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December 6, 2020

Volume 56

2021 PLEDGE CARDS AS CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

For Such A Time As This



This week we enter fully into the season of Advent, a season of symbols. It is a time when many symbols adorn our worship spaces and remind us of the love of God in Jesus Christ. We will have wreaths on the walls and doors, the Advent wreath in the chancel, trees beside the communion rail, and purple paraments on the pulpit, lectern and altar. Many more symbols of the season will be in our homes. All of these point to the meaning of God's taking on flesh and blood in Jesus Christ and coming into this world. ***Seldom do we include our financial pledge card among these symbols, but this year we should.*** Beyond the dollars and cents promised for ministry, our pledge card is one of the most powerful symbols of discipleship we have. Our card is an outer, visible symbol of an inner, spiritual grace at the center of our lives. It is a signpost pointing to:

- (1) Our covenant relationship with God
- (2) Our gratitude for the grace of God and for many blessings
- (3) Our acknowledgement of the Lordship of Christ in our life and in our lifestyle
- (4) Our care and concern for the continuing ministry of Christ in **such a time as this.**

This week pledge cards are being mailed to all our families. I know 2020 has been a difficult year in many ways for all of us. It has been a difficult year for our church family. 2021 appears that it too will be a defining challenge in the life of St. Luke Church. Rather than shrink in fear, let me encourage all of us to stand in grace, move forward in prayer, and make our witness in the power of the Holy Spirit. To paraphrase Uncle Mordecai's words to his niece, Queen Esther (in the Old Testament book which bears her name): **"And who knows whether you have not come (into your position as Queen) for such a time as this?"** In spite of fear, uncertainty and danger, Esther rose to the challenge and became the faithful witness through whom God's people were delivered in her day!

During this season of caring and sharing, please prayerfully complete your financial commitment card and return it to the church before the end of the year. Let that card be the first of many beautiful symbols which will point to the coming of God into this world in 2021. Let it be a symbol of faithfulness and courage **"for such a time as this."** Let it be a symbol of your availability to be an instrument of God's delivering love for others.


Robert Beckum, Senior Pastor
rbeckum@stlukeum.com

ORDER OF WORSHIP

The 11:00 a.m. service is streamed at www.saintlukecolumbus.org and broadcast at WLTC 103.7 Lite FM • Broadcast on WTVM Channel 9 at 10:00 a.m.

December 6, 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

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

Prelude (*Handbell Choir*)..... “How Great Our Joy”arr. Hart Morris

Welcome and Opening Prayer.....Rev. Robert Beckum

Hymn..... “O Come O Come, Emmanuel”Dr. Marc Boensel

Lighting of the Advent Wreath.....(8:30 a.m.) The Elmore Family: Jerry & Nina
(11:00 a.m.) The Mayfield Family: Nick, Tanya, Hannah Grace, and Penny

Congregation’s Sung Reponse

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Anthem (*Chancel Choir*)..... “Come, Messiah!”Lloyd Larson

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

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 “Dresden Amen” Johann Naumann

The Children’s Sermon.....Mrs. Mary Pat Beckum

Hymn..... “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”Dr. Boensel

Special Music (*Handbell Choir*)..... “The First Noel”arr. Kevin McChesney

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

The Written Word.....Isaiah 40:1-5; Psalm 85:1-2; 8-13

The Spoken Word..... **“PEACE”**Rev. 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.

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving.....See Insert

Sharing of Bread and Cup

Solo “In the Bleak Mid-Winter”Gustav Holst
(*Shana Monteith, soprano and Ken Bailey, piano*)

An Advent Affirmation

We believe that Jesus is the Son of God. He was born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem of Judea. He was the long-awaited Messiah whose coming was prophesied. The same Jesus lives today in our hearts. He deserves our highest loyalty and total commitment. In Jesus Christ our hope is fulfilled and our peace is sealed.

Hymn..... “Angels From the Realms of Glory”Dr. Boensel

The Benediction.....Rev. Beckum

Choral Benediction Response (11:00 a.m.)..... “Come, Emmanuel”Marc Boensel

Postlude (Ken Bailey)..... “Angels from the Realms of Glory”Improvisation

** Music Box

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain:

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

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go. **Refrain**

O come, O come, great Lord of might who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud, and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

O come, thou Root of Jesse's tree an ensign of thy people be;
before thee rulers silent fall; all peoples on thy mercy call. **Refrain**

LET ALL MORTAL FLESH KEEP SILENCE

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood;
he will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,
as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day,
that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph, cherubim, with sleepless eye,
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:
Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia, Lord Most High!

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Refrain

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds, in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light: **Refrain**

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star. **Refrain**

Saints, before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear;
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear. **Refrain**

OUR CLERGY STAFF

Rev. Robert Beckum - *Senior Minister*

Rev. Brett Maddocks - *Associate Pastor*

Rev. Dick Reese - *Minister of Pastoral Care*

Rev. Dr. José Resto - *Hispanic Ministries*

Bishop James King - *Bishop in Residence*

Permit

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MUSIC BOX

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

Please consider a gift to the **Music Ministry**. You may mark your donation to the Music Fund, Music Scholarship Fund, Orchestra Fund, or Organ Fund.

Chancel Choir rehearsals are at 7p.m. on Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary. Rehearsals will be limited to 30 minutes, socially distanced and masked at all times. Temperature checks will be taken between 6:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m. at the 3rd Avenue entrance to the Music Suite.

Today's anthem: "O come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph, and sorrows flee away. O come, Desire of nations, whom priest and prophet long foretold, and break the chains that bind us, redeem Your long-lost fold. Come, Messiah! Dispel our night with the dawn of grace. Come, Messiah! We long to see your face. Come, Messiah, come! O come, dear Child of promise, for lowly shall Your cradle be; though clothed in human likeness, we shall the Godhead see! Come, Messiah... ."

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE (THE NINE): 9:00 a.m., Ministry Center, The Rev. Brett Maddocks, preaching.

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.

Christmas Week Schedule at St. Luke

In order to assure space availability we ask you to register by calling the church at 706-327-4343 or at www.saintlukecolumbus.org

December 20	5-7:00 p.m.	Live Nativity
December 21	7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Communion (Sanctuary)
December 22	5:00 p.m.	Candles and Communion (Ministry Center)
	7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Communion (Sanctuary)
December 23	5:00 p.m.	Candles and Communion (Ministry Center)
	7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Communion (Sanctuary)
December 24	11:00 a.m.	Communion (Sanctuary)
	1-2:00 p.m.	Drive-Thru Communion (Church parking lot, main office entrance)
	3:00 p.m.	Communion (Sanctuary)
	5:00 p.m.	Candles and Communion (Ministry Center)
	7:00 p.m.	Candlelight Communion (Sanctuary)

11:00 p.m. St. Luke Christmas Eve **pre-recorded Broadcast**,
www.stlukeum.com, *WTVM Channel 9*

HOW DO I JOIN THE CHURCH?

You may become a part of the St. Luke family of God in one of the following ways:

1. If you have never joined a church before, you may become a member by profession of faith in Jesus Christ and by being baptized. If you have already been baptized (as a child or as an adult) in a Christian Church, your baptism is recognized by St. Luke United Methodist Church. You will be asked to uphold St. Luke church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.
 2. If you are a member of another United Methodist Church or another Christian denomination, indicate to one of the pastors that this is your desire. St. Luke will then transfer your membership.
 3. If you have any questions about faith in Christ, about United Methodism in general or St. Luke in particular, please ask one of the pastors!
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CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

mhubbard@stlukeum.com www.cornerkidz.com

Calling all 4th and 5th graders! Join us December 13th for a Nativity Escape Room. We'll decorate cookies, dine together and then compete to be the first to solve the ciphers and crack the code. Due to the nature of the activities planned, I do need an accurate headcount. Email me at mhubbard@stlukeum.com by December 9th to reserve your spot.

Save the Date! On Sunday, December 20th from 5-7 PM, Children's Ministry will bring the nativity to life. Plan to drive by the church sanctuary that evening for what is sure to be a memorable and meaningful way to begin Christmas week.



DUELING DJ'S with THE TRUTH 107.7

Hear our own Dueling DJ contestant Suzanne McCluskey play her favorite music and discuss some of her favorite ministries with special guests, including husband Lee, Kent Butler, and Julie Mendonsa of Naomi's Village in Kenya. **"Vote"** for **Suzanne** by making a donation to The Truth at TheTruthLife.com.

Friday, December 4th, 6 to 9 a.m.

Monday, December 7th, 8 to 11 a.m.

Wednesday, December 9th, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Thursday, December 10th, 3 to 6 p.m.

(last day to listen and vote for Suzanne!!)



MILITARY MINISTRY

Please let us know if you have a deployed loved one, family member or friend, that you would like to add to Saint Luke prayer list. Email maggie@stlukeum.com so we can be in prayer for the service member. For other military ministry requests, please contact Tony or Nicole Mayne tony@gallantfew.org or nmayne@stlukeum.com.

NEW BEGINNINGS are collecting caps, gloves, and socks for Truth Springs Academy Safehouse. They need adult and children's sizes. Place items in the dropbox right outside of Turner Chapel.

Tithes and Offerings

Offering plates/boxes are placed at entrances and exits at all of our in-person worship services. Of course, you can continue to support St. Luke Church with your tithes and offerings by mail, bank draft, or by going to the St. Luke website, <https://saintlukecolumbus.org/give/>, and clicking on "SecureGive" and then clicking on the "Church" button. If you need help with this option, please contact Renee Wilkinson at renee@stlukeum.com or Brett Maddocks at bmaddocks@stlukeum.com.

CHURCH MAILING ADDRESS

Please do not use the physical address of the church for mailing. The church mailing address is P.O. Box 867, Columbus, GA 31902. The Post Office will no longer deliver items that are addressed to our physical address. Thank you!
As always, thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministry of St. Luke Church.

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 acknowledgment sent and mail or bring to the church office. Contact maggie@stlukeum.com.

Altar Guild Fund: In memory of Mrs. Joan Holder by Mr. and Mrs. Mote (Patti) Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Brad Turner, and the Fellowship/Jesus is Lord Class. In memory of Mrs. Joan Holder, Mr. John Cartledge, Mrs. Jane Loflin, Mr. and Mrs. James Holman, Mae Eason Hall, Mr. Charles Q. Hall, and Mr. Charles Eason Hall by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Richardson. In memory of Mrs. Joan Holder and Mrs. Franke Adams by Mr. and Mrs. Malon Wickham. In honor of Mrs. Joan Dickson for her 90th birthday by Mrs. Rosemarie Ward.

Memorial Maintenance Fund: In memory of Mrs. Joan Holder by Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Calhoun, Ms. Lynn Henkel, Mr. and Mrs. Hooper Turner, Jr., Louise Harley Hull, Mellie Fountain and Family, Bitsy Windsor, Mr. Kevin Harcourt, Mr. and Mrs. Tucker Hobgood, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Griffin, Mr. Bill Dillard, Jr., Mrs. Sharon Jones, Mr. and Mrs. J. Madden Hatcher III, Pearl and John Wells, Ms. Dee Rainey, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Morris, Mr. Rem Houser, Mr. J. Edward Sprouse, Mrs. Erwin Key, and Mrs. Barbara Gilliam Haneman. In memory of Mrs. Frances McCluskey and Mrs. Joan Holder by Mrs. Judith Hubbard. In memory of Mr. Bill Montgomery by Mr. Bryan Sargent and Mr. and Mrs. Raj Ambardekar.

Food Pantry: In memory of Mrs. Franke Adams by Billy and Kay Winn.

Bereavement Ministry: In memory of Mrs. Joan Holder by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Thomas.

S.A.W. Ministry: In memory of Mr. Bill Montgomery by Ms. Nancy Pedersen.

Samaritan Fund: In memory of Mrs. Joan Holder and Mr. Bill Montgomery by Mr. and Mrs. Norris Randall.

Prayer Calendars

If you would like a prayer calendar mailed to you please call the church office @ 706-327-4343.



THE CORNER

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



Join us for a **BONFIRE** at the Neal farm in Seale, AL **THIS SUNDAY** from 5:00p.m. -8:00 p.m. Ms. Peggy will email you the address. We're going to eat, play, and sit around the fire. Make sure to bring a blanket and chair and come ready to have a blast!

SYNTHESIS LEADERSHIP

Don't forget - **LEADERSHIP TEAM RETREAT, December 11-12!** This retreat is for our **INCREDIBLE** High School Synthesis Leadership Team!

We can't wait for our Christmas parties on December 13!
Middle schoolers come 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.,
High schoolers come 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m!
Games, food, gift exchanges you don't want to miss it!

