



2ND 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

December 6, 2015 ❖ 8:30 a.m.



December 6, 2015

2nd 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

Continental Breakfast The Hamlin Family

Open/Close Miles Young

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

Help us to hear the right voices, Lord, and to focus on what matters. Amen.



Prelude

The Holly and the Ivy *arr. Lani Smith*

Welcome

Call to Worship

Hear O my people, says the Lord, “Lift up your heads,
your redemption is drawing near!”

LUKE 21:28B

Watch, for I will bring light that will shine out of the darkness

2 COR. 4:6

Hear, O peoples, all of you; Listen!

MICAH 1:2

I am about to do a new thing.

ISAIAH 43:19

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Laura & Wes Woodsides

* Hymn #96

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry *WINCHESTER NEW*

* Call to Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

* Prayer of Confession

Great and merciful God, we thank You for sending us prophets of old, foretelling the promise of the Savior to come, and for giving Your people the hope of redemption. We confess that we often exchange glitter and gloss for the real treasure of a right relationship with You, our Redeemer. Help us, O God, to filter out all other voices of the season, so that we can focus on Your story of grace and redemption and respond with our lives. And now, hear our silent prayers, Father, as we confess to You our weaknesses, and as we seek from You the strength to stay focused on Your word for us... *(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

Steve Vance

PRESENTATION OF THE CHRISMONS The Presbyterian Women present their annual gift to the children of the congregation.

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

First Lesson

Malachi 3:1-4; page 889

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

Luke 3:1-6; page 60

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Shannon Dill

* Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

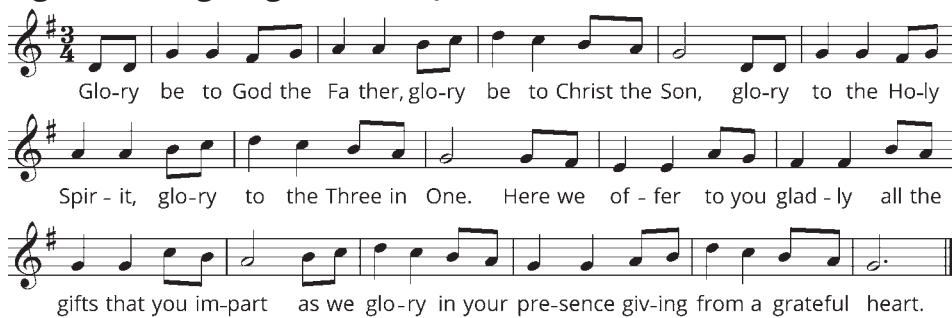
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; 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

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.

Prayers of the People

* Hymn #88

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel *VENI EMMANUEL*

* Benediction

* Postlude

O Come, Emmanuel *arr. Daniel Pinkham*

WORSHIP NOTE: Thanks to Kelly Sloan for playing the piano duet this morning.

Sunday Spotlights:



2016 COMMITMENT UPDATE As we near the end of the 2015, it is time to finalize our 2016 budget based on the member pledges we have received to date. We are grateful for the positive and generous response of so many folks to this year's commitment campaign. Of those who have pledged, 60% increased their pledge and 79% increased their pledge by at least 10%. Thus far, 197 pledges have been received totaling \$1,182,741, yet this is nearly \$200,000 short of what the leaders of Saint Luke's deem necessary to support the ministry, mission, operations and staff of our church in 2016.

Saint Luke's is on the cusp of a year filled with hope and promise to continue to be the congregation God is calling us to be - a beacon of faith, hope and love. Our financial needs for 2016 are greater than for 2015 due to projected increased expenses necessary to meet this calling; the largest of which is the salary, benefits, and moving expenses for the new pastor whom we look forward to welcoming. Unfortunately, due to our current shortfall in pledges we are in the process of reducing all 2016 expenses by at least 10%. Some areas such as the mortgage cannot be reduced. We expect to cut at least \$100,000 from the 2016 requested budget, but this will still leave us more than \$100,000 short of a balanced budget. The cuts already identified will result in reduction or elimination of ministry, programs, missions, and staff support. Without additional pledges, more reductions will be necessary. The cuts will take effect starting January 1, 2016, so it is crucial that we have all pledges accounted for now.

Thank you to everyone who has responded with your pledge. Please consider increasing your pledge if you are able. Only 86 of our members have yet to pledge. If we haven't heard from you, or if you were previously unable to pledge but feel led to do so now, your church needs your support. We need to hear from you now. Follow up telephone calls will soon be made to answer any questions you may have and to solicit your commitment. Our congregation has always responded with generous gratitude for God's gifts to us and we trust that we will do so in 2016, as we continue in our mission of knowing, serving and sharing Jesus Christ here and around the world.

If you have not done so, please take this opportunity to return the pledge form you received in the mail, or ask for one in the Church office, or use the secure confidential pledging email at commitment@slpres.org.



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 **TODAY** after our 11:00 service in the Parlor (Rm. 145).



JOY OFFERING Today we collect a special offering for those who’ve devoted their lives to the mission of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Please use the specially-marked pew envelopes for your donation and express your gratitude for those who serve the Church.



TOYS FOR TOTS BENEFIT CONCERT AT 4 P.M. TODAY Don’t miss this festive annual event featuring our own Chancel Choir, Festival Ringers and Premiere Brass Quintet! Bring a new, unwrapped toy for donation. All ages are welcome.

THERE’S A PLACE FOR YOU IN BETHLEHEM!

Our annual **Live Nativity** is scheduled for:

Tuesday, Dec. 15th, 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

and we need adults, youth and children to be the characters in this living story of Christ’s birth. All costumes provided.

Come be a part of this memorable and meaningful community event!

Please contact Mary Kent at 770.841.3247 or gkent4@aol.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**

DEC. 6 YOUTH MUSIC: Youth Choir from 12:15pm-1:00pm in the choir room. Singers are also invited to sing on Christmas Eve at the 8 pm service. Instrumentalists are invited to play with the hymns during December. Contact Clair Maxwell.

TOYS FOR TOTS: Youth arrive at 3:30pm to help collect toys; concert begins at 4pm. After we collect and load the toys, we'll head to dinner so please bring money. Wearing Christmas sweater/hats is encouraged.

DEC. 13 SUNDAY SCHOOL: Youth Breakfast during Sunday School, bring your money. Meet in the lobby at 9:30.

YOUTH MUSIC: Youth Choir, 9:30am-10:30am in the choir room.

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES:

Middle School at the Underhills' home, 4pm-5:30pm

High School at the Singleys' home, 6pm-7:30pm

DEC. 15 HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST: Meet at 6:45am @ Jett Ferry Chick-fil-a.

LIVE NATIVITY: Come in your Tartan Trot gear at 5:30pm to help set up. We'll be selling hot chocolate to raise money for the Tartan Trot.

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 Hear the retelling of the story of the coming of Christ at both morning services and be led in song by our choirs at the 11:00 am service.

Toys for Tots Benefit Concert, today at 4 pm!

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.

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.

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.

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.

[Note: No Faithful Friends on Dec. 20 and Dec. 27th.]

SEEKING NEW OFFICERS FOR SESSION & DIACONATE Now Accepting Nominations!

The Officer Nominating Committee (ONC) of Saint Luke's is in the process of developing a slate of nominees to be elected by the congregation on Feb. 28 to the office of Ruling Elder and serving Deacon as the Classes of 2019 – and the ONC is soliciting your suggestions of members of Saint Luke's you believe would enhance and further the ministry and programs of our church by serving on the Session and the Diaconate. You will find a **recommendation form** and Collection Box in the Lobby. You may also email or speak to Elders Rob Price and Chip Williams, co-chairs of the ONC.

3RD YUCATAN PENINSULA MISSION TRIP:

July 10-17, 2016, with our friends at Accion Ministries (friendsofaccion.org). This trip is open to adults of all ages and youth (completed 6th grade and up) traveling with at least one parent. Please contact Shannon Dill if you are interested in participating or learning more about this unique experience!

CALLING ALL WOMEN! Our annual Women's Retreat will be March 4-6 at the Dillard House in Dillard, GA. We are thrilled to have Lyndsay Slocum, Associate Pastor of Roswell Pres. Church, as our guest speaker. Registration opens Dec. 7 and space is limited! Contact Christy Keohane (678.595.7741) or Shannon Dill (770.393.1424 ext. 229) with questions. Registration forms are in the church office, at www.slpres.org, or on the poster in the lobby.

TEMPS MAY DROP, BUT THE RUNNING WON'T STOP! Join us to celebrate 10 years of running and o'scottish tradition at the 2016 Tartan Trot on Feb. 6. Visit the Tartan Trot table in the lobby for more event information.

TARTAN TEN CHALLENGE - WE NEED YOU! We are looking for 50 tartan-minded folks to take this CHALLENGE: solicit 10 paid runners to the Tartan Trot. Bring your co-workers, classmates, neighbors, family members, etc. (however, these cannot be your free sponsor runners). How about forming a team... your Sunday School class, tennis team, golf buddies, knitting group, dog park friends, etc. There will be fun prize drawings for Challenge participants on Race Day. Help us meet our goal of 50 folks to take the Challenge! Questions: marty@acapella-design.com.
A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR TARTAN TROT 2016 SPONSORS. If you haven't pledged yet, it's not too late! We welcome any level of support. Fill out a sponsor card at the Tartan Trot table in the lobby or email Laura Singley at laurasingley@att.net.

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*)

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.

HIGH ADVENTURE ON KILIMANJARO

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



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

Saint Luke's seasonal events and outreach opportunities:

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.

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

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. 20 bulletin. Make checks payable to *Presbyterian Women* and place your contribution in the offering plate. **Deadline:** Sun., Dec. 13

PW BAKE SALE The Presbyterian Women (PW) will be hosting a Christmas bake sale on **DEC. 13** in the lobby. \$4/loaf: Triple Chocolate, Orange/Cranberry, or Pumpkin Bread.

LIFT UP YOUR HEADS Advent means "coming," and the Bible urges us to "look up!" Follow along with uplifting daily devotions from the book, *Lift Up Your Heads – Devotions for Advent*, by Martin Marty; available in the lobby or as a downloadable book for Nook or Kindle (<http://tinyurl.com/LiftUpAdvent>). Families with children are invited to pick up a "Lift Up Your Heads" pop-up advent calendar.

A SERVICE OF COMFORT AND REST is hosted by Stephen Ministry in the Chapel on Dec. 20 at 5 p.m. We invite you to this time of quiet reflection in the midst of this busy season. This service has become an important part of many of our lives, as one attendee has said:

"I want to thank the Stephen Ministers who allow us to open our hearts to the meanings of this season. The structure and spiritual grounding of this service offers me immense opportunity to be true to myself... to honor my parents and all of the Christmases we shared, to think about my own Christian experience and mortality, to pause and reflect on the life of my friends and their families so full of joy and change and loss as the years go by. This service tradition is precious, irreplaceable and feels touched by a sacred blessing."

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.

ATTENDANCE

NOV 29	WORSHIP	NURSERY	VISITORS
8:30	54	0	2
11:00	187	14	16

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.