**Thad's Thoughts**

The old familiar song says, “It’s the most wonderful time of the year.” In so many ways, the song is true. Christmas IS the most wonderful time of the year. It is a time for seeing family and friends whom we love. It is a time for delicious food and sweet treats. It is a festive time of beautiful decorations and lots of lights. It is a time when children’s faces light up, and the twinkle in their eyes is priceless. It is a time of beautiful music and moving worship experiences. In many ways, it is indeed the most wonderful time of the year!

However, it can also be the most painful time of the year. Many people experience sadness and anxiety during this season over the loss of loved ones. Others go through pain because they can’t afford to buy gifts for their children or their friends. Some experience pain because their Christmas is nothing like the perfect picture that is portrayed in movies and artwork. Because Christmas is “supposed to be” the most wonderful time of the year, for some it is the most painful time of the year.

No matter where you might find yourself on that spectrum of joy and pain, let me point us to another song. In the context of worship, we sing, “News! News! Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven’s door and we are blest for evermore. Christ was born for this, Christ was born to save!” Jesus was born to save us from the brokenness of this world and deliver us from darkness. Let the light of Christ illuminate your Christmas this year and forevermore.

Thad Haygood, Senior Pastor  
thaygood@stlukeum.com
8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Prelude (St. Luke Orchestra, Jim Evans, conductor)..... “Choose Joy” .........Randall Standridge

Welcome and Opening Prayer

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

*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 this same Jesus, our HOPE is fulfilled. AMEN

*The Gloria Patri (Glory Be to the Father)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath.................................(8:30 a.m.) Mr. and Mrs. Greg Pridgen
(11:00 a.m.) The family of Dr. and Mrs. Nick Mayfield

Congregation’s Sung Response
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel

**Anthem....................................... “Come, Emmanuel” ..............................Mary McDonald
(The Chancel Choir, Dr. Marc Boensel, conductor)

Pastoral Prayer and 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 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.................... “Amen III” ..................................Marc Boensel

Children’s Sermon.............................................Mrs. Nicole Mayne

*Hymn............................................ “What Child Is This” ................................Number 219

Offertory Prayer

Offertory (St. Luke Orchestra)..... “Silent Night/O Come All Ye Faithful” ....arr. Calvin Custer

*The Dedication of Offerings.................. “The Doxology” ...................................Number 95
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Written Word.......................................................J ohn 3:16-17 (p. 88, NT in pew Bible)

The Spoken Word................................. "THE LIGHT OF LOVE" ..................Rev. Haygood

*Hymn............................................. “Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates” ............Number 213

*The Benediction

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

Postlude (St. Luke Orchestra)..... “Fantasia on the Dargason (Greensleeves)” .....Gustav Holst

*Standing as able.
ST. LUKE FREE SPIRITS
Christmas Musical Extravaganza & Luncheon

A Quartet JUBILEE

Please join us on Tuesday, December 6, 2022
11:30 a.m.
(Large Dining Room - Ministry Center)
Cost: $12
Reservations: Julie 706-327-4343
jwidener@stlukeum.com.

ST. LUKE MIDWEEK
Mark your calendars for a special MIDWEEK St. Luke Orchestra Christmas Concert December 7. This is always a highlight of the St. Luke family Christmas season! We look forward to resuming MIDWEEK meals and breakouts January 11, with another series of six-week sessions. Plans are underway and we want you to be here with your church family sharing a meal and growing in your faith.

Pay $7 at the door (cash, check, or contactless payment). Menu: Fried chicken, smothered chicken, green beans, rice, rolls, salad and cake.

Christmas Concert
St. Luke Orchestra presents

THE NUTCRACKER AND OTHER DELIGHTS
Wednesday, December 7 -- 6:00 p.m.
Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. & costs $7 at the door
Ministry Center
Music Box

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

The Music Scholarship Fund needs your support! We are able to offer a modest scholarship to music students from CSU who participate in our Music Ministry only through the generous donations of the congregation to the Music Scholarship Fund. Please help as you are able.

2128 Project! The revitalization plan for our wonderful 1948 pipe organ. St. Luke will be 200 years old in 2028, and if we can refurbish our organ with the latest technology by then, we will be preserving this wonderful instrument for the next 100 years! Donations to the Organ Fund will go directly to this project.

Please consider supporting the Music Ministry by making a donation to the Music Fund or the Orchestra Fund.

Join the Music Ministry! Middle and High School Youth, and Adults are welcome in the Music Ministry. The Chancel Choir meets on Wednesdays at 7pm, and sings at the 8:30 or 11am services weekly. The Handbell Choir meets on Wednesdays at 5:30pm, and plays at the 8:30 and 11am services monthly. The St. Luke Orchestra is a concert band that meets periodically throughout the year.

Today's anthem: See Hymnal #211

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE (THE NINE): 9:00 a.m., Ministry Center, Rev. Thad Haygood preaching.

WORSHIP IN SPANISH: 12:30 p.m. worship in Turner Chapel.

ALTAR FLOWERS: The beautiful flowers in the chancel area are given to the glory of God and in honor of the wedding of Mary Frances Graham and Jonathan Thompson Berry by her parents and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Flowers, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Flowers, J r. by Bill and Swain Gravlee.

NEW MEMBERS: W.J. and Eileen Barrs come by transfer of their membership from another denomination.

IN MEMORIAM
Mrs. Joyce Rhodes Payne
August 27, 2022

The beautiful flowers in the chancel area are given to the glory of God and in honor of the wedding of Mary Frances Graham and Jonathan Thompson Berry by her parents and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Flowers, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Flowers, J r. by Bill and Swain Gravlee.

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Respite Ministry

Holiday Tips for Caregivers

Communicate concerns in advance of the holidays, be candid with family and friends about your loved one’s condition and your concerns, and enlist their support. Use this season of giving as an opportunity to discuss sharing family responsibilities and to strive for family togetherness.

THE LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

Turner Chapel
4:00 p.m. • Sunday, December 18

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

All are welcome.

Send in your 2023 Estimate of Giving today

Thank you to the more than 200 families who have already made their financial commitment to our ministries for 2023! If you have not made your commitment, please turn in your Estimate of Giving card as soon as you can. You can put your sealed envelope in the offering plate, mail it or drop it off at the church office. Please also remember to complete your pledge for 2022 as we approach year-end. God is truly on the move at St. Luke Church, and we cannot wait to see what He has in store for us!
Children’s Ministry
nmayne@stlukeum.com

Children’s Worship
9AM Corner Kidz K-3rd Grade – Corner Kidz room, upstairs in MIN Center
*All 4th and 5th graders who would like to sing in the Christmas Eve service should attend CornerKidz in December
11am Corner Kidz K-3rd Grade Worship – Stockwell Hall

Children’s Sunday School
K/1st Grade Room 6 MIN Center
Teachers: Jenny Koon & Lane Riley
2nd/3rd Grade Room 7 MIN Center
Teachers: Bobby & Melissa Thomas, Kristen Holt & Kelly Pendleton
4th/5th Grade Corner Kidz Room MIN Center
Teacher: Ashley Turner

Nursery is available for infants through Pre-K from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m. in the Church Building in Room 111 and the Ministry Center. Please use our paper registration process for your child before dropping off. A web-based registration system is coming in 2023.

December’s Bible verse “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Luke 2:11” Prizes are available for children who memorize this verse.

Mark your calendars
Happy Birthday Jesus party, combined Sunday School hour in Stockwell Hall - Dec 18
Children’s Christmas Pageant - Dec 24 5pm Service, Ministry Center

Missions Moment
Chuck Bolton, Director of Missions and Outreach, cbolton@stlukeum.com
Thank you so much to all who served yesterday at our December 1st Saturday outreach event. Y’all are awesome! GOD IS ON THE MOVE at St. Luke and yesterday was certainly indicative of that. I’m so grateful to serve this church and partner with each of you in ministry.
Cheerfully in Christ,
Chuck
Matt 25:40

HE’S WHERE THE JOY IS!
For those who participated in reading through their Bibles this year following the Bible Recap plan, we have a small memento for you to place on your Christmas tree! Pick up your ornament from the St. Luke parlor or Ministry Center foyer before or after church today to remind you that “He’s where the joy is!”

College House
PASSION ’23
January 3 - 5
$175 Per Person - Due December 10th
Limited Spots Remaining!
Contact Kami Davidson for more information
**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**.

**Music Scholarship Fund:** In honor of the pastors and staff of St. Luke by Mr. and Mrs. Mark Sigmund.

**Samaritan Fund:** In memory of Rev. Gaston Pollock by his family.

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**Jesus is Lord/Fellowship SS Brunch**

Monday, December 5 at 10:30 a.m. in the Ministry Center • $12.50
RSVP to Jane Duncan (706-323-3714) or Mary Bass (706-323-8122)

**New Beginnings Christmas Luncheon**

Tuesday, December 13 at 10:30 a.m. in the Small Dining Room • $12.50
Guests: Laura & Thad Haygood
Reservations to Sarah Vinyard at svinyard@stlukeum.com

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**St. Luke Military Ministry**

Cru Military provides an incredible opportunity for you to impact today's soldiers with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. To volunteer with Cru Military, contact Jeff Bearden today at jeff.bearden@crumilitary.org.

**Vet Talk:** Join us at The ROC each Friday at 8:30 am for fellowship and faith-based weekly meetings. Grab coffee and a donut while you feed your soul. Contact Tony Mayne today at tony@gallantfew.org.

*Open to ALL active duty or Veteran military members, regardless of branch or era.*

Please visit gallantfew.org/theroc to see a complete list of our programs.

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**Christmas at St. Luke**

December 24 – Christmas Eve Communion Services (3:00 and 7:00 pm, Sanctuary)

December 24 – Christmas Eve Family Service with Children's Pageant (5:00 pm, Ministry Center)

December 25 – Christmas Day at St. Luke (10:30 am, Sanctuary)

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**Jr. K & Kindergarten Open House**

December 7, 2022 - 9:00 a.m.
St. Luke Ministry Center - Youth Room