

IN THE NAME OF GOD, WELCOME. Through this season God leads us to watchful waiting. We are invited to see both the signs of God's preparing and the significance of God's loving purpose behind it all. In bringing down the high places and in building up the low places, God levels the hills and valleys, making a straight path through them. How is God preparing us through such "leveling" to receive the presence of The Child?

The SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION at 10:45 a.m.

PREPARATION

Prelude "Advent Prelude" Charles Callahan
Sarah Robinson, oboe

Moment of Silence

*Invocation

*Order for Confession and Forgiveness Page 94

*An Act of Reconciliation: Sharing the Peace Page 106

***Hymn 254** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" JEFFERSON

*The Greeting Page 138

*Kyrie Page 138

*Prayer of The Day

Pastor: Stir up our hearts, Lord God,

ALL: **to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD THROUGH WORDS

Word of Welcome Barbara Crawford

First Lesson – Isaiah 40: 1-11

Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 (sung responsively)

You have been gracious to your ¹ land, O LORD; you have restored the good for- ¹ tune of Jacob.

²You have forgiven the iniquity ¹ of your people and blotted out ¹ all their sins.

⁸I will listen to what the LORD ¹ God is saying; for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their ¹ hearts to you.

⁹Truly, your salvation is very near to ¹ those who fear you, that your glory may dwell ¹ in our land.

¹⁰Steadfast love and faithfulness have ¹ met together; righteousness and peace have ¹ kissed each other.

¹¹Faithfulness shall spring up ¹ from the earth, and righteousness shall look ¹ down from heaven.

¹²The LORD will indeed ¹ grant prosperity, and our land will ¹ yield its increase.

¹³Righteousness shall go be- ¹ fore the LORD and shall prepare for ¹ God a pathway.

All: Glory be to the Father and | to the Son and to the | Holy Spirit. As it was in | the beginning, is now, and will be for | ever. Amen.

Second Lesson – 2 Peter 3: 8-15a

*Gospel Acclamation Page 102

*The Holy Gospel – Mark 1: 1-8

Lighting the Advent Candle

Children's Sermon "Pre-Pare" Pastor Bair

Anthem "Rise up, Rise up!" Johann Walther

Sermon "Not Waiting for Comfort" Pastor Bair

***Hymn 256** "Comfort, Comfort Now My People" FREU DICH SEHR

*The Nicene Creed (*note revised translation*) Page 104

*Prayers of Intercession Page 143

GOD'S WORD THROUGH ACTION - MEAL

Offering

Offertory "Forest Green" Gordon Phillips

*Prayer Page 144

*The Great Thanksgiving (*a cappella*) Page 144

*Holy, Holy, Holy Page 144

*Eucharistic Prayer – "In the night..."

*The Lord's Prayer Page 145

*"Lamb of God" Page 146

*The Communion

Music during communion: **Hymn 246**

"Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding!" MERTON

*Prayer Page 146

*The Blessing Page 146

***Hymn 264** "Prepare the Royal Highway"

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN

*The Dismissal Page 146

Postlude "Alla Marcia" Thomas Adams

**Please stand for this part of the liturgy or remain seated as you need.*

† † † † † † †

NEXT WEEK: Advent Lessons and Selections from Handel's Messiah, sung by the choir with orchestra and soloists Carol McAmis, soprano; Michael Clarkson, tenor; and Angus Godwin, baritone.

WORSHIPPING with this faith community for the first time? Sign the book in the narthex so that we may greet you more personally, and please share in the relaxed after-church time over goodies.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS are available from an usher.

HEARING ASSIST devices are available from the table in the narthex. Each device has an earpiece and volume control.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Emily and Joe Metz in memory of Virginia Metz.

NAME TAGS. Thanks for helping us all remember by wearing one. Your help in returning your tag to the rack in alphabetical order with the string tucked in is also appreciated.

NURSERY CARE is provided for young children during worship in two nurseries, which are on the same level as the sanctuary. Please feel free to use the facilities for your children.

ST. LUKE NEWS

ADVENT 2

7 December 08

TODAY - ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND DISH-TO PASS LUNCH, after the morning worship service. The 2009 budget will be presented for discussion and action. Please come and share.

ACOLYTES, READERS & ASSISTING MINISTERS, if you have not already handed in your schedule for Jan. – March 09, please return them by December 14. If you need another form, you can pick one up in the narthex.

TODAY - FAITH AND CARE COORDINATORS provide an opportunity for us all to serve. The Faith and Care Coordinators will be at their table in the narthex today, and December 21, to sign up for January and February volunteer opportunities.

SANTA'S SALARIES FOR THE ELCZ. During Advent we will be taking a special collection for our sister synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Zimbabwe. Look for a small Christmas tree in the Narthex with donation envelopes on it. Please take an envelope and return it to the collection plate by Christmas with a donation for the ELCZ (make checks out to St. Luke with "ELCZ" in the memo line). Just \$5 can pay a pastor's salary for a month!

FAITH AND CARE LUNCHEON will follow the coffee hour on Sunday, December 14. The lunch will be hosted by the December Faith and Care Team for the January volunteers. Everyone is invited to share! This is an opportunity to volunteer to help with Faith and Care.

ORDER YOUR COPY OF THE MORAVIAN DAILY TEXT sign up sheet is in the narthex.

2009 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is posted in the narthex. Sign up for the Sunday of your choosing, noting both donor and occasion.

WEDNESDAY'S – DECEMBER 10, 17 at 5:30 p.m. a brief Advent Vespers Service [Holden Evening Prayer]. Everyone welcome to come and share.

STUDENT DISCUSSION/STUDY GROUP meet Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the study, with a Lutheran 101 focus.

FAIR TRADE COFFEE, TEA, AND CHOCOLATE AVAILABLE FOR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS! Fair trade coffee, tea, hot chocolate, and chocolate bars make great Christmas presents - not only are they useful and welcome, but your purchases support providing a living wage to the farmers who grow these crops. These items will be available for sale after church on November 30 and December 14. As always, you can mail in your order form (available on the table in the lobby) and order that way. Please contact Judy Mehravari if you have any questions. 257-8653, mjudy@twcny.rr.com. Please note that we will have expanded our chocolate bar selection this year!

VISITOR INFORMATION PACKAGE: The Church Council is planning to develop a "Visitor Information package" to be made available to first time visitors. It is intended to include the type of information that would be beneficial to visitors who might not be as familiar with our Church and its surroundings (e.g., directions, parking information, service hours). Suggestions for the type of material to be included in such a packet is solicited. Please send your ideas to Nader Mehravari, 607-257-8653, nmehrava@twcny.rr.com.

MID-WEEK FELLOWSHIP EVENT. Interested in getting together with folks from church beyond the Sunday service? Several members of the congregation have expressed an interest in starting an evening fellowship event during the week. The council would like to know how much interest there is in having some sort of event—whether it be a discussion group, a movie night, a kids' night—so if you would be interested in coming to a regular fellowship event, email Tom McSweeney at tjm37@cornell.edu to get on the email list.

HANDICAP PARKING. There is a 'Handicap Parking' space on Oak Avenue across from the entrance to St. Luke. There are also four parking spaces behind the Church, and on Sunday mornings these are for the use of our members who have difficulty walking.

FAITH IN ACTION: DIRECT PRAYER REQUESTS to Louise McGee at 844-4303. A prayer chain of St. Luke folks prays regularly, privately, and confidentially for the parishioners' concerns.

OUTREACH AND MISSION SEMINAR, JANUARY 10, 2009. "Equipping the Congregation for Outreach and Mission" will be held Saturday, January 10, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Fayetteville United Methodist Church, 601 E. Genesee St. Fayetteville, NY. Sponsored by the Center for Lifelong Learning at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, the course will be taught by the Rev. Dr. Dana Horrell, Executive Director of the Center for the Congregation in Public Life at CRCDS.

This program will look inward (at congregational renewal) and outward (at social renewal) with a focus developing program ideas, recruitment and team building skills, neighborhood analysis, tools for measuring effectiveness, and ideas for integrating charity and justice. Through an assessment tool, discussion and multi-media presentations, participants are provided examples of "best practices" in social ministry.

Seminar cost is \$65 (\$75 after January 7) and includes lunch and course handouts. Groups of two or more from the same church are encouraged, with additional registrations (after the first) at \$35. For more information or to register, call 315-439-9154, send an email to dhorrrell@crcls.edu or visit www.congregationinpubliclife.org and look for "What's New."

INTERESTED IN A LUNCH TIME BIBLE STUDY? Monday Midday Brown Bag Bible Study (MMBBBS) continues at 12:15 p.m., in the church library. The group will pray, share and plan together the course of study for the fall. Contact Susan Hoskins, sbh1@cornell.edu, Day 255-4864, Eve 564-3483 for information.

QUILTING FOR THOSE IN NEED: If you sew, have extra fabric to share or can tie knots, check out how you can help make quilted blankets for distribution by Lutheran World Relief. Details are on flyers in the narthex. Meet with us at 9:30 am on every 1st & 3rd Thurs. in our Adult Ed room.

ARE YOU ACCESSING THE ST. LUKE WEBSITE? [<http://www.stlukeithaca.org>] It now includes photos, a calendar of events, documents (from weekly bulletins to the Constitution and By-laws), and improved audio of our morning worship services. Please contact Scott Adams with your ideas.

NEXT SUNDAY: Lessons and Carols, 10:45 a.m.; Children's Sermon: "Favor"; Hymns: 263, 250, 265, 249, 435.

**FLOWERS OF CHRISTMAS to
Make the Holy Night Radiant**



Celebrate the Gift that we receive at Christmas with the gift of a poinsettia plant for the sanctuary. Gifts can be presented in memory or in honor of special individuals. The cost of each plant this year is \$10.00. You will be able to take your plant home after the 9:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve, if you wish. Remaining plants will continue to brighten our worship on the Sundays after Christmas and can be distributed to the shut-ins in our parish after the first of the year.

I/we would like to donate _____(number) of poinsettias.

In memory of:

In honor of:

Given by:

TOTAL: \$ _____

Enclosed: _____

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR ORDERS IN BY
DECEMBER 19.**

Please indicate "Poinsettias" on the memo of your check so that the treasurer can properly record your donation. Place in the collection plate or mail to the church.

**ST. LUKE WORSHIP AND MINISTRIES
LOOKING AHEAD**

Sunday, December 7

- Noon - Annual Congregation Mtg.

December 10, 17 (Wednesdays)

- 5:30 p.m. - Advent Vespers Service. The order: Holden Evening Prayer.

Sunday, December 14

- Worship Service of Lessons and Carols.
- Noon - Faith and Care Luncheon

Sunday, December 21

- Church School Proclamation.

Wednesday, December 24, Christmas Eve Services

- 6:00 p.m. – A Family Service with candle lighting and special music. No nursery care provided.
- 9:00 p.m. – A Service of Holy Communion, including candle lighting and special music.

Sunday, December 28

- A relaxed service of lessons, hymns, carols, Communion.

Don't Forget – Monday's Mid-Day Brown Bag Bible Study at 12:15-1:00; Tuesday's Student Discussion Group at 6:00 p.m; and Quilting for the World – First and Third Thursday of each month starting at 9:00 a.m. Everyone welcome.

ST. LUKE MINISTERS:

The People of this Community

ST. LUKE STAFF:

Rick L. Bair	[rlb8@cornell.edu] (h) 387-3479	Pastor
Erik Kibelsbeck	[ekibelsbeck@ithaca.edu]	Music Director
Michelle Gray	[lluthera@twcny.rr.com]	Admin. Asst.
Stephen Devlen	[srd4@cornell.edu]	Sexton
Tammy Devlen		Sexton

ST. LUKE OFFICE

607 273-6811

ST. LUKE WEBSITE

www.stlukeithaca.org

ST. LUKE MISSION CENTER:

109 Oak Avenue, Ithaca, NY

