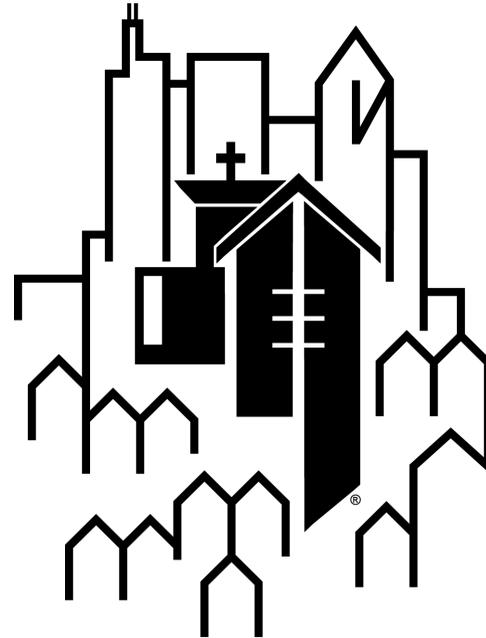


# SERVICE OF THE WORD

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 13, 2020



## SAINT LUKE CHURCH

WELCOME \_\_\_\_\_

Prelude: "Swiss Noel"

L.C. Daquin

Ringing of the Bells

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM \_\_\_\_\_

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvations.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING

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### Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### Hymn

Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn

Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn, for angels herald its dawning.  
Sing out your joy, for soon he is born, behold! The Child of our longing.  
Come as a baby weak and poor, to bring all hearts together,  
He opens wide the heav'nly door and lives now inside us forever.

In darkest night his coming shall be, when all the world is despairing,  
As morning light so quiet and free, so warm and gentle and caring.  
Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in wonder  
The weak be raised above the strong, and weapons be broken asunder.

Rejoice, rejoice, take heart in the night, though dark the winter and cheerless,  
The rising sun shall crown you with light, be strong and loving and fearless.  
Love be our song and love our prayer and love our endless story;  
May God fill ev'ry day we share and bring us at last into glory.

### Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## WORD

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### First Reading

*The reading concludes:*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

### Psalm 126

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.  
Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.  
Then they said among the nations,  
"The Lord has done great things for them."  
The Lord has done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.  
Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negeb.  
Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.  
Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

### Second Reading

*The reading concludes:*

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

1 Thessalonians 5:16-24



### HOLY GOSPEL

**Light three candles to watch for Messiah, let the light banish darkness.  
He shall bring salvation to Israel. God fulfills the promise.**

The Holy Gospel according to Saint John, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

✠ SAINT JOHN 1:6-8, 19-28 ✠

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

Oh Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome aright?  
Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight!  
Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast  
To do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

Rejoice, then, you sad hearted, who sit in deepest gloom,  
Who mourns your joys departed and tremble at your doom.  
All hail the Lord's appearing! O glorious Sun, now come,  
Send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
on the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*After each petition:* Lord, listen to your children cry.

**Send us love, send us power, send us grace.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

Reflections on God's Grace

THANKSGIVING \_\_\_\_\_

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your word of life, O God,  
**we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit,  
let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

## SENDING

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Hymn

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;  
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.  
The bride-groom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;  
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see  
The day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Prelude: "Wake, Awake"

A.W. Leupold



SAINT LUKE CHURCH

December 13, 2020  
The Third Sunday of Advent

PRAYER CONNECTION AND REFLECTION

*Time to reflect and pray individually as you prepare for worship*

### THE PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Stir up the wills of your faithful people, Lord God, and open our ears to the words of your prophets, that, anointed by your Spirit, we may testify to your light; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE ILL

O God, the strength of the weak and the comfort of sufferers: Mercifully hear our prayers and grant to your servants:

<i>Eve Scheffler</i>	<i>Maryann Palermo</i>	<i>Peter Burkhart</i>	<i>Steve Mead</i>	<i>Abigail Zhang</i>
<i>Patricia Grunde</i>	<i>Janet Hagberg</i>	<i>Christian Long</i>	<i>David Horne</i>	<i>Dale Peters</i>
<i>Shauna Stiglich</i>	<i>Jan Nyberg</i>	<i>Amyyah Robinson</i>	<i>Rosie Diaz</i>	<i>John Holland</i>
<i>MaryJo McCawley</i>	<i>Neva Geweke</i>	<i>Michael Holman</i>	<i>Linda Planeckowsky</i>	<i>Dan Horton</i>
<i>Grace Tampa</i>	<i>Laurie Strohmayer</i>	<i>Donna Karaklasch</i>	<i>Mark Van Scharrel</i>	<i>Martha Kastigar</i>
<i>Rosemarie Morgen</i>	<i>Albester Hall Jones</i>	<i>Ray Wentworth</i>		

the help of your power, that illness may be turned into health and our sorrow into joy; through Jesus Christ. Amen

### FOR ADVENT PEACE

Almighty God, as we prepare for the coming of your Son in his birth in Bethlehem, be for us a refuge amid the turmoil of worldly distractions. Let our hearts, so often tossed on a sea of restless waves, find peace in you, God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### REMEMBER THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES

Almighty God, we commit to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad:

*Nicholas Bakulinski* *Jeremy Strohmayer* *Dan McCarthy* *Lucas Kratz* *Preston Larson*

Defend them with your heavenly grace and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### PRAYER FOR PEACE

Almighty God, from whom all thoughts of truth and peace proceed, kindle in the hearts of all the true love of peace, and guide with Your pure and peaceable wisdom those who make decisions for the nations of the earth; that in tranquility Your kingdom may go forward, till the earth be filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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Stephen Bouman, *Preaching Minister*  
Timothy Geistlinger, *Assisting Minister*

Lucy Baker, *Cantor*  
Don Mead, *Organist*

# NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## December 13, 2020

Welcome to Saint Luke



### Sunday Services

Saint Luke has temporarily suspended in person services. Services will continue online only. Please pray for our country and the world as we fight this pandemic.

### Introduction to the Day

“Rejoice always,” begins the reading from First Thessalonians. Isaiah and the psalmist make clear that God is turning our mourning into laughter and shouts of joy. “All God’s children got a robe,” go the words of the spiritual. It is not so much a stately, formal, pressed outfit as it is a set of party clothes, clothes that make us feel happy just to put on. We receive that robe in baptism, and in worship we gather for a foretaste of God’s party.

### Today

The third week of Advent—we are still waiting. Three of the four candles now burn in the Advent wreath in the center aisle. We know our waiting time is almost over. We see the Light coming from afar. We rejoice in his impending arrival and share our joy with those who watch with us. We recognize the Light in the words of the Baptizer and bring our lives in line with his call for repentance and service.



During the season of Advent an important part of our liturgy is omitted. *"Glory to God in the Highest,"* the great hymn of praise usually sung at the beginning of the service, was the proclamation of the Christmas angels who announced the Savior’s birth to shepherds. As we prepare for the coming of the Savior, we remember that earth has not yet seen the angels or heard their song. This hymn will be restored to our service on Christmas Eve when we of earth will join heaven’s angels in announcing the birth of the Savior.

### Coffee Hour!



You are invited to Coffee Hour after Church this morning beginning at 10:30 a.m. Join the conversation and check up on people from church you haven’t seen in a while! Here is the link for Coffee Hour: <https://bit.ly/39xYjVS>  
Meeting ID: 948 1158 6701, Passcode: saintluke



### Sunday Worship

Sunday Worship is continuing online only. Please join the service, live, at 9:00 a.m. The link for “Online Worship” can be found on the website at [stlukechicago.org](http://stlukechicago.org).

## HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER FOR ADVENT

WEDNESDAYS AT 7PM  
DECEMBER 2, 9, & 16

Online, with the Lakeview Lutheran Parish:  
LakeView, Holy Trinity,  
Resurrection, & Saint Luke

ZOOM LINK AVAILABLE AT  
[HTCHICAGO.ORG/HOLDEN](https://www.htchicago.org/holden)



Saint Luke will be hosting Evening Prayer on Wednesday, December 16, 2020. Please join the group for this prayer service.

The link for this Evening Prayer Service is found on the website at [stlukechicago.org](http://stlukechicago.org) “Online Worship” or use this Link: [https://www.htchicago.org/holden?fbclid=IwAR2A-V8ohQg6wbd6C4ITcnEinuK6frxdQTuQUoqJ92SOJJ7\\_Mo238HVewcI](https://www.htchicago.org/holden?fbclid=IwAR2A-V8ohQg6wbd6C4ITcnEinuK6frxdQTuQUoqJ92SOJJ7_Mo238HVewcI)



Bible Class **will** meet this Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. Get you lunch and join Pastor Bouman to discuss the lessons and Gospel for Advent 4.

The lessons are: *2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:46b-55, Saint Luke 1:26-38*

The link for **"Bible Class"** can be found on the website at [stlukechicago.org](http://stlukechicago.org). Click on “Bible Class” or enter the following URL into your browser: <https://bit.ly/3oi0vVR>  
Meeting ID: 784 7788 0585, Passcode: saintluke.

### Save the Date

Pastor Bouman will host a virtual book signing on Sunday, January 17, 2021 to introduce his new book "They Are Us, Second Edition: Lutherans and Immigration" Mark your calendar now for this event!

### Caring and Sharing

During December we are collecting **hats, gloves and socks** to be distributed by Lakeview Pantry. Remember those who have little to keep them warm during our bitter winters; put your donation in the collection barrel in the lobby.

### Mobile or Text Giving

Supporting Saint Luke Ministries is just a click away. We offer convenient **online giving**, so you never have to worry about leaving your cash or checkbook at home. You can make a one-time contribution or set up recurring gifts – a great option for members who travel. Get started by visiting our online donation page at [www.stlukechicago.org](http://www.stlukechicago.org).

You can also text your donation! Simply send a **text message to 833.988.0613** with the amount you would like to contribute.

### The Freedom of a Christian

Amid the pandemic of COVID-19 and the ongoing pandemic of racism and xenophobia, our communities and world are ravaged by illness, death and injustice. We are tempted to turn inward in despair. Five hundred years ago, Martin Luther wrote a treatise titled

***The Freedom of a Christian***. In it, he offered his most compelling summary of the Christian life: In Christ we are completely free and at the same time completely bound in love and service to our neighbors. The Lakeview Lutheran Parish (LLP) is sponsoring a study of *The Freedom of the Christian* on Wednesday mornings 10:00 – 11:00 am continuing December 16. Join via zoom: <https://bit.ly/3luyyJm>. Meeting ID: 987 432 464.

Password: 029091. Call-in: 312.626.6799.

Watch a brief video from Bishop Eaton, download the study guide and a free copy of the *Freedom of the Christian* at [elca500.org](http://elca500.org).

### Regular Support for Saint Luke

The **2021 Offering Envelopes** are available! To pick your envelopes up in person, please call the church office (773.472.3383) to set up a pick-up time and your envelopes will be brought to you.

All envelopes not picked up by December 23<sup>rd</sup> will be mailed. Please help us save the cost of mailing your envelopes by picking them up, if possible.

Thank you for your help with this vital area of Church Stewardship.

If you don't have offering envelopes and would like a box, please let the church office know. Envelopes for 2021 will be on their way to you!

### Call Committee

Saint Luke Ministries is engaged in the work of calling a new pastor. A call committee is being created as part of this process. The call committee receives candidates recommended by the Synodical Bishop. The call committee will evaluate and recommend the candidate it believes God desires this congregation to have as its pastor. After this recommendation is made, the Ministry Board will call a special meeting of the Voter's Assembly. The call to the new pastor can only be made by the Voter's Assembly.

The congregation will have opportunities to meet the recommended candidate before the meeting of the Voter's Assembly.

Serving on the call committee will require a significant commitment of time, both for meetings and for prayerful discernment. If you would like to serve on the call committee, please complete the form below. You will be contacted by the nominating committee (Betsy Wassilak, Paul Heltne, Mark Godecke, and David Nelson). Positions on the call committee are limited, and we will strive to create a committee that represents the entire congregation. We greatly appreciate the desire to serve expressed by all applicants. The names of the call committee members will be announced at the congregational meeting on January 24, 2021.

### Call Committee Application

You must be a member of Saint Luke in order to apply. It is not mandatory that you are a voting member.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of background experience, education or qualifications you see as helpful to the committee.

A brief statement of primary goals and priorities you see when conducting a search for the new pastor.

Why do you choose Saint Luke as your faith home?

Why would you like to be a member of the Call Committee?

Please return this application to the Church Office.



### THE CHRISTMAS CHANCEL

While we will not be putting up the large poinsettia trees this year, you still have the opportunity to purchase poinsettias to place in the Chancel of the Church.

Use the blank below to order a poinsettia or two in your own name or that of a loved one whom you wish to remember in a special way.

Please mail it to the church office or call the office to order a poinsettia! Please place your order by Sunday, December 20, 2020.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Or

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the amount you wish to donate for Poinsettias:

\$30.00  \$40.00  \$50.00  \$100.00

Payment type:  cash  check  charge

*Please make checks payable to Saint Luke Church.*



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

As an added convenience you may use your VISA or MasterCard.

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_



## HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS 2020

Join Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in spreading hope to children and families in immigration detention this holiday season.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Watch the recording of the 2020 Hope for the Holidays webinar
- Write a message of hope to families impacted by immigration detention
- Donate to help LIRS purchase gifts for children in immigration detention
- Advocate for the safety and reunification of migrant families





## Shop with Scrip!

A great way to earn money for the school and helping the economy!



Help the economy, help **Saint Luke Academy**, help yourself, help the stores where you shop, and help others by giving this as a gift and by shopping with Scrip!

Here's How It Works... You buy gift cards at full *price (no additional fees are added)*, and the Academy earns a percentage of the amount you spend. We can earn from 4% to 16% of your order! Please take a look around the website, there are over 750 cards you can buy and help our community.

Bonus- You can send your card electronically anywhere you wish. Electronic cards can be sent to that friend or family member that is celebrating an important event, even though you cannot be there in person.

The online website is <https://www.ShopWithScrip.com> and enroll with our enrollment code **FLL98D9463L61**. Once you enroll you can choose what you would like to purchase and by clicking it is a gift you can send it anywhere by email. You have choices to pay the bill by credit card (2.6% fee), by Presto Pay (\$.15 fee), and by cash/check to the school.

Scrip sells eCards, physical cards, and reloads. Please consider buying one or more today!

If you have any questions please contact Antonette Kulesza: [kulesan@stlukechicago.org](mailto:kulesan@stlukechicago.org)



This company runs specials all the time.

**Southwestern Texas Synod**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

# BORDER RELIEF FUND

<https://www.swtsynod.org/give>  
Please select the "Border Relief" option

International Bridge Between Piedras Negras, MX and Eagle Pass, TX