

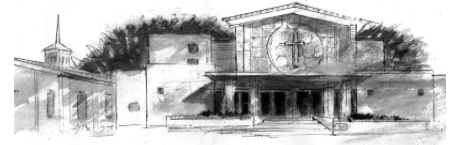


# HORIZON

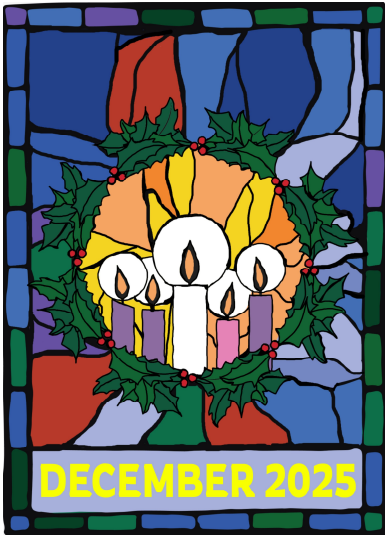
monthly newsletter

## St. Luke Lutheran Church

9100 Menaul Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112  
505.299.2621 Email: stluke@thuntek.net Website: stlukeabq.org



*Rooted in God's Word, Serving in God's World*



## ST LUKE WORSHIP SERVICES

*The Lord's Supper is shared at all weekend services.*

Nursery care available during services

Saturday at 5 PM

Sunday at 8:15 AM & 10:30 AM

Live-Stream service at StLukeABQ.org on: Saturdays, Dec. 6 & 13, 5 PM;

Sunday, Dec. 21, 8:15 AM; Sunday, Dec. 28, 10:30 AM

Christian Education: Sundays, *between services*

- ◆ 9:15 AM Salt & Spark Multigenerational Ensemble, in Sanctuary, followed by Godly Play, 2.5-preschool ages, in Admin. Building; Kids Spark, Kindergarten— 5th grade ages, in Youth room
- ◆ 9:25 AM Adult Forum, in Zuni room

Love God Love Neighbor: Sunday, December 14, 12:45 PM, at Saranam

## Pastor Brad Ponders . . . The character of Advent Preparation & Waiting

(Reading Matthew 24: 36-44 and other scary "end-times" scriptures in Advent)

I begin with a story. . . .

It was Saturday night, the eve of the First Sunday in Advent, 1984. Richard (Dick R.), a resident of a sleepy Ohio town near Dayton, OH, fell asleep Saturday night at 10:30 P.M. after a long Black Friday. Dick slept a very unsound sleep, full of strange dark visions and scary dreams fueled by too much Thanksgiving Day turkey, dressing, potatoes and gravy. In his dream his whole life of good deeds and good works passed before him. In his dream he stood before God in judgment. Many of us would tremble but Dick did not tremble, he had prepared for this day. He had lived an exemplary life, calculating every moment of it just like in his accounting practice. His moment of judgment came. He was prepared to hear a "Yes, welcome home into the kingdom prepared for you." But in his dream, God spoke a word of judgment over his life. God said a powerful and final "No" to Dick. You see, Dick had trusted in himself, not Jesus' mercy. He had boasted in his own deservedness, not Christ's death. Dick awakened with a start and was scared; and he trembled and sweat. He did not sleep well until the alarm rang at 5:30 AM and he awakened. He got up and prepared to get to Church that first Sunday of the new Advent season. When Dick arrived at worship, at his congregation, Trinity Lutheran, he heard the same scriptures we hear. Dick's minister tried to explain them; but Dick was lost in the details of his dream. He sat in terror (and smoked several packs of cigs outside the church!) before these images in the gospel, the "Son of Man' coming in the clouds in judgment." It was all 'coming so clear; that his dream was not a dream at all but reality. At least that's what Dick thought. Jesus spoke of such a coming, at least Dick thought Jesus had, (Matthew's gospel, chapter 24 and on the previous Sundays from Daniel 7). It was just like he had dreamed. But why should he be judged as "unworthy"? How could Dick stand before this righteous Lord Jesus the cosmic Judge? Was not Jesus his Savior, too?

Advent begins with scary images of the end-times, the 2nd coming of Jesus as Lord, not with prophecies of the birth of Jesus. Advent asks us to focus on the radical implications of all those "comings of God" into human life

*Continued next page*

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Soup Supper, p 3  
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St Luke Prays, p 16  
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(past, present, future). God came, first, in Jesus to ‘set afoot” God’s grand “rescue mission” to save the whole human race from dire circumstances and perilous disintegration. But then, it is clear that Matthew’s audience (60-80 A.D.), thirty to fifty years after Jesus’ mission on earth, wrestled with the question of the timing of Jesus’ Second Coming. “When will Jesus come again? What will this coming mean? What do we mean by judgment? How can we sit before a judging God and Cosmic Lord?” Note that Jesus changes the emphasis from the question: “When will these things happen?” to “What will be the character of your hope and the traits of your waiting and watching?” Jesus taught about the need to be awake to God’s comings and activity in every moment. Back to Richard’s story ...

Dick made a fatal mistake in his dream, (one that we are prone to make). Dick stood before God’s Throne of the end-times trusting solely in his own goodness and righteousness, his preparations, his holiness in his head. Dick was an exceptionally good Christian man and a good Lutheran saint and sinner; but he forgot his Reformation, grace-fueled underpinnings. His dream revealed his most inner heart and hopes; he made a fatal mistake by trusting in his own preparations and goodness, his own righteousness. Dick was preoccupied with the end-times. Though an adult Sunday School teacher at Trinity Church, he had doubts, fears, and lots and lots of biblical questions. He was afraid of judgement. He was uneasy with the readings on Sunday 1 of Advent.

We can empathize. God said a ‘No” to Dick in his dream. We wonder if God will say a “No” to us for, like Dick, we might presume to come before God trusting in our own goodness and works, trusting in ourselves to be ready / prepared to meet God. But there is good news in this gospel story, and it is this . . . Because there is no way we can know the hour of God’s coming therefore we cannot spend all our waking days preparing for it. We can be assured of one thing: When the end of days comes it will be a day of salvation, not judgment; it will be a day of redemption, not damnation, it will all be good news and not bad news. For when Jesus comes again we will see the same Jesus we already know and have met, trust in, and believe in, Jesus our Savior and Lord. He will greet us with loving and forgiving eyes. He first saw our broken and bleeding world through the eyes of a Child in the animal’s feed-box manger stone trough in cold Bethlehem. He saw the whole world before him when he hung on the Cross, and he looked down with mercy and forgiveness. At the end of time, he will regard us with the eyes of a merciful Judge, loving Brother, and forgiving Lord of grace. God will look upon us through Savior’s eyes. We can only cast ourselves anew each day into the hands of this Jesus our Savior, our Redeemer, and trust in God’s mercy and grace that covers us.

We can understand Dick’s preoccupation with end time issues; we can appreciate his questions and fears. We can understand Dick’s fear of judgment and his uneasiness with the Advent scriptures set alongside his unworthiness, his sinfulness, his brokenness, his need. Yet, at the same time, we are as intimately acquainted -as the earliest Christians were, -with the challenges presented by waiting for an event that seems late in coming. So, what, then, will be the character of our Advent waiting? Just what does hopeful waiting look like? This: being freed up through faith and baptism to struggle against evil, advocating for justice, mercy & compassion, serving, working, witnessing, being agents of faith, doorkeepers of the kingdom, watchers on the heights, doers of good deeds. We have been freed up love and to be hopeful. We are freed up to live and to die and serve, to wait patiently; and to do so actively and with full hope & resolve. Why? Because we already know the end of the story (just like readers of novels read the end hidden away already in the clues printed on the first page of the book). “The Savior is coming,” announces our Advent Characters and scriptures. He came. He comes. He will come again. Not to condemn but to save humanity and the cosmos from the very powers of Sin and Death that hold our world captive. So, we are to be “not afraid” or anxious. We will hear that word to us in the liturgy and scriptures on Christmas Eve. We may not know the timing of the ending of history, but we do know the One who is coming. And that Person is our gracious and loving Savior, Jesus.

- The Rev. Dr. Brad Brauer, Interim Pastor



**St. Luke**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# Advent

During Advent, beginning Sunday Nov. 30, we turn to Matthew's exciting, "full bodied" gospel for our stories on Sundays and during the midweek worship gatherings.

## Sundays

**Sunday Themes: The "Character(s)" of Advent's Waiting (and they were 'characters'!)**

**We will overhear the Voices of Advent's characters:**

- **Advent Sunday 1:** Isaiah and Micah the Prophets
- **Advent Sunday 2:** Matthew, the gospel-writer, and Saint Paul
- **Advent Sunday 3:** king Herod and John the wilderness baptizing prophet
- **Advent Sunday 4:** Joseph and Mary (Joseph's strange story is our focus this year.)

## Mid-week

The "character" of Advent Waiting (its moods, hopes, dreams, expectation, etc.)

**Soup Supper 5:00 PM**

**Worship Service 6:00 PM**

*peace* 

**Dec 3rd,**

*joy* 

**Dec 10th &**

*love* 

**Dec 17th**



**Join us at each worship opportunity for worship, reflection, and fellowship!**





**November 19, 2025 Update:**

As your Call Committee, we want to share an update on our work over the past several months as we continue discerning who God is calling to serve as the next pastor of our congregation.

This process has been active, deliberate, and prayerful. As names have been provided by the synod, we have carefully reviewed each one—spending significant time reading profiles, researching candidates, conducting preliminary conversations, and holding formal interviews when appropriate.

As many of you know, the wider church is currently experiencing a notable shortage of pastors. Many

candidates are interviewing with several congregations simultaneously, and in some cases pastors we engaged with ultimately accepted calls elsewhere. While this can feel discouraging, it reflects the reality facing congregations throughout our synod and across the church today. Please be assured that your Call Committee remains fully committed to this work. We continue to meet regularly, receive new names from the synod, and pursue every promising lead. Most importantly, we trust that the Holy Spirit is guiding both our committee and the pastor who will eventually be called to serve among us.

We are deeply grateful for your patience, your prayers, and your faith that God is moving even when the process feels slow. We will continue to keep you informed as new steps unfold.

In Christ’s hope and peace, The Call Committee  
- Judy Moore, Chair

**An invitation from St Luke Preschool and Church Cooperative (PCC)**



You are warmly invited to a

**Family Pizza and Pajama Party,**

featuring children’s musician **Andy Mason!**

Be sure to wear your pajamas for this fun evening of yummy pizza, children’s activities, and singing and dancing to Andy’s whimsical music.

**When: Friday, December 5**

**Time: 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm**

**Where: Fellowship Hall at St. Luke**

The PCC (Preschool & Church Cooperative) will be providing dinner, and a free will offering will be accepted to cover the cost.

For more details, contact Lori at [stlukesc@thuntek.net](mailto:stlukesc@thuntek.net).

You can listen to Andy Mason’s music on Spotify or iTunes!

His children’s books, including *Everybody Likes Pizza, Smile,*

*Monkey See, Monkey Do,* and *Where is Your Nearest Bear?*

can be found on Amazon.

**Enjoy O’Neill’s delicious food, festive drinks, and our Christmas Carol Bingo—complete with fun prizes and plenty of joyful moments to share. Bring your friends, your holiday spirit, and get ready to toast the season with good company and great cheer! We hope to see you there! - Rhonda Newby-Torres, Open Table Connection/Luther House**

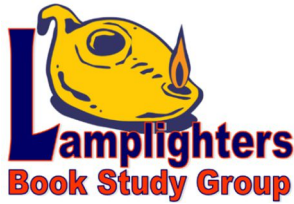
**THE OPEN TABLE CONNECTION**

**CHRISTMAS CHEERS AND BEERS**

**DEC 7**

**O'NEILL'S PUB**  
3301 JUAN TABO BLVD.  
3:00PM-5:00PM

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR A FUN AFTERNOON OF SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS, GAMES, AND PRIZES!



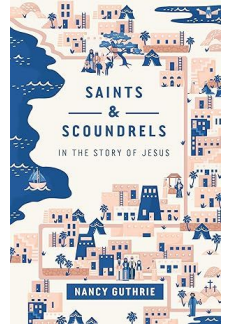
## Lamplighters Book Study Group

*We are not meeting in December*

We will be resuming Lamplighters on **Thursday, January 8, 2026, 2:00 - 3:30 PM**, in the Library/Lounge. We are starting a new book by Nancy Guthrie titled

*“Saints and Scoundrels”*

Join us! Questions? Please contact Diane Quarles at [Diane.quarles@mac.com](mailto:Diane.quarles@mac.com) or at 505-264-5444.



“... *Saints and Scoundrels in the Story of Jesus* tells the story of 10 people or groups of people who are integral to the story of Jesus told in the Gospels. ... They are more than examples—they show us a unique angle on the grace available through Jesus for sinners. Each chapter also offers challenging applications to the lives of readers.” - excerpt from Christianbook.com



## Women’s “gather” Bible Study, Brunch, & Mini-Retreat

**Saturday, December 6, 2025**

**9:15 - 11:30 AM**

At St. Luke Lutheran Church, in the Lounge/Library  
*(Please note change of meeting room)*



### **“Practicing Advent imagination: Matthew’s dreamers and Isaiah’s visions,” by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith**

We cannot build a new future that we cannot imagine. The long nights of Advent gift us with time to dream. This study will offer us ways of imagining God’s future for us and all creation through the dreams of Joseph, the Wise Men and Isaiah.

*Invite a friend.* Bring a brunch food to share. Provide a non-perishable food item for the Storehouse.

More information: contact Bev Berardinelli at [womensbiblestudy@stlukeabq.org](mailto:womensbiblestudy@stlukeabq.org)

For more information on the Gather magazine, go online to [www.gathermagazine.org](http://www.gathermagazine.org).

*We'd love for you to join us!*



# Preparing for Christmas

## Church Yard



**CLEANUP**

### St. Luke Yard Cleanup

**Saturday, December 13**

**9:00 AM**

Property Committee appreciates your assistance with St Luke Church campus yard clean up.

We will be gathering leaves, pine needles, trash and dead weeds and tasks to make the area look nice for the Christmas season. Please bring rakes if you have one, gloves, hat and water bottle.

Information: Clare Castiglia and Larry Shore.

## Christmas Decorating

**Saturday, December 6**

**2:30 - 4:30 PM**

St. Luke congregation is invited to participate in decorating the Narthex and Sanctuary for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. Many hands are needed! We have three main areas that need to be decorated. They are:

- In the Sanctuary, at the altar area - we will set up the Christmas tree with the lights
- In the Sanctuary - we need strong people to climb on ladders to place wreaths above the coves
- In the Narthex (or church lobby) - we will decorate it with a nativity set and greenery



We will celebrate our work with a

### **Hanging of the Greens**

**at our 5 PM Saturday, December 6, service** Please put this date on your calendars and plan to assist. Many thanks in advance!

Information: Karen Carlson and Mary Fidler

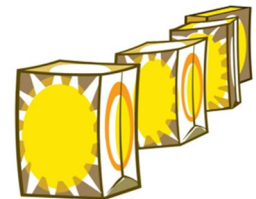
*It's almost that time to light up St. Luke in a New Mexico tradition!*

## LUMINARIAS at St. Luke on Christmas Eve

**Wednesday, December 24**

### Opportunities to help in this St. Luke Christmas tradition:

- **Dec. 24 at 3:00 PM:** We meet and set up luminarias before the early service. Please come to the Youth room. This is a fun family activity; even the littles can help! Refreshments will be served following the set-up. If you would like to help with the refreshments please contact Mary Fidler at [mefidler@gmail.com](mailto:mefidler@gmail.com).
- **Dec. 24, after the 4 PM worship service** (about 5 PM): Lighting of the luminarias. This activity should be for older kids, teens and adults.
- **Thursday, Dec. 26:** Clean up. Any age can join in for this fun! Stop by in the afternoon to help clean up!



Please sign up on the weekly goldenrod bulletin insert or contact Allie Brandt at [stluke.abrandt@gmail.com](mailto:stluke.abrandt@gmail.com) or Holly Trujillo at [htrujillo1624@gmail.com](mailto:htrujillo1624@gmail.com).

# LOVE GOD LOVE NEIGHBOR

ABQ YOUTH COLLABORATIVE

6TH GRADE AND UP ADULT MENTORS ENCOURAGED CONNECT & SERVE



**Sun, December 14th, 12:45-2:45pm: Saranam!**  
1028 Eubank Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87112

We will meet with other local youth groups at Saranam to help with a variety of projects. More details to follow. Please let Allie Brandt know by Dec. 10th if you will be joining us for this afternoon of fellowship and service! LGLN is for youth grades 6-12th. Bring a friend! Parents/guardians welcome, but if you can't join Allie will be the adult chaperone for St. Luke youth!

**Sun, January 11th, 12:45-2:45pm: Luther House, Mutual Aid Project**  
1805 Las Lomas Rd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Pr. Rhonda and Luther House will provide lunch, a mutual aid discussion and prayer/devotional. We will then get to help install a Blessing Box on the Luther House property, which will provide food and necessities for the UNM campus community. Please contact Allie Brandt for more information and to RSVP. Bring a friend and a parent/guardian. Allie will also be available as an adult chaperone for St. Luke youth.



For more information contact Allie Brandt,  
[stluke.abrandt@gmail.com](mailto:stluke.abrandt@gmail.com)

# December Sunday School Announcements

## Godly Play

Our stories this month are:

12/7: Advent 1 & 2

12/14: Advent 3 & 4

12/21: St. Nicholas

12/28-1/4: No classes

1/11: Class Resumes!

Are you interested in knowing more about Godly Play? Contact Robin or Allie about an informal training opportunity!

## Kids SPARK

December Lessons:

12/7: God's Peaceful World

12/14: John the Baptist

12/21: Angels Visit

12/24: 4pm Children's Christmas Eve

Service with pageant!

12/28-1/4: No classes

1/11: Class Resumes!

In place of Salt & Spark Ensemble, we will be practicing for the Christmas Eve pageant, then breaking into our Sunday School classes.



## LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

CHRISTMAS EVE 8 PM

Candlelight Service

Need: Two Acolytes and One Crucifer

*What a wonderful gift to the congregation & visitors!*

Thank you.

Please sign up on the weekly goldenrod bulletin insert or contact Judy Aaker (507-210-2978).





THE **LIGHT SHINES**

IN THE DARKNESS,

AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.

JOHN 1:5

# Christmas Eve

## Wednesday, December 24

**4 PM**

All God's Children of All Ages  
Christmas Eve Candlelight  
Service

Lighting of the luminarias after  
the service. All ages welcome!

**8 PM**

Traditional Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Service with Carols  
and Holy Communion

No worship service at St. Luke  
church on Christmas Day



SHE WILL BEAR A SON, AND YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME  
**JESUS**, FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.

– MATTHEW 1:21



## Jan Delgado

“I grew up in the Midwest and went to St Olaf College. I moved to Albuquerque in 1986 and was a music teacher in APS, retiring in 2020. Luis is my husband of 32 years and we have one daughter, Elena. I play cello and electric bass in several music ensembles. It is a joy to be making music as a member of St Luke.”



Luis  
o and  
s a

## Vicki Grewe

“I am retired military (Air Force) and am originally from central Illinois. I lived in Huntsville, Alabama, for five years before arriving in Albuquerque where my sister Debbie Werner lives. I have two daughters and four grandchildren. Becoming a member of St Luke means being part of a great church community where the people are kind, generous and very welcoming.”



## Judith Raver

“I was invited to visit St. Luke Lutheran Church last November when my husband was in hospice, by Larry & Clare Shore. I felt at home here, so I joined as a member. I was baptized at Faith Lutheran Church in 1992.”



## In-Person Planning Meeting

Tuesday, December 9, 9:30 AM  
At Krispy Kreme, 2270 Wyoming Blvd

With the year coming to a close, it is time for the Learners and Servers to look forward to 2026. We are having an in-person planning meeting on Tuesday, December 9 at Krispy Kreme. Yup! Goodies will be available.

This is where you come in - we need to have you, attendees of the activities to help us plan. You are invited to join us and have input into what you want in the way of activities. Please consider joining us at this meeting. Questions, etc., contact me at [nancytarman@gmail.com](mailto:nancytarman@gmail.com) or contact me at 505-301-4200.

Let's work together to make 2026 a great year for all Learners and Servers at St. Luke.

- Nancy Tarman

# Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!



This year St. Luke Church and Preschool collected 57 coats for the students at Janet Kahn K-8 school. Your generosity each year amazes me and I am so thankful for this community! Thank you again!

~Holly Trujillo

## From Cuidando Los Niños

Thank you for your generous gift. Your support helps provide housing, education, and hope for children and families experiencing homelessness in Albuquerque. We are so grateful for your kindness and belief in brighter futures. With appreciation,  
Kyla, Crissy, and Cuidando Team

## THE STOREHOUSE NEW MEXICO

*By Deb Werner, Coordinator of Storehouse Ministry at St. Luke*

**DURING THIS CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY, THROUGH JAN. 5, 2026:** Sandia Area Federal Credit Union is matching donations up to \$50,000 to double your gift to The Storehouse's FACE the Hunger campaign, doubling the good we can do for kids and families in need, go online to: [storehousenm.org](http://storehousenm.org) or go to the giving site: <https://giving.classy.org/campaign/736688/donate>

**STOREHOUSE MATH:** \$0.98 of every dollar goes to feeding the individuals who receive food. Every \$1 provides 5 meals. You may send your gifts directly to St. Luke via mail or via online giving resources on our church website [StLukeABQ.org](http://StLukeABQ.org)

So here are some facts:

- ◆ In 2024 nearly 80,000 people came to the pantry for free groceries, shattering past averages. On open pantry days, an average 485 people received groceries.
- ◆ NM residents of all ages, infants to seniors, are eligible to receive food. Children make up 28% of the people they serve, while seniors account for 20%. The remaining 52% are working and non-working adults.
- ◆ The Storehouse provides not just canned goods, but also milk, eggs, and fresh fruit/vegetables. For unhoused neighbors they provide snacks and hygiene supplies.
- ◆ The Storehouse also delivers 100 boxes of food every Thursday to homebound seniors and those with disabilities.. There is a waiting list for these deliveries.
- ◆ The Storehouse has a monthly Pet Food Pantry day and also hosts a pet clinic with Los Sueños Community Services.



Thank you for all your donations to the STOREHOUSE. Reminder the big food bin is in the lobby of the church.



## BUCKET OF CHANGE

*“Noisy Offering”*

Our St. Luke “Bucket of Change” offerings for **December 2025** will go to **ELCA WORLD HUNGER**

Working with & through our congregations, in the fifty US states, Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands, Lutheran churches overseas & other partners, ELCA World Hunger reach communities in need. Your gifts make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. Visit ELCA World Hunger online at <https://www.elca.org/>. Choose “Our Work,” then “Relief and Development,” then, “ELCA World Hunger.”



ELCA World Hunger in partnership with the East Boston Community Soup Kitchen

*Photo from www.elca.org*



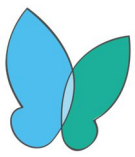
Bless this food we're about to receive.

You may place your offerings for the **BUCKET OF CHANGE** in the bucket at church (*our "noisy offering"*), or send your gifts directly to St. Luke via mail or contribute via our online giving resources on our church website [StLukeABQ.org](http://StLukeABQ.org)



ELCA World Hunger supporting and working with farmers in rural Cambodia.

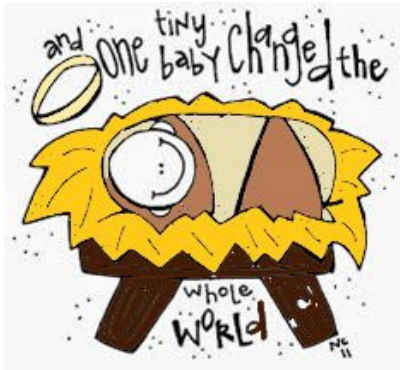
*Photo from www.elca.org*



# St. Luke Preschool

## Growing with God Since 1956

(505) 292-8812 | STLUKESC@thuntek.net | stlukepreschool.org



December brings us the story of the holy night. We retell it with nativity pieces and lots of pretend play! Our days are filled with twinkling lights, Christmas songs, sparkling glitter gift making, cinnamon scented playdough, gingerbread cookie treats, and so much more.

Joy and anticipation fill the hearts of the children as we prepare for the birth of baby Jesus. Together we sing:

“Bells are ringing, bells are ringing,  
It’s Christmas! It’s Christmas!  
Bells are ringing, bells are ringing,  
Baby Jesus is here.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!”



*You Are Warmly Invited to Join Us for Our Christmas Programs*



9:15 am on Friday, December 12, or  
9:15 am on Monday, December 15 or Tuesday, December 16, or  
11:15 am on Monday, December 15 or Tuesday, December 16,

Join us in the sanctuary, where you will experience the gift of God’s love through the eyes of little ones.

*As we come to the end of 2025,  
we reflect on God’s many blessings:*

Volunteers who give of their time to accomplish preschool maintenance and repairs, generous monetary donations, the gift of time and expertise from the supportive and dedicated Preschool Committee members, along with your prayers and kindness, mean so much to us. Together, we make a difference in the lives of children and their families.

We are thankful for the opportunity to participate alongside the church in the Giving Tree, to benefit the clients of Saranam.

Above all, we are thankful to God for the honor and privilege of serving the preschool children and their families.

Sun

Mon

Tue



# December 2025

**1**  
**Saranam Giving Tree continues through Dec. 10**  
**9:15-11:45am** Preschool Music classes, in Taos room

**2**  
**9:50-11:45am** Preschool Music classes, in Taos room  
**3:30-5:30pm** Preschool Staff meeting in Fellowship Hall

## 7 ADVENT 2

Nursery Care during each service  
**8:15am** Worship Service  
**9:15am** Salt & Spark Ensemble Godly Play; Kids Sparks in Youth room  
**9:25-10:20am** Adult Forum, Zuni room  
**10:30am** Worship Service & Baros' Baptisms

**8**  
**9:15-11:45AM** Preschool Music classes, Taos room  
**10am** Finance Committee meeting on Zoom

**9**  
**9:30am Learners & Servers** planning meeting, at Krispy Kreme on Wyoming, south of Manual  
**9:50-11:45am** Preschool Music classes, in Taos room

## 14 ADVENT 3

Nursery Care during each service  
**8:15am** Worship Service  
**9:15am** Salt & Spark Ensemble in church; then to Godly Play in admin. bldg. & Kids Sparks in Youth room  
**9:25-10:20am** Adult Forum, Zuni room  
**10:30am** Worship Service  
**12:45-2:45pm** Love God, Love Neighbor at SARANAM

**15**  
**9am** Preschool Christmas Programs  
**7pm** Preschool Committee meeting on Zoom

**16**  
**9am** Preschool Christmas Programs

## 21 ADVENT 4

Nursery Care during each service  
**8:15am** Worship service  
 Simultaneous Live-stream worship at StLukeABQ.org  
**9:15am** Salt & Spark Ensemble in church; then to Godly Play in admin. bldg. & Kids Sparks in Youth room  
**9:25-10:20am** Adult Forum, Zuni room  
**10:30am** Worship Service



**22**  
**(holiday) Deadline, by noon:** submit items for the Jan. 3-4, 2026, GPS to church office  
 Preschool Christmas Break 12/22 - 1/5

**23**

**28**  
No Holy Communion at both services  
**8:15am** Worship Service  
**No Sunday classes**  
**10:30am** Worship Service  
 Simultaneous Live-stream worship at StLukeABQ.org  
*No Blessing of Eucharistic Visitor Communion kits in Dec.; next one will be in January*

**29**  
*Afternoon: Angie out of the church office*

**30**  
  
*Afternoon: Angie out of the church office*

| Wed  | Thu  | Fri  | Sat   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>3 9:30-11:45am</b> Preschool<br/>Worship: THE WAY TO JERUSALEM<br/><b>10am</b> Budget meeting<br/><b>12:30pm</b> Staff meeting, Conference room<br/><b>2pm</b> Bells of St. Luke<br/><b>5pm</b> Advent Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall [hosts: Women's Bible Study]<br/><b>6-6:45pm</b> Advent Holden<br/><b>7-8:30pm</b> Sanctuary Choir</p>   | <p><b>4 9:30-11:45am</b> Preschool<br/>Worship: THE WAY TO JERUSALEM<br/><b>No</b> Lamplighters Book Study, resumes Jan. 8, 2026<br/><b>6pm</b> Council meeting on Zoom<br/><b>6:30pm</b> Worship, Music, &amp; the Arts Comm. meeting on Zoom</p> | <p><b>5 3pm</b> Preschool in Fellowship Hall for event setup<br/><b>5:30-7pm</b> Family Pizza and Pajama Party, featuring: Andy Mason, in Fellowship Hall</p>  | <p><b>6 9:15-11:30am</b> Women's gather Bible Study, Brunch, &amp; Mini-Retreat, in Lounge/Library<br/><b>2:30-4:30pm</b> Christmas Decorating in church<br/><b>5pm</b> Worship Service and Hanging of the Greens<br/>Simultaneous Live-stream worship at StLukeABQ.org<br/>Nursery care during the service</p> |
| <p><b>10 Last day for Giving Tree (holiday) Deadline:</b> submit articles &amp; items for Jan. 2026 Horizon newsletter &amp; calendar to church office<br/><b>9:30-11:45am</b> Preschool Rehearsals in Sanctuary<br/><b>12:15pm</b> Worship Planning meeting, Conference room<br/><b>2pm</b> Bells of St. Luke<br/><b>5pm</b> Advent Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall [hosts: _____]<br/><b>6-6:45pm</b> Advent Holden<br/><b>7-8:30pm</b> Sanctuary Choir</p> | <p><b>11 9:30-11:45am</b> Preschool Rehearsals in Sanctuary</p>  | <p><b>12 9am</b> Preschool Christmas Programs</p>  | <p><b>13 9am</b> St Luke church yard cleanup<br/><b>12pm</b> PEO Organization c/o Lindy B, in Fellowship Hall<br/><b>1pm</b> Survivors of Suicide<br/><b>5pm</b> Worship service<br/>Simultaneous Live-stream worship at StLukeABQ.org<br/>Nursery care during the service</p>                                  |
| <p><b>17 12pm</b> Interim Pastors' meeting<br/><b>12:30pm</b> Staff meeting, Conference room<br/><b>2pm</b> Bells of St. Luke<br/><b>5pm</b> Advent Soup Supper in Fellowship Hall [hosts: _____]<br/><b>6-6:45pm</b> Advent Holden Prayer<br/><b>7-8:30pm</b> Sanctuary Choir</p>   | <p><b>18 6pm</b> Council meeting on Zoom</p>   | <p><b>19 (holiday) Deadline, by noon:</b> submit items for the Dec. 27-28 GPS to church office<br/><b>10:30am</b> St Luke Singers, at Morningstar Memory Care at North Ridge; <i>to attend, contact Ginny Fisher at (505) 280-2012 or vcfisher@comcast.net</i></p> | <p><b>20 5pm</b> Worship Service<br/>Nursery care during the service</p>  |
| <p><b>24 12pm</b> Church office closed<br/><b>3pm</b> Set up luminarias<br/><b>4pm</b> Christmas Eve Family worship service for God's Children of All Ages ; <u>no Holy Communion</u><br/><b>After service:</b> Light luminarias<br/><b>8pm</b> Traditional Christmas Eve worship service, <u>with Holy Communion</u></p>  | <p><b>25 Merry Christmas!</b><br/>Church office closed<br/>No worship service today</p>   | <p><b>26 Afternoon:</b> Clean up (discard luminarias)<br/><i>Pastor Brad out of the office Dec. 26 - 29</i><br/><i>Angie out of the church office</i></p>  | <p><b>27 1pm</b> Survivors of Suicide<br/><b>5pm</b> Worship Service (no Holy Communion)<br/>Nursery care during the service<br/><i>No Blessing of Eucharistic Visitor Communion kits in Dec.; next one will be in January</i></p>  |
| <p><b>31 No</b> Staff meeting<br/><b>No</b> Bells and Sanctuary Choir rehearsals<br/><br/><i>Afternoon: Angie out of the church office</i></p>   | <p><b>January 1, 2026</b><br/><b>Happy New Year!</b><br/><br/>Church office closed</p>   | <p><b>January 2</b><br/><br/><i>Angie out of the church office</i></p>   |  <p><b>December 2025</b></p>   |

*Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I ... - Psalm 61:1-2*

Let us offer our prayers for the wideness of God's mercy for the whole world —

**For the church universal, its bishops, for the newly baptized and confirmands, and for all the faithful, its ministry, and the mission of the gospel**

† ELCA Missionary Carolyn Schneider in Guyana

† The Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, Arizona; ELCA Missionary Carolyn Schneider in Guyana

† Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry, Synod Bishop Meghan Aelabouni and the work of the Rockies Synod and its ministries, for the ministries of the ELCA in Jordan and the Holy Land and for her bishops and clergy seeking peace together with the Rabbis of Israel

**For the well-being of your creation, that we may be good stewards of all your gifts and share generously with all who are in need, for an increase of peace and justice in the world,**

† Healing for our country and unity for God's people

† *Terry Obago*, Steve's family, Arden, Irene, Natalie and Vanessa; Greg, Avery, Rebecca Horton's granddaughter and daughter, Liam & Richard, Marissa & Gene, Brandon & Chris & Peter & Rogene (from Nancy Espy), Janie (from Daleen Olson), Thomas Young's medical work (from Cindy Callisto), Don, safety as he travels, Mark Mooty, Elisa, Felisa, Joshua Kiniaard (16 yrs), Andy, Nancy, Dave, Sam, Andrew, Scott & Beels, Emily, Seth, Nora & Logan, Kathy, Lisa Gail & Mary, Chele, Debra, Roseann Schneider, Sofia, Michael R, Joan & Dave, Kaela, Callie Coughenour, Kurt Coughenour, Russ Glauner.

**For the nations and those in authority, rulers, legislators, and judges,**

† *School children in Nigeria*; detained pastors and church leaders in East Asia

† The youth, those living in unsafe environment, those who are starving, those without families or homes, those who are deprived of good education - that they would hear and accept the good news of Jesus

† Israel, Gaza and the larger Middle East and in Ukraine; for Oksana's family in Ukraine, for safety and an end to war and terror

† This community; for peace and security for all peoples, for this assembly here at St. Luke Church, for our growth in faith and service for the poor, oppressed

† Bucket of Change recipient for December: ELCA World Hunger

**For the sick and infirm of body, mind, and spirit, those**

**who live with incurable diseases, AIDS, malaria, last stage cancer, and polio**

† Bonnie Paine (& husband Bob), Debbie (& sister Diane), Fern Knudsen on hospice, Lola, for mental health and care; Jean Klinke

† For the hospitalized and recovering, especially those who will have surgery: *Magdalena Barba* (& caregivers: *family*), *Linsay Gear*, Gina & Kevin

Wilson, Roy (& family), Ruth & Bruce, Ginny, Frank Johnson, April Brannon, Dorela & John Cole, Andy H, Steve, Joe, Aleta, Donna who was in hospital, Pastor Zach Cook, Rebecca Horton's husband, Tina, Felisa, Pastor Brad's niece in Denver, Renae Brauer, Don, Daleen Olson, Myra Lynch

**For the hungry and homeless on our streets and neighborhoods, for the mentally ill especially, for the lonely**

† Amy, Juvanna, and Frankie, and others we pass by unable to help them sufficiently

**For the congregation and its needs, and for its special concerns,**

† The Call Committee and the Church Council

† St. Luke Preschool and the children and families

† Interim Pastor Brad, church committees/ministries, & staff

† *DW & Deborah Stephenson*, *Andy H*, Joyce, Nancy Granert, Forrest Blech, Sandy Bowers, Bob & Sherri Domres, Chrystal Vaughan, Karin Duda, Dorela Cole, Lorna Hill, Brenda Sanchez, Polly Brodbeck, Melda Burns, Leah Coughenour, Dottie Donohoe, Kay Dunbar, Lucille Few, Marie Lenard, Marv Plugge, Loretta Roe, Liz Wills (needs ride to church)

† For aging parents, whose caregivers we become.

**Into your mercy we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting always in your mercy and love for us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Please submit your prayer requests to PrayerChain@StLukeABQ.org or contact the church office. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.*



# December Celebrations

## Birthdays

- 1 Georgiana Bowers
- 2 Connor Bowers
- 2 Carrie Haugen
- 7 Sandra Bjorkman
- 7 Hazel Trujillo
- 8 Rebecca Shore
- 8 Parker Lee Smith
- 9 Andy Hochstein
- 9 Rachel Welch
- 15 Bob Paine

- 16 Marshall Shore
- 23 Jodi Feddema
- 26 Lindy Blanchet
- 31 Otis Geiger

## Wedding Anniversaries

- 3 Charles & Barbara Exley
- 19 Denny & Nancy Krenz
- 23 Amy Hlad & Hal Wagnon
- 28 D W & Deborah Stephenson
- 30 Steve Azar & DeAnn Eaton  
Azar



## Greetings from Lorna Hansen



Thinking of you and wishing you warm, joyous and blessed holiday greetings. Though absent, you remain in my heart.

❤️ Love to all,  
Lorna Hansen

*Former St. Luke church member now living in Washington state. Photo, from Blech family in 2024.*



Hello,

Thank you for all of your prayers for me.

It's one thing after another with me,  
but I'm grateful to God I'm still here.  
Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Sincerely,  
Marie (Lenard)

## SUGGESTED BIBLE READING PLAN

| Week 49 | REVELATION | PSALMS                  | Week 51 | PROVERBS  | PSALMS                          |
|---------|------------|-------------------------|---------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| Day 1   | 1-3        | 147                     | Day 1   | 10-11     | 119:81-88 <i>Kaph</i>           |
| Day 2   | 4-6        | 148                     | Day 2   | 12-13     | 119:89-96 <i>Lamedh</i>         |
| Day 3   | 7-9        | 149                     | Day 3   | 14-15     | 119:97-104 <i>Mem</i>           |
| Day 4   | 10-11      | 150                     | Day 4   | 16-17     | 119:105-112 <i>Nun</i>          |
| Day 5   | 12-13      | 119:1-8 <i>Aleph</i>    | Day 5   | 18-19     | 119:113-120 <i>Samekh</i>       |
| Day 6   | 14-16      | 119:9-16 <i>Beth</i>    | Day 6   | 20-21     | 119:121-128 <i>Ayin</i>         |
| Day 7   | 17-18      | 119:17-24 <i>Gimel</i>  | Day 7   | 22-23     | 119:129-136 <i>Pe</i>           |
| Week 50 | REVELATION | PSALMS                  | Week 52 | PROVERBS  | PSALMS                          |
| Day 1   | 19-20      | 119:25-32 <i>Daleth</i> | Day 1   | 24-25     | 119:137-144 <i>Tsadhe</i>       |
| Day 2   | 21-22      | 119:33-40 <i>He</i>     | Day 2   | 26-27     | 119:145-152 <i>Qoph</i>         |
|         | PROVERBS   |                         | Day 3   | 28-29     | 119:153-160 <i>Resh</i>         |
| Day 3   | 1          | 119:41-48 <i>Waw</i>    | Day 4   | 30        | 119:161-168 <i>Sin and Shin</i> |
| Day 4   | 2-3        | 119:49-56 <i>Zayin</i>  |         | PSALM     | 119:169-176 <i>Taw</i>          |
| Day 5   | 4-5        | 119:57-64 <i>Heth</i>   | Day 5   | 145:1-3   | 119:169-176 <i>Taw</i>          |
| Day 6   | 6-7        | 119:65-72 <i>Teth</i>   | Day 6   | 145:4-9   |                                 |
| Day 7   | 8-9        | 119:73-80 <i>Yodh</i>   | Day 7   | 145:10-21 |                                 |

### ST. LUKE CHURCH OFFICE

*Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! – Psalm 90:17*

Church Office: 505.299.2621 / stluke@thuntek.net

#### Altar Flowers:

- † December 6-7: Given by the Exleys, in thanksgiving for their 14th wedding anniversary
- † December 13-14: Given by Dorthe Carr, in memory of Sam Bame
- † December 20-21: Given by the Krenzs, in thanksgiving for their 66th wedding anniversary
- † Poinsettia Plants for Christmas Eve: offerings will be listed in the bulletins. Donation: \$7.50

**Sanctuary Candle for December**, given by Joyce Mills, in memory of V.L. Morris & Gene Mills

Altar Flowers and Sanctuary Candles for 2026: Please sign up on the Flower Chart on the kiosk in the church lobby or sign up by email: StLuke@thuntek.net

#### Holiday Publication Deadlines:

*Email articles/calendar items/reports to Angie*

- Wednesday Dec. 10: Articles and items for the **January 2026** Horizon newsletter and calendar.
- **St. Luke GPS for**
  - ⇒ Dec. 27-28, morning, Friday, Dec. 19
  - ⇒ Jan. 3-4, 2026, morning, Monday, Dec. 22
- **2025 Annual Reports from Church Leaders**
  - ⇒ Please plan to submit reports by Jan. 12

#### Church office closed:

- Noon, Dec. 24 - Christmas Day, Dec. 25
- New Year's Day, January 1

Angie Miller, out of the office: Dec. 26 & Jan. 2, afternoons: Dec. 29 - 31.



*An invitation*

*St. Luke members  
in Enchanted Mesa*

*Show Chorus are:*

*Bev Berardinelli*

*Donna Berardinelli*

*Judy Moore*

*Sharon Ormiston*

*Enchanted Mesa*  
Show Chorus  
presents:

# Magic of the Season

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2025  
3:00 PM

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
9500 Constitution Ave NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87112

Tickets:  
\$15 Adults - Free Kids 10 & Under

Scan the QR Code below or visit  
[www.enchantedmesa.org](http://www.enchantedmesa.org) for options to purchase tickets

# Christmas Worship

AT CROSS OF HOPE CHURCH  
DECEMBER 25TH AT 10 AM  
6104 Taylor Ranch Rd, ABQ, NM 87120  
[www.crossofhope.org](http://www.crossofhope.org)



*A Christmas day offering  
from our sister church*

*Cross of Hope  
Lutheran Church*

*- for anyone looking for a place  
to worship on Christmas morning*





For you were once darkness,  
**BUT NOW**  
**YOU ARE LIGHT**

in the Lord.  
 Live as children of light.

EPHESIANS 5:8, NIV

## ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A congregation of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod*

The Rev. Yehiel Curry,

*ELCA Presiding Bishop*

The Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni,

*Synod Bishop*

The Rev. Dr. Brad Brauer, *Interim Pastor*

Michelle Barba, *Business Manager*

Allie Brandt, *Multi-Generational Ministries Coordinator*

Danielle Cordova, *Music Ministries Coordinator*

Pamela Franco, *Media Ministry Assistant*

Precious Goodhart, *Nursery Care on Saturday*

Taylor Hollowwa, *Nursery Care on Sunday*

Angelica Miller, *Church Office Manager, Ministry*

*Assistant, Horizon newsletter Editor*

Pro-Team Cleaning & Maintenance, *(Victor & Jonathan*

*Barba) Custodians*

## Church Council

*(Email: Council@StLukeABQ.org)*

Alison Schuler: *Council President, Preschool Committee*

DeAnn Eaton Azar: *Vice-President; Finance Secretary*

The Rev. Dr. Brad Brauer, *Interim Pastor*

Cindy Callisto: *Secretary; Worship Assistant*

Greg Haschke: *Stewardship; Sanctuary Choir*

Hazel Mella: *Adult Forum*

Judy Moore: *Treasurer; Finance; Budget; Personnel;*

*Stewardship; Godly Play; St. Learners & Servers*

Marshall Shore: *Property Committee*



## St. Luke Preschool

Phone: (505) 292-8812

E-mail: stlukesc@thuntek.net

Website: www.stlukepreschool.org

Lori Erven, *Director*

Jane Clinger,

*Office Administrator*

*Growing with God*



St.LukePreschool

## Horizon Newsletter

is a monthly publication of

ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

9100 Menaul Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112

Phone (505) 299-2621

E-mail: stluke@thuntek.net

Website: stlukeabq.org

## Publication Deadlines:

*Please send articles/items to the church office, c/o Angie Miller at stluke@thuntek.net.*

- **Please read “St Luke Church Office” section for the holiday deadlines. Thank you.**