

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" in and of our lives to receive the presence of The Child?

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

PREPARATION

Prelude 寒鸦戏水. ("Bird Playing in the Water")
Chaozhou traditional

Ososö

Chantal Sieber, guzheng

Moment of Silence

*Invocation

*Order for Confession and Forgiveness Page 94

*An Act of Reconciliation: Sharing the Peace Page 106

***Hymn 249** "On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry" PUER NOBIS

*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 give to all the people of the world knowledge of your salvation; 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 Kimberly Morrell

First Lesson – Malachi 3: 1-4

Psalmody Luke 1: 68-69, 76-79 (sung responsively)

Blessed are you, Lord, the ¹ God of Israel,
you have come to your people and ¹ set them free.

⁶⁹**You have raised up for us a ¹ mighty Savior,
born of the house of your ¹ servant David.**

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet
of ¹ the Most High, for you will go before
the Lord to pre-¹ pare the way,

⁷⁷**to give his people knowledge ¹ of salvation
by the forgiveness ¹ of their sins.**

⁷⁸In the tender compassion ¹ of our God
the dawn from on high shall ¹ break upon us,

⁷⁹**to shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death, and to guide our
feet into the ¹ way of peace.**

All: **Glory be to the Father and ¹ to the Son
and to the ¹ Holy Spirit. As it was
in ¹ the beginning, is now, and
will be for ¹ ever. Amen.**

Second Lesson – Philippians 1: 3-11

*Gospel Acclamation Page 102

*The Holy Gospel – Luke 3: 1-6

Children's Sermon "Soap" Pastor Bair

Anthem "E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come" Paul Manz

Sermon "Defending and Confirming the Gospel" Pastor Bair

***Hymn 247** "Come Now, O Prince of Peace" OSOSÖ

*The Nicene Creed (note revised translation) Page 104

*Prayers of Intercession Page 143

GOD'S WORD THROUGH ACTION - MEAL

Offering

Offertory "Puer Nobis" Thomas Gieschen

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

*The Dismissal Page 146

Postlude "Veni, Redemptor Gentium" Samuel Scheidt

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

† † † † † † †

TODAY'S ANTHEM is offered as a thanksgiving for the life of its composer, Paul Manz (1919-2009), a longtime servant of the church through composition and musical leadership.

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 F. Metz.

NAME TAGS. Thanks for helping us all remember by wearing one. Returning your magnetic tag to the rack in alphabetical order is much appreciated. Magnetic nametags are not recommended for those who have a pacemaker. We will be happy to accommodate you with a paper nametag.

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.

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.

ST. LUKE NEWS ADVENT 2 6 DECEMBER 09

TODAY – CATECHETICS CLASS at 1:00 p.m.

HAVE A FEW MINUTES to give but at your convenience? Like to help fellow worshippers but quietly “behind the scenes”? Can you change the colorful paraments and fill the altar candles? You may be just the person to become our new sacristan, who gives care to such things among us. Speak to PB or Everett Nelson.




ADVENT NEW HUMANITY NEWSLETTER NOW AVAILABLE. You can pick-up a hard copy of the newsletter in the narthex, or go to our website stlukeithaca.org.

WEDNESDAYS DECEMBER 9, and 16 at 5:30 p.m. a brief Advent Vespers Service [Holden Evening Prayer].

TODAY - ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will be meet after the worship service. The 2010 budget will be presented for discussion and action. Please come and share.

TODAY - I BELIEVE IN DINNER RETURNS! A free Vegetarian Interfaith Dinner, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm at the One World Room, Anabel Taylor Hall. Sponsors CURW, Hillel, LDS, MECA, and Near East Studies. The "I Believe In...Dinner" is a free interfaith dinner that hopes to give the Cornell and greater Ithaca community an opportunity to explore the similarities and differences of the many religions, traditions, and beliefs here in Ithaca.

THE FAITH AND CARE LUNCH SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 after the Worship Service. The lunch will be hosted by the December Faith and Care Team for the January volunteers. Everyone is invited to share!

FAITH AND CARE COORDINATORS provide an  **opportunity for us all to serve.** The Faith and Care Coordinators have a list for January volunteer opportunities on the table in the narthex.

“NERF GUN PLAY DATE”, 10 am to noon, second Saturday of December (12/12), and January (1/9), in Fellowship Hall. Enter by eastern side door. Bring safety glasses. For late elementary school and middle-school kids. For more info contact Dave Jung via jung_david_r@yahoo.com.

CHRISTMAS EQUAL EXCHANGE GIFTS will be available Again this year, the Social Ministry committee will make Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project Items available for your Christmas gift giving. This will consist of Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Hot Chocolate, and Chocolate Bars. These products make great gifts - not only are they useful and appreciated by the recipients, but your purchase is a great way to support economic justice at the same time. There will be a table in the narthex today and December 20. You can also pick up an order form in the narthex any time, and send your order to Judy Mehravari. Call if you have any questions! 257-8653.

COMMUNICATIONS: Team Members (Scott Adams, Janelle Alvstad-Mattson, Mary Margaret Carmichael, and Diane Conneman) will be around with clipboards before and after church to gather your ideas. They want to know about the newsletter, web site and email updates on events. Please take a few minutes to talk with them. Another option is to use an online survey which you can access from the St. Luke website (www.stlukeithaca.org) or the December email update.

“AM AHL AND THE NIGHT VISITORS” 2nd Annual Performance, by Cornell Savoyards Robin Booth, Nola Booth, Douglas Booth, William Christoffels, Doug Mathews and a Savoyard chorus of *Shepherds* and *Shepherdesses*. The performance is **December 19, at 4:00 p.m.** at St. Luke. It’s a beautiful production of the Christmas operetta, *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, by Gian Carlo Menotti. The story is of a poor crippled boy and his mother who one night receive three visitors on their way to Bethlehem to see a newborn baby. The story is fun and poignant and speaks to the heart about what Christmas should be about. Suitable for the whole family.

SANTA’S SALARIES FOR THE ELCZ. Between now and Christmas, 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 underneath 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). Feel free to take an angel ornament from the tree. Just \$5 can pay a pastor’s salary for a month, but any amount will help!

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.

BUFFALO STREET BOOKS and Autumn Leaves Used Books, two locally-owned bookstores, voluntarily pay their employees a living wage, as do 66 other Tompkins County employers, including St. Luke Lutheran Church. During this Christmas season the Tompkins County Coalition for a Living Wage is asking that after you shop at Barnes & Noble or Borders you sign a post card encouraging these two large retailers to start paying a living wage. This gives you an opportunity to promote living wages in a store you patronize. Post cards for this purpose and stamps will be available on the Social Ministry table in the narthex each Sunday until Christmas. Information on the living wage is also available at the table.

MONDAY MIDDAY BIBLE BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY meets on Mondays at 12:15 p.m. Join the group for quiet meditation and direction-setting for the coming year. All are welcome. Questions? Contact Susan Hoskins (sbh1@cornell.edu) or Diane Conneman (dyk2@cornell.edu).

2010 ALTAR FLOWER CHART is posted in the narthex. Sign up for the Sunday of your choice, noting both donor and occasion.

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 includes photos, a calendar of events, documents (from weekly bulletins to the Constitution and By-laws), and improved audio of our morning worship services.

NEXT SUNDAY: Advent 3, Worship Service, Lessons and Carols 10:45 a.m.; Children’s Sermons: “Repent”; Hymns: 249, 245, 243, 264, 259.

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

Wednesdays, December 9, and 16

- Advent Vespers (Holden Evening Prayer) at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 6 - Advent 2

- Holy Communion at 10:45 a.m. Spoken Order of Communion at 5:00 p.m.
- Annual Congregation Meeting (noon)
- Catechetics class at 1:00 pm (Commandments)

Sunday, December 13 - Advent 3

- Service of Lessons and Carols at 10:45 a.m.
- Faith and Care Luncheon
- Spoken Order of Communion at 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 19

- "Amahl and the Night Visitors", 4:00 p.m. at St. Luke.

Sunday, December 20 - Advent 4

- Church School Proclamation at 10:45.
- No 5:00 p.m. Service.

Thursday, December 24

- Christmas Eve Services at 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 27

- St. John Evangelist – Service of Holy Communion at 10:45 a.m.
- No 5:00 p.m. Service.

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 Peple 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

ST. LUKE MISSION STATEMENT

The people of St. Luke Lutheran Church are called by God to be a community of Christians, a part of the body of Christ. We are called to invite others to share in God's Kingdom. Our diversity welcomes and includes the mix of the ages, races, genders, physical and mental capabilities, and sexual orientations with which God's children are blessed. We rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus—neither our wealth, nor our poverty, nor our nationality, nor our political convictions, nor anything else in all creation. We are called to follow God in his mission of reconciliation and justice and we celebrate our journey of discipleship with special appreciation for the privileged responsibility of our campus-related mission.

**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 DEC. 21.
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.**