

WELCOME TO ST. LUKE'S METHODIST CHURCH

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



DOWNTOWN CAMPUS SERVICE OF WORSHIP Service of Carols and Candlelight December 24, 2024 6:30 P.M.

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

PRELUDE

Mack Wilberg

Carol to the King
St. Luke's Orchestra
Robert Fasol, *piano/conductor*

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND GREETING

Rev. Wendy Lambert

†THE CAROL

ADESTE FIDELES

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem. Come, and behold Him, born the King of Angels; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, He shuns not the Virgin's womb; Son of the Father, begotten not created; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest; O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

THE LESSON

Rev. David Poteet

Luke 1:26 - 33

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there will be no end."

THE CAROL

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.

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.

Luke 2:1 - 7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

THE CAROL

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King, peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

UNISON PRAYER

Rev. David Poteet

Eternal God,

We have looked to You with great anticipation. We have waited with great hope. The time has arrived. You have come to be with us, our Emmanuel. Open our hearts to once again receive the message of hope and love that comes alive in the lowly manger. Like the shepherds so long ago, let us come to you and experience the arrival of good news and great joy for all the world. As we come to You, we pray that Your hope and love would be renewed in our lives. As the arrival of a newborn in Bethlehem brings new life for the world, let it restore us, as well.

This we pray in the name of the Child of Bethlehem. Amen.

THE ANTHEM

arr. David Foster

The First Noel

Keely McGough and Mason Smith, soloists

St. Luke's Orchestra

Robert Fasol, piano/conductor

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, Noel, Noel Noel! Born is the King of Israel!

They looked, they looked up and they saw a star shining in the east beyond them far. And to the earth it gave great light; so it continued both day and night. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King, born is the King, King of Israel. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel! Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King, born is the King, born is the King of Israel! Of Israel!

Israel, of Israel. Born is the King of Israel!

†THE LESSON

Rev. Linda Harker

Luke 2:8 - 16

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.

†THE CAROL

ANTIOCH

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord has come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

LIFE AT ST. LUKE'S

Rev. Wendy Lambert

- * To register your attendance please text "guest" or "member" to (405) 351-4001.
- * Prayer requests can be submitted by texting your request to (405) 351-4001 or a prayer card can be dropped in the offering plates or in the offering boxes located in the Narthex.

MISSION MOMENT

DEDICATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Dr. Robert E. Long

- * Text the letters SLM to the number 73256 to give on a secure website.
- * Cash and checks can be placed in the offering plates or dropped in the offering boxes located in the Narthex.

OFFERTORY

arr. Dave Williamson

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

Ashley Carr Soter and George Soter, soloists

St. Luke's Christmas Eve Singers and Orchestra

Robert Fasol, piano/conductor

I heard the bells on Christmas Day, their old familiar carols play; and mild and sweet their songs repeat of peace on earth, goodwill to all.

And the bells are ringing: "Peace on earth." Like a choir they're singing: "Peace on earth." In my heart I hear them; "Peace on earth, goodwill to all."

And in despair I bowed my head, "There is no peace on earth." I said, "For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace on earth, goodwill to all."

But the bells are ringing: "Peace on earth." Like a choir they're singing: "Peace on earth." Does anybody hear them? "Peace on Earth, goodwill to all."

Then rang the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; peace on earth, peace on earth, the wrong shall fail, the right prevail with peace on earth, goodwill to all." Goodwill to all.

Then ringing, singing on its way, the world revolved from night to day. A voice, a chime, a chant sublime of peace on earth, goodwill to all.

And the bells are ringing: "Peace on earth." Like a choir they're singing: "Peace on earth." With our hearts, we'll hear them: "Peace on Earth, goodwill to all."

Do you hear the bells? They're ringing: "Peace on earth!" Like the angels singing: "Peace on earth!" Open up your heart and hear them: "Peace on earth, goodwill to all!" Peace on earth, peace on earth, peace on earth, goodwill to all.

MESSAGE OF HOPE

Dr. Robert E. Long

MUSICAL REFLECTION

Adolphe Adam

O Holy Night

Jackson Ewing, soloist

St. Luke's Christmas Eve Singers and Orchestra

Robert Fasol, piano/conductor

Silent Night

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and Child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ, the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wond'rous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

(After the fourth verse, the ushers will begin leading the congregation out of the Sanctuary.)

LEADING IN WORSHIP

Dr. Robert E. Long
Senior Pastor

Rev. Wendy Lambert
Senior Executive Pastor

Rev. Linda Harker
Online Campus Pastor

Rev. David Poteet
Pastor of Congregational Care

Ashleigh Robinson
Director of Church and Community Development

Musicians

Robert Fasol, Organist/Choirmaster
St. Luke's Orchestra
Kelsey Paul, LifeLight Worship Leader
George and Ashley Soter, Soloists
Jackson Ewing, Soloist

Join Us for Worship

If this is your first time at St. Luke's, we would like to invite you to join us for Sunday Morning Worship.



Traditional Worship
Sundays, 8:15 & 10:50 a.m. CST



LifeLight Contemporary Worship
Sundays, 9:30 a.m. CST

Christmas
OFFERING

Scan the QR Code with your smart phone or
Text "SLM Christmas" to 73256

MINISTERS

Dr. Robert E. Long

Senior Pastor

blong@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Wendy Lambert

Senior Executive Pastor

wlambert@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Josh Attaway

Edmond Campus Pastor

jattaway@stlukesokc.org

Rev. David Poteet

Pastor of Congregational
Care

dpoteet@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Keith King

Pastor of Worship

kking@stlukesokc.org

Rev. Linda Harker

Online Campus Pastor

lharker@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. Prayer Cards can be found at the Welcome Center and completed cards can be returned there. You are also welcomed to email your prayer concerns to ccm@stlukesokc.org or you may also call 232-1371 with your prayers and concerns.

Online Worship Service

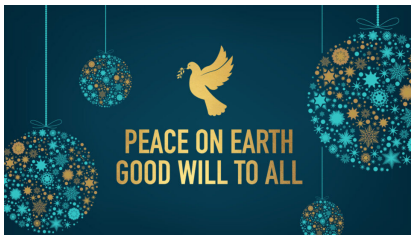
If you are unable to attend worship on any Sunday, you can join us online for our live-stream of the Edmond Campus Services (LL at 9 a.m. and Traditional at 11 a.m.) and the Downtown Campus Traditional Service (8:15, 9:40 and 10:50 a.m.) at stlukesokc.org/live. Live services are also available on Roku and Apple TV apps. To install search - stlukesokc or St. Luke's Methodist Church.

TV Programming

St. Luke's Traditional service can be seen as an hour long television program on KOCO channel 5 at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. The program is a week delayed.

Want to Join St. Luke's?

Are you interested in joining the St. Luke's mission to share, grow and serve? You can join St. Luke's on Sunday morning during Worship. For more information about membership contact Tisha Tate Garcia at tategarcia@stlukesokc.org.



Advent is the season of preparation. It is a time to prepare to fully celebrate the birth of Jesus. But in the most practical sense, it is a time when everyone prepares for Christmas. We clean and decorate our homes; we shop for and prepare food for entertaining; and we purchase, wrap, and deliver gifts for our loved ones. All of this busyness can sometimes distract us from the true business of Advent – to ready our hearts

and minds to focus on the birth of Christ. Dwelling upon Emmanuel, God with us, helps bring peace in the stress of the season so that we might share goodwill to all.

One Church with Multiple Campuses

Downtown Campus

222 NW 15th Street
OKC, OK 73103
(405) 232-1371
stlukesokc.org

Edmond Campus

900 N. Sooner Road
Edmond, OK 73034
(405) 285-2002
stlukesedmond.org

Online Campus

Watch service live, chat with clergy, request prayer, give online during every worship service
stlukesokc.org/online



Sharing God's Love and Bringing Hope to the World

The mission of St. Luke's is to share God's love and bring hope to the world. We accomplish that by sharing the message of Christ, growing in our faith, and serving the community.

HELPFUL INFORMATION

- Register your attendance by texting guest or member to (405) 351-4001.
- Prayer requests can be submitted via text message or dropped in the offering box.
- Give today - text the letters SLM to the number 73256 to give on a secure website.
- Large print bulletins and hearing assistance devices are available in the Narthex.
- A live feed of the service is available for parents with active or tearful children.
- A Hospitality Team member is at the Welcome Center to help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEARN MORE AT [STLUKESOKC.ORG/EVENTS](https://stlukesokc.org/events)

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 "SLM Christmas" to 73256 and follow the links to donate to the Christmas Offering. Donations can be made during service or by contacting the Finance Department at (405) 232-1371

MISSION TREE

Visit the Mission Tree located in the Gallery to make a difference for those in need this Christmas. Simply choose an ornament from the Mission Tree; each tag lists items needed that you can donate to students at El Sistema Oklahoma, Coolidge Elementary, Will Rogers Elementary, and the Homeless Alliance. Return the gifts to the drop boxes by Christmas Eve. We are also partnering with Maisha Project and you can sponsor a child in Kenya to help with food and education. Just complete the card with your information and drop it in the box and Maisha will contact you about sponsoring a child in need.

CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT

St. Luke's annual Christmas Ornaments were given away at the All Church Christmas Parties. If you were unable to attend, you can pick up your St. Luke's Year in the Bible Christmas Ornament at the Welcome Center today while supplies last.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP ON TELEVISION

This evening you can hear *Silent Night* and Dr. Long's Christmas Eve message again by tuning into News Channel 4 at 10:30 p.m. Invite your friends and family to watch as well.

END OF YEAR IN WORSHIP

End the Year of the Bible by being in worship the last Sunday of the year! Services will return to normal times on Sunday, December 29. Enjoy a meaningful time with your family of faith on this special day. All of our services will also be streamed live on our website.

DID YOU READ THROUGH THE BIBLE IN 2024?

Throughout the year, we have encouraged everyone to read through the Bible in 2024. Whether you are on track to complete it this year, or looking to continue where you currently are, or start over, there are booklets available to help you with your journey. You can pick up a booklet at the Connection Point today and plan to read the Bible in 2025!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ALIVE | STARTS JANUARY 29

The next session of Wednesday Night Alive (WNA) which offers classes for children, youth, and adults and starts January 29. Dinner is served at 5:15 p.m. and classes start at 6:30 p.m. WNA is a great opportunity for the entire family to grow in their faith. Class descriptions will be available in January at the Welcome Center and online at stlukesokc.org/wna.

ENDING THE YEAR WELL

Help us end 2024 well at St. Luke's! Did you know that you can provide additional financial support to your family of faith without having to access your checking or savings account? It could also provide tax benefits to you. Did you know you can use your IRA to give up to \$105,000 this year if you are over age 70 ½ without paying any federal income taxes? And, if you are age 73 or older, you can make a qualified charitable distribution from your IRA to count toward your required minimum distribution. Also, you could make a gift of appreciated stock, avoid paying any capital gains taxes, receive an income tax deduction for the full market value of the stock, and the church would receive the full value of the stock as well since we do not pay taxes. Contact Rev. Josh Attaway, CFO, (jattaway@stlukesokc.org) for more information about strategies to meet your stewardship goals.

LITTLE WOMEN AUDITIONS | JANUARY 4

All actors aged 11 and older are encouraged to audition for the upcoming Potteet Theatre production: "Little Women." Auditions are Saturday, January 4, with callback auditions the following day. Rehearsals begin on January 14. Performances will be held on March 7 - 9. Learn more at stlukesokc.org/potteet.

OPEN HEARTS COMMUNITY GROUP | JANUARY 5

The St. Luke's Open Hearts Community Group is for members of the LGBTQ community to grow in their faith. They meet on the first Sunday of each month at 12:15 p.m. in the Mansion Library, and lunch is provided. Contact Rev. Wendy Lambert, wlambert@stlukesokc.org, for more details.

SPIRIT SISTERS BIBLE STUDY | JANUARY 14

Rev Linda Harker and the Spirit Sisters Bible Study group invite you to a new study that begins January 14. This 24-week "Fast Track Disciple Study" will immerse you in the books of Luke and Acts. Spirit Sisters provides a safe, fun, and inspiring place to explore your faith and fellowship with other women. Spirit Sisters meet 10:30 a.m. - noon in Room 202. Please sign up for the class online.

FAMILY SERVICE DAY | FEBRUARY 1

Start the new year with a family outing that will bless the lives of others. Join your St. Luke's family of faith for Family Service Day at the Regional Food Bank on February 1 from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Volunteers will sort, pack, and prepare food for a variety of Regional Food Bank Programs benefiting students, seniors on fixed incomes, and other Oklahomans. An adult must accompany volunteers from ages 8 to 15. Register online at stlukesokc.org/events.

YOUTH MINISTRY

YOUTH DISCOVERY WEEKEND

Get ready to have a blast at Youth Discovery Weekend on January 18 - 19! This is a middle-school focused, overnight event at the church where our high school students help with the planning and leadership of the activities. There will be worship, small groups, and lots of fun and games! The cost for both days is \$50 which includes three meals, a shirt, and lots of fun! Register and pay at stlukesokc.org by January 8.

SPRING BREAK MISSION TRIPS | WEEK OF MARCH 16

Each year, the youth travel during their Spring Break to bring hope to another area of our world. The Middle School Youth (grades 6 - 8) will be going to Lakeview MCC in Texas on March 16 - 19, costing \$350. High School Youth (grades 9 - 12) will be going to Perry, FL, March 16 - 22, to help with hurricane relief in this community. and the cost is \$1,250. Each trip will be full of memories and service opportunities. Students can earn Mission Bucks to help with the cost of their trip in December and beyond. Please register online at stlukesokc.org/events and pay a trip deposit. Adult volunteers are needed for both trips. If you are interested, please contact Amy Givens at agivens@stlukesokc.org.

For more details about any of the Youth events, please email Amy Givens - agivens@stlukesokc.org.