

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 8, 2024 at 8:45am & 11:15am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer's voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi's prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE • Prepare Ye the Way

Mark Burrows (b. 1971)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ★ one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon., Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,

we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.

God of might,

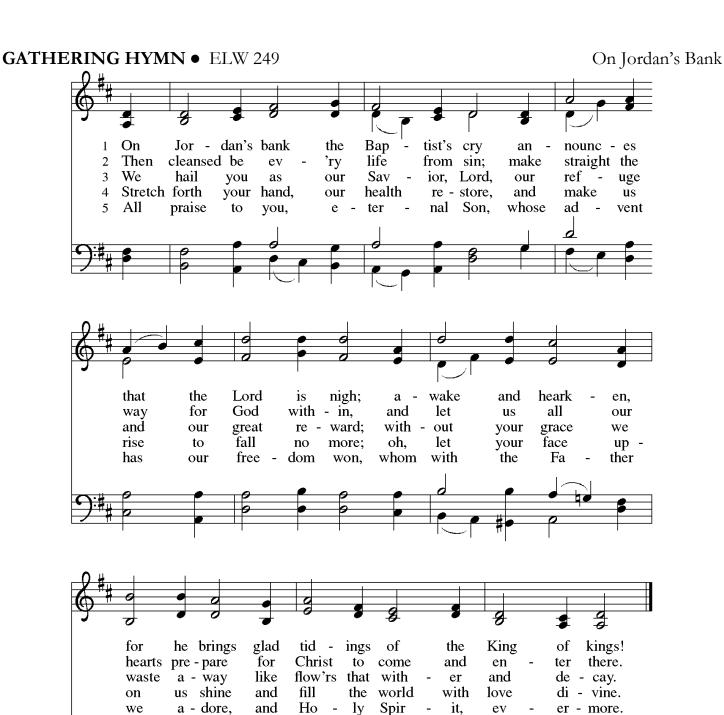
we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.

God in our midst,

we confess that we have sinned.

We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through \(\mathbb{L} \) Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**



Text: Charles Coffin, 1676-1749; tr. composite

Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Traetorius, 1571-1621

GREETING

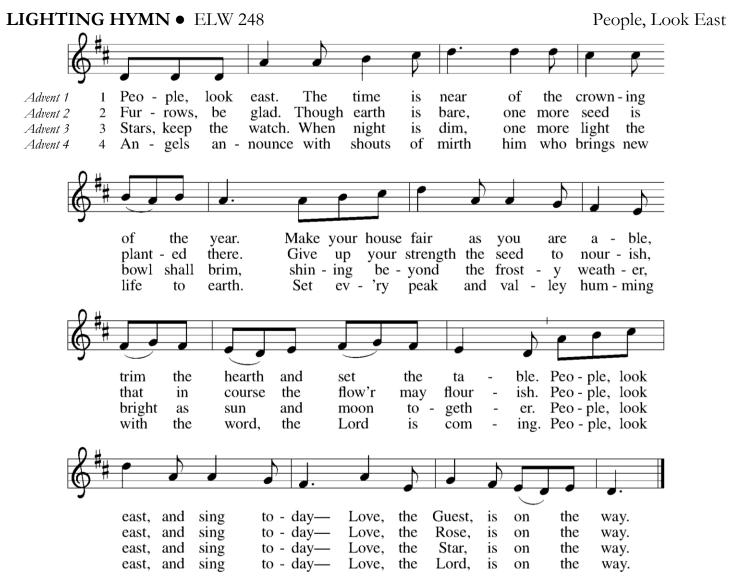
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Let us pray.

We praise you, O God, for this circle of light that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the second candle on this wreath, kindle within us the fire of your Spirit, that we may be light shining in the darkness. Enlighten us with your grace, that we may welcome others as you have welcomed us. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965 Music: BESANÇON, French carol

Text © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, 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.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

God announces a covenant with Israel. A messenger like Malachi (his name means "my messenger") will prepare the way for the coming of the Lord by purifying and refining

God's people, as silver and gold are refined.

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

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SECOND READING

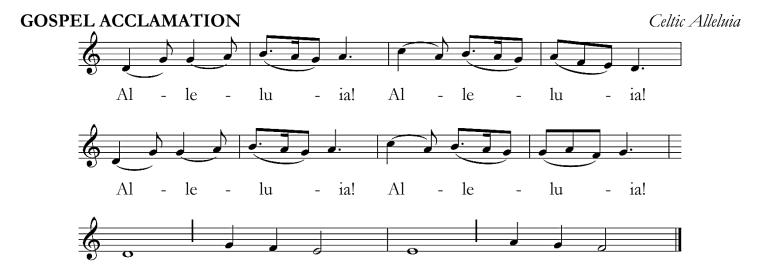
Philippians 1:3-11

The apostle Paul was the pastor of many new churches. He writes in this letter about his joy to be in partnership with the Christians of Philippi. Listen to how tender-hearted Paul, sometimes a stern preacher, is with his friends as he encourages them to grow in love and knowledge.

I thank my God for every remembrance of you, always in every one of my prayers for all of you, praying with joy for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I hold you in my heart, for all of you are my partners in God's grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the tender affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



All: Alleluia.

Choir: Stand up and | raise your heads.*

your redemption is | drawing near.

All: Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:1-6

John the Baptist is a herald of Jesus, whose way is prepared by "repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

As we hear the careful record of human leaders, we sense the spectrum of political and religious authority that will be challenged by this coming Lord.

The holy gospel according to Saint Luke, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor Miller

Please stand as you are able.



Text: James Lewis Milligan, 1876-1961, alt.

Music: ASCENSION, Henry Hugh Bancroft, 1904-1988

Music © Estate of Eldred Bancroft. B. Burrows, Executor.

APOSTLE'S CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

After each portion of the prayers:

God of hope,

receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Saviour of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the please of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

All may share a sign of Peace.

Please be seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at <u>saintlukegive.us</u> You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church 9100 Colesville Road Silver Spring, MD 20910

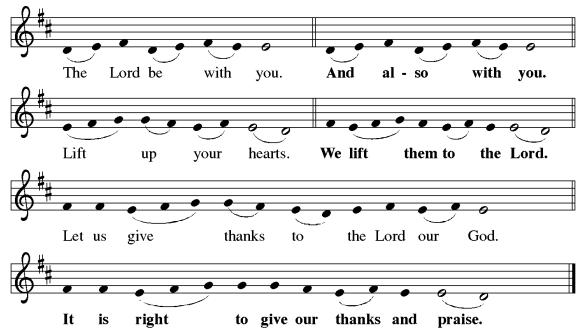
OFFERING PRAYER

Please stand as you are able.

Let us pray.

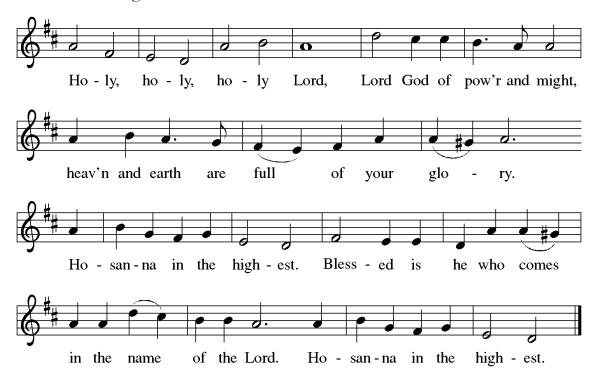
Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS • ELW Setting Four



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Please pray in your own preferred language.

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 and ever. Amen.

Padre Nuestro, que estas en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga a nosostros tu reino, hagase tu voluntad, asi en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia; perdona nuestras ofensas, como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden; y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion, mas libranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder, y la gloria, por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold, God is making all things new. Take your place in the new creation.

Thanks be to God!

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps.

Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ.

(Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server)

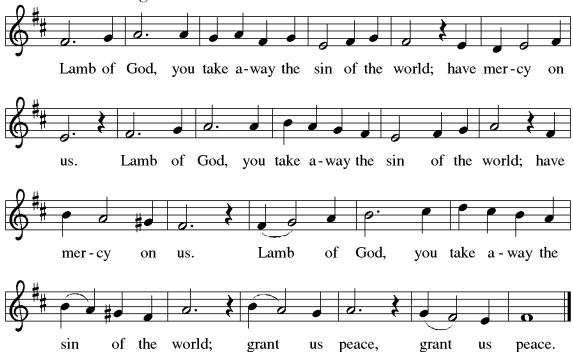
Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

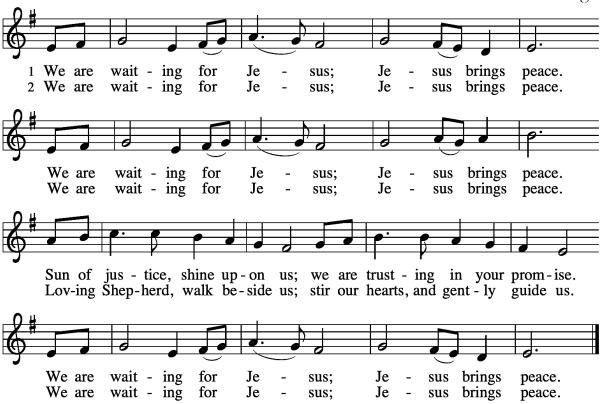
The body of Christ, given for you. / The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: Amen.

AGNUS DEI • ELW Setting Four



COMMUNION HYMN ● ACS 905



Text: John Helgen, b. 1957

Music: JESUS BRINGS PEACE, John Helgen

Text & Music © 2013 Augsburg Fortress

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Please stand as you are able.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you in his grace.

Amen.



Text: Isaiah 40:9

Music: Kenneth W. Louis. Copyright © Kenneth W. Louis. Used with Permission.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

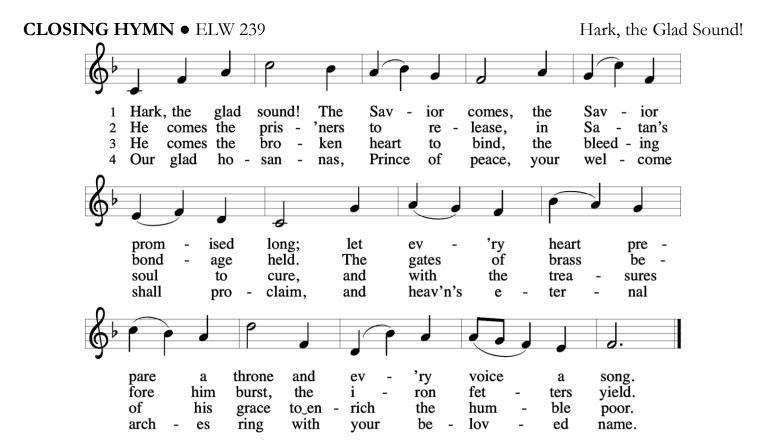
Let us pray.

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name.

Amen.

BLESSING

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, ▶ bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**



Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE • Festive Intrada

Paul Fey (b. 1998)

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WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTERS

READERS

The Rev. Connie A. Miller Senior Pastor

Maya Garnett 8:45 Donald Kingcade 11:15

Assisting Ministers

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski Confirmation Pastor

Nancy Gurganua, Marcia Laundy, Gerry Olson 8:45

Deacon Kyle Warfield

Donald and Tracy Kingcade 11:15

Director of Discipleship and High School Ministries

MUSICIANS

Adam Scott Graham

Director of Music

COMMUNION SERVER (8:45)

Alix Evans Assistant Director of Music

Becky Unkenholz

Schola Cantorum RSCM Choristers

COMMEMORATIONS:

Friday, December 13– Lucy, martyr, died 304: Lucy was a young Christian of Sicily who was martyred during the persecutions under Emperor Diocletian. Her celebration became particularly important in Sweden and Norway, perhaps because the feast of Lucia (whose name means "light") originally fell on the shortest day of the year.

Saturday, December 14–John of the Cross, renewer of the church, died 1591: John was a member of the Carmelite monastic order, and worked to reform it. His writings reflect a deep interest in mystical thought and meditation.

ADVENT

THE ROYAL BLUE OF HOPE surrounding us this morning continues tells us that we are in a sacred time of preparation for the birthday of our Savior as well as the time he returns in all his glory. It is Advent, the second week of this four-week journey. We light the second candle on the wreath, but soon it will be filled with beaming flame - Christ comes. During this season we hope for the birth of the baby Jesus in our hearts and we look to the coming of Jesus when he comes to usher in the kingdom. Christ came, Christ comes, Christ is coming.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

THE ADVENT WREATH has a long history. Have you ever thought about the image of light in the middle of winter darkness? Let us think also of the unbroken circle of greens, clearly a symbol of eternal life and the everlasting love we have in Jesus.

A FEW REMINDERS

THIS MORNING, DECEMBER 8

Fair Trade Winds in the Fireside Room during the morning
Also, check our the Saint Luke book table New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition of the Bible will be on sale, too.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

8:45 a.m. Worship, Holy Commuion
11:15 a.m. Worship with selections from the Messiah, No Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Children's Creche (Christmas Story) Service
7:00 p.m. Misa Navidad (Worship is in Spanish)
9:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of
Lessons, Carols, and Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS DAY 10:00 a.m. Festival Worship

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR LA SAGRADA CHILDREN DEADLINE TODAY, SUNDAY DECEMBER 8

Can you help? This year, like last, we will be **giving the families gift cards to purchase the children's Christmas Gifts.** If you can help, please go to www.saintlukegive.us to donate. You will see a line that says *Children's Christmas Gifts (La Sagrada)*. You may also mail gifts to Saint Luke, but please note on the check, *Christmas La Sagrada*. Deadline for donations is today. We will offer special dedication prayers this morning for the funds received. Thank you so much.

A NEW KIND OF CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA DEADLINE WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 18

Yes, like last year, instead of giving Poinsettias in remembrance or in honor of a loved one, we are doing the same with food cards. Now more than ever the ministry of distributing food cards through the Saint Luke Food Pantry is needed more than ever.

Please consider giving a card, or cards, for food and know all dedications will be printed in the Christmas Eve and Day worship bulletins.

Poinsettia Food Card. Or go to www.sldedication.us

HAT, MITTEN AND SCARF TREE DEADLINE DECEMBER 15



The Saint Luke Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) are collecting **new and warm** hats, scarves and mittens to distribute to children in need. These items will be collected in the Fireside Room. Look for the tree. Thank you.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

A Goat or a Pig for Christmas? Check out the ELCA Good Gifts catalog online at www.elcagoodgifts.org or pick up a brochure on the credenza at Saint Luke in the narthex, and discover the many ways you can support a variety of ELCA projects around the globe and give someone a unique Christmas gift. Also, ELCA Good Gifts are year round.

GIFTS OF HOPE



Gifts of Hope is an alternative gift-giving program and ministry sponsored by the Metropolitan Washington D.C. Synod of the ELCA. Gifts go to local as well as international ministries. La Sagrada Familia is one of the choices. Go to the website GiftsofHopeDC.org to purchase your gift. Also, Ruth Manchester will be in the Fireside Room today with catalogs and cards and ways to give.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL WREATH SALE DEADLINE DECEMBER 15



Saint Luke Christian Day School is pleased once again work with Lynch Creek Farms to sell Christmas wreaths to support the CDS Scholarship Fund. Merchandise is shipped directly to the recipient. If you order now, you can choose a shipping date for November or December. The link to go directly to our fundraising page is

https://lynchcreekfundraising.com/campaigns/482867 or you can go to the website or call 1-888-426-0781. Please be sure to check the box that says Fundraising Campaign and put in the campaign number, 7087565. **CDS will earn 15% of all eligible sales.** Thank you for your support.

DURING THIS SEASON OF GIVING WE PAUSE AND PRAY FOR THOSE IN NEED:

God of compassion, whose Son became poor for our sake: Help us to see the face of Christ in those who are poor, and in serving them to serve you. Give us generous hearts, so that those living in poverty may have adequate food, clothing and shelter. By your Spirit, move us to affirm the dignity of all people and to work for just laws that protect the most vulnerable in society; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

SUNDAY, December 8-Second Sunday of Advent

7:30am Tech Rehearsal
8:00am Schola Cantorum
8:00am RSCM Choristers
8:45am Worship (Hybrid)

10:00am Up for Discussion (Hybrid)

10:00am Sunday School

10:00am Affirmation of Baptism Class

11:15am Worship/ (Hybrid)

3:00pm Girl Scouts

5:00pm AA

MONDAY, December 9

9:00am CDS Classes1:30pm CDS Aftercare10:00am CDS Yoga

7:00pm Cub Scouts Pack 249

TUESDAY, December 10

9:00am CDS Classes

10:00am Mary/Martha Circle (Hybrid)

1:30pm CDS Aftercare

6:00pm NAMI

WEDNESDAY, December 11

7:00am Zoom Faith Connections

9:00am CDS Classes 10:00am CDS Chapel

10:00am Women in Community

1:30pm CDS Aftercare5:30pm RSCM Choristers7:30pm Schola Cantorum

7:30pm AA

THURSDAY, December 12

9:00am CDS Classes1:30pm CDS Aftercare

7:30pm Centering Prayer (Zoom)

8:30pm AA

FRIDAY, December 13

9:00am CDS Classes

7:00pm Book and Video Discussion7:00pm SLSHY+ Cookie Bake Lock-In

SATURDAY, December 14

8:30am Men's Group

9:30am AA

10:00am Christmas Cookie Decorating

11:00am Al-Anon

SUNDAY, December 15-Third Sunday

of Advent

7:30am Tech Rehearsal 8:00am Schola Cantorum **8:45am Worship (Hybrid)** 10:00am Welcome Gathering

10:00am Up for Discussion (Hybrid)

10:00am Sunday School

10:00am Affirmation of Baptism Class

11:15am Worship with Selections from MESSIAH (Hybrid)

5:00pm AA

5:00pm Misa Español

6:00pm Reception

NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed