Advent

Advent begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The first Sunday of Advent is the first day of a new Church year. The word “Advent” means “coming” and refers to the coming of our Lord on Christmas Day. Throughout Advent, Christians prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world and to receive Him into their hearts.

The Old Testament was a preparation for the New Testament. The Hebrew religion was a preparation for the Christian Gospel. The prophets were a preparation for Christ Himself. Year after year, the story is re-enacted as the Church prepares for its Christmas feast.

But there is also another side to it. As our Lord came once, He will come again. As there was a first Advent, so there will also be a second. We do not know how or under what circumstances or at what time, but Christ was very specific about it—some day He will come again and there will be a summing up of what men and women have done with His Kingdom.

Advent, then, has a double significance. It looks both backward and forward, and at the same time it puts upon us a present necessity of reviewing our own spiritual condition. The judgment of God upon our lives is an ever-present fact. How do we measure up to it as the years go by?

This measuring in light of God’s judgment is the theme of the Advent Season, striking a strongly penitential note. Advent calls us to an evaluation of our Christian living with a view to a better and stronger purpose and action.

The color used (on the pulpit and lectern and the ministers’ stoles) is purple, symbolizing royalty, pointing ahead to the birth of the King of Kings.

In addition to the use of the color purple, we celebrate Advent by the use of the Advent Wreath, Chrsmon Trees (Christian Monograms), poinsettias, greenery, special services, and the beautiful decorative touches by our Altar Guild.

Robert Beckum, Senior Pastor
rbeckum@stlukeum.com
December 1, 2019

First Sunday of Advent

8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Color: Purple

Prelude................................................... “Fanfare” .....................................William Matthias

Call to Worship (Victoria Leggett-Adams)...... “My Lord, What a Mornin’” ........arr. Mark Hayes

Welcome and Opening Prayer........................................................Rev. Dr. Adriane Burgess

*Hymn.................................................. “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” ..............Number 206

Lighting of the Advent Wreath..............................................................Rev. Brett Maddocks

The darkness has long been upon us. We long for the light—the fulfillment of God’s promise of salvation. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light! The light has not yet come. We wait and watch for the dawning of God’s glory. This one candle casts its light into the darkness. It reminds us to stay awake and watchful, for the Promised One will come to us at an unexpected hour!

People: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Light the first Advent Candle

Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer..............................................................Rev. Maddocks

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Choral Prayer Response (11:00 a.m.)......... “Dresden Amen” ...............Johann Naumann

*Hymn............................... “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” ......................Number 196

Offertory Prayer..............................................................................................Rev. Robert Beckum

Offertory Anthem............................... “Coventry Carol” ...............................arr. Lloyd Larson

(The Children’s Sermon)....................Rev. Burgess

After the Children’s Sermon, children who are in Kindergarten-5th grade are invited to go to Corner Kids for a time of extended worship. Parents pick them up in Stockwell Hall when this service is completed.

*Hymn.............................. “I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light” ...................Number 206

The Written Word.........Romans 13:11-14; Mathew 24:36-44.(p. 152 & 26 , NT in pew Bible)

The Spoken Word....................

“GET READY FOR GOD” ................Rev. Robert Beckum

The Invitation and Confession

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another:

Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God’s love toward us! In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving.........................................................Page 23-24; Hymnal

The Sharing of Bread and Cup

*Hymn.............................. “We’ve a Story to Tell to the Nations” ......................Number 569

*The Benediction...............................................................................Rev. Beckum

Choral Benediction Response (11:00 a.m.)... “Love Came Down At Christmas” ...arr. John Purifoy

Postlude ............................... “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus” ..............Improvisation

*Standing as able ** Music Box

Acolytes (11:00 a.m.): Kate Deal and Trinity McAfee.
**OPPORTUNITIES OF THE WEEK**

**Sunday, December 1**
8:30 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary, Main)
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Service (LD, MIN)
9:30 a.m. Meet and Greet (Parlor, Main)
9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Youth Sunday School Assembly (The Corner, MIN)
10:00 a.m. Youth Sunday School (The Corner, MIN)/College Small Group (College House)
11:00 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary, Main)/Broadcast over WLTC 103.7 Lite FM and at saintlukecolumbus.org beginning at 11:00 a.m.
12:20 p.m. Worship in Spanish (Chapel, Main)
1:40 p.m. Hispanic Sunday School Classes and Fellowship (Stockwell Hall, Main)
5:00 p.m. St. Luke Academy (LD, MIN)
Youth Bonfire at the Neal farm
6:00 p.m. Orchestra Rehearsal (Room 110, Main)
11:30 p.m. Pre-recorded broadcast of The Nine Worship Service, WTVM Channel 9

**Monday, December 2**
11:00 a.m. Circle 1 Meeting (Respite, 1021 Third Ave.)
6:30 p.m. Monday Night Women’s Bible Study (SD, MIN)
7:30 p.m. College Small Groups (College House)

**Tuesday, December 3**
7:00 a.m. Men’s Bible Study (SD, MIN)
10:00 a.m. On-Site Respite (1021 Third Ave.)
11:30 a.m. Free Spirits Christmas Extravaganza and Luncheon (LD, MIN)  
St. Luke Kindergarten Lunch and Learn (SD, MIN)
6:30 p.m. SLPA Meeting and Christmas Concert (LD, MIN)
7:00 p.m. Hispanic Bible Study (Room 110, Main)
Bible Study Fellowship (MIN)

**Wednesday, December 4**
7:00 a.m. RFTS All Pro Dad (The Corner, MIN)
8:35 a.m. 4th-8th Grade Chapel (Sanctuary, Main)
9:10 a.m. K-3rd Grade Chapel (Sanctuary, Main)
10:00 a.m. On-Site Respite (1021 Third Ave.)
10:30 a.m. Preschool/ELC Chapel (Sanctuary, Main)
4:30 p.m. College House Wednesday Small Groups (College House)
5:00 p.m. Hand Bell Rehearsal (Hand Bell Room)
5:30 p.m. WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER (Stockwell Hall, Main)
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts (Stockwell Hall, Main)
7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary, Main)
8:00 p.m. College House (College House)

**Thursday, December 5**
8:45 a.m. 8th Grade Breakfast Basket Auction (Stockwell Hall, Main)
10:00 a.m. On-Site Respite (1021 Third Ave.)
12:00 p.m. Free College Lunch (College House)
4:30 p.m. SLS Basketball plays Southern Prep (Gym, MIN)
7:00 p.m. Hispanic Praise Team Rehearsal (Chapel)

**Friday, December 6**
9:00 a.m. Altar Guild Breakfast (SD, MIN) & decorating

**Saturday, December 7**
7:30 - 11:30 a.m. December First Saturday (St. Luke Campus)
Main (Church Building/Sanctuary), MIN (Ministry Center). Contact the Ministry Center for information about renting or reserving rooms, 706-256-1017.

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**WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP SUPPER - December 4**

IN STOCKWELL HALL IN PREPARATION FOR DECEMBER 1ST SATURDAY

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The serving line is open until 6:30 p.m. Please make or cancel reservations using the form below, by e-mailing jwidener@stlukeum.com, or by calling 706-256-1017 before noon on Monday.

**Menu:** Spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, garlic breadsticks and assorted desserts.

Name: ____________________________________________

Adults ($7.00) _______ Children ($3.00) __________ Daytime Phone: _____________________________

Email: ________________________________

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**Permit**

ST. LUKE (552680) is published weekly except Christmas by St. Luke United Methodist Church, 1104 Second Avenue, Columbus, Georgia 31901. Periodical Postage entered and paid at Columbus, GA POSTMASTER: Send address changes to St. Luke, P.O. Box 967, Columbus, GA 31902.
Music Box

Dr. Marc F. Boensel, Director of Music Ministries, mboensel@stlukeum.com

The Music Scholarship Fund assists six students from the Schwob School of Music with expenses related to their study of music. All of these students sing in our Chancel Choir at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. and are a vital part of the Music Ministry. Please consider supporting the Music Scholarship Fund so that St. Luke can continue to assist these students with their music education. Donations can be placed in the offering and marked ‘Music Scholarship’.

Looking Ahead: The Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, and string ensemble will present the Word through Music on December 15th at both 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.

The Music Ministry welcomes new vocal and instrumental members throughout the year. No auditions are required. Please contact Marc Boensel at the e-mail address above or at 706-256-2682.

WORSHIP IN SPANISH: 12:20 p.m. worship in chapel, Rev. Dr. José Resto. La Palabra Hablada: “De Oídas, pero ahora te veo.” Palabra Escrita: Job 42: 5.


ALTAR FLOWERS: The beautiful flowers in the chancel area are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Flowers, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Flowers, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. William J. Gravlee.

CHRISTIAN LOVE AND SYMPATHY: To Mr. Robert Yarbrough in the death of his grandson, Johnson Yarbrough, November 21, 2019, Columbus, GA.
To Mr. and Mrs. John (Amandah) Turner in the death of her mother, Mrs. Jo Strange, November 20, 2019, Columbus, GA.
To Mr. and Mrs. Jason (Tabitha) Cail in the death of his stepfather, Mr. Richard Wodarski, November 19, 2019, McDonough, GA.


IN MEMORIAM
Mrs. Marion Golden Green
November 10, 2019

With Glad and Generous Hearts
St. Luke 2020 Budget

To date we have 193 pledges totaling $2,078,381 for ministry and mission in 2020. This is almost exactly 65% of last year’s pledge total; so, we are off to a good start in this year’s campaign. If you have not yet returned your pledge for 2020, let me encourage you to add your commitment to these that have been made. Together, we can make a tremendous difference in creating a more Christ-like world.

Christmas Eve Schedule

3:00 p.m.  Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion, Word & Music (Sanctuary)
             The Rev. Robert Beckum, preaching

5:00 p.m.   Family Service of Holy Communion, Children’s Christmas Pageant (Ministry Center)

8:00 p.m.   Candlelight Christmas Eve Service of Holy Communion, Word, and Music, (Sanctuary)
             The Rev. Robert Beckum, preaching

11:00 p.m.  St. Luke Christmas Eve pre-recorded Broadcast, www.stlukeum.com, WTVN Channel 9
**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

www.cornerkidz.com

**CORNER KIDZ (9:00 a.m.)** welcomes K-5th grade students! Children will be escorted upstairs to the Corner Kidz Room (beside the gymnasium) after the welcome.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL** is held in the main church building. Our greeters will help you and your child find their Sunday School class. Parents may drop off their child at 10:00 a.m. and pick up their child promptly by 10:50 a.m., as many of our teachers attend the 11:00 a.m. worship service.

**CORNER KIDZ (11:00 a.m.)** welcomes K-5th grade students! Children will be escorted to Stockwell Hall after the children's sermon. Please pick up your child in Stockwell Hall after the service.

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**ST. LUKE FREE SPIRITS**

Christmas Music Extravaganza and Luncheon

Tuesday, December 3, 2019
11:30 a.m. (Ministry Center)
Cost: $12 Plated Meal
Reservations: Kym at 706-327-4343 or email kym@stlukeum.com

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**FIRST SATURDAY IS DECEMBER 7**

Open to the Community
7:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Santa will be visiting

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**THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE**

Turner Chapel
4:30 p.m.
Sunday December 22

This service of peace, hope and consolation will be followed by a reception and is sponsored by the Bereavement Ministry.

All are welcome.

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**-Respite Care-**

"Caring for loved ones and caregivers"

Respite Ministry - (706) 256-3117

**Holiday Tips for Caregivers**

The holidays have the potential to be stressful for most; for Caregivers, an extra layer of stress is added. These three tips can make a difference -

1) **Simplify** - lighten your load by not expecting more of yourself than you can manage.

2) **Enlist help** – often family and friends are happy to assist but not sure what to do; just ask.

3) **Live for the moment** – try not to dwell on how things once were or what lies ahead.

You are spending this Christmas with your loved one, and that is a blessing for which to be thankful.
ABIDING GIFTS

If you wish to honor or remember someone, please attach to your check the name of that person and the address to which you wish the acknowledgement sent and mail or bring to the church office. Contact maggie@stlukeum.com.

Memorial Maintenance Fund: In memory of Mrs. Jean Amos by Mr. and Mrs. Robert David, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. David Bickely, Dr. and Mrs. Hollis Daniel Sigman, Mr. Kenny Marcum, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Beck, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen M. Howard, Mr. Phil Tomlinson, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Y. Bradley, Pei Pei Chiang, Masako Nakai, Mr. and Mrs. John House, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Johnson, Ms. Edith Satterwhite, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Huff, Tuesday Women’s Bible Study, Belva Greenage, Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. Robert Poydasheff, the Now Sunday School Class, Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Jones, Mrs. Debra Miller Caldwell, Mr. Pete Robinson, and Mr. Buster Bickerstaff. In memory of Mr. David Cartledge by Mr. and Mrs. J. Barrington Vaught.

Food Pantry: In memory of Mr. Joe Robertson and Mrs. Jean Amos by Mr. and Mrs. Steve Hall.

Naomi’s Village: In memory of Mrs. Martha Cunningham by Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Norris, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Graham, and Ms. Harriet M. Van Hale. In honor of Avery Miles and Ayla Miles by Rev. and Mrs. Tom Scott.

Meals on Wheels: In memory of Mr. Elden Elzworth, Mrs. Martha Cunningham and Mrs. Jean Amos by Mrs. Mary Hudson. In memory of Mrs. Sara Lou Yarbrough by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pate.

Samaritan Fund: In memory of Mrs. Jean Amos by Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Register.

Music Scholarship Fund: In honor of Mrs. Maggie Roberson and Mrs. Lisa Marie Ming by Mrs. Elizabeth Vech.

Kathy Randall Children’s Library Fund: In honor of Mrs. Linda Randall by Mr. James Randall.

December First Saturday: In honor of Mr. Mike Kaido by Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Newman.

Discovery Class Fund: In memory of Mr. Carl J. Kuipers, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. William Montgomery.

Respite Care Fund: In memory of Mr. Carl J. Kuipers, Jr., by Mr. and Mrs. William Montgomery. In honor of the Rockstep Cloggers by the St. Luke Free Spirits.

Fountain Area Restoration Fund: In memory of Mrs. Jean Amos, Mr. Larry Neal, Mr. David Cartledge, Mrs. Martha Cunningham, and Mr. Joe Robertson by Mr. and Mrs. William J. Gravlee. In memory of Mrs. Martha Cunningham and Mrs. Jean Amos by Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Fay.

Higher Education Scholarship Fund: In memory of Mr. John Cartledge, Mr. Mullins Whisnant, Mrs. Jean Amos, Mr. Larry Neal, and Mr. C. B. Hewitt by Mr. and Mrs. Larry King.

Passion 2020
with St. Luke’s College House Ministry
December 31-January 2
Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Atlanta, GA
Sign up online at
www.collegehouseministries.com
Total cost is $220
(Includes ticket, hotel, transportation, t-shirt and most meals)

Jonathan and Lisa Moore, Directors of Student Ministries, jmoore@stlukeum.com

THE CORNER

PUT THESE DATES ON THE FRIDGE:
Dec. 1: 5 - 8PM - ANNUAL BONFIRE AT THE NEAL FARM
Dec. 15: 5 - 7PM - Corner/Crosswalk Christmas Party