

*It's a
Wonderful
Life*



**First Sunday of Advent
November 26, 2017
at Ten Fifty A.M.**



St. Luke's
United Methodist Church

WELCOME TO ST. LUKE'S UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

We're so glad you've joined us for worship this morning. Our mission is to share God's love and bring hope to the world. We hope you leave here today inspired by a message of hope and ready to embrace life in the week ahead.

Hymnals, Bibles, large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex.

Children's Ministry is available during the worship service for infants - 5th grade.

Parents with active or tearful children can watch a live feed of the service in the Watchorn Chapel. A children's activity bag is also available in the Narthex.

A Hospitality Team member is at the Welcome Center to help.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

(†Those who are able, please stand in honor of God.)

PRELUDE

J.S. Bach

Sleepers Awake! A Voice Is Calling
Instrumental Ensemble
Robert Fasol, *organist*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

†HYMN 715

DARWALL'S 148TH

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore; mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice; again I say, rejoice.

Jesus the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love; when He had purged our stains, He took His seat above. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

His kingdom cannot fail; He rules o'er earth and heaven; the keys of earth and hell are to our Jesus given. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice; rejoice, again I say, rejoice.

Rejoice in glorious hope! Jesus the Judge shall come, and take His servants up to their eternal home. We soon shall hear th'archangel's voice; the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Wendy Lambert

Fear and worry hem us in;
we are held back by the unknown.
Darkness feels like it's closing in
and despair can take hold.
But these are just illusions
for the Truth has been revealed.
We've been given the greatest gift,
a baby born in Bethlehem.
Jesus came to set us free
and it is a wonderful life!

†AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

As a family of faith, let us affirm our faith together.
I believe in God the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
The third day He rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick 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.**

(* universal)

†GLORIA PATRI

MEINEKE

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

CALL TO PRAYER

Rev. David Poteet

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

CHORAL CALL TO PRAYER

Glory to God, in the highest! Peace on the earth, peace on the earth. Glory to God in the highest! Peace on the earth, goodwill to men.

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Hadlee Kay Hentges, daughter of Heath and Casey Hentges, born on August 6, 2017.

BAPTISM SONG

Hadlee, Hadlee God claims you. God helps you, protects you and loves you too. We this day do all agree a child of God you'll always be. Hadlee, Hadlee God claims you. God helps you, protects you and loves you too.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

With God's help, we will so order our lives after the example of Christ, that Hadlee surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

†HYMN 196

HYFRYDOL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

ANTHEM

arr. Bradley Knight

Glory to God

Chancel Choir and Instrumental Ensemble

Robert Fasol, *piano*

Eric Bradford, *conductor*

Glory to God in the highest! Peace on the earth, peace on the earth. Glory to God in the highest! Peace on the earth, goodwill to men.

People walking in the dark finally see the Light. Angels sing aloud with joy, piercing through the night.

Glory to God in the highest! Peace on the earth, peace on the earth. Glory to God in the highest! Peace on the earth, goodwill to men.

Wise men travel from afar; gifts to Him they bring. Now behold the Son of God, Christ the newborn King.

Glory to God in the highest! Peace on the earth, peace on the earth. Glory to God in the highest! Peace on the earth, goodwill to men. Glory to God in the highest, Glory to God in the highest. Glory to God in the highest! Peace on the earth, peace on the earth. Glory to God in the highest! Peace on the earth, goodwill to men. Peace on the earth, goodwill, goodwill to men.

LIFE AT ST. LUKE'S

Rev. Wendy Lambert

MISSION MOMENT

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dr. Robert E. Long

OFFERTORY

arr. Nicholas Steinbach

Carol of the Bells
Instrumental Ensemble
Robert Fasol, *piano*
Eric Bradford, *conductor*

†DOXOLOGY

OLD 100th

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†THE GOSPEL

Dr. Gary Brown

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were advanced in years. Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, according to the custom of the priesthood, it fell to him by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the people were praying outside at the hour of incense. And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer is heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth; for he will be great before the Lord, and he shall drink no wine nor strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God, and he will go before him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready for the Lord a people prepared." And Zechariah said to the angel, "How shall I know this? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered him, "I am Gabriel, who stand in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And behold, you will be silent and unable to speak until the day that these things come to pass, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time." (Luke 1:5 - 20)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

Dr. Robert E. Long

The Greatest Gift
From the Sermon Series: It's a Wonderful Life

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Dimitri Tiomkin

It's a Wonderful Life
Instrumental Ensemble
Robert Fasol, *piano*
Eric Bradford, *conductor*

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

If you desire to become a member of St. Luke's United Methodist Church, please refer to the announcement insert for additional information.

†HYMN 230

ST. LOUIS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie; above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given; so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven. No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

†SENDING FORTH

Dr. Robert E. Long

A baby's birth has set us free;

fear does not hold us captive.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem

and the Truth was revealed.

Christ is the greatest gift!

Thanks be to God for a wonderful life!

POSTLUDE

VENI EMMANUEL

Advent Processional
Robert Fasol, organist

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Dr. Robert E. Long
Senior Pastor

Rev. Wendy Lambert
Senior Executive Pastor

Rev. David Poteet
Pastor of Congregational Care

Dr. Gary Brown
St. Luke's Member

Musicians
Robert Fasol, Organist/Choirmaster

Chancel Choir
Eric Bradford, Conductor
Instrumental Ensemble
Laura Cunningham, *Violin*
Caleb Mitchum, *Flute*
Raylin Coutts, *Cello*



Sometimes we can lose sight of the impact we have in the world. Our lives make a difference to countless individuals. God works through our lives to make the world a better place. Christ came into the world to be the greatest revelation of God's love - and we are called to reveal the life of Christ to all people.



St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

Dr. Robert E. Long
Senior Pastor
blong@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Wendy Lambert
Senior Executive Pastor
wlambert@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Dave Poteet
Pastor of Congregational Care
dpoteet@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Keith King
Online Campus Pastor
kking@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Phil Greenwald
Executive Pastor of Administration
pgreenwald@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Josh Attaway
Edmond Campus Pastor
jattaway@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Connie Barnett
Asbury Campus Pastor
cbarnett@stlukesokc.org

Congregational Care Ministry

The St. Luke's family of faith desires to extend care to you in the times of concern and joy and all that is in-between. Please write your prayer concerns on an attendance card during Sunday services or email to ccm@stlukesokc.org. You may also call 232-1371 with your prayers concerns.

Faith Partners

Faith Partners seeks to educate, refer and walk with people along their journey towards recovery from addiction. If you or someone you love struggles with addiction and would like help, please go online to faithpartners.stlukesokc.org or email to ccm@stlukesokc.org.

Radio Programming

Listen to "Something to Think About" with Dr. Bob Long between 7:30 a.m. and 8 a.m. on following radio stations: 98.1 The Sports Animal and Magic 104.1. The sermon can be heard on KREF AM 1400 at 9:30 a.m. every Sunday morning.

TV Programming

St. Luke's Traditional service can be seen as a half-hour television program on KOCO channel 5 at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. CDs are available in Threefold or contact Bev Barnes at 232-1371. We will be glad to mail a copy of the service to you. Cost is \$5 for a CD or \$10 for a DVD.

Online Worship Service

If you are unable to attend worship on any Sunday, you can join us online for the 10:50 a.m. Traditional Worship Service broadcast live from the Downtown Campus. You can watch on your computer, smartphone, or tablet. Simply look for the "Online Worship" link on the stlukesokc.org website. A link is also available on the St. Luke's App.

Welcome to Our Newest Members Joining in October:

Downtown: Krista Stepp, Pepper Pena and Craig Thompson, Mary Ellen and Joe Caesar, Marsha Austin, Theresa and David Stejskal

Edmond: Corinna Powell, Jennifer and Alex Wright, Kathy and Bill Nelson, Kelle Byrd, Tawna Mitchell, John, Deborah, Korbin and Kennedy Cardoza, Carolyn and Bill Hines, Cyndi and Bobby Gaither, Matt Griffin, Jenny and Seth Collier, Gayla and Chuck Harling, Mary "Suzanne" Stickle

Date _____

Worship Service: 8:30 9:40 10:50

Mr. / Mrs. / Ms. _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email _____

- 1st Time Guest
- 2nd Time Guest
- Regular Guest
- St. Luke's Member

Names and Birth Dates of Children With You

Announcements

Call (405) 232-1371 for more info or visit stlukesokc.org.



St. Luke's Mansion Open House

We're celebrating an anniversary! The St. Luke's Mansion was built in 1917 as a family home for the Mulkey family. But, for most of its 100-year history, the Hefner family lived in the Mansion. St. Luke's purchased the Mansion in 2007 and it has become known as the St. Luke's Mansion. We are celebrating the Mansion's Centennial Anniversary today with an Open House. Come tour the Mansion that has been beautifully decorated for Christmas and learn about the 100 year history of the property! There will be special music, holiday hors d'oeuvres and an opportunity to have a family portrait taken. As a special holiday treat, there will be carriage rides from 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Membership Sunday

Have you been thinking about becoming a member of St. Luke's? We would love to welcome you into our family of faith! December 10 is Membership Sunday. You're invited to a come-and-go brunch, with private joining moments available in the Mansion Chapel from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All you have to do is show up. No RSVP is required. For more information about becoming a member, email Morgan Jones at mjones@stlukesokc.org, or call 609-1028.

Christmas Offering - Text to Give

Each year, the St. Luke's family of faith joins together in a special, second-mile offering. 100% of the funds raised will be used to bless the lives of others through ministries and missions supported by St. Luke's. This year you can text "STL Give" to 73256 and follow the links to securely donate to the Christmas Offering with your credit/debit card or bank account. Save the number in your phone so in the future you can text STL to 73256 and easily give to a variety of accounts using the same payment method.

Christmas Offering

Text "STL Give" to 73256



Prayer Requests or Questions: _____

How did you first hear about St. Luke's?

- TV Radio Web Other
 I'm a guest of _____.

Age Group

- 6th-12th Grade College 18-30
 31-40 41-50 51-59 60+

I would like more info about:

- Children's Programs
 Youth (6th to 12th grade) Programs
 Classes for Adults
 Volunteer Opportunities
 Other _____

Joining

- I wish to join St. Luke's
If you wish to join St. Luke's this morning, please bring this card to the front during the last song instead of placing it in the offering basket.
- I would like to know more about membership.
- I'm interested in joining but don't want to come to the front.
- Contact me about other ways to join.

Announcements

Call (405) 232-1371 for more info or visit stlukesokc.org.

Mission Trees

Mission Trees are a special way for you to make a difference and bless the life of someone this Christmas season. Mission Trees are in Threefold and by the south entrance of the Christian Life Center. Take an ornament to see items that are needed to help support El Sistema Oklahoma, Mobile Meals and Studio 222. Drop off purchased items by December 10 in the boxes next to the trees!

Poinsettia Sale

There is a special way to honor and remember loved ones and special people in your life this Advent season. Take advantage of the opportunity to donate Christmas poinsettias for \$20 each. These poinsettias are a part of our beautifully decorated campuses and displayed throughout the season to be enjoyed by many. Order forms are on the Advent Insert, or at the Welcome Centers. Orders will be taken until December 12 at noon.

El Sistema Oklahoma Winter Concert

What a year it's been at El Sistema Oklahoma (ESO) - transforming lives through music! You're invited to a free concert that will showcase all the hard work our young students have put in during 2017. The El Sistema Oklahoma "Winter Concert" will be on Wednesday, December 6, at 6:30 p.m. at the Hudiburg Chevrolet Center, located on the Rose State College campus (6000 S. Prosper Rd, Midwest City). You will be blown away by how good these kids are!

Angel of Hope Service

The Angel of Hope Worship Service is held in honor of families who have lost a loved one. You are invited to this special service to find comfort and strength in sharing faith and hope together. There is a special time in the service where family members can place a flower at the base of the angel sculpture in memory of their loved ones. The service is December 17 at 5 p.m. in the Mansion Library at the Downtown Campus.

Youth Lunch Bunch

Today - right after church, the "Youth Lunch Bunch" will head out for lunch together at Tuckers! It's a great time to get connected or to bring a friend. If you're new, then meet at the fountain in the Narthex and we'll buy your lunch! Simply show up and bring money to pay for your meal. For details, contact Amy Givens at agivens@stlukesokc.org, or call 609-1027.

Youth Service Day

At St. Luke's, our Youth Ministry is committed to serving the community - and that's just what we'll be doing next week! All 6th-12th grade youth are invited to "Youth Service Day" next Sunday, December 3, from noon to 3 p.m. Simply show up, and we'll provide the lunch. We promise you'll have fun during this service project! For details, email Amy Givens at agivens@stlukesokc.org, or call 609-1027.

It's a Wonderful Life



ST. LUKE'S CHRISTMAS PARTY

EDMOND CAMPUS - DECEMBER 4

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS - DECEMBER 11

4 P.M. - GATHERING HOUR | 5 P.M. - PROGRAM
TICKETS AVAILABLE IN THREEFOLD | ADULTS - \$8, CHILDREN \$4

You may have seen the classic 1946 film “It’s a Wonderful Life” starring Jimmy Stewart, but you’ve never seen “It’s a Wonderful Life” starring Bob Long and the St. Luke’s Staff. This movie recaps what happened at St. Luke’s in 2017 by realizing what life would be like if we didn’t live in a spirit of gratitude and dare greatly!

Bring your family to the St. Luke’s Church Christmas Party at the Edmond Campus, December 3 or the Downtown Campus, December 10. The Gathering Hour starts at 4 p.m. and a delicious dinner and program begins at 5 p.m.

Both campuses will enjoy the same presentation with the Downtown Campus conducting the Annual Business Meeting before the presentation. Tickets are \$8 for those attending the program. Children will enjoy their own Christmas Party with games and activities at 5 p.m. Tickets are available for \$4. Tickets can be purchased at Threefold for either event.

Advent Devotionals are available at the Welcome Center, online, and on facebook.

2017 Advent Events

Symphony of Christmas

Wednesday, November 29

Pre-concert at 6:30 p.m. in Narthex, Concert at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Children’s Christmas Musical and Party

Sunday, December 3 at 3 p.m. in the Christian Life Center

“It’s a Wonderful Life”

St. Luke’s Christmas Party

Edmond Sunday, December 3

Downtown Sunday, December 10

Holiday Open House at 4 p.m.

Dinner and Movie at 5 p.m.

El Sistema Oklahoma Concert

Wednesday, December 6 at 6:30

p.m. at Rose State Performing Arts Center

LifeLight Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 17 at 9:40 a.m.

in the Christian Life Center

Angel of Hope Service

Sunday, December 17 at 5 p.m.

in the Mansion Library & Garden

Dinner with Love

Friday, December 23 at 5:30 p.m.

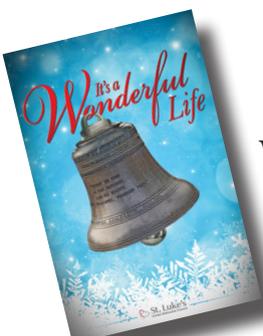
in the Christian Life Center

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24 at

10:30 a.m., 2:30, 4:30, and

6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary



Poinsettia Order Form

In honor of

In memory of

Name: _____

Given By: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Number of Plants: _____ @ \$20 each Check for \$_____ attached

Downtown Campus

Edmond Campus

Orders must be turned in by noon, December 12.

If you purchase a poinsettia, they will be used to decorate during Advent.

You may take the poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Service.



Symphony of Christmas

November 29 at 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary

You will be in the Christmas spirit during St. Luke's most incredible musical performance of the year! You're invited to the annual Symphony of Christmas Concert featuring the St. Luke's Orchestra, Chancel Choir, Cantate Chamber Choir, and the Bells of St. Luke's. A Holiday Reception hosted by the Hospitality Team will follow the concert in the Narthex. The Bells of St. Luke's will provide a pre-concert beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Narthex. What better way to begin the Advent season than with amazing music and your family of faith!



Children's Christmas Musical and Party

December 3 at 3 p.m. in the Christian Life Center

Get ready for the most adorable musical of the Christmas season! You're invited to the Children's Christmas Musical - "Wrapping All the Way." A Christmas party will follow! It will be a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and Christmas joy! Childcare is available for ages 4 and under (no charge).



LifeLight Christmas Concert

December 17 at 9:40 a.m. in the Christian Life Center

St. Luke's celebrates the Christmas season with beautiful music! The LifeLight band will present an inspiring presentation recalling the birth of Christ - followed by a message of hope from Dr. Bob Long. It's the perfect way to start the week before Christmas!



DOWNTOWN CAMPUS:

10:30 a.m. – Traditional Service

2:30 p.m. – Communion Service

4:30 p.m. – Family Service

6:30 p.m. – Traditional Service