

W elcome to W orship
St. Luke's E vangelical
Lutheran C hurch

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December 10, 2023



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*

Pastor:

NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*

ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*

Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*

Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>

eMail: StLukesNB@gmail.com

Church Phone: 419-257-3253

*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*

Worship Leader: *Bishop Daniel Beaudoin*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Olivia Matthes*

Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*

Ushers: *Nancy & Jim Wymer*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*

To the Glory of God

December Candles: *Carol Williams*

December Bulletins: *Carol Williams*

December Newsletter: [*available for sign-up*](#)



Christmas Poinsettias – there is still time for purchase one or more. Please find a goldenrod color form on the information table. Get the form and your check to the church office before December 14. Thank you.

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.

Order of Worship

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10, 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 AND 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, "Gracious God." When you exhale, pray, "open my heart."

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Friends, let us worship God today, for God is great -

ALL: God has blessed us with life, with faith, and with community.

Leader: Let us worship God today, for God is good -

ALL: God forgives us, and encourages us, and loves us.

Leader: Let us worship God today in the name of the Father, the ✠ Son, and the holy Spirit.

ALL: Because we are God's people.

*GATHERING HYMN #257

O COME, O COME, EMMANUAL

*ADVENT PROCLAMATION

Leader: These are the days of expectation, the days of watching and waiting. God has promised us a Savior who will change our lives and make us new. Today we light the candle of peace. In a world where peace often seems difficult to find, we know that we have been given the Prince of

Peace, and he dwells with in us. Let us light the candle of peace, praying for God's peace in our hearts and in the hearts of all of God's children.

*ADVENT RESPONSE

CONGREGATION



Light one can - dle for peace, one bright can - dle for
peace He brings peace to ev - 'ry heart He
comes. He comes. Light one can-dle for
peace one bright can-dle for peace.
He brings peace to ev - 'ry heart. He comes. He comes.

*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Everlasting God,

**ALL: you love justice and you hate wrongdoing.
We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness
that make us reluctant to work against oppression.
We are complicit in systems of exploitation.**

We choose comfort over courage.

We are careless with creation's bounty.

Look upon us with mercy.

Turn our hearts again to you.

Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.

Leader: Hear these words of assurance: God clothes you with garments of salvation and covers you with robes of righteousness. In the tender compassion of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. God's covenant is eternal, and God's blessing rests upon us all. Amen.

***KYRIE HYMN #151**



1, 3 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
2 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

***CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE**

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.**

***THIS IS THE FEAST**



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and
 strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Sing with all the peo - ple of
 God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.
 This is the feast of vic-to-ry, for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia. For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.
 This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray:

ALL: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

PROPHETIC READING

ISAIAH 40:1-11

Reader: Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

⁶ A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

⁹ Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' ¹⁰ See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with

him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

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

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 85:1-2, 8-13

Reader: LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob. You forgave the iniquity of your people; you pardoned all their sin.

ALL: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.

Reader: Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

ALL: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.

Reader: Faithfulness will spring up from the ground, and righteousness will look down from the sky.

ALL: The LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Reader: Righteousness will go before him and will make a path for his steps.

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

DISCIPLESHIP READING

2 PETER 3:8-15A

Reader: But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish but all to come to repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the

heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be destroyed with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

¹¹Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, ¹²waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and destroyed and the elements will melt with fire? ¹³But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. ¹⁴Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish, ¹⁵and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

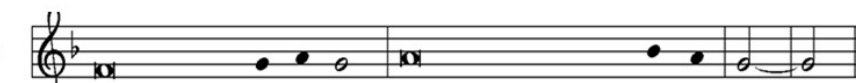
setting 2 pg 124

ALL:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Leader/
Cantor



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

ALL:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*GOSPEL READING

MARK 1:1-8

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a story of Jesus' birth but with the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord.

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Mark chapter 1. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
³the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

⁴John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

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

THE MESSAGE

*HYMN OF THE DAY #253

HE CAME DOWN



*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: With hope and expectation, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who await God's day of restoration.

*PRAYER SONG HYMN #262

WAIT FOR THE LORD

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Wait for the Lord'. The first staff contains the melody and lyrics: 'Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.' The second staff contains the melody and lyrics: 'Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!'. The music is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff ends with a double bar line and a sharp sign, and the second staff ends with a double bar line.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayer Leader: Hear us, O God. **ALL: Your mercy is great.**

We pray for Rick, Kolton, Ron, Jim, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Cali, Howard, Jim, 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, Holly, Tessa, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, Dan, and Cooper.

*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**



*REPEAT PRAYER SONG HYMN #751

WAIT FOR THE LORD

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

ALL: and also with you.

Leader: Let the peace of Christ reign among us.

Please share God's peace."

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: In gratitude for all that we have received from God let us now present our tithes, and offerings for the work and mission of God's church.

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



bless - ing. 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 our provider, by your merciful hand abundance springs up from the earth. Receive and bless these gifts of your own bounty. Let them be a sign of your steadfast love and faithfulness for all people, through Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace. Amen.



GOD NOURISHES US

*THE TABLE PRAYER

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

ALL: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from our abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SETTING #2 HYMNAL PAGE 129

Leader: The God of peace be with you. **ALL: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts in the peace that comes from the Prince of Peace. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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 praise you for the gift of water that sustains life and 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...



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, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying

ALL: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Leader: Again, after supper, Jesus took a cup, gave thanks; and gave it for all to drink, saying

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

Leader: For as often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. In this meal, righteousness and peace meet together. Come, take your place at the table.

DISTRIBUTION

*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #204

THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE



Thank - ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev - 'ry - one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.

Send us with your prom-ises and lead your peo-ple forth in joy with
shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Leader: Please join me prayer,

ALL: We are grateful, God, that through communion you knit us together into one body – the body of Christ. Filled with your Spirit, let us rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep, and so far as it depends on us, help us to live peaceably with all. Amen.

GOD SENDS US

***BLESSING**

Leader: The God of peace bless you, the love of Christ sustain you in hope, and the anointing of the Spirit ✠ remain upon you now and forever.

***THE AMEN**

A - men. A - men. A - - - men.

***SENDING HYMN #248**

PEOPLE LOOK EAST

***DISMISSAL**

Leader: Go in peace and stay awake. **ALL:** Thanks be to God.

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.

TODAY’S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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“*He Came Down*” TEXT: Cameroon traditional MUSIC: Cameroon traditional; arr. John L. Bell, b. 1949 Arr. © Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

“*Wait for the Lord*” TEXT: Taize Community MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994 TEXT AND MUSIC © 1982, 1991 Les Presses de Taize, admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

“*Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*” TEXT: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Text ©1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress and music © 1993 Augsburg Fortress

“*Thankful Hearts and Voices Raise*” TEXT: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 TEXT AND MUSIC © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress

“*People, Look East*” TEXT: Eleanor Farjeon, 1881-1965 © Miss E. Farjeon Will Trust, by permission of David Higham Associates. Arr. © 1999 Novello & Co. Ltd., London MUSIC: French carol; arr. Barry Rose, b. 1934

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Church Office to be closed – the office will be closed on Tuesday, December 12 while Dana is away.

NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty DECEMBER requested donations include mac & cheese, pasta and pasta sauces.

Thank You – to all who gave to the Fundraising effort and participated in the dinner on November 12. \$6,470.00 has been received for this fund. Watch for “brighter” days ahead.



December 24, 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church in McComb

8:00 a.m. Celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent

7:00 p.m. Celebrating Christmas Eve

St. Luke's Lutheran Church in North Baltimore

10:15 a.m. Celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent

9:15 p.m. Celebrating Christmas Eve Music

9:30 p.m. Celebrating Christmas Eve Worship

Both services in person and on Facebook

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed!

This year's Advent Study theme is based on where and how we encounter God. Each session of the study will explore one way we encounter God, from revelation to proclamation. At this time when our world bears the wounds of conflict, hunger and disaster, it can be challenging to uncover where and how God is at work. Yet we know in faith that God is actively working in the world, transforming, reconciling, sustaining, and inciting us to ever-greater acts of justice and mercy. Pick up an Advent calendar and study guide today.



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 the leadership of Bishop Daniel Beaudoin in worship today. Thanks be to God!

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

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Cali, Howard Till, Jim Heize, Emelyn, Isabella, Keven Bickle, Shirley Hollowell, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

GRIEVING: Bertha and Jennifer Carter and family following the death of Jim on December 6.

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.

Prophecy, Patience, and Promise

Advent is a season of expectation, the word itself meaning “coming.” Many families spend these four weeks waiting for children to come home from college, or for grandparents to come for Christmas dinner. For young children, these days of waiting can seem like a thousand years. Others are amazed at how quickly time is flying, as they sense the end of their own lives drawing near. In the interval, stories from the past are told and retold as a way of remembering the significance of these waiting days.

The arrival scripture speaks of is both more profound and more sublime. It is the coming end of a way of being that has seemed like exile, like imprisonment. It is salvation from all that has torn us and our world apart. As we wait alongside the readers of Mark’s gospel, we too hear voices from the past in the prophetic words of Isaiah (and Malachi and Exodus) that prepare us to receive the one who is coming into the world: Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Mark 1:1).

As with any long period of waiting, we know that the final days are the hardest to bear. We struggle to understand why we ourselves, never mind the rest of creation, must wait any longer for the salvation and redemption God has promised. Our salvation is bound up with one another’s though, and we are reminded that God has been patient with us, “not wanting any to perish” (2 Peter 3:9). We therefore practice patience with God as we remain steadfast in hope and lead lives of holiness and godliness worthy of the new era that is coming (2 Peter 3:11-12).



215 North Second Street, North Baltimore, Ohio 45872-1105
419-257-3253 StLukesNB@gmail.com
Church Office Hours M-F 9-1