

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 28, 2025

The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor

WELCOME

PRELUDE Excerpts from "Christmas Sonatina", Carl Reinecke, ed. Maurice Hinson. Bud Esper. ©2005 Alfred Publishing.

Congregation stands

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting in God's steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin. Reconciling God,

C **we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace. We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our reluctance to embody your good news. Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation. Amen.**

P God's grace upon grace flows over you. + Christ's presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN "Good Christian Friends Rejoice", #288

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

KYRIE S-203 (*Front of hymnal, page S-203*)

HYMN OF PRAISE "Gloria" S-204a (*Front of hymnal, page 204*)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WA Let us pray.

C **O Lord God, you know that we cannot place our trust in our own powers. As you protected the infant Jesus, so defend us and all the needy from harm and adversity, through Jesus**

Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Congregation sits

FIRST READING Isaiah 63:7-9

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 148

L ¹Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

C ²Praise the Lord, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

L ³Praise the Lord, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

C ⁴Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

L ⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord, who commanded, and they were created,

C ⁶who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.

L ⁷Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

C ⁸fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

L ⁹mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

C ¹⁰wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

L ¹¹sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

C ¹²young men and maidens, old and young together.

L ¹³Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

C ¹⁴The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:10-18

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

“Alleluia” S-205a (*Front of hymnal, page #205a*)

GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-23

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation sits

+ SERMON +

+ THE REVEREND DR. CHRISTIAN EICHORN, PASTOR +

Silence for reflection

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY “Angels From the Realms of Glory”, #275

“THE NICENE CREED” S-105 (*Front of hymnal, page #105*)

WA Let us confess the faith of the church.

C **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

WA ...Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

PEACE & SHARE THE PEACE OF THE LORD

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Congregation sits

OFFERTORY "Pacem", Patrick Liebergen. St. Luke Voice Choir.

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Congregation stands

OFFERING HYMN "Let the Vinyards Be Fruitful", #184

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God of glory,

C **God of glory, great are your wonders among us and many are the blessings you bestow. Use us and these your gifts for the needs of the world, that all the ends of the earth may rejoice in your saving grace, through Christ our Savior.**

Amen.

"THE GREAT THANKSGIVING" S-206 (*Front of hymnal, page #206*)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

"Holy, Holy, Holy" S-207 (*Front of hymnal, page #207*)

P ...almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

C **Amen.**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P God is now in flesh appearing. Come to the feast of joy!

C **Thanks be to God.**

Congregation sits

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND WINE Our communion is open to all who are baptized.

“LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei)” S-208 (Front of hymnal, page #208)

COMMUNION HYMNS

“What Child is This”, #296

“Joy to the World”, #267

Congregation stands

TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen.**

“POST COMMUNION CANTICLE”, S-113 (Front of hymnal, page 113)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P The triune God, glorious Mystery, holy Incarnate One, abiding Comforter, + bless you with endless grace, peace, and joy.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN “Go Tell It on the Mountain”, #290

DISMISSAL

WA Glory to God in the highest!
C **And peace to God's people on earth!**
WA Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.
C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

-Thank you for worshiping with us today—

The following members assisted with today's worship service with live streaming:
Altar Guild: Karen Barnhart, Lori Schneider | AV Team: Terry & Debbie Hildebrand
Bulletin: Dawn Plyler ~ Cover Art: Lori Schneider | Cantor: Alice Christiansen
Music: Bud Esper, Director of Church Music; Kim Hawkins, conductor, St. Luke
Handbell Choir; St. Luke Voice Choir and St. Luke Handbell Choir | Communion
Assistants: Deb Mardis, Rod Meadows | Crucifer: Doug Snively | Eucharistic Minister:
Joyce Rivenburgh | Greeters: Tony & Sue Dompkowski | Lector: Emil Gnam
Ushers: Wayne Huffman, Steve Kirby, Kenn Nelson, Jim Meyer
Worship Assistant: Kristen Killoran

NEW MEMBERS

Are you looking for a new church family? We'd love to help you connect with others in the church and grow in our Faith Community together. If you are thinking about joining St. Luke, please contact Pastor Eichorn at 610.393.7622 or pastoreichorn@stlukeoib.org or the Church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please contact the church office to sponsor Sunday altar flowers.

Upcoming availability: January 4,11,18,25, 2026

PRAYER LIST DECEMBER 28, 2025

Steve and Dianne Jewell, Ron Spangler, Amy Golden,
Mary Margaret Saffos, Ed Tanzman, Pastor Pam Cook, Sherry Roseman,
Janet Neff, Joan Zimmermann, David Renninger, Alex and Candy Brooker

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

WELCOME VISITORS ~ We are delighted you visited St. Luke today. Please join us in the Fellowship Hall after worship services for light refreshments and to say hello. We can't wait to meet you!

SUPPORTING ST. LUKE MINISTRIES

- ❖ New Hymnals ... The cost is \$35/each.
- ❖ “I'm loving it!” ~ Well, you guessed it! The LMM will bring back their scrumptious and delicious breakfast meal on Sunday, January 11, 8am-9:15am. The cost is \$10/per person. Menu consists of waffles and sausage, coffee, OJ, assortment of condiments, i.e. strawberry jam, etc. Make your plans to attend.
- ❖ Morning Prayer Meeting is cancelled on Wednesday, December 31. Morning Prayer will resume Wednesday, January 7.
- ❖ Adult Sunday School is cancelled on Sunday, January 4. Adult Sunday School will resume Sunday, January 11.

- ❖ TLFP Volunteer Appreciation Brunch will be held on Monday, January 12, 10am to Noon. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet on the Community Board by December 31 if you plan to attend. ~*Thank you, Deb Mardis.*
- ❖ Ministry & Talents Fair Volunteers & Attendees ~ Part 2 ~ Mark your calendars to attend Sunday, January 18, after worship service. This will include a presentation of all our fellowship groups ~ Adult Sunday School, Prayer Group, The Listening Group, Bibles & Bagels, Line Dancing, Bridge, Dominos, Knitting, German Club and The Prayer Shawl Ministry. Rounding out the Fair, we will also feature the two groups that all our members engage in ~ Lutheran Men in Mission and the Women of St. Luke. Come see the many different personal enrichment opportunities offered at St. Luke. See you there! ~*Lori Schneider.*

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED ~ Thursday, January 1, 2026.

SEASONAL MUSIC REHEARSALS

No Voice or Handbell rehearsals on Wednesday, December 31.

SAINT LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

5869 Ocean Highway West, Ocean Isle Beach NC 28469

main: 910.579.0107 | email: stlukeelca@stlukeoib.org | website: stlukeoib.org

office hours: Monday through Thursday, 9:00am to 2:00pm

The Reverend Dr. Christian Eichorn, Pastor | cell/text: 610.393.7622 | email: pastoreichorn@stlukeoib.org

Kristen Killoran, Worship Assistant | **Pam Eichorn, Worship Assistant**

Bud Esper, M.A., Director of Music | stlukemusic@stlukeoib.org

Dawn Plyler, Parish Administrator | main: 910.579.0107 | email: stlukeelca@stlukeoib.org

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