

CHURCH STAFF

Senior PastorRev. Dr. David Lower
Associate Pastor Rev. Shannon Dill
Associate Pastor.....Rev. Phil Brown
Director of Music & Organist..... Clair Maxwell
Director of Children’s Ministries.....Catherine Anne Thomas
Director of Saint Luke’s Little Saints Preschool..... Carol Perry
Director of Communications.....Tina Knoedler
Facility Manager..... Roby Price
Treasurer.....Mark Rogers
Intern for Children & Youth Ministry..... Erin Rugh
Church Administrator..... Pam Melton
Administrative Assistant, CE & Music Ministry..... Liz Catlett
Receptionist..... Sally Hawkins

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 2018:

Gerald Aldridge, Carol Allen,
Barbara Douglass, Anne Hallum,
Forrest Herrick (*Youth*), Dan Joyce,
Jean Kammerer, Chip Williams,
Bill Womack

Class of 2019:

Al Bridges, Beth Eisenmesser,
Sonny Jester, Bob Pile,
Bob Polensek, Terri Potter,
Whitney Samuelson, Steven Vivian

Class of 2020:

Carol Ciepluch, Leslie Hamlin,
Kay Loerch (*Asst. Clerk of Session*),
Florence Luranc, J J Singley, Kelly Sloan,
Steve Thornton, Brad Troha

DEACONS

Class of 2018:

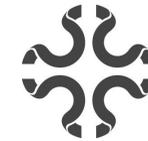
Justine Burney, Bobby Ferretti,
Mary Frances Kitchens (*Youth*),
Diane Lemaster, Joe Luranc,
Lucy Painter, Debbie Parkes,
Ron Valdes, Shari Wassell,
Kristen Wescott (*Moderator*)

Class of 2019:

Melissa Blakely, Alyson Cohen,
Mark Douglass, A.J.Favero,
Carol Hickey, Dorothy Kitchens (*Vice
Moderator*), Carol Waller, Al Wang,
Scott Zannini

Class of 2020:

Thomas Brown, Karleen Buchholz,
Jenny Cummiskey, Ron Davis, Kris Hull
Daryl Moore, Emily Ritzler,
Vivian Smith, Suzanne Thatcher



SAINT LUKE’S
P R E S B Y T E R I A N C H U R C H



December 17, 2017

5:00pm



1978 Mount Vernon Road Dunwoody, GA 30338
770.393.1424 www.slpres.org Office Hours: M-F, 8:30am-4:30pm



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SUNDAY SPOTLIGHT:



LIVING NATIVITY — Thursday, December 21, 6pm-7:30pm. Hear beautiful music, experience the nativity gospel and remember the reason for the season! Invite friends and family, all are welcome at Saint Luke's.



SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 24 — Please join us on Sunday, December 24 at 10:30am for the Advent Four worship service in the chapel. Saint Luke's Christmas Eve services will be held later in the day beginning at 5pm with the beloved family service, followed by the 8pm Candlelight and Choir service in the sanctuary. The 11pm Candlelight in the chapel concludes the Christmas Eve service line-up. We look forward to seeing you as we welcome the Christ child!

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: *Purple*
Purple marks the season of preparation and penitence: Advent and Lent.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- 8:30am Chapel Communion Service
 - 9:30am Sunday School
 - 10:30am Sanctuary Worship Service
- Nursery available at all services and Sunday School.*

WELCOME, GUESTS!

We are delighted you are worshipping with us! For more information about our programs, ministries or membership, please contact one of our pastors at 770.393.1424.

SERVING TODAY

- Communion Servers: Laura Strange, Stan Thornton
- Readers: Leslie Berry, Bob and Sharon Polensek, Jan Slater and Laura Strange
- Ushers: Paula Morris

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 STEPHEN MINISTERS

People don't always need advice. Sometimes all they really need is a hand to hold, an ear to listen, and a heart to understand them. Stephen Ministry is a caring and listening ministry providing confidential, one-to-one Christian care to people facing difficulty. Stephen Ministers are members of Saint Luke's who receive fifty hours of training before they are commissioned and assigned care receivers. They participate in monthly group supervision and continuing education.

If you are experiencing difficult times and would like a Stephen Minister to help, please contact Stephen Ministry Referrals Coordinators:

Rev. Shannon Dill at shannondill@slpres.org, 770-393-1424, ext. 229 or Laura Strange, jandlstrange@comcast.net, 770-392-9284.

If you have a friend in need, have the person call or obtain permission to inquire on their behalf.

STORIES OF LIGHT AND WORDS OF GOD'S PROMISES

The candle lighting service includes the lighting of memorial candles along with scripture readings, each followed by a congregational response.

As each candle is lit, we are reminded that in the midst of darkness, light will shine.

Light of Remembrance Revelation 21:1-5

Bob Polensek

Reader: Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with humans. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

We light this first candle to remember those whom we have loved and lost. We pause to remember clearly, their faces, their voices, their bodies. We embrace and give thanks for the memories that bind them to us in this season of expectation, when all Creation waits for the Light.

People: We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them.



Light of Comfort Isaiah 40:1- 8, 11

Leslie Berry

Reader: Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

Bring your peace into our violence
Bid our hungry souls be filled
Word now breaking heaven's silence
Welcome to our world.

Fragile fingers sent to heal us
Tender brow prepared for thorns
Tiny heart whose blood will save us
Unto us is born.

So wrap our injured flesh around you
Breathe our air and walk our sod
Rob our sin and make us holy
Perfect Son of God.

Intercession for Healing and Wholeness

Leader: God of wisdom, we come to you this Christmas Season tired,
in turmoil, and in pain.
As the nights have grown longer, so has darkness grown
and wrapped itself around our hearts.
In this season of longest night,
we ask your healing blessings upon all that we carry in our hearts --
sorrow we fear may never end, wounds we cannot even put into words.

People: Lord, hear our prayer, and in Your merciful love, answer.

Leader: God of mercy and compassion,
there are those among us who are grieving over what might have been.
Death or loss or terrible hurt has changed our experience of Christmas.
We remember that once it was a special day for us, too,
but someone or something precious has gone away from us in this life.
We have lost a beloved, a job, a goal, a cause, a dream.
We find ourselves adrift and alone.
We are weary from the journey, and we have found no room at the inn.
We come to you seeking rest, and peace, and shelter from the storm.

People: Lord, hear our prayer, and in Your merciful love, answer.

Leader: God of grace, in the spirit of the season, grant us all that we need
to comfort us as we journey through this Christmas season.
We ask that you shelter and sustain all those of us,
both here and throughout the world,
who wander or want or weep or are heavy laden,
that we may be lifted up in courage and journey on in Thy peace.

Unison Prayer

**Loving God, hear our prayers and remind us that
by Your grace, mercy and love light will shine in the midst of darkness.
We ask all these things in the strong name of Jesus. Amen.**

Hymn #104*

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You VALET WILL ICH DER GEBEN

The Lord's Supper and Invitation to Light Candles

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.

After you have received communion, you are invited to light a candle from the Christ candle in memory of a loved one or as a sign of hope.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and 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

Welcome to Our World Michael W. Smith

Tears are falling, hearts are breaking
How we need to hear from God.
You've been promised, we've been waiting
Welcome, Holy Child.

Hope that you don't mind our manger
How I wish we could have known,
But long-awaited Holy Stranger
Make yourself at home.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”
A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

We light this second candle to remember the pain of loss:
loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs,
loss of health, loss of faith, the loss of joy.

We acknowledge and embrace the pain of the past, O God,
and we offer it to You, asking that into our wounded hearts and open hands,
You will place the gift of peace.

People: We remember that through You all things are possible.



Light of Self Love

Romans 8: 28-31, 35, 37-39

Sharon Polensek

Reader: We know that all things work together for good for those who love God,
who are called according to his purpose.
For those whom he foreknew he predestined
to be conformed to the image of his Son,
in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family.
And those whom he predestined he also called;
and those whom he called he also justified;
and those whom he justified he also glorified.
What then are we to say about these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time.
We pause and remember the past weeks, months, and for some of us years,
that have been heavy with our burdens.
We accept and lay before You, God, the sharpness of memory,
the sadness and grief, the hurt and fear, the anger and pain.
We lay before you the time we have walked alone, in darkness;
and in knowledge of our own mortality.

**People: We remember that though we have journeyed far,
and that, while lost, we may have turned away from the light,
the light itself has not failed.**



Light of Hope

Psalms 23

Jan Slater

Reader: The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff—
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

We light this fourth candle to remember faith, the gift of light
and hope that God offers to us in the stories of Christmas,
which both also began in abandonment, insecurity,
and humbleness, in a time of war and in a poor stable.
We remember that the loving God who came to share this life with us
promises us comfort and peace.

**People: We remember the One who shares our burdens,
who shows us the way to the Light,
and who journeys with us into all our tomorrows.**

