

IN THE NAME OF GOD, WELCOME to worship on this edge between Advent promise and Christmas fulfillment. The children of our Church School lead us into the wonder and mystery of the Christmas story and message. "And a little child shall lead them." May their preparation and excitement for Christmas model for all of us the childlike trust and hope God invites us to have as we prepare for the Child's presence in our world and lives.

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

PREPARATION

Prelude "Verses on the Magnificat" Alexandre Guilmant

Moment of Silence

*Invocation

*Order for Confession and Forgiveness Page 94

*An Act of Reconciliation: Sharing the Peace Page 106

***Hymn 251** "My Soul Proclaims Your Greatness" KINGSFOLD

*The Greeting Page 138

*Kyrie Page 138

*Prayer of The Day

Pastor: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

ALL: **With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

GOD'S WORD THROUGH WORDS

Word of Welcome Everett Nelson

First Lesson – 2 Samuel 7: 1-11, 16

Psalms 89: 1-4, 25-26 (sung responsively)

Your love, O LORD, forever I will sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim
your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

³I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

**I will establish your line forever,
and preserve your throne for all generations.**

²⁵I will set his hand on the sea,
and his right hand on the rivers.

**He will say to me, 'You are my father, my God,
and the rock of my salvation.'**

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 forever. Amen.**

Second Lesson – Romans 16: 25-27

*Gospel Acclamation Page 102

*The Holy Gospel – Luke 1: 46b-55

Sunday Church School Proclamation of the Christmas Story

*As the story is presented, the congregation is invited
to share in the singing of carols at various times.*

Hymn 257 "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vss 1, 2)
VENI, EMMANUEL

Hymn 269 "Once in Royal David's City" (vss 1, 2) IRBY

Hymn 289 "Angels We Have Heard on High" (vss 1, 2)
GLORIA

Hymn "We Three Kings of Orient Are" (vs 1)
THREE KINGS OF ORIENT

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse a-far,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

*Refrain: Oh, star of wonder, star of night, star of royal
beauty bright; west-ward leading, still proceeding, guide us
to the perfect light.*

Children's Sermon "House" Pastor Bair

***Hymn 271** "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve"
Sung first in Norwegian, then the English verses JEG ER SÅ GLAD

*The Nicene Creed (note revised translation) Page 104

*Prayers of Intercession Page 143

GOD'S WORD THROUGH ACTION - MEAL

Offering

Offertory "Verses on the Magnificat" Alexandre Guilmant

*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 257** (vss 3 - 8)
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI, EMMANUEL

*Prayer Page 146

*The Blessing Page 146

***Hymn 259** "Fling Wide the Door" MACHT HOCH DIE TÜR

*The Dismissal Page 146

Postlude "Fugue on the Magnificat" Alexandre Guilmant

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

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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.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the Glory of God by Angus and Joan Godwin.

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

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

ST. LUKE NEWS
Advent 4
21 December 08

TODAY - FAITH AND CARE COORDINATORS will be at their table in the narthex for sign-ups for the January and February volunteer opportunities. How can you help?

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS – The Sunday bulletins for December 28 and January 4 will be completed early. The deadline for announcements will be **Tuesday, (10:00 a.m.)**. If you have any questions please call Michelle Gray at the church office 273-6811 or email lluthera@twcny.rr.com.

SANTA'S SALARIES FOR THE ELCZ. With the recent cholera outbreak and with hunger spreading our brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe need help more than ever. 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, but any amount will help!

FIRST COMMUNION – Are there any children who share in St. Luke who did not participate in the October classes but who are in 2nd grade or above and who would like to participate in another class to prepare for communing? Be in touch with PB.

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.

OUTREACH AND MISSION SEMINAR, January 10, 2009. "Equipping the Congregation for Outreach and Mission" will be held Saturday, January 10, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 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 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 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 dhorrell@crcds.edu or visit www.congregationinpubliclife.org and look for "What's New."

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.

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.

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.

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

INTERESTED IN A LUNCH TIME BIBLE STUDY? Monday Midday Brown Bag Bible Study (MMBBBS) continues at 12:15 p.m., in the church library. Contact Susan Hoskins, sbh1@cornell.edu, Day 255-4864, Eve 564-3483 for information.

CAMPUS MINISTRY LIST SERVE. To join, send an e-mail: stluke-campusministry-subscribe@yahoo.com.

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.

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.

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.

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.

FAITH AND CARE: *USHERS:* The Mehravari Family *GREETERS:* Marnie Johnson & Susan Hoskins; *ASSISTING MINISTER:* ; *ACOLYTES:* Dan Snedeker; *READERS:* Amy Eliason & Beth Housel; *COMMUNION CLEAN-UP:* Joan Carlson; *COFFEE SERVERS: SET-UP:* Quigee Family; *CLEAN-UP:* Susan Hoskins; *BAKERS (after church):* Pegi Ficken & Mehravari Family.

NEXT SUNDAY: Holy Innocents, Relaxed Service of Christmas Lessons and Carols; including a spoken order of Communion. 10:45 a.m.; Children's Sermon: "Disgrace"; Hymns: 296, 268, 275, 276, 288.

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

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, Holy Innocents

- A relaxed service of lessons, hymns, carols and 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

