

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
Intern for Children & Youth Ministry..... Erin Rugh
Treasurer.....Mark Rogers
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
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SERVING TODAY

Chapel Guild– Rand and Sally Birsinger
Continental Breakfast– Diane Lemaster
Greeters– Carol Hickey and Sonny Jester
Open/Close– Steve Klein

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 Cumiskey, Ron Davis,
Kris Hull, Daryl Moore, Emily Ritzler,
Vivian Smith, Suzanne Thatcher



Third Sunday of Advent

December 17, 2017 8:30am



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

December 17, 2017

Third Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Purple

Liturgical colors can orient us to the season of the church year and help to engage the sense of sight in worship. Purple (and sometimes blue, in Advent) designates a season of preparation.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30am Chapel Communion Service

9:30am Sunday School

10:30am Sanctuary Worship Service

Nursery available at all services and Sunday School.

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.

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 loaf of freshly-baked bread.

FOR MORE information about our programs, ministries or membership, please contact one of our Pastors at 770.393.1424, or visit our website: slpres.org.

THAT ALL MAY WORSHIP

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



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP notebooks and lacing crosses 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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TARTAN TROT SPONSORS

Scotty is making his list and checking it twice! Will you please do us a favor and review this checklist? Let us know if you have any questions and thank you so much for supporting the race! Rebecca Strickland and Laura Singley, Tartan Trot Sponsorship

1) REGISTER FOR THE RACE — Use your complimentary race registrations! It's a perk of being a Sponsor. Use them yourself or give them away. Register NOW to guarantee a race t-shirt. Here is the registration link: <http://slpres.org/serve/tartan-trot/tartan-trot-sponsor-runner-registration/>.

2) PAY YOUR PLEDGE — Drop a check off in the collection plate or the church office. Be sure to write "Tartan Trot 2018" in the memo line. Prefer to use your card on file at the church? No Problem! Simply send an email (laurasingley@att.net) and let us know.

3) MEASURE UP — Tell us your t-shirt size (laurasingley@att.net), so you can sport your Tartan Trot gear around town.

TARTAN IN TRAINING — New this year! Get ready for the 2018 Tartan Trot with Tartan in Training, group runs scheduled for 8am on the following Saturdays: January 6, 13 and 20.

Come and train for the 5k or 10k! We'll meet in the lobby and child care will be provided for church members.). Not a runner? We've got options! Join us at Cyclebar at 2pm on Saturday, January 13. Rides will be \$20 and all proceeds will benefit Tartan Trot. Or, try a free bootcamp at 9:30am on Saturday, January 20, in the Great Hall. Please feel free to contact TJ McGoldrick at tj.mcgoldrick@gmail.com to RSVP for the various events. Bring water and a towel or mat. Kilts are optional. Eye on the pie, people!

WOMEN'S RETREAT, MARCH 2-4, DILLARD HOUSE

— Registration is now open. Join us for a weekend of fellowship, fun and spiritual growth. Rev. Meredith Loftis will be the guest speaker. Deadline to sign up is January 28. <https://tinyurl.com/slpcwomensretreat2018>.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Clair Maxwell clairmaxwell@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 227

CHOIR REHEARSALS ON WEDNESDAYS

5:00-5:45pm Cherub Choir, Ages 4-5, *Yvonne Miller, Director*
5:00-5:45pm Westminster Choir, Grades 1-5, *Clair Maxwell, Director*
6:30-7:20pm Festival Ringers, Youth & Adults, *Clair Maxwell, Director*
7:30-9:00pm Chancel Choir, Youth & Adults, *Clair Maxwell, Director*

UPCOMING EVENT

December 17: Lessons and Carols service, 10:30am.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Phil Brown philbrown@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 238

HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP IN YOUTH MINISTRY:

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Both middle and high school will meet in the Sr. High room at 9:30am.

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday, December 17

5pm, Middle School youth group end of semester de-stress. Come make some sequined fabric boards and maybe even run around a little bit.

7pm, High School Youth Group at the Singley House. Come eat some dinner, make some sequined fabric boards, and take a little study break.

Thursday, December 21

Live Nativity. Please be to the church by 5pm to help set up to serve Hot Chocolate. Wear your Tartan Trot gear. Clean up will be done by 8pm.

In Preparation for Worship

If you suddenly and unexpectedly feel joy, don't hesitate. Give in to it...life has some possibility left...Joy is not made to be a crumb. ~Mary Oliver



Prelude

Advent Prelude *arr. Patrick Liebergen*

Welcome and Announcements

If you are new to Saint Luke's today, welcome, we are so glad you are here! We have a gift of fresh bread we would love to give to you as a token of our gratitude. Please introduce yourself after worship to receive your welcome gift.

Please take the time now to fill out the Friendship Pads situated at the end of each pew. Write down your names and pass the pad down the pew, so that you may greet your pew neighbors by name and that we may know you are here.

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Les and Laura Woodside

Hymn #134*

Joy to the World *ANTIOCH*

Call to Confession*

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

Prayer of Confession*

**Creating and transforming God,
you call us to spread the joy of your kingdom
and live as agents of your renewal in the world.**

**We confess that we are content to locate your kingdom in some other place,
some other time, some other reality.**

Forgive us.

Open our hearts, our minds, and our lives to see the truth right in front of us.

Free us from our foolishness, and teach us to live by your wisdom.

Hear now our silent prayers of confession... *(Silence is kept for personal confession)*

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

Assurance of Forgiveness*

Song of Praise #113* Refrain from Angels We Have Heard on High *GLORIA*
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Passing of the Peace of Christ*

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.
People: **And also with you.**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Lesson Isaiah 55, begins on page 685 of the Old Testament

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Tell us Our Story

Children are always welcome to stay in worship. If preferred, parents may take their child(ren) to the nursery.

Sermon "Life Abundant" 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.**

SPLASH! CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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

DECEMBER 21 - LIVE NATIVITY

Mary Kent would love for you to email her and sign up for a part: children, teens and adults!
Please contact her at gkent4@aol.com. Thursday, December 21 from 6pm-7:30pm.

DECEMBER 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY WORSHIP AT 5PM, SANCTUARY

This worship service, for many of us, is the foundation of our Christmas celebration activities.
Led by our own children, it's a sweet and powerful reminder that Christ was born for all.

We need helpers to hand out the costume kits and adult directors to send folks to Bethlehem at the right time! We will have one run-through on December 17 directly after the 10:30am worship service. Please contact cathomas@slpres.org for more information.

ADULT MINISTRY

Shannon Dill shannondill@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 229

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Individual classes have begun. Please see the website for a full description of each class.
(<http://slpres.org/program-ministries/adult-ministry/sunday-school>)

Faith Foundations: Room 232

House to House: Room 203

Seasons of the Spirit: Room 231/233

Soul Food: Room 234/236

FRIDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Fellowship and Bible study every Friday from 6:40-8am in the Parlor with Dan Joyce.

BIBLE STUDY: "WAYFARERS"

Come join David, Shannon or Phil as this week's preacher leads a study of the scripture for the upcoming Sunday's worship. Meet on Wednesdays at 10am in the church library.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Our next classes and welcome of new members in January, will start on Sunday, January 7 and will run for three consecutive Sundays. New members will be welcomed on Sunday, January 28 by the Session and the congregation. For more information, please contact David Lower at davidlower@slpres.org.



Advent and Christmas Happenings

Some highlights of the season include:

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL — Move toward the manger of Christ this Advent with Frederick Buechner, one of the best-known Christian theologians of our time. Let this depth of wisdom prepare your hearts to cradle Christ. There are a limited number of copies available at Saint Luke's. They are in the narthex and outside of the chapel. Here are the links for purchasing at both Amazon or Barnes & Noble. <https://tinyurl.com/SLPCDevotionalAmazon> or <https://tinyurl.com/SLPCDevotionalB-N>. Please contact Shannon Dill with any questions at shannondill@slpres.org.

LESSONS AND CAROLS — This Sunday, December 17 at the 10:30am service. Our annual tradition of readings and carols by congregation and choirs accompanied by our youth instrumentalists, soloists, piano and organ. Arrive early for this special Sunday service of worship as we anticipate the light of Christ coming to our world.

SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 24 — Next Sunday morning worship will be Advent 4 and will be at 10:30am in the chapel. Christmas Eve Services at 5pm, 8pm and 11pm.

OWLS CHRISTMAS PARTY RESCHEDULED — All the details remain the same but will be held on Saturday, December 30 at the home of John and Karleen Buchholz. Please bring an hors d'oeuvre to share with friends!

SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 31 — One service at 10:30am will be held in the sanctuary.

Offering Invitation

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 in the offering plate as it is passed.

Offertory

Messiah Medley *arr. Don Wyrzten*

Song of Thanksgiving*

Christmas Doxology

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.

Holy Communion

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 will be served by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup). Everyone is invited to participate in the sacrament. Children who have discussed the sacrament with their parents and/or 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. If you would prefer to be served where you are sitting, please raise your hand.

Communion Music

Carol Medley *arr. Mark Hayes*

Closing Hymn #136*

Go, Tell It on the Mountain *GO TELL IT*

Benediction*

Postlude*

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come *arr. Walter Pelz*

Worship Notes:

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SUNDAY SPOTLIGHT:



A NOTE ON THE 2017 CHURCH BUDGET — Last week we sent a reminder requesting members to please get their pledges fulfilled before the end of the year. We now provide financials through November so you can see the importance of your December giving. The total budget for 2017 is \$1.715 million dollars. Our expenses are running \$20,000 below plan (yeah team - well done!) and income is lagging plan by about 3%, not bad.

Unlike the Federal government, we are required to balance our budget each year. We project a need for \$195,000 in income in December. Outstanding pledges amount to approximately \$130,000, which we are prayerfully counting on, and we need \$65,000 in unpledged giving, which is close to the amount received last year. Whether completing your pledge or making an unpledged gift, please know that only with your continued dedication and generous support will we raise \$195,000 to make budget and meet our Church's commitments.



A SERVICE OF COMFORT AND REST — This afternoon, December 17 at 5pm in the Saint Luke's chapel. We invite you to this time of quiet reflection in the midst of this busy season. Hosted by our Stephen Ministers.



LIVING NATIVITY — Invite your friends to this community favorite! We'll interact with the friendly beasts; see Mary, Joseph, shepherds, kings, angels, and a tiny baby; drink hot chocolate; make yummy s'mores; hear beautiful music and the nativity gospel; and remember the joy and love that the season brings! Thursday, December 21 from 6pm-7:30pm.