

Light of the World

2020 ADVENT DEVOTIONALS



St. Luke's
United Methodist Church



SPECIAL ADVENT EVENTS

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! All of our campuses are ready for the most wonderful time of year with events for your family and friends to enjoy.

- Nov. 29 First Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 6 Second Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 6 Charlie Brown Christmas Presentation 2:15 & 3:15 p.m. Edmond
- Dec. 13 Third Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 13 Christmas TV Special 4 p.m. KFOR-4
- Dec. 13 The Not So Late Show with Dr. Long..... 5:30 p.m. ONLINE
- Dec. 13 Christmas TV Special 7 p.m. KAUT-43
- Dec. 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
- Dec. 20 Angel of Hope Worship Service 5 p.m. Downtown
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services 4:30 and 6:30 p.m. Downtown
4 and 6:30 p.m. Edmond
- Dec. 24 Televised Christmas Eve Services
 - Traditional Service 7 p.m. KAUT-43
 - LifeLight Contemporary Service 8 p.m. KAUT-43
 - Traditional Service 10 p.m. KAUT-43
- Dec. 25 Christmas TV Special 12 p.m. KAUT-43



Christmas Offerings

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. You can make a donation to this special offering during worship, by calling the church office, online at stlukesokc.org/give, or by texting "STL Christmas" to 73256.



The season of Advent is the four weeks leading to Christmas. It is a time to be intentional about preparing ourselves for the celebration of the birth of Christ. One cold, dark night in Bethlehem, Jesus was born as the Light of the World. The Light of Christ gives warmth, guidance, and vision to life. Because we have received the Light, we are called to reflect it in all we say and do.

During winter when the days grow shorter and the nights longer, Light is needed. In a year of uncertainty and change, it is reassuring to remember that the Light of the World still shines. My hope is that you will light a candle of your Advent Wreath each morning as you read your devotional. Together, we will prepare for the coming of the Light of the World!

Sincerely,

Dr. Robert E. Long

Senior Pastor



THE SOUNDS OF
Christmas
TV SPECIAL

Sunday, December 13
KFOR-4 at 4 p.m.

Sunday, December 13
KAUT-43 at 7 p.m.

Friday, December 25
KAUT-43 at 12 noon



Angel Of Hope Service

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20 AT 5 P.M. | ST. LUKE'S DOWNTOWN CAMPUS AND GARDEN



St. Luke's Christmas Party

"The Not So Late Show" Starring Bob Long
December, 13 at 5:30 p.m. | Online Campus Only

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

DOWNTOWN CAMPUS:

4 p.m. – Family Service

6:30 p.m. – Traditional Service

EDMOND CAMPUS:

4:30 p.m. – Family Service

6:30 p.m. – Traditional Service

TV BROADCAST KAUT-43:

7 p.m. – Traditional Service

8 p.m. – LifeLight Service

10 p.m. – Traditional Service



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29

For the four Sundays before Christmas, prepare your heart by remembering that Jesus is the Light of the World. Each week, focus on one of the different gifts that Jesus' arrival brought us: love, peace, joy, and faith. Gather your family around the Advent Wreath as you focus your hearts and minds on the thing that matters most.

ADVENT CANDLE WEEK ONE - LOVE

Scripture

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. - John 1:1-9

Light the First Candle (Purple)

Reading

We light this candle as a symbol of Jesus Christ, Light of the World. We begin the season of Lent by focusing on Love and Jesus is the greatest expression of what Love is.

Prayer

Loving Christ, We thank You for creating the world and all that is within it. You are the Light of the world and Your light conquers the darkness. Your love shines through and brightens our lives. As we have received Your love freely, help us to freely share Your love with others. Let our words and deeds reflect Your lovingkindness. - Amen.



One of my favorite moments of the entire year occurs during the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. The Sanctuary lights are progressively dimmed through the course of the service until finally a soloist sings *O Holy Night* and then the lights are completely turned off. The Sanctuary becomes completely dark with the exception of the light of the Christ Candle in the Advent Wreath. I always take a few moments to allow everyone a chance to embrace the moment - there is only silence and the Candle's light. Those few seconds are filled with a sense of holiness and awe. Then, I walk over to the Advent Wreath and take the Christ Candle and stand in the middle of the Chancel where we can begin lighting candles from the Christ Candle. From the Christ Candle to candle to candle, the light begins to spread throughout the space. Each person receives the light and then shares it with their neighbor.

It's hard to imagine anything more beautiful than the congregation singing *Silent Night* while their faces are illuminated by candlelight. But that image is made all the more poignant because of the few seconds of silence that preceded it. From the close of the song, *O Holy Night* until I move to the Advent Wreath, there are about 30 seconds of intentional silence. Now the first few seconds allows everyone's eyes to adjust to the Sanctuary lights being turned off, but the rest of the silent time is given so everyone can bask in the moment. It is profound to see just how much light is given off by the Christ candle. Those few seconds are probably the most incredible of the entire year. All at once they are humbling, serene, and inspiring. I find myself awestruck every single time.

This Christmas Eve will have its differences. Because of the pandemic, we are asking people to pre-register to attend in person, allowing for as many as possible while maintaining social distancing. Others will be watching the service on television or online. Many families won't be able to get together for worship or to celebrate the holiday. There will be many things that are different, but one very important thing is the same. The Light of Christ still shines and permeates the darkness. Whether you see the light of the Christ Candle in person or from home as you light your own Advent Wreath, remember it is a symbol of the Light that has already been given. Christ was born in Bethlehem and His Light welcomed the shepherds and the wise men. His Light was made known to the disciples and was shared all around the world. His Light shines within us today and is ours to share with others. This Advent, take a moment each day to remember that the Light has come into the world, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Dr. Robert E. Long, Senior Pastor



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1

One of the Advent traditions we celebrate in preparation for Christmas is the Advent wreath and lighting of the Advent candles. Each week a new candle is lit and we remember that each of these candles represent one of the promises of God that we highlight and hold on to during this season. These themes of Advent speak truth, encouragement, and strength for our lives. Hope. Peace. Joy. Love. These words identify many of the promises of God that came to be in such a real way through the arrival of Jesus Christ more than 2,000 years ago. We need to hold on to these promises just as much this year as any other year.

It's both a tragic and unfulfilling place to be without hope, without peace, without joy, or without love. But maybe you've been there and had seasons, experiences, or relationships where any of these have been lacking. If you've experienced life with hope and without hope, or with joy and without joy, then you know the true gift that these promises carry and the difference in your life to experience them more fully than not. You may also have a loved one or friend who is struggling and searching for peace or love. These promises are both a message for us to receive from God and a message to share to a hurting world around us.

And that's just the message that God sent in that first Christmas gift – His precious Son. Jesus was the awaited Messiah that the people of God were hoping for, the One who showed us true peace and joy by believing in Him, especially for those who have been left out and left behind, and ultimately the Greatest Sacrifice of love that the world would ever know. Jesus is the Light of the world, coming into a world of darkness and leading us into fully experiencing all of the great promises of God. Jesus continues to enter our lives of darkness that are without hope, without peace, without joy, and without love. Jesus brings light and as we focus on Him, we can once again begin to see hope, find peace, experience joy, and know the love of God in our lives.

This Christmas season light a candle, maybe in a darkened room, and reflect on these amazing promises of hope, peace, joy, and love. Focus on the light rather than the darkness. Truly take hold of these promises in your life, believing that this is true and real for you today and always. And live fully by sharing love, radiating joy, creating peace, and bringing hope to the world. And remember that this can only be done by keeping your focus on the Light, Jesus Christ: our Lord, Savior, Redeemer, and Friend.

Amy Givens, Director of Youth Ministry



It was in the early morning hours of April 2 this year, while it was still dark outside and a global pandemic was in its early stages, that Brittany and I welcomed our daughter into this world. After a long night of labor, she was finally delivered at 4:13 in the morning. Of course, the first thing you want to know, as a parent, is that everyone is healthy and doing well. I was so relieved to hear the doctors and nurses say she had all her fingers and toes, she was breathing well, her color looked good, and all signs were pointing to her being perfectly healthy!

The next thought that came to my mind was, “What is her name?” We had known for a while that we were going to be having a girl, but decided we didn’t want to settle on a final name until she was born and we had a chance to see her and hold her. We had read through all the baby name books and everything we could find online. We kept a running list of all the names we liked and by the time we got to the hospital, I think we had finally narrowed it all the way down to about 15 names!

Once we were settled in at the hospital, and before the hard labor started, we got the list of names down to about six finalists and then decided we would wait to see her. After she was born there was a lot of work still to be done running tests on the baby, making sure Brittany was okay, and taking all the measurements. It was a couple hours before we were finally alone together with our baby girl, as just a family of three, in that hospital room. I finally asked the question, “So what do you think her name is?” Brittany smiled and asked me the same question. We both looked at her and looked at each other and said, “I think her name is Lucy.”

I had always wanted a name that had a meaning behind it. The name Lucy comes from the Latin word “lux,” which means light. There in the darkness of the early hours of the day, this little light made her entrance into the world and she has been a light in our lives for the last eight months. My prayer for her every day is that she will grow to be someone who shines God’s Light into the world, and I pray that she is a reminder to me to do the same.

We know the True Light entered the world almost 2,000 years ago and Christ has been the Light shining in the darkness ever since. This Advent, we are reminded that our world has been through dark times before. We may be going through dark times now in our society or in our personal lives. But just as the darkness has never overcome the Light before, we know that Light will continue to shine in the darkness today. We are called to be those who take the Light of Christ out into the world to illuminate the darkness wherever we see it.

Rev. Josh Attaway Edmond Campus Pastor



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

Where we live, it takes about 45 minutes to get to work each day and an additional 45 minutes to get home in the evening. I have an extra special sidekick, my daughter Cate, who makes the trek with me each day. As any child would, she struggles in the car some days.

Since the time she could talk, she has loved music and singing. Any and all types of music, including a lot of *Frozen* songs. She enjoys sitting with her dad in the evening watching internet videos of people playing guitars and pianos. She even asked Santa for a pink guitar at Christmas last year - and got it!

Last week, while driving during one of our many long trips, a song from the band Rend Collective, *My Lighthouse*, came on the radio, and my eyes welled at the sight of Cate not only doing the motions she'd been taught, but also singing every word. Here is the chorus of the song if you don't know it:

My lighthouse, my lighthouse. Shining in the darkness.

I will follow You. My lighthouse, my lighthouse.

I will trust the promise. You will carry me safe to shore.

When I asked where she'd learned it, she eagerly told me how Ms. Susan had taught it to her at Chapel and the Bible story that went with it. How grateful I am that Cate is able to learn about the love of God each week and how He is our Light guiding us through dark and troubled waters.

Mandi Moon, Director, St. Luke's Children's Center



I open my blinds every morning. I enjoy looking outside, whether it's a sunny day, or a cloudy one. The light of a new day reminds me that I get to start over again. New beginnings are important to me because I mess up frequently; I can easily judge others unfairly or say things I later regret. Sometimes I forget who I am as a redeemed child of God. Years ago, when my teenage daughters would leave our house, I'd say, "Remember Whose you are!" In other words, "Remember that you're God's child and you're representing our family!" Did they always remember? No! But just like me, they knew that when they messed up, God's forgiveness was available.

For Believers, Christmas should be about a tree. A Christmas tree likely comes to mind, but that's not it. This tree is the one on which Jesus died. Although parties and family gathers are wonderful, Jesus didn't come to earth so we could celebrate and purchase gifts every December. He came to live as an example for us, and to die as the atonement for sin. A few years ago, my daughter purchased a cross as a topper for our Christmas tree. It's a beautiful reminder of the most important part of Christmas; the birth of the One who came to redeem us.

This Christmas, as you're celebrating Jesus' birth, I hope you'll also remember His victory over sin and death, which means eternal life for us. The words of *O Little Town of Bethlehem* sum it up well. I'm a music lover, but the lyrics are powerful when spoken aloud.

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless
sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in the dark street 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 men 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.
Oh, come to us, abide with us our Lord Immanuel!*

Susan Easttom, Director of Family Ministries



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

I've heard change is contagious. As it turns out, so is a global pandemic. It is inevitable that this Advent season would look a lot different than years past. In a season that is ripe with tradition, it is undeniably difficult to let go of what we think these few weeks "should be" or to be saddened by the events we feel we will miss. While it is okay to grieve the things we wish could be, it's important also not to remain in a place of darkness.

I grew up with a Christmas tree adorned with keepsake ornaments. Our Christmas tree was beautiful. It wasn't meant to look like a department store tree; it was a more like a family gallery. My mother was intentional to include ornaments that told our family's story. We had dog-shaped ornaments, cat-shaped ornaments, baubles from vacations over the years, handmade crafts from grade school, and even a few ornaments of questionable origin. One ornament in particular never caught my attention until last Christmas. It had a snowman family on its front with two parents and two daughters. It had been on the tree for years, but I did not remember it until my mother sent me a photo of it last December, hanging on a branch with an important edit: one of the snowman "kids" had angel wings carefully drawn around it with a metallic marker.

The significance was clear. This was the third Christmas since the death of my twin sister and the first Christmas that my parents were strong enough to hang the family ornaments on their Christmas tree.

Admittedly, I was taken aback when I saw the ornament at first. It struck me as sad... an ornamental reminder that my sister was gone seemed like it didn't match the joyful spirit of the Christmas season. But after a deep breath, I realized that it was a perfect way to remember this important milestone in our family's story. We now have an angel "snowman" in heaven!

Losing my sister meant that no Christmas would ever be the same. Truthfully, each Christmas since her departure has had a streak of deep sorrow running through it. Yet, we are able to acknowledge the pain of missing her while still soaking in the joy of the good news that a savior is born in Bethlehem - a savior that ultimately brought my sister to heaven so that I will see her again.

This Christmas will inevitably look different for you and for your family. The hardship of this past year is part of all of our stories. I know my family plans to place an ornament on the tree that represents the story of 2020 because, while it might not have been our favorite year, it is certainly part of our story. I encourage you to approach this Christmas with an open heart to experience the birth of Jesus in a new way, not completely without the traditions of the past, but with a peace that change is inevitable, and even through that change, God still reigns.

Beth Armstrong, Director of Marketing

**ADVENT CANDLE WEEK TWO - PEACE****Scripture**

And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all who hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant, the oath which he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, when the day shall dawn upon us from on high to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." - Luke 1:67-79

Light the First Candle (Purple) and then the Second Candle (Purple)**Reading**

We light the candle that represents love and we also light the second candle which is a symbol of peace. The peace that Christ brings is not the peace that the world offers; it is not the absence of conflict but rather the presence of the One who loves us. When we face hardship, we know that we are not alone. Emmanuel means "God with us" and Jesus is Emmanuel. Because Christ is with us, we have peace in the midst of whatever we might encounter.

Prayer

Prince of Peace, You are the Light of the World and You are always with us. You are Emmanuel. In this year we have experienced uncertainty and change, yet our peace is found in You, not in the circumstances around us. You are our constant Light in the darkness. Use us to bring peace in the world where we live. - Amen.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 7

What's your favorite Christmas movie? *It's a Wonderful Life*? *Home Alone*? *Christmas Vacation*? *Elf*? *Miracle on 34th Street*?

I've recently discovered that I have several Christmas movies that are all "my favorite." They have many similarities. They're all grainy, sometimes out of focus, and completely silent. They were all shot on Super 8 film in the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. The movies' producers, directors, and photographers were my mom and dad.

My family recently decided to watch old home movies again, but we didn't have to break out the film projector. I had hundreds of those tiny, blue Super 8 reels transferred to DVDs a few years ago. We hit the play button, and the very first Christmas video we enjoyed was from 1969. My older sister was just two years old, grinning at the camera with ribbons in her hair, sitting next to a tree covered with tinsel. I thought, "Her face hasn't changed in 51 years!"

The next movie shows me as a baby, wiggling on the ground by the tree. A couple years later, my sister and I can be seen bounding around the corner, diving into the gifts. My dad pans over to my mom, who has to lay down and watch from the couch because she's exhausted from a long night of assembling bicycles and doll houses. I get teary-eyed thinking about how much my parents went all out for Christmas, year after year.

Then we see the Christmas when my Mamaw opened a beautifully-wrapped gift from my Papaw, only to become seriously annoyed when she realized it was a brand new pair of shoes... for him. He laughed. She didn't. We couldn't help but giggle as the film rolled on.

Movie after movie, the memories fill my soul with love. There we are, having a wrapping paper tube sword fight with my dad. There's my mom, modeling her new coat. There's my dad, trying to get a toy airplane off the ground while I'm jumping all around him with anticipation. There's the massive Christmas dinner my mom always engineered to perfection. I'm pausing the video every ten seconds to take a photo with my smartphone. I'll keep those pictures forever.

At the end of our movie marathon, we said a prayer. "Thank you, God, for giving us these beautiful moments over all these years. We are forever grateful."

There was one more precious sight caught on video. Our nativity scene that is older than me. We still have it. It continues to remind us of the reason for the season. Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, gave us the ultimate Christmas gift. It's my favorite *story* of all time. Sure, His birth wasn't captured on film... but the book is better anyway.



It was the beginning of November and I noticed a social media post by one of my cousins that said, “I may look fine, but deep down I just want to put up my Christmas tree.” As soon as I read it, something within me resonated with the sentiment. Later that day, I happened to mention the post in a conversation and I saw their face light up as they shared that they had put up their Christmas tree early. Over the next couple of days, I brought up the topic with people and found many had already put up their Christmas decorations much earlier than they normally would.

I have a feeling that many people were decorating early because of what 2020 has dealt us. This year, there is a natural yearning for the season of Christmas. There have been times that have felt dark with the rising number of COVID-19 cases and deaths, the vitriol of an election year, and the disconnect we’ve felt from one another. Seeking the Light of Christmas makes sense in the midst of darkness.

The colorful lights on the tree, the festive candles we light, and even the lighted Santa and reindeer displays are all playful reminders of the true Light of Christmas. We are drawn to light.

Consider how light can be captivating:

- The ever-changing flames of a crackling fire are mesmerizing, so much so that there are television stations that are dedicated to broadcasting nothing more than the image of a lit fireplace during the holidays.
- Twinkling lights on a Christmas tree always seem to bring joy.
- A single candle, even in a large darkened room, will hold your attention.

Of course, if you only have one lit candle shining in a very dark space, you’ll focus on it because there’s nothing else to look at. It’s the only thing you can see. Maybe that’s the point of Advent.

Advent is a time where we focus on the Light as if it’s the only thing we can see. While the darkness might seem frightening, it’s what you focus on that matters.

This Advent, make a point of dimming or turning off the lights when you light the candles in your Advent Wreath. Let the shadows (temporarily) swallow up all your busyness, electronic devices, and to-do lists. Let the distractions fade away in the background while you focus on the candlelight. Take a moment to pray and listen to Christ, the Light of the World. Give thanks for the Light you receive from Him and ask how you can share His light with others. Remember that nothing can extinguish the Light and His love from your life.

And yes, just like my cousin and all those people I talked with, we joined in and decorated for Christmas early. It is amazing how much better a year like 2020 looks in the Light of Christmas!

Rev. Wendy Lambert, Senior Executive Pastor



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

Illumination - I'm a fan. I like all forms of illumination: sunlight, daylight, electric light, candlelight. The best and brightest illumination, however, is the Light of Christ. There's an old hymn that describes this divine light:

Walking in sunlight all of my journey over the mountains, through the deep vale.
Jesus has said, I'll never forsake thee. Promise divine that never can fail. Heavenly sunlight, Heavenly sunlight flooding my soul with glory divine. Hallelujah, I am rejoicing, singing His praises, Jesus is mine.

Like so many OKC residents, I fell victim to an extended power outage caused by the unseasonal ice storm that slammed the Metro and surrounding areas. While activities are limited without electricity, some functionality is possible during daylight. However, when night falls, we are left in the dark. One dark evening at home, I decided to light a few candles. Candles are not the brightest form of light, but the soft glow they emitted allowed a sense of peace to settle over me. It caused me to reflect on our Christmas Eve services.

If you have experienced Christmas Eve at St. Luke's, you have certainly been moved by the illumination of some 1,200 candles being lit during the singing of *Silent Night*. This powerful moment in the service is breathtaking. My view from the choir loft is amazing. As I begin the carol from the organ in complete darkness, the gradual lighting of candles becomes a sensational demonstration of darkness into Light.

There is no question that 2020 has seen its share of intense darkness. So many of our brothers and sisters are trying to find their way in all the darkness. We have been given an incredible gift, the gift of Christ's Light to shine and help those who need their path illuminated. Join me in prayer that this Christmas Season and 2021 finds us walking in sunlight all of our journey.

Robert Fasol, Organist and Choirmaster



In April of 2018, my husband and I received the news we'd been so anxiously anticipating - we were going to be parents. However, just a few weeks later, we learned that the pregnancy had not progressed as we'd hoped. The next couple of months were some of the darkest of our lives as we dealt with the reality that we would not be bringing a baby home the following January.

While there were many moments when I was overcome by the emotions of grief, there were just as many when I was overcome with something else - the hope of Christ. I remember one Sunday morning as I led worship in LifeLight, we sang Lauren Daigle's *Trust in You*.

When You don't move the mountains. I'm needing You to move. When You don't part the waters. I wish I could walk through. When You don't give the answers. As I cry out to You. I will trust, I will trust. I will trust in You.

As I looked out into the congregation, I realized that only a couple of the people looking back at me knew what I was facing at that time, though they all seemed to need the message of this song just as much as I did. I knew that many of them also faced quiet struggles that I would never know the full extent of. But here we were, all of us together boldly affirming what we knew to be true - that we can always trust God to be our Light in the darkness.

This Advent season will be different than any of the ones that have come before it. However, all that we know to be true about this season is still the same. Jesus came into the world to be our Light. When the world around us seems dark, when we don't have the answers we're looking for, when there seems to be no way out from our pain, the hope of Christ is there. He sees us in our times of struggle and doubt, and as we know from Psalm 34, *He is near to the brokenhearted*. My prayer for all of us this Christmas is that we might have the gift of more fully knowing this truth each day.

Morgan Jones, Hospitality Coordinator



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

Lately I have taken a liking to the music of Hank Williams. Not sure why. It's not the kind of music I generally like. Perhaps I was influenced by Ken Burn's excellent documentary on country music a few months ago. Hank Williams wrote about the times he lived in and the troubles he encountered. Many of his songs reflect hard times such as, *I'm So Lonesome, I Could Cry, Cold, Cold Heart* and *Why Don't You Love Me*. Sometimes his songs speak of the hope he found through faith in Christ. *I Saw The Light* talks about wandering in the darkness.... *Just like a blind man I wandered along... worries and fears I claimed for my own. Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight... praise the Lord I saw the light!*

This song seems appropriate for these times in 2020. It seems as if we have been walking in darkness for so long. 2020 is about national and local elections that have divided our country... sometimes making enemies out of friends. We've endured a pandemic that has killed almost a quarter of a million Americans and changed our lives in countless ways. Most of us don't shake hands or hug anymore for fear of catching the virus. The sports we love are too often canceled or postponed and most of us are not allowed to watch in person. For months our economy was shut down and still has not completely recovered.

Perhaps that's why I was so excited recently when I got to be a part of two events that reminded me of what it was like to walk in the light again. Kelly and I were able to attend a Pops concert by the Oklahoma City Philharmonic. It had been almost a year since we had seen the orchestra play. This night they featured the music of composer John Williams with the soundtracks from *Star Wars, Jurassic Park, Harry Potter,* and *Superman*. I love music and movies, so it was a great night. It reminded us of what life was like before everything changed.

The second event, very different, was getting to be a part of an infant baptism. We had not done an infant baptism in worship at the Downtown Campus for months and it was so special to have a family bringing this young child to be covered in the waters of baptism. All the symbolism of baptism, new life and new beginnings, helped to shine God's light on us that day.

I do not know what Christmas will be like this year. I do know it will be different. But I can't help but remember God sent Jesus to bring the Light in a time that was much darker than 2020. The

Light will still shine through the darkness this Advent season and I will still light a candle and sing *Joy to The World*. The Christ Child will be born once again.

And I know when that happens, I'll be hearing Hank Williams sing, *No more darkness, no more night. Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight. Praise the Lord I saw the light.*

Rev. Dave Poteet, Pastor of Congregational Care



This year, more than ever, I am doing the best I can to focus on my blessings and find gratitude daily. It is easy these days to worry, stress, or be frustrated in many moments. However, in the midst of 2020, I cannot help but thank my God for His hand in my life. My daily gratitude includes the big-ticket items like a roof over my head, food on my table, good health in my family. However, I want to focus on the little things too. For instance, when a friend reaches out with an encouraging word at just the right time, or the little moments of peace I feel that I know only come from above. Sun shining after a freak ice storm or hearing my daughter's giggle from the other room. I really want to savor these little moments more than ever. Those little things that I usually take for granted.

I have been reading a lot of Psalms because I love the poetic cry of joy and sorrow, pain and healing. Reminding me our God is a God of comfort who will light up our darkest days.

You light a lamp for me. The Lord, my God, lights up my darkness. - Psalms 18:28

I keep this verse close to my heart and remind myself of its promises on days when I am feeling doubtful, overwhelmed, or just plain exhausted with this year and all of the stresses. I remind myself, I can use my words and attitude to spread light or darkness. This Advent season, I hope to spread the Light to others God brings to me and remind myself to stay grounded in gratitude.

I am so grateful for St. Luke's and all our church is doing to be a light in a dark time. There are many opportunities available for each of us to step up and shine a light. If you find yourself stuck in a rut, I encourage you to find a way to reach out through one of St. Luke's many ministries. Be the light to others that our God of peace is to us. Let this family of faith shine bright within you.

Sarah Cohea, Edmond Campus Direct of Youth Ministry



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

ADVENT CANDLE WEEK THREE - JOY

Scripture

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. - Luke 2:8-18

Light the First and Second Candles (Purple) and then the Third Candle (Pink)

Reading

We light the first two candles to remind us of the love and peace that we receive from Jesus. We light the third candle as a symbol of the joy that the Light of the World brings. The love of Christ is the source of our joy and it permeates all aspects of our lives.

Prayer

Gracious Lord, we thank You for all the ways You have brought joy in the world. Help us to slow down in this season to rejoice in Your presence. Let our lives reflect the love, peace, and joy that comes from You. - Amen.



When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." - Luke 2:15

When I teach a Bible Story to children, I try to help them imagine being in that moment in time; what it would look like, feel like, sound like, smell like. Being fully immersed in the situation, and the Christmas Story is no different. The shepherd's part of the story would go something like this. Close your eyes and imagine being in a huge field on a dark night, trying to wrangle sheep that keep wandering off in a pasture filled with holes and mounds. You can smell the sheep in the pasture, and maybe even yourself if you haven't bathed in days. You can hear the sound of the sheep moving around, and then out of nowhere a bright light shoots down from the sky and there's a huge creature with massive wings that appears to be glowing! Not only does this angel appear out of nowhere, but he begins talking to you! He tells you to go to a town and look for a baby in a manger. The angel doesn't tell them to go to the town and head east at the camel stables, then hook a hard right when they see the ladies weaving baskets. He sends them with vague instructions and says, "Go!"

Can you imagine an angel coming to you and telling you to just go find a small child without even giving you an address to put into Google Maps? No way! But that's exactly what the shepherds did; they went to find the baby.

We aren't much different from these shepherds who lived 2,000 years ago. God encourages us to have faith daily. While He doesn't send angels with instructions, He leads us with the Holy Spirit. God sends us plenty of messages, just like he did for the shepherds, and we must have our minds and hearts open to receive them.

This Advent season is going to feel different, but I pray we can all slow down and wait for the messages that God is sending us. Especially the message to love our neighbors: the shepherd, the inn keeper, the people who turned their heads, the kings who traveled from afar, to love all of these neighbors with no exceptions.

Taylor Easttom, Director of Children's Ministry



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15

The recent ice storm caused such destruction in our area, especially to the trees and power lines. In about 36 hours, hundreds of thousands of people were left without power and living in the dark.

When the freezing rain began in the afternoon on October 26, Bob had been isolated in our master suite for 10 days because of COVID-19. I had been quarantined during that time and was sleeping upstairs in our guest bedroom. Our home is surrounded by very large trees and even before I went to bed that night, I could hear some of the limbs beginning to crack and break from the weight of the ice. I moved to the living room that night to sleep, not wanting to take the chance that a large limb would crash through our roof. I found comfort in being near Bob, even though I could not be with him. I had candles ready in case we lost power.

In our moments of darkness, I was humbled by the places where help suddenly came, and I was so grateful. Bob was in isolation and these were a couple of his more difficult days. I was trying hard to manage the situation at our home while keeping his health and safety at the forefront. On Tuesday we lost power for 12 hours, but we lived the day not knowing how long it would be off. As it turned out, we were blessed to have our power restored so quickly.

Our tree damage was extensive, and our street looked like a war zone. Yet, within a few hours, a friend found a way to get to us with hot coffee and tea, ice, a hot lunch and salads for dinner. Another friend brought us a new thermometer because ours had become defective. When I realized that afternoon that a three-foot wall of tree limbs and debris on our driveway blocked my ability to leave the house, I beat down the panic that I felt and prayed for God's strength to sustain me. I felt that it was imperative that I be able to take Bob to the doctor, should the need arise. While I managed to drag most of the limbs off to the side and shoveled the ice and debris, several huge limbs still blocked the way. A young man in the neighborhood came with his truck, chains and chainsaw and cleared the way for us. That night tears flowed in grateful relief. Over the next few days, there was a steady stream of friends leaving food, hot soup, supplies, and magazines on our front porch. My heart was touched at the kindness and love we had been shown by so many members of our family of faith.

As I prepare now to reflect upon Christmas, I am reminded that's exactly what happens in times of darkness. Hope comes from places that you would least expect, even though you didn't earn it and don't deserve it. It's a gift. That's how God works in our lives. In those moments of darkness, we trust that God's light will shine like a star over a cradle in Bethlehem. It will be unexpected, but we know because of this child we can always have hope at Christmas and be filled with gratitude. Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

Marsha Long, Director of Hospitality



The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. – John 1:9

In the past years, I have taken a few days off, just before Thanksgiving. I spend some of that time decorating the outside of the house and putting up our Christmas lights. I love to hang the lights on the house, wrap them around our trees and set out the lighted candy canes. Somehow, in the middle of winter with brown grass and leafless trees, our house seems more alive than any other time of the year. This year, we started decorating for the Advent season a bit earlier than normal.

In the Gospel of John, he often refers to Jesus as, “the True Light.” John recognized that the arrival of Jesus in Bethlehem ushered in the Light of heaven. No longer would the world be separated from God’s presence. In Jesus, the world would now see what true love looks like. Light was coming to pierce the darkness of sin, selfishness, and hopelessness. In Christ, we experience a closeness to God, because God is no longer only connected to us through acts in the temple located in Jerusalem. Now God has come to all, in all the places of the world. No longer was God restricted by geography, national origins, or religious locations. In Christ, the world was now illuminated by the True Light.

We light our Christmas trees, our wreaths, our houses, yards, and even our candles in the Sanctuary on Christmas Eve, not simply because it is pretty, but because it reminds us of the hope of God arriving in Christ. Through the birth of Jesus, light begins to shine in the dark and hope finds a place in our lives.

This year, more than so many years in the past, I believe our world needs to experience the True Light that comes in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Hope is greater than any obstacle we have experienced in 2020. Light breaks through the darkness of our despair and brings hope. This Advent season, I encourage you to take time to plug in as many lights as possible. Find a place in your house for Advent candles. We have been given the gift of the Light of heaven. Let us light our candles, plug in our trees, and tell our neighbors and the world about the great gift of love and Light we have in the birth of Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Rev. Keith King, Pastor of Worship



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light.

– Psalm 18:28

This year has been hard for lots of people, but when I say hard, it can mean both good and not so good. I can't say enough good things about the great things the Children's Centers have been able to accomplish. When we were told during the summer that school would not be back in session, we began to dream. What if we could create a space for children to do their schoolwork and still have other activities to occupy their days and allow their parents to continue working, even if it was at home. We would have extracurricular activities the children could participate in, such as music, art, soccer and ballet.

As we were dreaming and putting our plan into fruition, the Department of Human Services, led by Justin Brown and his great team, came up with a program called "Community Hope Centers." It was the same concept we were implementing but they were willing to fund this program through the CARES Act to help support the school age programs. What a blessing! We were able to buy Chromebooks for the children to use for schoolwork and pianos along with a piano teacher to teach them to play. This program is still developing, but along with these wonderful gifts came a partnership with the non-profit, Lilyfield. They have provided Hope Navigators, mental health specialists available to the teachers and the children.

They have been rotating through three of our childcare Hope Centers, as well as the El Sistema Hope Center. We are creating an environment where children can express their frustrations and the anguish in the world and talk about how it is affecting them. They play games and talk about the different feelings and teach them different coping mechanisms.

As we began this journey, we prayed that God would use us to be a beacon of hope to the community. It became apparent that during a time that is so dark for so many people, we are able to share the Light to families in need.

As we move into the Advent season, we will continue to offer this amazing program to the community. Our wonderful childcare team is the shining light in so many lives. None of these programs would be possible without their loving and caring spirits. They bring joy and happiness to the children and their families every single day.

Gabrielle Moon, Executive Director St. Luke's Children's Centers



My family has a tradition of going to the Festival of Lights in Chickasha. In fact, we have gone there as a family nearly every year for 25 years. Our church would take a busload of people and we would eat at Jake's BBQ followed by a stroll through the park. Through the years we have continued this tradition with friends and family, but there is one year that stands out above the rest, and that was in 1999. That is the year that I proposed to my wife, Suzanne, while at the Festival of Lights.

As we dated and started talking about getting married, Suzanne told me that I would not be able to surprise her if I were to pop the question. I had purchased the ring several weeks prior, but I was determined to surprise her, so I waited until we were going to the Festival of Lights. I had planned to ask her while we were walking around the park, so as we were walking around and she walked into the chapel made of lights, I knew it was time. I followed her inside the chapel while our friends started singing the song, *going to the chapel*. Suzanne started to leave and I told her to wait a minute. I got down on one knee and asked the question, "will you marry me?" She said yes and I was able to surprise her. So going back we always look for the chapel so we can relive or at least reminisce in the lights of that chapel.

The season of Advent is full of traditions for each of us. Whether it is putting up the tree on the day after Thanksgiving, going to see Christmas lights, or attending the Christmas Eve service at church, I have to think that this year our traditions may have to be adjusted. Don't let the season be a time of darkness, but look to the Light of Christ. Jesus said in John 12, "*I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.*" This year may be different, and we may not be able to do things exactly like we have done in the past, but don't lose sight of the Light of Christ.

Brent Manning, Director of Communications



But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. - Luke 2:19

Over the past three Christmas and New Year's holidays, we have traveled to some amazing places with our extended family; Maui, Disney Land, and San Diego. We have made so many special memories with our families at those places. We look forward to our family trips because there is a new adventure planned for us each day. But if you have ever seen the movie *Home Alone*, where the family is running frantically through the airport to catch their flight and hoping they didn't forget anything, you understand how rushed we have felt trying to get through the airport. However, we have never forgot one of our children at home!

I feel like the Christmas season goes by so quickly! Like many people, it's one of my most favorite times of the year and yet it seems to always feel so crazy and rushed.

During this time, I often think about the journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem. It's such a beautiful story, but a journey not many of us would make, especially if we were with child. Mary and Joseph did not make the trip willingly. They left the comfort of family, home, and their community to go to a strange place. All of this during a challenging time as Mary was soon to deliver her child. They made the long and dangerous trip. When they arrived, the time came for the baby to be born. It was not the circumstances Mary would have hoped for. It was not the way you would think the King of Kings would come into our world, but Christ was born, in a place fit for animals.

Soon, angels and shepherds would arrive to see the child. At the end of journey, it is said that Mary held her son and, "treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." The travel, the business, the labor was all finished and Mary was able to consider all that was happening and what it meant to the world.

It was a gift for Mary to be able to slow down. For me, slowing down is a blessing. I'm looking forward to not packing or rushing to be anywhere this holiday. I will miss traveling, but I know it is a gift to slow down and remember the wonderful gifts I have right in front of me. I am thankful for my home, my family, and the gift of love and Light that came into the world on that very first Christmas.

I hope you are taking time to slow down this Advent season and consider all the good that is right in front of you. Advent is a wonderful season to give thanks to God as we treasure up all that is in front of us and ponder them in our heart.

Jamie Williamson, Edmond Campus Director of Administration



ADVENT CANDLE WEEK FOUR - FAITH

Scripture

Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel." - Luke 2:25-32

Light the First and Second Candles (Purple), the Third Candle (Pink) and then the Fourth Candle (Purple)

Reading

We light the candles that represent Love, Peace, and Joy. We light the Fourth Candle to consider the gift of faith. Faith is trusting in God's unconditional love for us as God's children. When we have the assurance of that love, it helps us to focus on the needs of others.

Prayer

Merciful Christ, You have filled our lives with Your Light. Thank You for Your faithfulness which strengthens and nourishes us. Make us mindful of the opportunities we have to make a difference in the world. Thank You for the assurance You give us that we are the children of God. Strengthen our faith so that we treat each and every person as a beloved child of God. - Amen.



MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light! - Ephesians 5:8

Many years ago, I attended a youth conference with several hundred young adults. During a keynote address in a large conference room, one speaker asked the facility staff to turn out all the lights. I remember the silence and complete darkness that surrounded us. Then the speaker turned on a single lightbulb in the center of the room. At first the lonely light seemed so dim in a large room full of people. The speaker then asked everyone to individually move to a place in the room that represented “how close you feel to God in relation to the light.” Some moved close. Others moved far away. In complete silence, we each reflected on our emotions and spiritual connectedness. It was a powerful moment for me personally and for all who were in attendance.

There are times in life when we feel close to God. There are times in life when we feel far away from God. As we draw near to Christmas in 2020, I believe all of us are reflecting on the challenges of the past year. Through health issues, financial issues, family issues, and cultural issues; we have found times of great frustration, sadness, pain, and discouragement. We have also experienced times of joy and celebration. These conflicting emotions can lead us to question, doubt, and meditate on the deeper spiritual issues of life.

I hope and pray that all of us will move closer to the Light of Christ this Christmas. As we light our candles and holiday lights, I pray that each one of us will be drawn into the presence of God and trust God’s grace in our lives in new ways. We can find great hope in remembering and celebrating the birth of Jesus our Savior. We find great comfort in remembering we are not alone. We experience great joy in sharing the celebration of Christmas with others – even if that is virtual this year. Together as a family of faith, we live in the sure and certain hope that we are children of Light. Take a few moments today to reflect on how the Light of Christ draws you into the presence of God.

Rev. Phil Greenwald, Executive Pastor of Administration



“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 5:16

You quickly appreciate the simple convenience of flipping a switch and getting light - especially when I, like hundreds of thousands of other Oklahomans, were plunged into darkness and cold during the October ice storm.

Initially, loss of power is only a mild irritant. I felt inconvenienced by the loss of television in the middle of my favorite show and when I had to use my phone light to find a flashlight and batteries. I reminded myself not to open the refrigerator or freezer, to wear an extra layer of clothes, and this surely won't last long. But after day 4 – irritation had given way to anger, frustration, and boredom. I went to bed early as darkness hits about 5:30 p.m. but woke up at 2 a.m. to the droning of generators.

During this lengthy endurance game, I found myself humming a song from my childhood *This Little Light of Mine*. I thought of it every time I walked into a room and tried to flip on the light. The origins of that sweet gospel song aren't completely clear, although it was first sung in the 1920s. A published poem from 1925 carries the famed phrase *This Little Light of Mine* and was perhaps where the tune began. Several versions have been popularized over the years and the song is often associated with the Civil Rights movement. It was sung by the Harlem Boys Choir on the first David Letterman show after the September 11 attack.

The words from the United Methodist Hymnal are so simple and catchy:

*This little light of mine, I'm goin-a let it shine. Everywhere I go,
I'm goin-a let it shine. All through the night, I'm goin-a let it shine.*

The original poem has another line that I especially like: *In my neighbor's home, I'm goin' let it shine.*

During our time without power, several neighbors offered us warm places to sleep, food, coffee and warm showers. The kindness was real and so appreciated. In the middle of it all, several of us joined together to cut and drag limbs and pick up debris in each other's yards. You kind of forget your own worries when you help someone else.

It was on day 10, at 5 p.m. our power was restored! The first thing I did was flip on a light - just to make sure. I thought of that song and how it means more than the literal words of letting a light shine, but really how we should be a shining light for others during the dark times. *Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.*

Lori Hall, Executive Director of Missions



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. - Isaiah 9:6-7

Decorating the house for Christmas every year is always a meaningful tradition that just makes you feel good. When I drive down the street in my neighborhood, coming home in the evenings, and see the lights on the outside of the house and the lights of the big Christmas tree in the front window, it always makes the day better, no matter what has happened that day. There's just something about Christmas lights that attracts our attention like moths drawn to a flame.

I think part of the reason we love Christmas decorations with all the lights so much is that Christmas comes at one of the darkest times of the year. We have the least amount of daylight of any point in the year in the days and weeks leading up to Christmas. Sometimes it feels like it is dark when you leave the house in the morning for work, and it is still dark when you leave work to go back home at the end of the day. The entire day can seem filled with darkness. So those Christmas lights on the house can bring a bit of joy at the end of a dark day.

This year seems to have been a year filled with darkness for many. Living through a global pandemic, economic crisis, an election year, and all of the other personal things we have each gone through this year can make it draining on us. Just like the Christmas lights can bring some joy during the dark days of December, we also need the Light in the darkness we are living through.

Take time today to light a candle, start a fire in the fireplace, or turn on the lights of your Christmas tree and use that as an opportunity to draw near to the Light of the World. When we see the light shining in the darkness we are reminded that the darkness cannot overcome it!

Rev. Josh Attaway, Edmond Campus Pastor



LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Scripture

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star appeared; and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." When they had heard the king they went their way; and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

- Matthew 2:1-11

Light the First Candle (Purple) and Read

We light this candle and give thanks for the Love of Christ.

Light the Second Candle (Purple) and Read

We light this candle and give thanks for the peace that Christ brings to our lives.

Light the Third Candle (Pink) and Read

We light this candle and rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ.

Light the Fourth Candle (Purple) and Read

We light this candle in faith; trusting in the everlasting love of God for us as God's children.

Light the Christ Candle (White) and Read

We light this candle that celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior. His Light gives life to all who receive. His Light leads us to Him. It was a light like no other that shone around the angels who appeared to the shepherds. Later on a star would shine in the sky and the light would lead wise men to the Christ child. The Light still calls us to draw close to Him.

Prayer

Light of the World, we rejoice in Your birth at Bethlehem and give thanks for the life You've given us! You are the Light that illuminates all that is good and true. You fill our lives with love, peace, and joy. Help us to embrace the meaning of the Christmas season - that the true Light has come into the world and the darkness has not overcome it. We commit our lives to You and we will give our best to reflect Your Light to others. - Amen.

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES

In Person Christmas Eve Services

If you plan to attend service in-person please RSVP at stlukesokc.org for the service your family plans on attending. There will be limited seating available to maintain social distancing and everyone will be required to wear a mask.

Downtown Campus In-Person and Online

- 4 p.m. Family Candlelight Service with a Children's Moment
- 6:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service

Edmond Campus In-Person and Online

- 4:30 p.m. Family Candlelight Service with a Children's Moment
- 6:30 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service

Televised Christmas Eve Services

This year we are broadcasting the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service on the local television station KAUT Freedom 43 three times on Christmas Eve. You can find this station on channel 43 over the air and on DIRECTV; channel 16 (SD) and 714 (HD) on COX Cable; and channel 8895 on Dish.

KAUT Freedom 43

- 7 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service
- 8 p.m. LifeLight Candlelight Service
- 10 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Service



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