

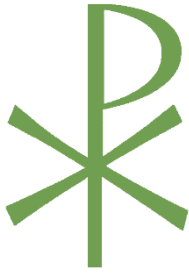
W elcome to

W orship

St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church

**Reformation
Month**

October 1, 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
[Pastor Rob's phone: 419-913-7506](tel: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 and Prayer Leader: *Karen Krauss*
Acolyte: *Easton Wymer*
Ushers: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

To the Glory of God

October Candles: *Ruth McKee*
October Bulletins: *Nancy & Jim Wymer*
October Newsletter: *Nancy & Jim Wymer*

Choir rehearsals are Sundays @ 9:30 a.m. You may join us anytime. Everyone age 16 and older is invited to join us. Come and lift your voice in praise to God.

North Baltimore Food Pantry October requested donations include: peanut butter, jams, jellies, and preserves. Thank you for your continued support.



Order of Worship

Sunday, October 1, 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.

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

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

GOD GATHERS US

GREETING

PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Gracious God." When you exhale, pray, "open my heart."

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: Blessed be the ✠ One God who, like a farmer, plants the seeds of wisdom, faith, and joy in our hearts, so that we may reap a harvest of new life.

ALL: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: if I say I have no sin, I deceive myself and the truth is not in me. However, if I confess my sins, you are faithful and just. Forgive me. Cleanse the thoughts of my heart by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that I may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our 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.

ALL: Most merciful God, I confess that I am captive to sin and cannot free myself. I have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what I have done and by what I have left undone. I have not loved you with my whole heart. I have not loved my neighbors as you have loved me. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me. Forgive me; renew me; and lead me, so that I may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Leader: Hear these words and believe in their power: Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another so that you may be healed. God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:9; James 5:16

***GATHERING HYMN #820**

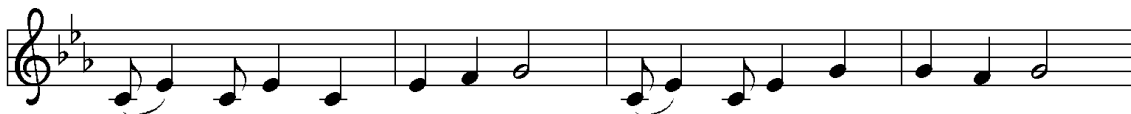
O SAVIOR, PRECIOUS SAVIOR

***CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE**

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ with you all.

ALL: and also with you.

***KYRIE HYMN #151**



1, 3	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
2	Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
1, 3	Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
2	Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.	Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.
Chris - te e - le - i - son.	Chris - te e - le - i - son.
Lord, have mer - cy.	Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy.	Christ, have mer - cy.

*GLORY TO GOD

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 121

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray:

ALL: O God our rock, you offer us a covenant of mercy, and you provide the foundation of our lives. Ground us in your word, and strengthen our resolve to be your disciples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

GOD SPEAKS TO US

PROPHETIC READING

EZEKIEL 18: 1-4, 25-32

Reader: Then another message came to me from the LORD: ²“Why do you quote this proverb concerning the land of Israel: ‘The parents have eaten sour grapes, but their children’s mouths pucker at the taste’? ³As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, you will not quote this proverb anymore in Israel. ⁴For all people are mine to judge—both parents and children alike. And this is my rule: The person who sins is the one who will die.

²⁵“Yet you say, ‘The Lord isn’t doing what’s right!’ Listen to me, O people of Israel. Am I the one not doing what’s right, or is it you? ²⁶When righteous people turn from their righteous behavior and start doing sinful things, they will die for it. Yes, they will die because of their sinful deeds. ²⁷And if wicked people turn from their wickedness, obey the law, and do what is just and right, they will save their lives. ²⁸They will live because they thought it over and decided to turn from their sins. Such people will not die. ²⁹And yet the people of Israel keep saying, ‘The Lord isn’t doing what’s right!’ O people of Israel, it is you who are not doing what’s right, not I.

³⁰“Therefore, I will judge each of you, O people of Israel, according to your actions, says the Sovereign LORD. Repent, and turn from your sins. Don’t let them destroy you! ³¹Put all your rebellion behind you, and find yourselves

a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O people of Israel? ³² I don't want you to die, says the Sovereign LORD. Turn back and live!

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

WE ARE CALLED

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 25:1-9

Reader: To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

ALL: O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.

Reader: Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

ALL: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.

Reader: Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.

ALL: Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

Reader: Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD!

ALL: Good and upright is the LORD; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

Reader: He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way.

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

DISCIPLESHIP READING

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

Reader: Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender

and compassionate? ² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose.

³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION HYMN #172

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal -
- le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le -
lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

*GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 21:23-32

After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Matthew chapter 21. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: ²³When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

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



*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

THE MESSAGE

***HYMN OF THE DAY #608** SOFTLY AND TENDERLY JESUS IS CALLING

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION

Prayer Leader: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

***PRAYER SONG HYMN #752** LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

We pray for Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Jim, Barb, Emelyn, Isabella, Mary Ann, Kevin, Shirley, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Teresa, Doug, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Logan, Don, Ashley, Beth, Jayne, Ed, Jeff, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, Dan, and Cooper.

***PRAYER SONG HYMN #752**

LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #182**

LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u-

nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: God of field and forest, sea and sky, you are the giver of all good things. Sustain us with these gifts of your creation, and multiply your graciousness in us, that the world may be fed with your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GOD NOURISHES US

***THE TABLE PRAYER**

Leader: God of all creation, all you have made is good.

ALL: Your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish me with these gifts. Use me and what I have gathered to feed the world with your love, through the feast of love and bread of life, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***THE EXHORTATION**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 133

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: Blessed is the Lord, the God of the universe. God's faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise the Lord in the heights above. Praise the Lord, sun and moon; praise

the Lord, all you shining stars. Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, and stormy winds. Praise the Lord, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds. Let them praise the name of the Lord, for they were created. *Psalm 148*

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



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the



high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***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.

Leader: We proclaim the mystery of faith:

ALL: Sin is conquered! Death is defeated! Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

Leader: God of resurrection and new life: pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine

ALL: Grace this table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.

***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**



***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. Your Spirit fills my spirit, allowing it to bloom like a flower in spring. 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.

DISTRIBUTION

*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313

VERSE 1

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill.



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

*PRAYER OF ABSOLUTION

Leader: Please join me in the absolution,

ALL: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

GOD SENDS US

*BLESSING

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 136-137

In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.

***THE AMEN**



***SENDING HYMN #864**

PRAISE, MY SOUL, THE GOD OF HEAVEN

***DISMISSAL**

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 137

We are sent to serve others.

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 Information Table in the Narthex.

Please remember to stop by the Information Table and sign the greeting cards, reminding our members and friends that we are thinking about them.

Make sure the check out the **October** issue of **The Good News Letter** for lots of information about the church and activities.



Watch for the new Picture Directory around the end of October!! It is not too late to submit photos to Pam Van Mooy or the church office.



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"Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven" TEXT: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927-2005 MUSIC: John Goss, 1800-1880

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Is God Calling You to Lead?

As we say "Good-Bye" to Pastor Rob, we must now focus on how WE can move ahead in the life of St. Luke's Church. While we have obtained a list of supply pastors from the Synod, we are seeking those in our own family congregation who are willing to step up and lead worship. We will continue with our list of scripture readers, prayer leaders, and those equipped to lead communion. We are now seeking those to lead the other parts for worship or just to deliver the sermon. Resources are available to help with sermons. Please contact the church office if you would be willing to assist in leading worship every now and then.



The Next Step

The next step we need to take in the process of calling a new pastor is to form the Call Team. The church council is seeking individuals who are interested in serving on this team. For more information about the duties of the Call Team, please talk with a member of the church council or pick up an information sheet from the table in the Narthex at the church.

Reformation and Halloween are what we think about in October, but the local food pantry has Christmas on their minds. Their plan is to prepare 25 food boxes for those in need in our community. We are being asked to provide **25 cans of sweet potatoes/yams and 25 cans of cranberry sauce.**

Please place your donations on the shelves above the coat racks in Luther Hall by **November 12**. Thank you and Merry Christmas!



The family of Rex McCarty

invites you to

A Service of

Remembrance

on Sunday, October 15

at 1:00 p.m.

at Pearson Park in Toledo.

Lunch will be served.

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.



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 Pastor Rob and the guidance he has given us during our time of transition. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Fred Husing, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha & Jim Carter, Barb Williams.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Emelyn, Isabella, Mary Ann Webb, Keven Bickle, Shirley Hollowell, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

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, and leaders of the congregations of the NWOS (Northwestern Ohio Synod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

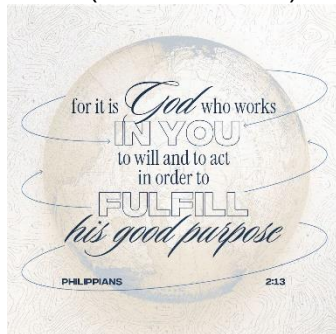
THE WORLD: for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.



An Invitation to Grace

It is so easy and so tempting to build ourselves up at the expense of others. “I can’t imagine ever doing that.” “How can people live like that?” “Who would do such a thing?” At some point we all think or say these sorts of things. Like it or not, we use these words to comfort ourselves at the expense of others. These words are a reminder that all people stand in need of God’s grace.

Each of this day’s readings shows us this reality. In the parable of the two sons, Jesus invites us to choose between two sons when neither fully does the will of their father. Here Jesus makes the point that we are all equally in need of God’s grace. Ezekiel proclaims God’s invitation, “Turn, then, and live” (Ezek. 18:32). This is an invitation that extends to all people, from a



God deeply desiring a loving and life-giving relationship with humanity.

In Philippians, we are reminded of Jesus’ act of grace on the cross, emptying himself, becoming sin so that all creation might be redeemed through him. In response, we discover a vision of the day in which all creation speaks with a unified voice, declaring Jesus Christ is Lord.

This is a day of confession and forgiveness. We confess our need for God, our distance from God, and our failures before God. In response, to our joy, we discover again the grace of God outpoured. All humans are in need of God’s grace; God extends grace to all, and one day we will confess that salvation as one people. All of today’s readings reveal the way in which all humans are equal in the eyes of God.

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

419-257-3253

StLukesNB@gmail.com

[Church Office Hours M-F 9-1](#)