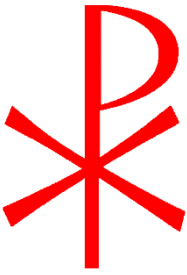


Welcome to Worship  
St. Luke's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church



January 22, 2023



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*  
Interim Pastor: *Rob Johnson*  
NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*  
ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*  
Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*  
Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>  
eMail: [StLukesNB@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)  
Pastor Rob's phone: 419-913-7506

*Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, **WELCOME** to the place where we stand together before God as equals. If you are new here and seeking a church home, please contact the church office at 419-257-3253 and leave a message.*

## **Assisting in Worship**

Organist: *Janet Goldner*  
Scripture Reader: *Karen Krauss*  
Prayer Leader: *Karen Krauss*  
Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*  
Ushers: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

## **To the Glory of God**

January Altar Candles: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*  
January Bulletins: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*  
January Newsletter: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*

**The Altar Flowers** are given by Ruth & Dwight Patterson in celebration of Tiffany Mika's birthday, today. Happy Birthday!

**North Baltimore Food Pantry January** requested donations include: canned soups and dry & instant cereals. Thank you for your continued support of this vital community mission.



# Order of Worship

Third Sunday after Epiphany – January 22, 2023

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.

Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.

\*please stand as you feel comfortable. We are grateful that you are here, regardless if you are standing or sitting.

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### PRAYER REQUESTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, “My soul proclaims.” When you exhale, pray, “the Lord’s greatness.”

### 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 using the “peace sign.”*

### AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: Please join me in an offering of confession,

**ALL: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people. Turn me from my sin to live for you alone. Give me the power of your Holy Spirit that I may confess my sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*In your heart and your spirit, confess to God your fears, your anger, your greed, and your disappointments. Lift up the names of people whom you’ve hurt recently.*

Leader: Let us pray,

**ALL: have mercy on me. I confess that I have turned from you and given myself into the power of sin. I am truly sorry and humbly repent.**

**In your compassion forgive me my sins, known and unknown; things I have done and things I have failed to do. Turn me again to you; and uphold me by your Spirit, so that I may live and serve you in newness of life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**\*GATHERING HYMN #798**

WILL YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME

**\*KYRIE, LORD HAVE MERCY**

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 120

**\*GLORY TO GOD**

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 121-122

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## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

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### **PROPHETIC READING**

ISAIAH 9:1-4

Reader: The time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun [Zay-bue-lon] and Naphtali [Naf – tah - lee] will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.

<sup>2</sup> The people who walk in darkness will see a great light. For those who live in a land of deep darkness, a light will shine. <sup>3</sup> You will enlarge the nation of Israel, and its people will rejoice. They will rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest and like warriors dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For you will break the yoke of their slavery and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders. You will break the oppressor's rod, just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian [Mid – ee – an].

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

### **DISCIPLESHIP READING**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-18

Reader: I appeal to you, dear brothers and sisters, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, to live in harmony with each other. Let there be no

divisions in the church. Rather, be of one mind, united in thought and purpose. <sup>11</sup> For some members of Chloe’s household have told me about your quarrels, my dear brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup> Some of you are saying, “I am a follower of Paul.” Others are saying, “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Peter,” or “I follow only Christ.”

<sup>13</sup> Has Christ been divided into factions? Was I, Paul, crucified for you? Were any of you baptized in the name of Paul? Of course not! <sup>14</sup> I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, <sup>15</sup> for now no one can say they were baptized in my name. <sup>16</sup> (Oh yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas, but I don’t remember baptizing anyone else.) <sup>17</sup> For Christ didn’t send me to baptize, but to preach the Good News—and not with clever speech, for fear that the cross of Christ would lose its power.

<sup>18</sup> The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.

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

## \***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

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## \***GOSPEL INTRODUCTION**

MATTHEW 4:12-23

*Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be “caught” in the net of God’s grace and mercy.*

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 4. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: <sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he left Judea and returned to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He went first to Nazareth, then left there and moved to Capernaum, beside the Sea of Galilee, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. <sup>14</sup> This fulfilled what God said through the prophet Isaiah:

<sup>15</sup> “In the land of Zebulun and of Naphtali, beside the sea, beyond the Jordan River, in Galilee where so many Gentiles live, <sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light. And for those who lived in the land where death casts its shadow, a light has shined.” <sup>17</sup> From then on Jesus began to preach, “Repent of your sins and turn to God, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near.”

<sup>18</sup> One day as Jesus was walking along the shore of the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers—Simon, also called Peter, and Andrew—throwing a net into the water, for they fished for a living. <sup>19</sup> Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!” <sup>20</sup> And they left their nets at once and followed him.

<sup>21</sup> A little farther up the shore he saw two other brothers, James and John, sitting in a boat with their father, Zebedee, repairing their nets. And he called them to come, too. <sup>22</sup> They immediately followed him, leaving the boat and their father behind. <sup>23</sup> Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness.

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

## **THE APOSTLES' CREED**

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 127

## **THE MESSAGE**

### **\*HYMN OF THE DAY #818**

O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH YOU

## **THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERINGS**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: Merciful God, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

We pray for Harry, Julie, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Eloise, Marilyn, Bertha, Jim, Barb, Jack, Gloria, Rex, Ryan, Frances, Isabella, A.J., Frank, Bill, Mike, Mavery, Caroline, Mike, Chelsea, Ethan, Tom, Beth, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, Sally, Catherine, Ja-nét,

Ann, Ed, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Cindy, Chris, Arlene, Logan, Don, Gus, Michelle, Barb, Riker, and Kelly.

.....who taught us to pray 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**

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## **GOD NOURISHES US**

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### **THE TABLE PRAYER**

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 129

THE LORD BE WITH YOU

### **THE EXHORTATION**

Leader: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life.

**ALL: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was**

**baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.**

Leader: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love. And so, with all the universe and the hosts of heaven, we join in praise and sing....

## **SANCTUS**

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 130

## **THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Leader: In the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, gave a piece to each disciple and said,

**ALL: This is my body, given for you. Do this and remember me.**

Leader: Again, after supper, Jesus took a cup of wine, gave thanks; and gave it to each disciple to drink, saying

**ALL: This is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Do this and remember me.**

## **SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Please join in prayer if you are unable to receive the elements.*

**ALL: Forgiving and faithful God, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed and Holy Sacrament. Like a river through the desert, your Spirit floods my thirsty heart with mercy and peace. Since I cannot now receive You through bread and wine, come spiritually into my heart. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a forgiving spirit within me. Amen.**

## **LAMB OF GOD**

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 135

## **DISTRIBUTION**

## **\* HYMN AFTER COMMUNION**

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 135

NOW, LORD YOU LET YOUR SERVANT GO IN PEACE



## PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Leader: Please join me in the absolution,

**ALL: Merciful and forgiving God, you have made this promise to me: I am a gift. Through the birth and resurrection of your Son, you offer me a new dawn, a new day, and a new life through the forgiveness of my sins. By removing my sins, you give me strength to forgive myself and those who have offended and sinned against me. Amen.**

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## GOD SENDS US

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### \* BLESSING

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 136-137

### \* THE AMEN



### \* SENDING HYMN #574

HERE I AM, LORD

### \* DISMISSAL

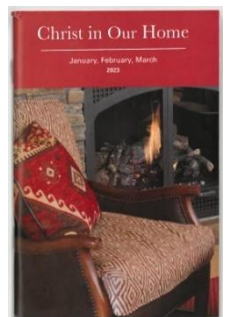
SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 137

## POSTLUDE

**ELCA "Hunger Appeal" Offering** Each week as we leave worship, we remember the poor by placing loose change offerings in the "hunger bowls" on the bench in the Narthex.

## Christ in Our Home

The January – March issues of the devotional Christ in Our Home is available on the information table in the Narthex at the church. If you would like a copy but can't get over to pick one up, call the church office and we will mail one to you.



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“Here I Am, Lord” TEXT: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946 MUSIC: Daniel L. Schutte TEXT AND MUSIC © 1981 OCP Publications, Inc.

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**THE ALTAR GUILD** is seeking members to assist with the tasks of preparing for our worship experience. Altar Guild members serve for two consecutive months preparing for communion, cleaning the linens, and changing the paraments, banners, and directing the decorating of the church for fall, Christmas, and Easter. No experience is necessary. Orientation and training are available. Please speak with Karen Krauss or notify the church office. Thank you.

### *Bulletins, Candles, and Newsletters*

Thank you to all who helped to support the work of the church through gifts to our Special Fund. The sign-up sheets for your continued financial support of this Fund for 2023 are posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Also, the opportunity to sign up to provide flowers to the glory of God for our worship services. Thank you for sharing your blessings.

## Focus for 2023

“The story of Jesus. The story of us.”



Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

**WE GIVE THANKS:** for all those who serve as Scripture Readers and Prayer Leaders for our worship services. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Harry & Julie Friess, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Eloise Matthes, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha & Jim Carter, Barb Williams, Gloria Hoffsis, Rex McCarty.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** Patty Webb, Cheryl, Ryan Bullock, Isabella Miller, A.J., Frank Strausbaugh, Bill Bankey, Mike Gorsline, Mavery Breece, Caroline, Mike Lerma, Ethan, Tom Szor, Beth Johnson, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy, Sally Eggleston, Catherine Pritts, Ja-nét Moske.

**MILITARY:** For all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

**COMPANION CHURCH:** Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

**WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS:** all ministries of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, leaders, of the congregations of the NWOS (Northwestern Ohio Synod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

**THE WORLD:** for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.

## A New Way to Follow

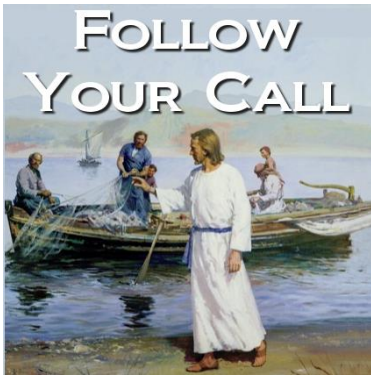
Nations wage war, gangs battle each other, families quarrel, communities of faith divide. We hear others say and even hear ourselves saying, “There is no other way.”

In Jesus, the light of Gods kingdom draws near and a new way shines for us to follow.

In today’s gospel, Jesus first withdraws (Matt. 4:12). The word *anachoreo* (to withdraw) is used ten times in Matthew’s gospel—each time as Jesus’ response to violence or conflict. John the Baptist has been arrested, and tension is beginning to build. The way of God and the way of the world’s rulers are beginning to collide.

In Jesus, a new kingdom has drawn near, a kingdom of nonviolence and non-retaliation. Jesus’ withdrawal is not simply passivity but points to a vision of an alternate way of reigning as king. Jesus rules not with violence, abusive power, or through division but through voluntarily emptying himself of power, identifying with the oppressed and burdened, and healing that which is broken. Into this new reign, Jesus calls the disciples to follow him, a way that appears foolish and weak to those who cannot discern it. To those God calls, it is the wisdom and strength, the light and power of God.

To follow in the way of Jesus places one’s life at risk, for it eventually leads to the cross. To follow, though, implies someone is leading. The way God calls us to follow has



already been filled with the loving kindness and mercy of Jesus who has gone before us and who leads us to the foot of the cross. There, in the shadow of the cross, God makes a way for unity in the midst of division, for healing in the midst of brokenness, for peace in the midst of violence, for forgiveness in the midst of betrayal. Around the table, the kingdom of God draws near; Jesus’ broken body announces forgiveness, healing, peace, and unity. Many bodies are nourished and formed into the one body of Christ, called and sent to follow in the way of Jesus, to be broken and shed for the sake of the world.

215 North Second Street, North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-1105

419-257-3253

[StLukesNB@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)

Church Office Hours M-F 9-1