



St. Luke's Messenger

Dear Parish Family

December 2018-February 2019

Christmas is upon us! I probably don't need to tell you that! The decorations, the preparations, the season of Advent drawing to a close. For some, the anticipation of Christmas and the New Year brings the joy of the season along with the gathering of family and friends; fellowship and fun; a welcome change from "routine." For others, the dread of the sadness and grief of loss; the brokenness of family; or loneliness. The challenge to all of us is the old line: "to keep Christ in Christmas." To remember who it is we are supposed to be celebrating and why.

When all the gifts are given, unwrapped, and the joy of the giver or the recipient is evident, the greatest gift of all is there, behind the scenes, present by His Spirit, to bring the true joy if we only seek, if we only ask.

But there are some out there, whether all in life is going well or whether they are struggling, that have no idea of the true gift of Christmas! Even some who go to church occasionally really don't understand Who Jesus is and why Jesus came.

For those of us who truly believe, truly understand the joy, even amidst the challenges, we have an opportunity to offer the gift; the real gift, given at that first Christmas, Jesus, the Savior! In fact, if you

think about it, we have several opportunities in the coming couple of months: there is Christmas; there is New Years as people make a New Years resolution or two; as they reevaluate their priorities, who and what they live for; and, we have the Eric Metaxas Conference on February 9th (what a great Christmas gift for ourselves, or for another!) Be sure to purchase a ticket for the conference!

My heart is always to grow the Kingdom of God; to grow His Church; to reach people who desperately need salvation and eternal life; hope in this life and hope for eternal life.

We need to be an inviting Church, a witnessing Church, a Church that shares the gospel; a Church that welcomes the seeker and even seeks those who might not be seeking! When we bring others to the Lord, we actually receive two gifts: watching someone we love come alive in the Lord; and knowing that they are now going to experience His love for now and all eternity! If you have never experienced this gift, to know that someone's eternal destiny has been changed...forever...it is breath-taking!

As His church at St. Luke's, our goal is to be a growing church: in the Lord, in fellowship, in worship, in service, in caring, in reaching others: to fulfill the Great Commission (to bring others to know and love Him) by fulfilling the two Great Commandments: to love the Lord our God with the whole of our being (when you love someone that much, you will talk about Him); and love others as ourselves (we will want to tell them so they might experience His love now and forever, and not experience eternal separation from God).

Christmas is about God giving His Son for our salvation: God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes.....and we are to be a part of this....to believe ourselves and walk the walk; and then share this gift, this love, this joy with others....to talk the talk!

Have a Merry, blessed, and Christ-filled Christmas.

With love, in Christ,
Greg Kronz



Greg Kronz
Rector

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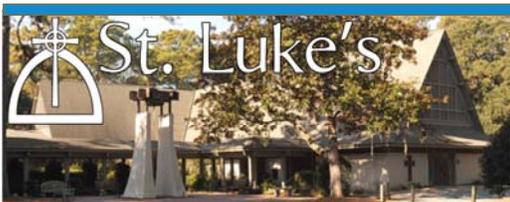
CHRISTMAS

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

2018



Sunday, December 23	8 & 10 AM	Normal Sunday morning services
Christmas Eve, December 24	4:30 PM	Family Christmas Eve (communion & candle lighting)
	8:00 PM	Christmas Eve (communion & candle lighting, no nursery)
	10:30 PM	Festive Prelude
Christmas Day, December 25	11:00 PM	Christmas Eve (communion & candle lighting, no nursery)
	10:00 AM	Christmas Day Service
Wednesday, December 26	10:00 AM	Healing Service
Sunday, December 30	8 & 10 AM	Normal Sunday morning services



St. Luke's

Our Focus

- Upward: To worship and serve the Lord
- Inward: To grow spiritually in the knowledge and love of Christ in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
- Outward: To share our faith, our hands and our hearts, for the sake of the gospel, our community, and the world.

A CHURCH IN THE ANGLICAN TRADITION

Flower Guild

Altar flower dates for 2019 are now available beginning January 13. Call the church office at 843-785-4099 if you'd like to schedule a date in honor or memory of a loved one or in celebration of a birthday or anniversary. Cost is still only \$100 made payable to St. Luke's Flower Guild. Leigh Ann Hoppe is in charge of the Flower Guild and always makes sure that the altar is beautiful.



Office Closures

Please note that the church office will be closed on Monday afternoon, Dec. 17 for the staff Christmas Party. The office will be closed Monday afternoon, Dec. 24 through Wednesday, Dec. 26 and Monday afternoon, Dec. 31 for Christmas and New Year's. Christmas and New Year's.

Transitions

Baptisms - none

Deaths - Louise Causey-Lewis, Alma Ericson, Lee & Rich Holcomb, John Myers

Transfer In - Miles Altman, John Coulter, Susan Livingston, Bob & Jan Norman, Vicki Sayers, Ann Smithers

Transfer Out - Frank & Dottie Bowen, Pluma & Will Bridgers, Cloide & Pat Branning

Alpha

Our second annual Alpha is starting up on Tuesday **February 5th, 2019** at 6:15pm in the Fellowship Hall. At an Alpha course people explore the Christian faith in a relaxed setting during eleven thought-provoking weekly sessions and a weekend retreat. Everyone is welcome at Alpha and people attend for a wide variety of reasons. Some may be investigating whether God exists or if there is any point to their lives and others may attend church and want a refresher course on the basics of the Christian faith and how it connects with their lives. Dinner and childcare are included. Online Registration will begin in late December. If you are interested in helping out on our leadership team, please contact Steve at 843-540-4025.



Bookshop Wishes

As we bathe in the spirit of Christmas, we thank you for your loving support of our little, yet mighty Bookshop. We happily share all our lovely books, cards and gifts to meet your year-round needs. *"At this beautiful season, we greet you! Not as the world sends greetings, but with profound esteem and the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away."* Fra Giovanni



May we always begin every day with a grateful heart and may the Christmas Spirit remain with us always. **Sundays: 8:45am-10:50am; 11:30am-12:15pm. *Wednesday evenings from 5-6pm.***

Women's Studies

Ladies Bible Studies beginning February 5th Tuesday and 6th Wednesday IN HIS IMAGE by Jen Wilkins. Great time of being in THE Word with friends! Books can be ordered thru Amazon.

More information? Call Judi Clifford, 843-247-4858.

St. Luke's E-Zine

We send a weekly email to help you prepare for Sunday and upcoming activities. We call it our E-Zine. That's E-'zeen', like maga-zine. It's our weekly 'E'-lectronic maga-'zine'. Or E-Zine. Get it? To be added to our list, send an email to publications@stlukesghi.org with "E-Zine" in the subject line.

Gallery of Sacred Art

The St. Luke's Gallery of Sacred Art is currently exhibiting Immanuel: God with Us / The Wonder of the Incarnation. This collection is comprised of twenty six pieces of art from as early as the 15th century to the present. Twenty three artists from ten countries have beautifully expressed their interpretation of Jesus' life from the annunciation to the ascension.

Each time you are in the sanctuary, take a few minutes to view one piece of art. Study



Church Staff



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VESTRY MEMBERS

<http://www.stlukesghi.org/administration---vestry.html>

the scripture and commentary attached. Try to see the word of God from the artist's perspective. We hope you will leave with an open heart and a new understanding of the scripture.

The exhibit will be on display until February 10, 2019. If you would like a docent tour for yourself or a group, please call the church office and make an appointment. Appointments are available on Tuesdays and Fridays.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR MUSICAL

Sunday, March 3 – 10:00am service

Rehearsals begin on Wednesday, January 9th for the 2019 Children's Choir Musical.

Canterbury Choir (boys & girls, ages 4-6) practices at 4:15-4:55pm and St.

Nicholas Choir (boys & girls, Grades 2-5) at 5:00-6:00pm. New singers are invited to join choir for this musical adventure!



Some of the musicals recently presented are *David and the Giants*, *It's Cool in the Furnace*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, and *100% Chance of Rain*.

WHAT'S THE MUSICAL FOR THIS YEAR????

Stay tuned for the answer to be announced at January 9th rehearsals!!!

CHRISTMASTIDE WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Monday, December 24th

4:30pm Family Service with communion

(St. Luke's Music Team, Children's Choirs and Youth Bells, trumpet, organ, piano)

8:00pm Service with communion

(Youth Choir, trumpet, organ, piano)

10:30pm Festive Prelude

11:00pm Service with communion

(St. Luke's Choir, brass quartet, Ring & Rejoice Handbells, organ)

Tuesday, December 25th

10:00am Service with communion

Sunday, December 30th

8:00am Rite I with communion

10:00am Rite II with communion

Sunday, January 6th (Epiphany begins)

8:00am Rite I with communion

10:00am Epiphany Lessons & Carols

LARGE CHORAL WORK FOR LENT

Sunday, April 7 – 10:00am service

The St. Luke's Choir begins rehearsals on February 5th for the large choral work to be presented during the season of Lent on Sunday, April 7th during the 10:00am service. New singers are invited to join this choir. Rehearsals are Tuesdays, 5:15-6:30pm (schedule below).

Rehearsal schedule: February 5, 12, 19, 26 - March 5, 12, 19, 26 - April 2

Dress rehearsal: April 6, 9:30 – 11:30

Presentation: April 7 at 10:00am service (9:00am rehearsal)

Some of the choral works presented in the past include John Rutter's *REQUIEM*, *GLORIA*, *MASS OF THE CHILDREN* and *MAGNIFICAT*, Faure's *REQUIEM*, VIVALDI's *Gloria*, Schubert's *MASS IN G*, and Mark Hayes *GLORIA*.

Which beautiful choral work will the choir rehearse and present this season? The title/composer will be announced in January!

CALLING NEW SINGERS AND RINGERS TO JOIN ONE OF THE 7 MUSIC TEAMS 🎵🎵🎵

CHILDREN

Canterbury Choir (boys & girls, 4-, 5-, & 6-years old) Practice: Wednesdays, 4:15 – 4:55pm

St. Nicholas Choir (boys & girls, Grades 2 – 5) Practice: Wednesdays, 5:00 - 6:00pm

YOUTH

Youth Bells (boys & girls, Grades 3 & above) Practice: Thursdays, 4:00 - 5:00pm

NEW! Youth Choir (boys & girls, Grades 6-12) Practice: Sundays, 11:30am – 12:30pm

To join/more information, Nina Rodman, Director, 843.422.0490 or ninarodman@stlukeshhi.org

HIGH SCHOOL - ADULTS

St. Luke's Music Team—Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Contact: Jordan Sturm, 843-290-3378 or jordansturm@stlukeshhi.org

Nina Rodman, 843-422-0490 or ninarodman@stlukeshhi.org

ADULTS

Ring & Rejoice Handbells—Thursdays, 5:30 – 7:00

St. Luke's Choir—Tuesdays, 5:15-6:30pm

Contact Nina Rodman, 843-422-0490 or ninarodman@stlukeshhi.org

Top: Canterbury Choir;

Bottom: St. Nicholas Choir.





St. Luke's
 Chili Champ 2018

Coming next:



Save your special soup recipe!



A night in Bethlehem 2018

Thank you to everyone who helped with donations of supplies and time! Bethlehem is our Christmas outreach event and people from the entire area come by to experience the night Jesus was born! More pictures available on St. Luke's website and Facebook!

Parents save the date!!

We are having our first family camping trip on March 15-17 at Hunting Island! We are planning a great outdoor adventure for our families to bond while enjoying our beautiful lowcountry and learning about God! More information coming up soon!

GREAT BOOKS
 For the family

PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY

Every Day with Jesus: 365 Devotions for Kids
 by Charles Stanley

365 TRIVIA TWIST Devotions

ELEMENTARY & TWEEN

365 Trivia Twist Devotions
 by Betsy Schmitt

That Is SO Me: 365 Days of Devotions: Flip-Flops, Faith, and Friends (Faithgirlz)
 by Nancy N. Rue

TEENS

One God, One Plan, One Life: A 365 Devotional
 by Max Lucado

PARENTS

Every Day in His Presence
 by Charles Stanley

ENTIRE FAMILY

God's Story 365: A Fun Way to Explore the Bible As a Family
 by Big Little Studios LLC

www.godsstory365.com

St. Luke's
 1st Family Camping trip



St. Luke's Youth Ministry

Highlights from 2018:

6th annual international mission trip to Honduras with 24 high school students and 5 adults.

9th annual surf retreat to Ponce Inlet in Florida with 42 8th through 12th graders.

8th annual ski trip to Winterplace, West Virginia with over 40 middle and high school students.

4th annual fall retreat to Coppertown, Tennessee with 38 high school students.

Courageous Parenting Course: over 40 parents /adults came to hear speaker David Anderson provide tools for parenting children and teenagers.

Weekly Meeting:

Middle School Meets on Wednesday Nights and High School meets on Sunday Night. A typical meeting will have a meal, games / team building activities, small group questions, and talks from our adult leader from the Bible about how students can know and grow in their faith in Christ.

Middle School Averages: 15 to 25 kids every week

High School Averages: 20 to 30 kids every week

Looking ahead:

In 2019 we are planning one or two mission trip possibilities for our group to

Youth Group Schedules

High School Youth Night

(Grades 9-12)

Sundays from 6:30-7:45PM in the Mission and Ministry Building.

Middle School Youth Night:

(Grades 6-8)

Wednesdays from 6:15-7:45PM in the Mission and Ministry Building.

Contact Steve for info: 843-540-4025

Dominican Republic and possibly back to Honduras.

A Year in Pictures: St Luke's Youth Ministry 2018

Psalm 34:8: Taste and see that the Lord is good!



Mission Trip to Jericho Ministries, Honduras

February 2019

We are planning a trip to visit Betsy Hake and the children at Jericho Villas in Honduras from February 12-19, 2019. The cost will be between \$800-\$900 depending on the price of airline tickets. We would love for you to join us! No special skills are needed; however, handyman work, painting and jewelry making are some of the things that we will be doing. They've also asked us if we could possibly build a covered-patio for the kids to use as an outdoor game-room. If you are interested or have any questions, please call Kathie Phillips (843) 338-6144 or Meredith Kronz (843) 290-4565.



Thank You From Daniel Kronz & Co.

For those of you who have sent Care Packages to Daniel Kronz and his Team in Afghanistan, Thank You; they are most grateful. We received the following note of thanks, which was signed by all of the men on the Team:

Dear Congregation of St. Luke's:

Thank you for the many care packages. They have provided a much needed boost of morale, and it is wonderful to have the support of great Americans like yourselves.

From the Men of ODA 7223

Bill Phillips, Interim Missions Committee Chairperson
phillipskb@aol.com

Adult Education in 2019

Beginning in January!

Adult Sunday School - Do you ever wonder - Do miracles really happen? What are miracles, and why do so many people believe in them? What do they tell us about ourselves? Gleaves Rhodes will lead a teaching on Eric Metaxas' book Miracles: What They Are, Why They Happen, and How They Can Change Your Life. Please join us beginning January 6, 2019 in the Fellowship Hall at 9:10 after the first service till 9:50 as we learn about and discuss Miracles.

Our **Wednesday afternoon** discussion group will meet at 3:00, due to early Winter darkness, beginning January 2, 2019. We will be reading Everything You Always Wanted to Know About God (But Were Afraid to Ask) by Eric Metaxas together. As we bathe in the spirit of Christmas, we thank you for your loving support of our little, yet mighty Bookshop. We happily share all our lovely books, cards and gifts to meet your year-round needs. "At this beautiful season, we greet you! Not as the world sends greetings, but with profound esteem and the prayer that for you, now and forever, the day breaks and the shadows flee away." Fra Giovanni May we always begin every day with a grateful heart and may the Christmas Spirit remain with us always.

Eric Metaxas at St. Luke's

New York Times Bestselling author and radio host Eric Metaxas will be leading a one-day conference at St. Luke's on Saturday, February 9 from 10 AM to 3 PM. The material will be based on his book Everything You Always Wanted to Know About God (But Were Afraid to Ask). This is for those who think they know nothing about God, and those who think they know all the answers. It will be entertaining, challenging and a chance to hear Eric's personal experiences asking the most important questions we can ask.

Eric Metaxas is the author of *Martin Luther, If You Can Keep It*, *Bonhoeffer*, *Amazing Grace*, and *Miracles*. He has written more than thirty children's books, and his books have been translated into more than twenty-five languages. His writing has appeared in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, and the *New Yorker*, and Metaxas has appeared as a cultural commentator on CNN, Fox News, and MSNBC. He is the host of *The Eric Metaxas Show*, a nationally syndicated daily

radio show heard on 300 stations nationwide. He lives in New York City with his wife and daughter.



We will be charging \$60 for the day to help us defer the expenses. This price includes a light continental breakfast at check-in, and lunch. Tickets may be purchased by going to Get Involved/special events on our website or www.stlukesghi.org/metaxas. There you may purchase tickets by credit card or print a form you may fill out and mail in with your check. We hope you can join us for this special day.

January Outreach: ACTS Counseling

"Come unto me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Since our inception in July of 1996, it has been our mission to offer affordable, professional Christian counseling to all people in need, regardless of church affiliation or ability to pay. Our counselors are licensed professionals who hope to present the love of Christ to each client that enters our door. We do not push our faith on others, but we pray for our clients and present the gospel when the opportunity arises as we believe that the Holy Spirit is crucial to the healing process.



For twenty-one years we have been an outreach to the greater Hilton Head/Bluffton community, and we have been blessed to see God work in the lives of our clients to bring peace in what seems to be hopeless circumstances. Marriages have been healed and broken relationships restored. Many have grown in faith as they see the power of God at work in their lives.

The funds we receive are used only for our Scholarship Fund which allows us to provide services to those unable to pay our full fee. In addition, each counselor accepts half of our normal fee per session in order to use the funds to the fullest extent. In this

way your donations allow the body of Christ at St. Luke's to join with us in reaching out to many hurting people who would otherwise have received secular counseling or no counseling at all. So we ask you to partner with us, not only with your donations, but also with your prayers for us and our clients.

May you be greatly blessed as you bless others.

Sharon Smith, LMFT
Director/Counselor

February Outreach: The Literacy Center

The Literacy Center serves the community's social and economic needs through empowering adults to become proficient in English. We help develop a literate workforce, educate student to qualify for the GED, become citizens and prepare individuals for positive community engagement.



TLC teaches reading, writing, math and English to over 500 adults at 3 sites. There is a waiting list of over 100 people annually. Pre-GED classes and US Citizenship classes have become more in demand. This past year 6 students received a GED and 10 students became citizens. An

American Dream Scholarship fund has been established to help students pay the \$750 fee to take the citizenship exam.

TLC has partnered with local organizations and businesses to address the high demand for educated employees. For the past year TLC has been teaching job skills to students. With two grants from SC Adult Education TLC is implementing a formal job skills program. As required by the grants, a Career Navigator and Curriculum Developer will guide students

through the online programs and help place them in jobs or other educational options like Technical College of the Lowcountry. TLC is also providing on-site English classes to businesses who want to support their employees and help them to become more integrated in their job and community. A better job and better education provides the opportunity for a stronger family! TLC served students from over 29 different countries this past year! These people are striving for the American Dream—thanks for your help to make it happen!



2019 Outreach Recipients

Jamie Evans, Chairperson

As we begin a new year, we have an opportunity to "give back" to local charities outside the church and to organizations within the church that support missions or activities beyond our own membership. On the first Sunday of each month, you will learn about that organization and be able to make a contribution during that month. Please consider giving generously. (The Church Mouse will match donations up to \$3000.)

Twelve non-profits have been selected for 2019 and they are as follows:

- January-ACTS (St. Luke's Counseling Center)



- February-The Literacy Center
- March-St. Luke's Missions
- April-Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- May-Memory Matters
- June-Hospice of the LowCountry
- July-Pregnancy of the Low Country
- August-Neighborhood Outreach Connection

- September-St. Luke's Preschool
- October-Kairos Prison Ministry
- November-Hilton Head Heroes
- December-Volunteers in Medicine.

Jamie Evans, Outreach Chairperson
jsevans129@gmail.com

Counselor's Comments: Surprised By Grief

Sharon Smith

It's that time of year again when everyone is supposed to be happy and celebrating the holidays. Now the Christmas shopping starts even before Thanksgiving and people are out spending money they shouldn't and wouldn't any other time of the year. Sadly, most people hardly take the time to remember the reason for the celebration. Years ago the saying, "Jesus is the reason for the season" became popular and many wore pins printed with the quote. So how can we as Christians stand up for the true meaning of Christmas – "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16, NIV).

This past year has been one of many changes for me. I have often had to remember that God has a deeper purpose for our lives than we are able to comprehend. Often we are unable to see that purpose in the middle of a trial, but we are called to look for God's hand in all things. I truly believe that he wastes nothing, so that the whole of our lives on this earth are to be used for his glory. During my pondering I have wondered why we are not more in tune with the "joy" of the Lord

throughout every happening in our lives. Some people believe that joy means always feeling happy. In an article by John Piper, he says, "Christian joy is a good feeling in the soul, produced by the Holy Spirit, as he causes us to see the beauty of Christ in the word and in the world." This definition describes joy as being located in the soul, which explains why we can have joy in the midst of sorrow. It is not a feeling in our body but a truth in the very depth of a person.

With that being said, although this is a joyous season of the year, we often find ourselves remembering Christmases past. It may be that we are missing a loved one who has passed away or moved to another part of the country. It may be that a child got married and now is spending the holiday with the family of his/her spouse. It may be dealing with the illness of a family member who is in the process of dying. The point is that in the midst of joyous occasions there is often change and loss that causes us to need to grieve. Grieving needs to be acknowledged,

but it doesn't have to stifle our joy. The real truth is that this life is not the one we are meant to dwell on. We need to balance living in this world with the reality that we will live on in eternity with God.



In my favorite book on grief by Norman Wright, Recovering from the Losses of Life, he says that all loss, good or bad, requires grieving. He suggests what he calls a "Programmed Cry." To express the sadness we feel at our loss, get out pictures, get a box of Kleenex, put on appropriate music, darken the room and spend an hour processing your grief. When the time is up, put the lights back on and get on with your day. Crying is cleansing and it is a healthy way to experience grief rather than stuffing it and pretending it doesn't exist.

Our feelings exist and need to be dealt with. It is how we express them and deal with them that matters. In closing I will say that the joy of the Lord is ever present if you consciously stay close to him. It is our real joy, even in hard times, that will cause others to desire to know Jesus. *"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:16).*



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