Thursday 10:00 AM Band Together
Friday 3-6:00 PM TEFAP and Warmth for Winter

Next Sunday - 2nd Sunday of Advent/Food Bank

8:30 AM Dedication of the Greens

9:30 AM Sunday School

3:00 PM - Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

7:00 PM - Heidelberg Comm Churches Advent Service

Krall's Mennonite Church, Rt. 897

It is easy to stay connected to all things happening at St. Luke! Check out our website at <https://www.stlukelutheran.org>. In addition to updates on current events, you will find links on the website to access our online worship services via Facebook or YouTube.

Or, if you prefer, you can access online services directly via Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran>, or on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWKROL7HVJEgtCMksioZwoA>.

The bulletin will continue to be emailed out weekly with printed copies available at Sunday worship. So whether you attend in person or tune in online, it is easy to stay connected!

We welcome your feedback--recommendations, suggestions, or improvements regarding the current online transmissions. We also need volunteers to assist with the technical aspects of livestreaming and all of the legwork and support this requires. Please send your feedback or volunteer availability to the Church Office.

A WARM WELCOME to our Supply Pastor the Rev. Angela Hammer and all our visitors as we come together to share this day here at St. Luke.

THE FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by Jake and Judy Werner in memory of Carol Werner and Gene Keppley.

Please keep in your prayers those who are ill, recovering, or shut-in, especially:

John Adams, Claudia Addison, Brenda Boyer, Leon Boyer, Mechelle Leshar Bray, Amanda Cupernall, Alexandria (Lexxi) Ditzler, Cathy Dunkelberger, Deb Glassmoyer, Peg Griffe, Bill Gundrum, Kim Lenhart Hale, John Hassinger, Dean Hettinger, Lilly Higgins & Family, Richard and Nancy Hollen, Christopher Johnson (D Hettinger), June Kohr, Landon Kreider, Ruth Kupp, Betty Leedy, Delores Leshar, Richard Leshar, Ken Light, Donald and Sue McClure, Steven McCracken, Casey McGarvey, Dana McKinney, Maureen Marinkov, Dale Matthews, Harold (Spike) Moore, Brian Navarre, Barry and Tom Nolt, Kathy O'Roark, Gerald and Ruth Parson, George Pastore, Alyssa Rathgaber, Ronald Ream, Lance Rhodes, Al Shade, Barry Shriver, Linda Simmers, George and Lloyd Smith, Richard Strohl, Caitlyn, Gretta and Mike Stuber, Robert Todisco, Landis Wenger, Josephine Wenrich, Janet Wharton, Josie Williams, Eddie Wolfe, Marian Yoder, Dottie and Maggie Zartman, and Ashton Zohn.

Pray for those who are serving in the military, especially:

Timothy Beamesderfer, David Deysher, Tyler Fleagle, Shane Gettler, Steven Ginder, George Leshar, Jr., Greg Rocker, and Matthew Sanders.

Pray for 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, Lebanon Taizé Violence Intervention Women's Shelter, Lancaster/Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Support Connections of Lebanon County, Our Synod Bishop James S. Dunlop and his staff, and our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and staff.

Please be in Prayer for and with St. Luke Vision to Mission Team - Kit Ahnert, Richelle Deysher, Elaine Matternas, Judy Plummer, Scott Rights, and Todd Snyder.

St. Luke History Books are available for \$20.00. Call Anna Mae Grubb 717-273-7035 or email at mrgrubby@comcast.net.

November 21, 2021

Attendance - 29

Offering - \$2,565.00

Sunday School Attendance - 11

Offering - \$22.00

The Monthly Ministry Emphasis for the month of November is **“Lebanon Co. Christian Ministries.”** **The Emphasis** for the month of December is **“Habitat for Humanity.”** Thank you again for your continued support.

You will find envelopes for purchasing your **Poinsettias** in the church and chapel. They are \$7.00 per plant. Please complete the envelope and along with your money place in the offering box by today.

Adult Sunday School Class: If you are interested in small group discussions, please consider joining us Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in the chapel basement following the Worship Service. Our Adult Sunday School Topic: An interview with popular Christian Author, Philip Yancey, titled **“Appreciating God’s Design for the Human Body”**. If this sounds interesting to you please consider joining the class for engaging conversation. All are welcome.

WARMTH FOR WINTER UPDATE

Warmth for Winter clothing drive is in full swing as well with needs lists compiled from surveys taken at the TEFAP distribution last Friday. If you are able to contribute or shop for items, please contact Elaine Matternas, Richelle Deysher, or Faith Thunberg. If shopping is not your thing, financial contributions for purchases are also welcome; just indicate Warmth for Winter on your envelope. Thanks to all—this makes a big impact on our local community.

Spang Crest Christmas Donations.

The items needed are: Tissue Packs, small hand lotions, small/medium tubes of Toothpaste, Body Spray for Ladies, pens, small notebooks to write in, snack crackers, chewing gum, tic tacs, and hard candy. Mabelle Bucher will be collecting these items from December 1-12. A box will be placed in the back of the church.

Next Sunday, December 5 everyone is invited to:

3:00 PM - Friedens Lutheran Church, Myerstown - Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

7:00 PM - Heidelberg Community Churches Advent Service at Krall’s Mennonite Church, Rt. 897.

The service will consist of scripture readings, Christmas Carol Hymn Sing and a devotional message by Pastor Ross Gingrich of Heidelberg Church of the Brethern. Refreshments and fellowship will follow in the church social hall.

The nominating committee of Church Council is still looking for 1 to 3 active members of the St. Luke congregation to serve on church council. The committee would need 1 person to remain at ten members on council. If anyone is interested in serving on council or have any questions please reach out to any member of the nominating committee which includes Sue DeLong, Sharon Reber,

Donna Rhodes, & Kit Ahnert. According to our by-laws, council members now serve a 2 year term. Meetings are held on the third Monday every month beginning at 6:30pm except the January meeting is the council retreat on the second Saturday starting at 9:00am.

St. Luke Church Council has decided to sell the *grandfathers clock* located on the ground floor of the chapel. The clock originally belonged to May Wike Spitler and is not in working order at this time. If anyone is interested in submitting a bid for the clock, please submit your bid in writing and mail it to the church office. Bids will be accepted until December 10th.

Upcoming event

The **Book Club** will be meeting on Thursday, January 13th at 7:00pm in the Chapel. We will be discussing "**Clementine: The Life of Mrs. Winston Churchill,**" by Sonia Purnell. All are invited to come. If anyone has any questions please contact Richelle Deysher.