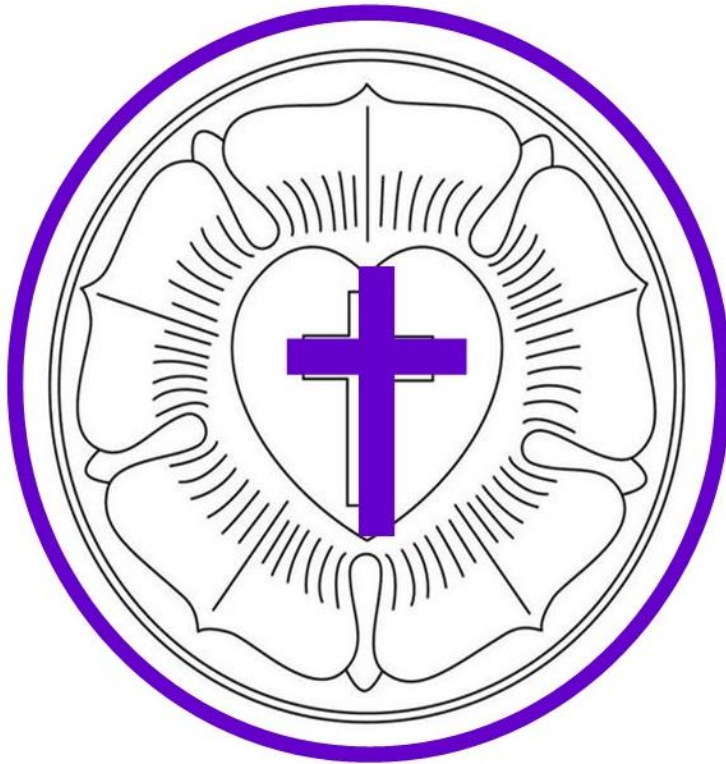


W elcome to W orship

**St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

March 30, 2025



The Fourth Sunday in Lent

CHURCH: 419-293-3445
PASTOR: SAM - Paul Brooks

SJLCMcComb@gmail.com
419-722-8625

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025

Welcome: Thank you to those who join us for Worship. We hope you will be blessed as we pray and sing together, as we hear God's Word read and proclaimed. We gather as equals in the sight of God, who loves us, forgives us, and is WITH US. Peace be with you.

Serving at Worship Today:

READER: Jerry McCullough
ACCOMPANIST: Linda Ross

Your Servant Leaders:

Worship Leader: SAM – Paul Brooks, 419-722-8625
COUNCIL PRESIDENT: Dave Sharninghouse, 419-293-2322 Hm.
419-429-2391 Cell

NWOS BISHOP: The Rev. Daniel Beaudoin
ELCA BISHOP: The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton

St. John's email address: SJLCMcComb@gmail.com

St. John's Facebook page: <https://facebook.com/SJLCMcComb>

Attendance Sunday: 12

Offering Last Sunday: \$665.00

Direct Deposit: \$20.00

Mile of Pennies: \$.00

Prayers for the people affected by Hurricane Helene: We need to continually pray for these people, that they will receive the help they need. There are a lot of volunteers there helping them, and they will be there for a longtime. The weather is cold and a lot of them are still in tents. God, please bless the families and the volunteers that are there helping them. Amen

Food Pantry for April: We would like to collect Canned Vegetables and Fruit. Thank you to everyone the donated for last months requests.

*Worship
Assistants*

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 30, 2025

God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.

**please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER REQUESTS

PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Loving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to love like Jesus."

THE GREETING

Leader: the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: and also with you.**

***GATHERING HYMN #779** AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Compassionate One,

ALL: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again

and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Leader: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✠ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **ALL: Amen.**

***LAMB OF GOD**

SETTING 2 PG. 135



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: Let us join our hearts and voices together in the Prayer of the Day.

ALL: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

JOSHUA 5:9-12

Reader: The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 32

Reader: Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

ALL: Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

Reader: While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

ALL: For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Reader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

ALL: Therefore, all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

Reader: You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

ALL: “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

Reader: Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

ALL: Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

Reader: Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16-21

Reader: From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg 142 Setting 3



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 15:1-3, 11B-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Luke chapter 15. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat

and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.**

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #763

MY LIFE FLOWS ON IN ENDLESS SONG

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

ALL: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,

ALL: receive our prayer.

Prayer Leader: God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. Speak gently to all who are alone. Speak gently to all who are alone. We pray for all who are ill or injured and needing your comfort. We lift to you Jo, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene Eva, Eric, Lise, Chris, Arlene, Bob, Don, Ashley, Pat, Kelli, Gordon, Nancy, John, Becky, JoLynn, Rick, Emily, Carl, Jim, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Frances, Eli, Riley, Kelli, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Jennifer, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, and Cindy. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. God, in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: In the unity of the Holy Spirit we pray the prayer our Lord taught saying,

***THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US**

**All: 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**

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Please share God's peace with those worshiping around you.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: As we present our tithes and offerings today, and we remember those less fortunate and those recovering from devastating storms and fires, let us give with gratitude for all we have received and remember that everything we have comes from God.

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186**

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

***OFFERING PRAYER**

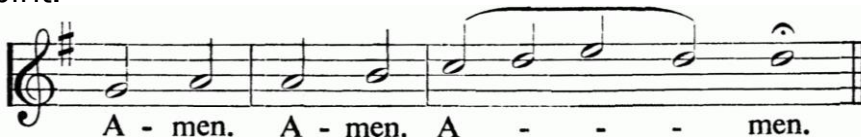
Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. Deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***BLESSING**

Leader: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, bless you now and forever, in the name of the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

***The Amen**



***SENDING HYMN #733**

GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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*"My Life Flows On in Endless Song"* TEXT: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899 MUSIC: Robert Lowry. alt.

*"Create in Me a Clean Heart"* TEXT: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 MUSIC: © *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress PUBLIC DOMAIN

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St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
Wednesday Lenten Bible Study

The Chosen

Continuing Wednesday, April 2  
Meal of soup & sandwiches @ 6pm

215 N. 2nd St.  
North Baltimore, OH

Discussion @ 7pm

## **Calendar of Events:**

**Mon. Tomorrow, March 31<sup>st</sup> is the last day to submit your Thrivent Choice Dollars.**

**Sun. Apr. 6 - 8:00 A.M. Worship W/Communion**

**Sun. Apr. 6 - 9:30 A.M. Sunday School**

**Tue. Apr. 8 – 6:30 P.M. Lion’s Club Dinner Meeting**

**Wed. Apr. 9 – 5:00 P.M. Church Council Meeting**

## **Readers for March & April**

**Apr. 6 - David Sharninghouse**

**Apr. 13 - Lori McDaniel**

**Apr. 17 - Carol Cary**

**Apr. 20 - Linda Ross**

**Apr. 27 - Carol Cary**

**In Our Prayers: John Sharninghouse, Gary Kern, Paul & Sue Maki, Betty Hornbeck, David Cary, LuAnn Beverly, Colene Shoop, Eva George, Eric & Lisa Kreh, Don Edler, Ashley Edler, Mary Scroll, Pat Newell, Gordon Myers & Ellery Robinson, Ari & Josh. Pray also for the victims of all natural disasters, our shut-ins, others absent from our worship this morning, all who grieve, and all others with special needs.**

**FYI: LENTEN FISH FRY – Deshler Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**

**March 14,21,28, April 4 and 11**

**Serving from 5pm - till run out**

**Menu: Fish, Potato, Coleslaw and Dessert**

**Cost \$11.00 a meal Drive -Thru/ Dine-In**

**Maundy Thursday Service: Will be held here on Thursday, April 17 at 5:00 P.M. Help us grow our church invite a friend to attend church with you.**

**Community Good Friday Services: McComb United Methodist Church will be the host on Friday, April 18, at 7:00 P.M. Please plan to attend.**

**Easter Sunday: On April 20, we will be having our Easter Breakfast following the 8am Worship Service. We hope all of you will plan to attend this year. It is for your family members as well, so bring them to church with you and stay for breakfast.**

# WELCA Central Conference

## "The Gift of Spring" Gathering



Saturday, May 3, 2025 9-11:30 am  
Good Hope Lutheran Church,  
200 S. Main St., Arlington, Ohio

Devotions – Communion – Brunch \$7 – Guest Speaker –  
Closing Hymn – Dismissal

Registration begins at 9am  
Please call Good Hope to register  
419-365-5582

Deadline is Monday, April 28, 2025



Monetary offering =  $\frac{1}{2}$  Synodical Treasure,  $\frac{1}{4}$  Conference Treasurer,  $\frac{1}{4}$  Good Hope  
Food Pantry

In-kind offering for Good Hope Food Pantry: cereal, mac & cheese,  
shampoo, toothpaste, spaghetti, and canned fruits and veggies



## Sermon Notes

Write 3 teachings or ideas you heard in today's sermon:

1.

2.

3.

Something I might do to put this sermon into practice.

Write a brief prayer relating to the sermon.

## Less Grumbling, More Humbling



Grumbling! The crowd around Jesus—the “in” crowd, that is—was grumbling. Grumbling because Jesus welcomed those who traditionally had been set apart: tax collectors and sinners. Who are those who cause us to grumble? Whose seemingly undeserved handout or unearned status change filled our hearts with resentment this week? Jesus speaks to us today because we too often see life as a game with winners and losers, points

and playbooks, offense and defense. Can we open our hearts and minds to hear today’s humbling good news? God’s love is freely shared with all: we cannot earn it, we cannot deserve it. When we attend worship, we do so out of thanksgiving and praise for God’s glory, hunger and thirst for God’s word and sacrament. We do not attend worship to achieve some status within God’s kingdom. When we help a neighbor, share with a stranger, assist the afflicted, or acknowledge the overlooked we do so because Christ first did the same for us. We respond to God’s grace and mercy with our own feeble attempts to emulate God’s perfect love. It is challenging, exhausting, never-ending, perspective-altering, radically humbling work. It’s work that is impossible to do without the inspiration of Christ, the nourishment of wine and bread, and the strength of the saints who have gone before us and with whom we walk Christ’s path today. Let us find those in our world who teach us about Christ’s unending reconciliation, so that we can all celebrate and rejoice as the family of God.

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