

**CHURCH STAFF**

Senior Pastor ..... Rev. 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

**SERVING TODAY**

**Chancel Guild**– Art and Vicky Simon  
**Greeter**– Debbie Parkes  
**Open/Close**– Josh Nunez  
**Sound Crew**– Brad Troha

*Thank you to all who served today. Best wishes for a Happy New Year!*

**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



**First Sunday after Christmas**

**December 31, 2017 10:30am**



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

## December 31, 2017

First Sunday after Christmas

### Liturgical Color: White

*Liturgical colors can orient us to the season of the church year and help to engage the sense of sight in worship. White symbolizes days and seasons of joy and mark pivotal events in the life of Christ.*

### REGULAR 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 Sanctuary where our Pastors or a church officer 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** A hearing loop is accessible by switching hearing aids to T-coil. Also, large print hymnals and back cushions are available. Please contact an usher for further assistance.



**CHILDREN** are a precious part of our church family, and we welcome them in worship. Worship notebooks and lacing crosses are available on the back ledges of the sanctuary for preschool and elementary ages. Each week, children are invited to walk up for an age-appropriate message during "Tell Us Our Story."

### HAPPY NEW YEAR TARTAN TROT SPONSORS

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](mailto:laurasingley@att.net)) and let us know.

**3) MEASURE UP** — Tell us your t-shirt size ([laurasingley@att.net](mailto: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 2:30pm on Saturday, January 13. Rides will be \$20 and all proceeds will benefit Tartan Trot. Space is limited at Cyclebar, so please take a moment to register at: <https://dunwoody.cyclebar.com/class-detail/?apptid=4551735> Or, try a free bootcamp at 9:30am on Saturday, January 20, in the Great Hall. Please contact TJ McGoldrick, [tj.mcgoldrick@gmail.com](mailto:tj.mcgoldrick@gmail.com) to RSVP for the various events. Bring water and a towel or mat.

### MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT GROUP (MEG) —

This group will resume on January 7 at 5pm in the FINCH room. All are welcome. If interested in finding more information about this group, please feel free to contact Kimey Reed at [kimeyreed@gmail.com](mailto:kimeyreed@gmail.com).

### MEN'S BREAKFAST, LEGISLATIVE UPDATE —

Join us for the start of the year Men's Breakfast on Saturday, January 13 at 8am featuring our annual legislative update. Our guests will be Fran Millar, State Senator from the 40th District; Tom Taylor, House Representative from District 79; and Wendell Willard, House Representative from District 51. Get your questions together as it's a rare occasion when we can have Georgia's premier leadership together in one place. We need to know how many will attend so we can plan accordingly for the amount of food to prepare. Please RSVP via email no later than January 10 to Pam Melton, [pammelton@slpres.org](mailto:pammelton@slpres.org). Please include the number attending in your party. Saint Luke's women and their guests are always welcome. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Tom Loftis at 770.605.2067 or email him at [tomloftis01@gmail.com](mailto:tomloftis01@gmail.com) or Bob Schultz at 404.771.6910, [bobschultz1@gmail.com](mailto:bobschultz1@gmail.com).

**A FEW DATES TO PENCIL IN** — Mark your calendars and look for details in future issues of the bulletin and Highlights.

• FEAST, January 17, • PW Sandwich Project, January 21 and • Saint Luke's Annual Chili Supper, January 27.

### 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](mailto: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*

### JOIN A CHOIR IN THE NEW YEAR!

Chancel Choir and Festival Ringers – resume January 3  
Westminster and Cherub Choirs – resume January 17

## YOUTH MINISTRY

**Phil Brown**    [philbrown@slpres.org](mailto:philbrown@slpres.org) / 770.393.1424 ext. 238

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

#### PARENT RETREAT IN MONTREAT, FEBRUARY 9-11:

More information here on an amazing weekend to recharge, learn, and grow as parents with people from around the Southeast. [www.authenticparents.org](http://www.authenticparents.org). Let Phil know if you are interested in a roommate for the weekend. We have a female looking for a roommate too. It looks like the retreat housing is going to fill up so let's get those registrations in. Registration price increase January 5.

#### JANUARY 8 IS MT. TOP REGISTRATION DAY:

More details coming next week. Registration will open at 8:00 pm on the Saint Luke's website. Spots will be filled on a first come-first serve basis. Dates: June 24-30, 2018. Total cost of the trip still TBD, but will be around \$325-\$350. \$150 deposit and paperwork due by February 1.

#### NEW HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT DATES:

We had to reschedule the high school retreat due to the snow. New dates are March 16-18. Same details as before. Still going to Mt. TOP. Still, need adults to come along with us. The new registration page will be up next week.

#### CONFIRMATION CLASS:

Typically for 8th graders in the spring semester. We will begin in January. Look for more information next week.

## In Preparation for Worship

Baptism is an outward, visible, and efficacious sign of an inward and invisible grace, ordained by Jesus Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which it is understood and upheld that we are loved, claimed, and called by God.



## Gathering Prayer

## Chiming of the Hour

### Prelude

Good King Wenceslas    *arr. Jay Rouse*

## 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.*

## Call to Worship

**Leader:** The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

**People:** **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

**Leader:** A light has shined on those who dwell in the shadowlands.

**People:** **We have beheld Christ's glory, the glory of the Father's Son.**

**Leader:** For unto us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**People:** **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**Leader:** Come, let us worship the Lord!

## Opening Hymn #159\*

O Sing a Song of Bethlehem    *KINGSFOLD*

## Call to Confession\*

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

## Prayer of Confession\*

God of Grace and Peace,  
you have given us the gift of a new beginning in the birth of Jesus Christ.  
As we look forward to a new year,  
we come to you confessing our need to begin again  
and leave our old ways behind us.  
Forgive us for clinging too tightly to the past  
and help us to walk more trustfully into the future  
you have set before us...*(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** John 1:19-34, pages 86-87 of the New Testament

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

## Tell Us Our Story

*Children are always welcome in our worship service. If you choose, parents may take their children to our nursery, Room 120 in Sheppard Hall.*

**Sermon** The Spirit of Our Calling David Lower

**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;

## SPLASH! CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Catherine Anne Thomas [cathomas@slpres.org](mailto:cathomas@slpres.org) / 770.393.1424 ext. 228

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING 2018 EVENTS

Details to follow in future publications.

- Back to School Pizza Lunch, 11:30am, Sunday, January 7. Follow up meeting from Conversations about Worship.
- FEAST begins on Wednesday, January 17
- PW Sandwich Project is Sunday, January 21
- Boy Scout Sunday is also January 21
- VBS is June 11-14

## SAINT LUKE'S LITTLE SAINTS PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

**Registration for the 2018 ~ 2019 school year is coming in January!**

Our accredited program honors the individuality of the child  
as we prepare each student for elementary school.  
Children ages 12 months through Kindergarten enjoy learning in our beautiful  
classrooms under the guidance of our dedicated and experienced teachers.

Church members register on January 23; Current families register on January 24.  
New community families register on January 25.

Questions or tours, Carol Perry, [carolperry@slpres.org](mailto:carolperry@slpres.org), 770.393.1424 x240

## ADULT MINISTRY

**Shannon Dill**    [shannondill@slpres.org](mailto: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](mailto:davidlower@slpres.org).

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.

### Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Promises of Baptism

#### 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.

### Ritual of Remembrance

*All are invited to come to the baptismal font by the center aisle, where pastors will offer water droplets as a reminder of God's refreshing grace.*

### Special Music

Down to the River to Pray

As I went down to the river to pray,  
Studying about that good old way,  
And who shall wear the starry crown?  
Good Lord, show me the way!

As I went down in the river to pray,  
Studying about that good old way,  
And who shall wear the robe and crown?  
Good Lord, show me the way!

O sisters, let's go down,  
Let's go down, come on down.  
O sisters, let's go down,  
Down to the river to pray.

O brothers...  
O fathers...  
O mothers...  
O sinners...

## Offering Invitation

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

## Offertory

Coventry Carol *arr. Jay Rouse*

## 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.

## Closing Hymn #143\*

Angels, from the Realms of Glory *REGENT SQUARE*

## Benediction\*

## Postlude\*

We Three Kings *arr. Larry Shackley*

*Worship Notes:*

*Music: All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net (A-719333).*

## SUNDAY SPOTLIGHT:



**A SEASON TO BE GRATEFUL AND GENEROUS** — Approximately 1,000 members and guests worshiped at Saint Luke's at our four services last Sunday and the church was filled with joy as we celebrated the birth of Jesus. Each service had a different "vibe," but one theme was consistent. Jesus brought love and hope into the world and for that we are eternally grateful.

The year is coming to a close and we are still short of reaching our financial goals. We have made good progress, but pledged giving remains \$49,000 short and unpledged giving is \$36,000 short. We have only one more Sunday to eliminate the shortfall. Please let the Christmas spirit translate into a generous heart and help Saint Luke's meet its financial commitments.

The government is doing its part with the new tax bill effective in 2018. For many families, income tax brackets will be lower in 2018 than in 2017. A contribution made in 2017 may result in lowering your taxes. For members who would like to prepay part or all of their 2018 pledge, please put the year requested in the message field on your check. We will make sure your donation is reflected as a 2017 contribution and credited to the year request. As always, Saint Luke's is grateful for your generosity.



**CHURCH OFFICE HOLIDAY HOURS** — The Church administrative offices will be closed in observance of the New Year holiday. We look forward to serving you with grace and renewed vigor in 2018! Thank you friends, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

• Friday, December 29– Closing at Noon • Monday, January 1– Closed



**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](mailto:davidlower@slpres.org).



**WHAT GOES UP, MUST COME DOWN** — Please join us after the 10:30am worship service on Sunday, January 7, for a few minutes to help take down the decorations. Many hands make light work! Thank you, in advance, for your help.



**PIZZA! NEED WE SAY MORE?** — Sunday, January 7, after the 10:30am worship service, please join us for a Back to School Pizza Lunch. This gathering will be a follow up to the "Conversations About Worship" for children, youth and their parent(s). We will meet in the Session room.