



SAINT LUKE'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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
 Treasurer Mark Rogers
 Program Coordinator for CE & Music Ministry..... Melissa King
 Intern for Children & Youth Ministry..... Erin Rugh
 Church Administrator..... Lindsay Moss
 Interim Facility Manager..... Roby Price
 Receptionist..... Matthew Dobson
 A/V Director..... Roby Price

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

SERVING TODAY

Open/Close: Jay Lee
Chapel Guild: Sally & Dan Joyce

LEADERSHIP

ELDERS

Class of 2019:
 Al Bridges, Beth Eisenmesser,
 Sonny Jester, Bob Pile, Bob Polensek,
 Terri Potter, Whitney Samuelson,
 Steven Vivian, Sydney Sloan (*Youth Elder*)

Class of 2020:
 Carol Ciepluch, Leslie Hamlin, Kay
 Loerch (*Clerk of Session*), Florence
 Luranc, J J Singley, Kelly Sloan,
 Steve Thornton, Brad Troha

Class of 2021:
 Bob Burroughs, Steve Cashwell (*Asst.*
Clerk of Session), Tracy Coffie, Val
 DeFriece, Matt Fogarty, Nael McCarty,
 Todd Parker, Kristen Wescott

DEACONS

Class of 2019:
 Melissa Blakely, Alyson Cohen,
 Mark Douglass, A.J.Favero,
 Carol Hickey, Dorothy Kitchens
 (*Moderator*), Debbie Parkes, Carol
 Waller, Al Wang, Rosie Coffie (*Youth*
Deacon)

Class of 2020:
 Thomas Brown, Karleen Buchholz,
 Jenny Cumiskey, Ron Davis, Kris Hull
 (*Vice Moderator*), Daryl Moore, Emily
 Ritzler, Vivian Smith, Suzanne Thatcher

Class of 2021:
 Marylyn Brown, Kelda Hearn, Janis
 Jones, Alan Keel, Christy Keohane, Betsy
 King, Molly Naugher, Gena Spears,
 Steve Wassell



4th Sunday of Advent 8:15am



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

December 23, 2018

4th 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 marks the seasons of penitence and preparation., Advent and Lent.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:15am Chapel Communion Service

9:15am 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 are a precious part of our church family, and we welcome them in worship. Worship activity sheets and tactile activities are available on the table just outside the Chapel doors. For your convenience, there is a Family Restroom located in the administrative office's hallway, on the first floor, near the main lobby.

INFORMATION FOR ALL TARTAN TROT SUPPORTERS

1 - REGISTER FOR THE RACE

We need runners! If you are a sponsor, please use the promo code already provided to you by email to take advantage of your complimentary race registrations! It's a perk of being a Sponsor. Use them yourself or give them away. You can register here: <https://raceroster.com/events/2019/16889/tartan-trot-5k10k>

2 - BECOME A SPONSOR OR PAY YOUR PLEDGE

There is still time to sponsor. Please feel free to do so online through Realm or using a pledge card. If you have already pledged, just a friendly reminder that you may fulfill your pledge online through Realm or you can drop a check off in the collection plate or the church office. Be sure to write "Tartan Trot 2018" in the memo line.

3 - VOLUNTEER

Look for information about volunteer opportunities in January!

4 - CYCLEBAR

Mark your calendars! Join us at Cyclebar (4794 Ashford Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338) at 1:00 p.m. on **Saturday, January 12**. Rides will be \$20 and all proceeds will benefit Tartan Trot. Registration link: <https://bit.ly/2RQwzAm>

SAINT LUKE'S HOLIDAY HOURS—The Church office will be closed December 24-26, and December 31-Jan 1.

MEN'S BREAKFAST, 8:00AM, SATURDAY JANUARY 12—Please join us for our annual legislative update from our newly elected representatives, Mike Wilensky HD79 and, Josh McLaurin HD51. Considering the changes in our elected representatives in north Atlanta, this should be a very informative discussion. So pull your questions together and plan on joining your fellow members and friends of St Luke's. Please RSVP to bobschultz9@icloud.com by Wednesday night, January 9. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Tom Loftis at tomloftis01@gmail.com.

SAINT LUKE'S LITTLE SAINTS PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN 2019 REGISTRATION DATES:
January 22nd (Church Members); **January 23** (Current Families); **January 24th** (New Families)
For further information and to arrange a tour, please contact Carol Perry, Director:
770.393.1424 x240 or carolperry@slpres.org.

WOMEN'S RETREAT— MARCH 1-3, 2019 AT DILLARD HOUSE Registration is now open. Join us for a weekend of fellowship, fun and spiritual growth. Rev. Julie Bailey will be our guest speaker. Julie serves as the Director of Alumni and Church Relations at Columbia Seminary. Registration forms are available in the lobby or you can sign up on line at: <https://slpres.org/2019-womens-retreat/>. Deadline to sign up is February 1. Please return registration forms to Melissa King.

UNDECK THE HALLS— Please help take down the advent decorations on January 6 after the 10:30 service. Meet Diane Markel on the chancel steps to get instructions.

MARRIAGE RETREAT— FEBRUARY 8-10, 2019

Whether you are newly married wanting to know more about what's ahead, parents in the midst of busyness looking to reconnect, or just want to have a weekend away with your spouse join us at Calloway Gardens for the **Better Marriages retreat, February 8-10, 2019**. You can stroll through the gardens, attend workshops designed to enrich your marriage, and meet great people! Register now! For any questions email or call Bob and Christine Crutchfield at 770-364-8079 and Gafrog01@hotmail.com.

2019 COMMITMENT UPDATE —We are grateful for the positive and generous response of so many folks to this year's commitment campaign. Pledges as of December 8th totaled \$1,080,157 from 151 individuals or families. So many of you have increased your pledges by 7% or more; just what we requested and prayed for. **THANK YOU for supporting God's work here at Saint Luke's.** Our goal is to reach \$1.368 million, so we are not done yet. Last year we received 200 pledges and our hope is the remaining members who have not turned in their pledges will match or increase their commitment 7% for 2019 if they are able. A 7% increase in giving will allow to us fund our anticipated 2019 budget, more than 7% will allow Saint Luke's to do even more! We are coming to the end of the commitment season and we will begin to finalize budgets for 2019 based on the final results from this year's campaign. To those who have not yet responded, open your hearts and let's make it happen! Submit your pledge via Realm at slpres.org or on the mobile app, send a confidential email to commitment@slpres.org or by submitting a pledge form to the church office.

In Preparation for Worship

“Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear, expectation, and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience. The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and his presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned. May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation, and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives.”

– Anonymous



Prelude

Angels We Have Heard on High Charles W. Ore

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: Christ draws near.

People: **A new day is dawning.**

Leader: The day of the Lord's reign draws near.

People: **A new day is dawning.**

Opening Hymn #107*

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn Soloist, stanza 1
All, stanzas 2-4

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Blakely Family

Advent Prayer*

Gracious God, renew in us this day the promises that light overcomes darkness, hope defeats despair, and joy conquers fear, so that we may live out those promises today and every day. Amen.

Song of Praise* (refrain from hymn #314)

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Passing the Peace of Christ*

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading Matthew 1:18-25 on page 1 of the *New Testament*

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Tell Us Our Story

Phil Brown

Children are always welcome to stay in worship. If preferred, parents may take their child(ren) to child care in Room 114.

Sermon

"Imminent Immanence (Almost Here)"

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;
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 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

A Boy is Born in Bethlehem *Johann Walther*

MUSIC MINISTRY

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

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Christmas Eve – We are looking for musicians to participate in the 9 pm service on Christmas Eve. Contact Clair for more details.

WESTMINSTER AND CHERUB CHOIRS

Christmas Eve – We would like as many of our children to participate in singing for our 5 pm service as possible. Contact Clair for more details.

CHOIR NEW YEAR

Make it one of your new year's resolutions to join a choir! There are spaces open in all our groups, and we would love having you join us. Come as often as you are able, and no experience is necessary. Be a part of our church's music ministry!

NO rehearsals for any of our choirs on December 26 and January 2.

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.

SPLASH! CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

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

HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP IN CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES:

DECEMBER 30

Sunday School Takes A Break

JANUARY 6—SACRAMENT SUNDAY

Our next Sacrament Sunday is January 6 and will focus on Communion. All children ages PreK through 3rd grade are invited to join us today and for future worship work shops, held on the **first Sunday of the month**, after Tell Us Our Story at 10:30am worship. We will focus on Communion in January and February; and Baptism will be our topic in March, April, and May. We will learn the hows and the whys of these important sacraments through stories, games, and other activities. For more information, please contact cathomas@slpres.org.

YOUTH MINISTRY

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

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

DECEMBER 23

No Youth Group

JANUARY 6

Sunday School 9:15-10:15

No Youth Group—we will return January 13!

DECEMBER 30

No Sunday School

No Youth Group


COLLEGE STUDENTS TO HELP WITH COMMUNION ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Every year the session invites college students to serve communion at the 9:00 and 11:00 services on Christmas Eve. Let Phil know if you'd like to serve: philbrown@slpres.org or text him.

PARENT RETREAT—FEBRUARY 8-10

A weekend in Montreat, NC focused on parenting kids of all ages. Sponsored by Saint Luke's and other churches around the Southeast. For more information: www.authenticparents.org

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 grate ful heart.

Holy Communion

Communion will be served by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup). Everyone is invited to participate in the sacrament. 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.

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.

Words of Institution

Communion Music

Closing Hymn*

Now the Heavens Start to Whisper *Mary Louise Bringle*

1. Now the hea-vens start to whis-per, as the veil is
 2. Heav-y clouds that block the moon-light now be-gin to
 3. Christ, e-ter-nal sun of jus-tice, Christ, the rose of

grow-ing thin. Earth from slum-ber wakes to lis-ten
 drift a-way. Dia-mond bril-liance through the darkn-ness
 wis-dom's seed, come to bless with fire and fra-grance

to the stir-ring, faint with-in: Seed of prom-ise,
 shines the hope of com-ing day. Christ the morn-ing
 hours of yearn-ing, hurt, and need. In the lone-ly,

dee-ply plant-ed. child to spring from Jes-se's stem!
 star of splen-dor gleams with-in a world grow dim.
 in the stran-ger, in the out-cast, hid from view:

Like the soil be-neath the frost-line,
 Heav-en's em-ber fans to full-ness;
 Child who comes to grace the man-ger,

hearts grow soft to wel-come him.
 hearts grow warm to wel-come him.
 teach our hearts to wel-come you.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, 2005. Copyright © 2006 GIA Publications.
Tune: SUO GAN; Welsh Melody

Benediction*

Postlude*

Musette on "Adeste Fideles" *Jeanne Demessieux*

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SUNDAY SPOTLIGHT:



SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 24 — Please join us tomorrow, December 24th at Saint Luke's Christmas Eve services...

5pm The Christmas Story

9pm Lessons & Carols.

11pm Peaceful & Unplugged

We look forward to seeing you as we welcome the Christ child!



FAMILY PROMISE JANUARY 20-27, 2019 — Our Family Promise guests will arrive January 20th and will call Saint Luke's "home" through the afternoon of January 27th. Please consider volunteering during this time! To sign up, go to: <https://tinyurl.com/FPSLPC2019-01> or contact David King at cardheel@yahoo.com.



SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 30— We will have one service at 10:30am on December 30th.



FEAST STARTS IN JANUARY—FEAST, our Wednesday evening dinner & Fellowship program, begins on January 16, 2019. Registration information coming soon!



NOTE ON THE 2018 SLPC BUDGET— For Saint Luke's to meet its 2018 budget we need to collect \$262,000 of income for the month of December. If you have already fulfilled your pledge this year, we thank you and would ask that you consider making an additional gift to the church in 2018. If you have a balance remaining on this year's pledge, please try to fulfill that pledge as soon as possible. As you prioritize your year-end charitable donations, please remember Saint Luke's and know that only with your continued dedication and generous support will we raise the funds needed to make budget and meet our Church's commitments. Pledges and additional gifts may be made online through the Realm app, or if you are you are interested in donating stock please contact Mark Rogers for instructions at 678-935-8980 or jmarkrogers49@gmail.com.