



Lift up your heads!



4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

December 20, 2015 ❖ 8:30 a.m.



December 20, 2015

4th 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 Keohane Family

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

Redemption is deeply personal. We don't just talk about it, we experience it.



Prelude

Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying *Johann Sebastian Bach*

Welcome

Steve Vance

Call to Worship

Leader: Hear O my people, “Look up and raise your heads, your redemption is drawing near!”

LUKE 21:28B

People: **The dawn from on high will break upon us.**

Leader: Wake up, O sleeper, rise... and Christ will shine on you.

EPHESIANS 5:14

Leader: Awake! Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

ISAIAH 2:5

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Miles, Kari, Clara & Cole Young

* Hymn #119

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing *MENDELSSOHN*

* Call to Confession

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

* Prayer of Confession

Creator God, we thank You for all the ways that You care for us, giving thanks for all the many gifts You offer, day by day. The birth of Christ is Your special gift to us, wrapped up in a bow of swaddling clothes. Forgive us when we get lost in the hype and noise of the season, when we fail to let the world-changing impact of Your gift light a candle in our hearts. Forgive us, merciful God, for all of the missed opportunities we've had to stand up and be Your people, to proudly bear the stamp of Your grace and love.

Hear now our silent prayers, as we think of ways that we have let You down, and as we pledge to better witness to Your gift of redemption with our own life's story...

(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

Catherine Anne Thomas

First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a; page 865

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson

Luke 1:39-45; page 57

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Where Would You Go?

Phil Brown

* Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

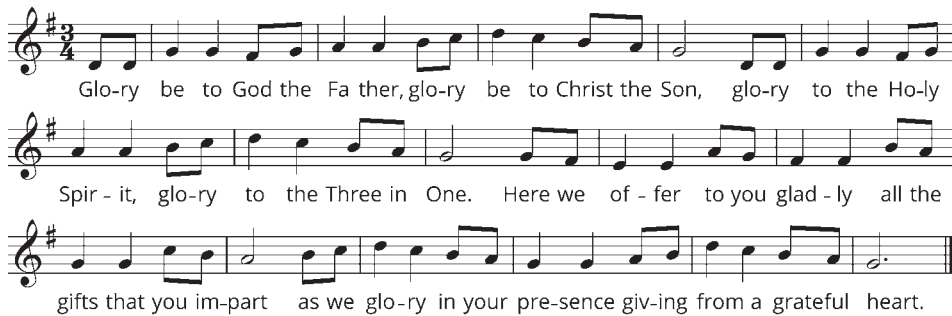
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; 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 #145

What Child Is This? *GREENSLEEVES*

* Benediction

* Postlude

Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying *EMMA LOU DIEMER*

WORSHIP NOTE: The hymn "Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying," or *WACHET AUF*, was based on the Parable of the Wise and Foolish Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. The opening stanza calls the followers of Christ to be roused and alert for his second coming. Stanza 2 describes the joyous scene when the Bridegroom returns and takes his bride, the church, into the wedding feast. Finally, the third stanza adores the Lamb of God and describes the glorious scene in heaven, as given in Revelation 19 and 21, where the saints will worship in song forever. Philipp Nicolai wrote the text and tune in 1599. The words and tune are in our purple hymnal, Hymn #349.

Sunday Spotlights:



Please join your church friends **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.



A **SERVICE OF COMFORT & REST** is today at 5 p.m. in the Chapel. Stephen Ministry invites you to this special service of quiet reflection and blessing in the midst of this busy season. This is a time to quiet our hearts and reflect on the changes, losses, and joys of the year. Do know someone for whom this time of year is especially hard? Be sure to invite them to join you.

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.

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.

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 |

CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIRS

5 pm service: Children's Choir warm up at 4 pm in the choir room.

8 pm service: Chancel Choir warm up at 7 pm in the sanctuary. All are welcome to join us!

NO REHEARSALS ON DEC. 30. Chancel Choir and Festival Ringers will return on Wed., Jan. 6, 2016. Make it your New Years' resolution to ring or sing!

We are now soliciting song suggestions for **CHASTAIN AT SAINT LUKE'S** (April 24). Submit your ideas to Clair via email (above).

SPLASH! CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Catherine Anne Thomas

cathomas@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 228

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**

**TODAY
DEC 20**

Sunday School: Youth meet in Senior High room upstairs.
No Youth Choir or Youth Groups

**CHRISTMAS
EVE
DEC 24**

5 pm, Sanctuary, Family Service
8 pm, Sanctuary (Youth singers are invited to sing with Choir)
11 pm, Chapel

**SUN
DEC 27**

No Sunday School or Youth Groups

COMMITMENT UPDATE

I have been a member of Saint Luke's for 40 years, and I have seen Saint Luke's members step up many times in the past... but once again I am amazed at the generosity and tireless commitment of members, staff, and church leaders.

Almost every area of the church has managed expenses under budget in 2015 and we believe that Saint Luke's will end the year with a balanced budget. In order to do so, about \$200,000 of income is needed in December. This can be achieved if every member meets their 2015 pledge by year-end. So, if you have not yet completed your pledge, I urge you to do so as soon as possible. If you are looking for an additional year-end tax deduction, Saint Luke's will gladly put your contribution to good use doing God's work. Please give prayerful consideration to helping Saint Luke's with an additional contribution.

At the beginning of this Commitment Season, we knew that staff expenses would increase due to the salary, benefits, and moving expenses for a new pastor. In order to maintain existing programs, missions, and staff support, every member was asked to increase their pledge by at least 10% - and more than 100 family units did so. Thank you to all who have made your pledge for 2016, and especially to those who increased theirs by 10%.

Even with the tremendous response from members, we did not achieve our pledged income goal for 2016. While some expenses cannot be reduced, the staff and church leaders have reduced almost all other expenses by nearly 10%. Some of the reductions come through improved efficiencies and by deferring items. Other reductions are more painful, such as the removal of staff pay increases and the elimination or reduction of some programs and benevolences.

Balancing budgets is always a difficult and necessary thing to do, and we are pleased to report that Saint Luke's is very close to doing so. However, the important thing is that Saint Luke's will continue to do God's work and be a beacon of faith, hope, and love for our community and around the world.

It is a great time to be at Saint Luke's. Merry Christmas to you all!

- Dave McKenney

FAMILY REUNION COOKBOOKS We collected over 50 delicious recipes at the Oct. 18th 'family reunion picnic' and put them together into one book! These special cookbooks are now available for \$15. Nothing beats these tried-and-true recipes from your Saint Luke's family. Be sure to get a few copies before they sell out!

HANG UP A PIECE OF SAINT LUKE'S You can purchase a miniature stained glass window for yourself or as a gift! Drop a check for \$60 (or more) in the offering plate (mark it for 'window') and pick up your window in the lobby. ALL money received goes to our outreach fund.

SLLS REGISTRATION Our preschool has a place for you! We would love to have your Little Saint, age 12 months through Pre-K, join our accredited weekday preschool.

Church members register: Tues., Jan. 19 (during school hours);

Current families register: Jan. 20;

Community families register: Jan. 21.

For more information, see our Registration Brochure online at www.slpres.org. Please contact Carol Perry, Director, to schedule a tour: 770.393.1424 x240 or carolperry@slpres.org

COUNTDOWN TO TARTAN TROT: 50 DAYS 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 or tartantrot.com for more event information.

TEMPS MAY DROP, BUT THE RUNNING WON'T STOP!

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. (these cannot be your free sponsor runners). Form a team of 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. Questions: marty@acapella-design.com.

RACE DAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED Sign up in the lobby or email Krissy Williams.

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.

BAKERS NEEDED We are famous in the running world for our awards of homemade Pies & Cakes. Please choose your best recipe and plan to show off your baking talents (sign up in the lobby).

**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. 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 throughout 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.

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

FAMILY PROMISE Saint Luke's is hosting again Jan. 17-24. Email or call David King (cell) 770.598.8682; sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/SLPCFP2016-01>.

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 (770.393.1424 ext. 229) 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. 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 in the lobby.

NEW FEAST BROCHURE We've made it easy to sign up for Wednesday night dinner and classes that begin Jan. 13. See the website or pick up a brochure for classes, schedule, and dinner menu. Sign up now and all you have to do in January is show up!



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT SAINT LUKE'S:

- 5 pm** The Christmas story is told by kids through readings and songs, plus angels and real sheep! The whole family will share in the true joy of Christmas.
- 8 pm** Music will fill the Sanctuary in this traditional worship service, which includes communion and candlelight.
- 11 pm** Join us in the chapel for a peaceful and intimate communion and candlelight service.



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.

FINANCE SUMMARY

| Month: Nov 2015 | ACTUAL | BUDGET | VARIANCE |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Total Income | \$115,304 | \$ 95,700 | \$19,604 |
| Total Expenses | 119,109 | 133,178 | - 14,069 |
| NET | -\$ 3,805 | -\$ 37,478 | \$33,673 |

| Year to Date: Nov 30, 2015 | ACTUAL | BUDGET | VARIANCE |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Total Income | \$1,366,625 | \$1,385,600 | -\$18,975 |
| Total Expenses | 1,410,739 | 1,451,331 | - 40,592 |
| NET | -\$ 44,114 | -\$ 65,731 | \$21,617 |

Detailed reports available in the church office.

ATTENDANCE

DEC 13

WORSHIP: 309

VISITORS: 19

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, Lindsay Moss |
| 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



SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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