



Artwork by Sophie Price, Age 8

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MISSION Responding to God's call and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we invite all to join us in knowing, serving, and sharing Jesus Christ here and around the world.

VISION To be a beacon of faith, hope, and love – every member an active disciple in Christ's ministry.



SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

November 29, 2015 ❖ 8:30 a.m.



November 29, 2015

1st Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: *Purple*

Purple marks the seasons of penitence and preparation: Advent and Lent.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service

Nursery available at all services & Sunday School

SERVING TODAY

Chapel Guild Dan & Sally Joyce

Open/Close Bruce Jones

WELCOME, GUESTS!

We are delighted you are worshipping with us!

DURING the Welcome, please print the requested information on the Friendship Pad and pass the Friendship Pad down the pew.

AFTER the worship service, please join us outside the Chapel where our Pastors will be available to answer questions and provide you with a Guest Packet and a loaf of freshly-baked bread.

FOR MORE information about our programs, ministries or membership, please contact one of our Pastors at 770.393.1424.

THAT ALL MAY WORSHIP

ASSISTIVE hearing devices, large print hymnals, large print bulletins and pew cushions are available. Please contact an usher for further assistance.



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP notebooks and activity sheets are available on the table just outside the Chapel doors. For your convenience, there is a Family Restroom located in the hallway of the administrative offices, on the first floor, near the main lobby.

In Preparation for Worship

These passages from Luke provide, among other things, encouragement for the faithful when the very foundation of life seems to be shaken. What do you do when others grow faint from fear and foreboding, and “the powers of the heavens” are shaken? Reading Jesus’ words on the coming of the Son of Man as a reflection of the God-ordered world in which we live, the faithful find assurance that in the worst of times the Son of Man is near at hand, coming “with power and great glory.”

R. Alan Culpepper, Mercer School of Theology



Prelude

Savior of the Nations, Come *arr. Helmut Walcha*

Welcome

Steve Vance

* Call to Worship

Pay attention to me, O my People, and give ear to me.

A day of great glory is forecast. The people are told to watch for it at all times.

Signs will precede its coming as trees in leaf declare that summer is near.

Therefore, look up and raise your heads because your redemption is drawing near.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

* Hymn #102

Savior of the Nations, Come *NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND*

* Call to Confession

Emily Wilmesherr

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

* Prayer of Confession

Great Lord above, we hear You! With eyes wide open and bright with anticipation, we listen for Your call. We lie awake at night, knowing that the day is soon coming when we will celebrate the gift of Your Son – the Christ You sent to save our souls. We know that this thing You do for us, this new thing, represents Your sacrificial lamb – sent to purchase our redemption and put us back in a right relationship with You. Forgive us, Lord, for failing to bear witness through our faith in gratitude for Your work in our own lives. Forgive us, and hear our silent prayers... *(time of silent confession)*

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer, Amen.**

* **Assurance of Forgiveness**

* **Song of Praise**

Gloria in Excelsis Deo *GLORIA*

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Tell Us Our Story

Emily Wilmesherr

Children are always welcome to stay in worship. However, parents may take your child(ren) to the nursery.

First Lesson

Jeremiah 33:14-16; page 738

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

Luke 21:25-36; page 85

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

On Figs & Firs

Steve Vance

* **Affirmation of Faith**

Apostles' Creed

Phil Brown

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying *Johann Gottfried Walther*

Giving is a tangible sign of worship. If you give electronically, there is a blue, laminated, 'electronic giving' card in the pew rack to place into the offering plate as it is passed.

* **Song of Thanksgiving**

Glory Be to God the Father *W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY*

Glo-ry be to God the Fa-ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son, glo-ry to the Ho-ly Spir - it, glo-ry to the Three in One. Here we of - fer to you glad - ly all the gifts that you im-part as we glo-ry in your pre-sence giv-ing from a grateful heart.

* **Prayer of Dedication**

* **Passing of the Peace**

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

The Lord's Supper

Communion will be served by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup). If you would like to be served where you are sitting, please raise your hand. Everyone is invited to participate in the sacrament. Children who have discussed the sacrament with their parents and/or a pastor are welcome. The cup holds grape juice, not wine, during this service. A server with gluten-free wafers will be standing directly in front of the communion table for those who prefer this option.

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Communion Music

Prayers of the People

* **Hymn #105**

People, Look East *BESANCON*

* **Benediction**

* **Postlude**

Savior of the Nations, Come *William Albright*



Sunday Spotlights:



NEXT SUNDAY, DEC 6: don't miss all the great things happening here next week!

CHRISMONS & COOKIES RECEPTION Our Presbyterian Women will present their annual gift to our children: a Chrismon ("Christ's Monogram") at both worship services. To celebrate this sharing of faith, the children of Saint Luke's, their families, and the members who made this year's Chrismons are invited to enjoy Christmas cookies after our 11:00 service in the Parlor (Rm. 145).

JOY OFFERING Use one of the specially-marked pew envelopes to make a donation to those who've devoted their lives to the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This offering provides a way to express our gratitude for those who serve the Church.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS during the Sunday School hour. All children through 5th Grade and their families are invited to the Great Hall for fun crafts and, of course, birthday cake! (Saint Luke's Youth are invited to help our little ones with the crafts.) **WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRING A GIFT TO THE BIRTHDAY PARTY?** Each year we collect 'wish list' items for one of our partner ministries. This year, help us be a blessing to Family Promise by donating an item from their wish list: Lysol/Clorox wipes; travel size toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant (we have toothbrushes); size 4 diapers; washing machine detergent pods. Thank you!

TOYS FOR TOTS BENEFIT CONCERT AT 4 P.M. This annual event features our own Chancel Choir, Festival Ringers and Brass Quartet. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for donation. All ages are welcome at this festive concert!



2016 COMMITMENT UPDATE: THANK YOU to all who have submitted your financial commitment for the upcoming year. Over 72% of you increased your pledge, including 91 members who have increased their pledges by at least 10% for 2016 and 18 members with new pledges... a special thank you for that. An average 10% pledge increase per member family is needed as we prepare to call our new pastor/head of staff. We are so thankful that so many of you have responded to this request.

The pledged amount needed from our members for 2016 is \$1,392,000. As of Nov. 24, 183 church members/families have pledged \$1,137,789 (81% of what is needed). We look forward to hearing from the 178 members/families who have not yet informed us of their commitment in "Building Toward God's Future" here at Saint Luke's.

If you are one that we have not heard from, please return the pledge form you received in the mail, ask for one in the Church office, or use the secure confidential pledging email at commitment@slpres.org. Join us in welcoming a new pastor as we continue to be a beacon of faith, hope, and love - every member an active disciple in Christ's ministry. **Let us hear from you today!**

ADVENT ACTIVITY BAGS are available in the Narthex and Chapel for kids to explore during the worship services; they might even learn a little about Advent! New activities each week.

**SPLASH! CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**

Catherine Anne Thomas
cathomas@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 228

ADVENT CALENDAR PICKUP has begun! All families with children are invited to pick up one "Lift Up Your Heads" pop-up calendar in the main lobby. There are labels with the last names of each family located beside the calendars – please remove your family label and attach to the calendar so that we will know which families still need one.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS IS DEC. 6 during the Sunday School hour. All children through 5th Grade and their families are invited to the Great Hall for fun crafts and, of course, birthday cake! (Saint Luke's Youth are invited to help our little ones with the crafts.)

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BRING A GIFT TO THE BIRTHDAY PARTY? Each year at *Happy Birthday Jesus* we collect 'wish list' items for one of our partner ministries. This year, help us be a blessing to Family Promise by donating an item from their wish list: Lysol/ Clorox wipes; travel size toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant (we have toothbrushes); size 4 diapers; washing machine detergent pods. Thank you!

PICTURE THIS All children through 5th grade are invited to submit a colorful drawing of the nativity story to share with our members and friends throughout the holiday season! All pictures will be exhibited in our Advent Art Gallery, and some will even be selected to appear in a worship bulletin. Please use white paper, 8½" x 11" and sign your name and age on the back. Finished pictures should be submitted in the marked container in the main lobby.

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP NEEDS LEADERS! If you've ever been to our 5:00 Christmas Eve service, you know how simple and special it is. Every child in attendance will be invited to take a part in the story when they arrive, but we also need some children (six and older) and adults to take slightly larger roles. Please look for our "stable of opportunities" in the main lobby and let us know how you and/or your child would like to participate.

FAITHFUL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! Our weekly program during the 11:00 worship service, *Faithful Friends*, needs adult volunteers to facilitate a pre-planned lesson with K-2nd Grade kids each week. Please use <http://tinyurl.com/SLfaithfulfriends> to sign up for a Sunday or two.

A FEW MORE FAMILY PROMISE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: NOV. 29 - DEC. 6

Signup: <http://tinyurl.com/SLPCFP2015-12>. Join us on this easy and satisfying volunteer opportunity.

A training session is available today at 3 p.m. Contact Beth Underhill at bunderhill.mail@gmail.com

YOUTH CONNECTION

Phil Brown

philbrown@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 238

Stay current with Saint Luke's Youth Ministry by signing up for text message updates. Dial 81010 and text:

for Middle School updates: youth, text **@6th-8thSL** parents, text **@MSparentSL**

for High School updates: youth, text **@9th-12thSL** parents, text **@HSparentSL**

for Youth Choir updates: text **@choirSL**

Sun., Dec. 6 9:15-10:30 a.m. Youth will be helping with "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" in the Great Hall. Arrive at 9:15 to help get ready for the children.

3:30 p.m. **Toys for Tots Benefit Concert:** All youth need to arrive at 3:30 to help collect toys; concert begins at 4 p.m. After we collect the toys and load them up, we'll head to dinner so please bring money. We need parents to help drive to and from dinner. Wearing Christmas sweater/hats or other Christmas clothing is encouraged.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Clair Maxwell

clairmaxwell@slpres.org

770.393.1424 ext. 227

Weekly Choir Rehearsals:

Sundays	12:15-1:00 p.m.	Youth Choir
Wednesdays	5:15-5:45 p.m.	Cherub Choir
	5:00-5:45 p.m.	Westminster Choir
	6:30-7:20 p.m.	Festival Ringers
	7:30-9:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir

LESSONS AND CAROLS: DEC. 13 Readers are needed for this special worship service. Please contact Clair Maxwell (info above) if you would like to participate.

ADULT MINISTRY

Shannon Dill

shannondill@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 229

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL classes meet between the worship services, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Descriptions of current groups are available on our website (slpres.org) or <http://bit.ly/AdultSundaySchool>. Please join us!

FRIDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY Fellowship and Bible study every Fri. from 6:40-8:00 a.m. in the Parlor with Dan Joyce.

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS Advent means “coming,” and the Bible urges us to “look up.” This year you are invited to follow along with uplifting daily devotions from the book, *Lift Up Your Heads – Devotions for Advent*, by Martin Marty. Copies of the book are available in the lobby or as a downloadable book for Nook or Kindle (<http://tinyurl.com/LiftUpAdvent>). To help children understand and participate in Advent, families with children are invited to pick up one “Lift Up Your Heads” pop-up calendar.

FOOD, FUN, & COCKTAILS, Dec. 3, 7 p.m., to benefit Journey Men’s Shelter! Celebrate the work and spirit of BelleMiller McMaster and learn more about Journey Men’s Shelter’s (Druid Hills) residents and their road to recovery. Register or give a sponsorship in honor of Journey’s work at <http://tinyurl.com/CelebrateBelle> or contact Rebecca Arayan at 404.316.5305 / development@journeymen.org.

2016 OFFICER NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTED Nov. 15, the congregation named Diane Markel, Fern Mitropoulis, Daryl Moore, Nancy Self, and Beth Underhill to join Elders Chip Williams and Rob Price and Deacon Sandra Clay as the 2016 Officer Nominating Committee of our church. Their primary job is to develop a slate of officers to serve on the Session and the Board of Deacons. Nominees will be presented to the congregation on Feb. 28. Please suggest to these folks any member of our church you believe God may be calling forth to serve.

SANCTUARY FLOWER SIGN-UPS

The 2016 Calendar is now available. For \$80, you can underwrite one of the weekly Sanctuary floral arrangements. You may select a date that is meaningful to you and dedicate your gift in honor or in memory of someone; your message will run in the worship bulletin. Sign-up on the main bulletin board near the Great Hall. Contact Mary Guerrant: atlguerrants@bellsouth.net / 770.455.9493.

HAVE YOU BEEN UPSTAIRS TO THE LIBRARY LATELY? Be sure to come by and “check out” the seasonal books for all ages. (Above the lobby in Room 201.)

CHRISMONS & COOKIES RECEPTION

Dec. 6, our Presbyterian Women will present their annual gift to our children: a Chrismon (“Christ’s Monogram”). To celebrate this sharing of faith, the children of Saint Luke’s, their families, and the members who made this year’s Chrismons are invited to enjoy Christmas cookies after our 11:00 service in the Parlor (Rm. 145).

PLEASE JOIN YOUR CHURCH FRIENDS

and family for a Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 20 immediately following the 11:00 worship service. The Fellowship Committee invites all ages to enjoy a wonderful meal, sing Christmas carols and hymns, and share the joy of fellowship during this holy Christmas season. \$5/person, \$15/family max.

Your PNC (Pastor Nominating Committee) invites you to join with us in prayer:

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. 1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-18

Gracious God, these are three simple yet difficult commands Paul gave the people of Thessalonica and to us as well. It is with joy that we search for a new minister, joy in knowing at its conclusion a new chapter will begin in the life and work of Saint Luke's. We are thankful for the talented ministers and leaders, past and present who are serving you through Saint Luke's and for the talented ministers who seek to be our next Pastor/Head of Staff. We pray today and through-out this process for wisdom and discernment. Be with us this week and help us to find joy, give thanks and pray continually in all we do. Amen.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED DEC. 13 for a Household Hazardous Waste recycling event at Georgia Perimeter College. Please contact Carol Allen, CarolWellsAllen@gmail.com, if you can help.

PEAK EXPERIENCES: HIGH ADVENTURE ON KILIMANJARO Dec. 12, 8:00 a.m. Come to the next Men's Breakfast to learn about Ron Mason's and Scott Zannini's high adventures on Mt. Kilimanjaro. Enjoy a delicious breakfast and hear stories that will inspire and spark your imagination! Saint Luke's women and their guests are always welcome. Please RSVP by Wed., Dec. 9: Daryl Moore 770.395.6278 / 404.993.6203, ddmoore@yahoo.com

NOV 29 *1st Sunday of Advent*

DEC 6 *2nd Sunday of Advent*

JOY Offering

9:30 AM Happy Birthday Jesus

12 PM Chrismon Reception

4 PM Toys for Tots Benefit Concert

DEC 7 6 PM PW Dinner & Worship Service

DEC 13 *3rd Sunday of Advent*

Service of Lessons & Carols

PW Bake Sale

DEC 15 6 PM Live Nativity

DEC 20 *4th Sunday of Advent*

12 PM Christmas Luncheon

5 PM Service of Comfort & Rest

DEC 24 *Christmas Eve Worship Services:*

5 PM Family (*Sanctuary*)

8 PM Candlelight (*Sanctuary*)

11 PM Candlelight (*Chapel*)

PERIMETER NORTH VILLAGES is a non-profit organization providing services for seniors so they can stay in their own homes safely and comfortably. We provide social events, local transportation, meal delivery, in-home support, and home maintenance. There is a small membership fee, then any service provided by a volunteer is free, and most vendors offer a discount to our members. For more information: 470.231.0015 / pnvillages@gmail.com / www.perimeternorthvillages.com



IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE... ADVENT!

Saint Luke's seasonal events and outreach opportunities:

SANTA CLAUS EXPRESS The Presbyterian Women are collecting gifts for residents of the Presbyterian Home and Village. A list of suggested items and instructions are in the Narthex and main lobby. Collection baskets are in the lobby and the Parlor (rm. #145).

Contact: Beverly Miller, 770.843.2608

Drop-off deadline: Wed., Dec. 2

TOYS FOR TOTS BENEFIT CONCERT This annual event features our own Chancel Choir, Festival Ringers and other special musicians. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for donation. All ages are welcome at this festive concert!

Concert at Saint Luke's: Sun., Dec. 6, 4 p.m.

POINSETTIAS You can help decorate the church *and* honor or remember a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia. Donation envelopes are in the pew boxes. \$15 per plant (please write "poinsettias" on the memo line). Names will be published in the bulletin on Dec. 20.

Contact: Jan Slater, 770.391.0489

Deadline: Sun., Dec. 13

ATTENTION ALL WOMEN: Set the tone for the Christmas season by attending Saint Luke's Presbyterian Women's ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND COMMUNION WORSHIP SERVICE on Mon., Dec. 7th. Invite your girl friends and join us at 6:00 p.m. for a reception, dinner, and worship service led by Rev. Yolanda Thompson. The cost is \$15.00 per person. Sign up in the Lobby or on line at www.slpres.org/pw-christmas-dinner/. We hope to see you there.

THORNWELL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Saint Luke's Presbyterian Women has supported **Thornwell Home for Children** for over 30 years with a special Christmas Offering. Join our tradition of donating to Thornwell in lieu of sending Christmas cards to your Saint Luke's family – names will be published in the Dec. 20th bulletin. Make checks payable to *Presbyterian Women* and place your contribution in the offering plate. **Deadline:** Sun., Dec. 13

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD A small shoebox can have a big impact. What goes into the box is fun, but what comes out of it is eternal. Be a part of changing children's lives all over the world in Jesus' Name through the power of a simple gift: <http://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>

ATTENDANCE

NOV 22	WORSHIP	NURSERY	VISITORS
8:30	45	2	3
11:00	170	16	20

Each Sunday, many of our pews have first-time or repeat visitors. Your smile and welcoming words express the hospitable character of this congregation. Your kindness makes a difference.

CHURCH STAFF

Interim Pastor	Steve Vance
Associate Pastor	Shannon Dill
Associate Pastor	Phil Brown
Pastor Emeritus	Dr. E. Moss Robertson
Director of Music & Organist	Clair Maxwell
Director of Children's Ministries	Catherine Anne Thomas
Director of Saint Luke's Little Saints Preschool	Carol Perry
Intern for Children & Youth Ministry	Emily Wilmesherr
Director of Communications	Tina Knoedler
Administrative Assistants	Liz Catlett & Bonnie Farrar
Receptionist	Sally Hawkins
Facilities Manager	Roby Price
Treasurer	Gary Phipps
Assistant Treasurer	Mark Rogers

SAINT LUKE'S PERIMETER COUNSELING CENTER

Georgia C. Griffin, J.D., M. Div.

Director, Perimeter Center

Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist/Mediator

404.636.1457, ext. 452 • www.cccgeorgia.org

LEADERSHIP

Terry Nall, *Clerk to Session*

ELDERS

Class of 2016:

Claire Cummiskey (*youth*),
Rich Crutchfield, Mary Guerrant,
Tom Loftis, David McKenney,
Mark Ryan, David Tharp,
Allison Thornton

Class of 2017:

John Eagar, Saralyn Hill,
TJ McGoldrick, Paula Morris,
Donna Nall, Gary Phipps,
Rob Price, Pete Shelton

Class of 2018:

Gerald Aldridge, Carol Allen,
Barbara Douglass, Anne Hallum,
Dan Joyce, Jean Kammerer,
Chip Williams, Bill Womack

DEACONS

Class of 2016:

Sandra Clay, Amanda Dunnick,
Shawn Hamlin, Niki Rabren,
Katherine Robeson,
Rebecca Strickland (*moderator*),
Jenny Troha, Michelle Vail,
Hayley Wolfe (*youth*)

Class of 2017:

Sandra DuBois, Kris Hull,
Joyce Kratzenberg, Stacey Kruse,
Joanna Mangum, Stephen Moss,
Sharon Polensek, Barry Smith,
Russell Wolfe

Class of 2018:

Justine Burney, Bobby Ferretti,
Diane Lemaster, Joe Luranc,
Lucy Painter, Debbie Parkes,
David Stover, Shari Wassell,
Kristen Wescott



SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1978 Mount Vernon Road | Dunwoody, Georgia 30338

770.393.1424 | www.slpres.org | office hours: M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.