

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way...” Matthew 1:18

First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2018
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

arr. Richard Kingsmore

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
St. Luke's Orchestra

RINGING OF THE BELLS

†HYMN 213

TRURO

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

*Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates; behold, the King of glory waits;
the King of kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here!*

*Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly
use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.*

*Redeemer, come, with us abide; our hearts to Thee we open wide;
let us Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in us reveal.*

*Thy Holy Spirit lead us on until our glorious goal is won; eternal praise,
eternal fame be offered, Savior, to Thy name!*

†CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Wendy Lambert

*(All sing) O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.*

"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12)

Come to the manger and see the love that God has for you!

We have found the love in a newborn child!

The baby placed in a manger is a sign of God's presence;

Jesus was born to reveal God to us.

The manger was transformed from a trough to a cradle

and Christ has transformed us as well.

No longer do we need to live in fear and uncertainty of the future,

for we know that Christ is with us.

Rejoice! For this will be a sign to you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

Glorify to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill to all!

(All sing) Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

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:

“NOW THE BIRTH OF JESUS

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

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

Eleanor Elizabeth Armstrong, daughter of Jarod and Beth Armstrong, born on July 10, 2018.

BAPTISM SONG

Eleanor, Eleanor 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. Eleanor, Eleanor 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 Eleanor surrounded by steadfast love, may be established in the faith and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal.

LIFE AT ST. LUKE'S

Rev. Phil Greenwald

MISSION MOMENT

Circle of Care

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dr. Robert E. Long

OFFERTORY

arr. Lari Goss

Sing We Now!
Chancel Choir and Orchestra

SUS CHRIST TOOK PLACE IN THIS

Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here! Sing our grateful praises to the Babe so dear. Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel! Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel, sing we all Noel, sing we all Noel!

We come now to adore the Prince of Peace who saves us by His word and sets us free. The promised One in human form, our Savior, King and Lord of lords.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel; shall come to thee, O Israel!

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay; remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy!

Now, to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and brotherhood, come celebrate His grace. This holy tide of Christmas, may each one seek His face. O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings for comfort and joy! Joy! Joy!

†DOXOLOGY

VENI EMMANUEL

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. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

†THE GOSPEL

Rev. David Poteet

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:1 -7)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

†HYMN 217

AWAY IN A MANGER

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes; I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.

SERMON

Dr. Robert E. Long

The Sign of a Manger

From the Sermon Series: The Greatest Story Ever Told

MUSICAL REFLECTION

arr. Dave Brubeck

Away in a Manger
St. Luke's Orchestra

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.

His Name Is Called Emmanuel

His name is called Emmanuel, more wonderful than words can tell, God is with us! Alleluia! Born in our darkness, He is Light; born in our weakness, He is Might! God is with us! Alleluia! God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Rejoice, and lay aside your fear. Rejoice, the Holy One is here. God is with us! Alleluia! Lift up your voices, come and sing. Come worship Christ, the newborn king. God is with us! Alleluia! God is with us! Alleluia! Alleluia!

†SENDING FORTH

Dr. Robert E. Long

The manger was transformed
into a sign of God's love for the world!

The future may be uncertain
but Christ has come to set us free from fear.

We come to the manger and see the Christ child
and trade our worries for trust in Him.

POSTLUDE

Albert Zabel

Toccata: PICARDY
 Robert Fasol, *organist*

LEADING IN WORSHIP

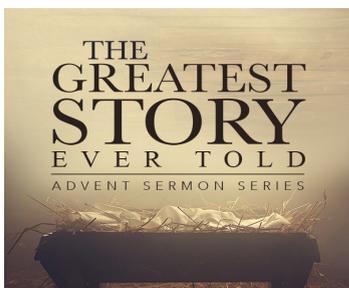
Dr. Robert E. Long
 Senior Pastor

Rev. Wendy Lambert
 Senior Executive Pastore

Rev. Phil Greenwald
 Executive Pastor of Administration

Rev. David Poteet
 Pastor of Congregational Care

Musicians
Robert Fasol, Organist/Choirmaster
Chancel Choir and Orchestra
Eric Bradford, Conductor



“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.”
 John 1:14

Can there be anything more amazing than God becoming human and living among us? The birth of Jesus is the story of God wanting to be with humankind. The baby born in Bethlehem changed the lives of Mary and Joseph, the wise men, the shepherds - the world. Join us this Advent Season for The Greatest Story Ever Told.



St. Luke's

United Methodist Church

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

Rev. Wendy Lambert
Senior Executive Pastor
w Lambert@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 and 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 November:

Downtown: Caroline Nyalala, Andrew and Mallory Negley, Devin Lockard, Martha Mikolajczyk, Ramiro Beltran, Lloyd and Leigh Ann Hardin, Dallas Walton, Carrie Stevenson

Edmond: Emiliano Tarin, Ashley Stephens, Tim and Sheri Galloway

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.



El Sistema Winter Concert

Enjoy the beautiful transformation of young lives through music at the Winter Concert for El Sistema Oklahoma. This free performance will feature all of the El Sistema ensembles and close with a mass orchestra performance featuring all the children. Join us Tuesday, December 4, at 6:30 p.m. at the Oklahoma City Community College Visual and Performing Arts Center (7777 S. May).

Membership Worship Service

Celebrate the beginning of the Advent season by officially joining St. Luke's. On Wednesday, December 5, at 6 p.m. (right before the Christmas Choir concert) a Membership Worship Service will be held in the Mansion Chapel. This service offers an opportunity to become a member of the St. Luke's family of faith in a private, worshipful setting. It will feature music, Communion, and a special message from Rev. Dave Poteet. There will also be an opportunity for baptism for those who have not yet been baptized. Childcare is provided, and family members are invited to attend!

Lifelight Christmas Concert

The LifeLight band is delivering a special gift the week before Christmas! During the normal LifeLight Worship Service on December 16 at 9:40 a.m., they will perform a Christmas Concert! Dr. Long will be preaching during this service as well. Come early for a great seat.

A Christmas Just For You Worship Service

A special Christmas-time service will be offered that is geared for adults and children with special needs. "A Christmas Just for You" is shorter in length than traditional services and involves lots of interaction. It's December 16 at 4 p.m. at the Edmond Campus. This service will also include singing carols and the Christmas story. There will be a variety of sensory accommodations. To visit the space beforehand, email Taylor Easttom at teasttom@stlukesokc.org - or call 285-2313. A reception and free professional family pictures with Santa will be available after the service.

Angel of Hope

If you have lost a loved one, you're invited to a special service at St. Luke's. The Angel of Hope Worship Service will be held on Sunday, December 16, at 5 p.m. in Mansion Library and Gardens at the Downtown Campus. This service is to honor families whose loved ones have entered the kingdom of Heaven, and to offer a spirit of hope during the Christmas season. There is a special time in the service when family members can place a flower at the base of the angel sculpture in memory of their loved ones.

Dinner with Love

You can deliver a delicious home-cooked meal to a struggling family, just in time for Christmas. "Dinner With Love" is a ministry that reaches out to hundreds of families in the community. It takes place Saturday, December 22, in the Downtown Christian Life Center (CLC). Sign up today in the Gallery to deliver a meal or online at stlukesokc.org.

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.

Travel to Washington D.C.

Here's your chance to visit the incredible Museum of the Bible in Washington D.C. - the largest collection of biblical artifacts and texts in the world! St. Luke's is offering two trips next year: April 1 - 5, led by Rev. Wendy Lambert, and May 15 - 19 (for adults in their 20's and 30's), led by Dr. Bob Long. Both trips will include a few other culturally significant sites. The April 1-5 trip includes museum admissions, hotel room, flight, and a "Hop on Hop Off" tour of the city. Cost for this trip is \$1,359 per person. The Young Adults trip (May 15-19) is \$350 per person for a shared rental home and flights are booked on your own. Limit of 16 for this trip. For details, email Beth Armstrong at barmstrong@stlukesokc.org or call 609-1045.

Journeys of Paul -

Join Rev. Wendy Lambert on a once-in-a-lifetime trip that follows the footsteps of the Apostle Paul throughout Greece. The trip will be October 14 - 23, 2019, and will visit several sites that were instrumental in the formation of the early church. It will be an experience that deepens your understanding of Scripture and your relationship with God. There are brochures at the Welcome Centers or email Wendy at w Lambert@stlukesokc.org for more information!

Spring Musical

Auditions for the spring children's musical *Annie* will take place Saturday, January 12 at the Downtown Campus in Room B100. For more information please contact Logan Fish at lfish@stlukesokc.org or 285-2341.



Youth Lunch Bunch

It's time for the December Youth Lunch Bunch! Today, right after church (12-2:30 p.m.), we'll head out for lunch together at a local restaurant. It's a great time to get connected with others or bring a friend. If it's your first time, we'll treat you to lunch! All 6th-12th grade youth are invited. Don't forget to bring money for food.

Youth Spring Break Mission Trips

We're already planning for Spring Break! High school students will take a trip to Los Angeles on March 17-23. Through *Next Step Ministries*, we'll focus on homeless and relational ministry in LA. Travel, food, lodging, mission opportunities, and two days at Disneyland is \$875. A \$200 deposit is due by December 9 and another \$200 deposit by Jan. 13, with the remaining balance due in March. Middle school students are heading to Branson from March 17-20. We'll focus on service projects but we'll also attend the show "Samson" at Sight and Sound Theater and go to Silver Dollar City! The cost is \$250 which includes all food, travel, lodging, service projects, and fun events. A \$100 deposit will be due on January 27 and the remaining balance due in March. Email Amy Givens for details at agivens@stlukesokc.org or call 609-1027.

THE GREATEST STORY EVER TOLD

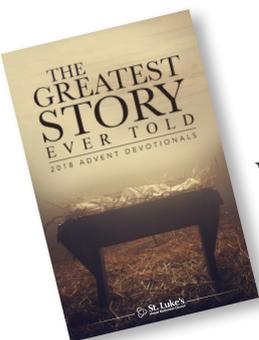
ADVENT SERMON SERIES



Won't you be my neighbor for the All Church Christmas Party? Let's celebrate St. Luke's accomplishments for 2018 with parties at the Downtown and Edmond Campuses. This year's featured film is "Mister Long's Neighborhood."

Bring your family to the St. Luke's Christmas Party at the Edmond Campus, tonight, or at the Downtown Campus, on December 9. 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 \$10 for those attending the program. Children will enjoy their own Christmas Party with games and activities at 5 p.m. Tickets are available for \$5. Tickets can be purchased at Threefold for either event.



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

Advent Events

Children's Christmas Musical
Downtown - Today
Edmond - Sunday, Dec. 9

**"Mister Long's Neighborhood"
St. Luke's Christmas Party**
Edmond - Tonight
Downtown - Sunday, Dec. 9
Holiday Open House at 4 p.m.
Dinner and Movie at 5 p.m.

The Sounds of Christmas
Downtown - Wednesday, Dec. 5
Edmond - Wednesday, Dec. 12

LifeLight Christmas Concert
Downtown - Sunday, Dec. 16

Special Needs Worship Service
Edmond - Sunday, Dec. 16

Angel of Hope Service
Downtown - Sunday, Dec. 16

Dinner with Love
Downtown - Saturday, Dec. 22

**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Worship Services**
Monday, Dec. 24

Downtown
*2:30 p.m. - Traditional with
Holy Communion*
4:30 p.m. - Family
6:30 p.m. - Traditional

Edmond
2 p.m. - Family
4 p.m. - Family
6:30 p.m. - Traditional
*11 p.m. - Traditional with Holy
Communion*

Asbury
*4 p.m. - Traditional with Holy
Communion*

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

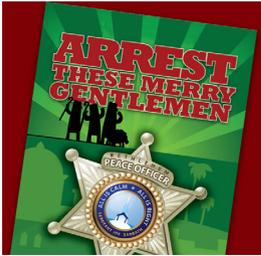
Orders must be turned in by December 16.

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

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

Poinsettia Sale

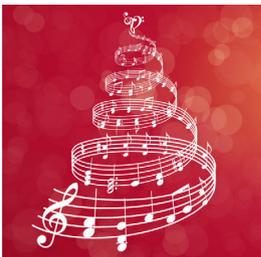
There is a special way to honor and remember loved ones and special people in your life this Advent season. Donate a Christmas poinsettia for \$20 each. These poinsettias are a part of our beautifully decorated facilities and displayed throughout the season to be enjoyed by many. Tear off the order form above and return by December 16.



Children's Christmas Musical

Today 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 - *Arrest These Merry Gentlemen*. A Christmas party will follow! It will be a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and Christmas joy!



The Sounds of Christmas

Downtown Campus - December 5 - Pre-Concert at 6:30, Concert at 7 p.m.

Edmond Campus - December 12 at 6:30 p.m.

What a better way to begin the Advent season than with amazing music and your family of faith at The Sounds of Christmas Concert. Each concert will include the choir and orchestra. The Downtown concert will start at 7 p.m. with a pre-concert at 6:30 p.m. in the Narthex. A Holiday Reception will follow each event.



Christmas Offering

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. Simply text "STL Give" to 73256 and follow the links to donate to the Christmas Offering. Donations can be made during service or by contacting the Finance Department.



Mission Trees

Share God's love this Christmas season by picking up an ornament from the Mission Tree in the Gallery to see items you can purchase to help those in need. Mobile Meals, Studio 222, Rancho Village, and the Honduras Mission Trip will all benefit from this year's Mission Tree donations. Drop off donations in the Gallery.