Pelcome to Porship

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

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4

December 24, 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: <u>StLukesNB@gmail.com</u> Church Phone: 419-257-3253

Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, <u>WELCOME</u> 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: SAM Bob Fett

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: JoLynn Stewart

Acolyte: Avery Wymer

Ushers: Pam & Rick Van Mooy Videographer: Beth Williams

To the Glory of God

December Candles: Carol Williams
December Bulletins: Carol Williams

December Newsletter: <u>available for sign-up</u>

The flowers Christmas brings family & friends together; it helps us appreciate love in our lives we can often take for granted. May the true meaning of Christmas fill your heart with blessings! Merry Christmas!



Bob Kelley & family



Order of Morship

Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 24, 2023

God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol $\, \mathbf{Y} \,$ 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

<u>Leader</u>: 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.

<u>Leader</u>: 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 #270

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

*ADVENT PROCLAMATION

<u>Leader</u>: 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. "My faithfulness and My steadfast love shall be with Him, and in My name shall His horn be exalted. I will set His hand in the sea and His right hand on the rivers." (Psalm 89:24-25)

<u>Leader</u>: Let us light the candle of LOVE, for as scripture says nothing will separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*ADVENT RESPONSE



*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

<u>Leader</u>: 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.

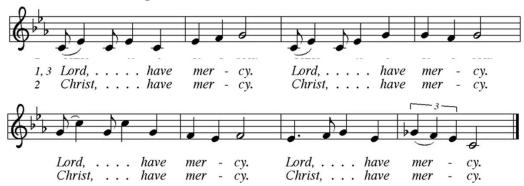
Look upon us with mercy.

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.

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

***KYRIE HYMN #151**



*CONFESSIONAL RESPONSE

<u>Leader</u>: 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**





*PRAYER OF THE DAY

<u>Leader</u>: Let us pray:

ALL: Stir up your power, Lord Jesus, and come. With your abundant grace and might, free us from the sin that would obstruct your mercy, that willingly we may bear your redeeming love to all the world, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

PROPHETIC READING The LORD's promise to David 2 SAMUEL 7:1-11, 16

<u>Reader</u>: Now when the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, ²the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." ³Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

⁴But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: ⁵Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? 6I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. 7Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" 8Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; 9 and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. ¹⁰And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, ¹¹from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. 16Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

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

CHOIR ANTHEM

NO WIND AT THE WINDOW

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 89:1-4, 19-26

<u>Reader</u>: Your love, O LORD, forever will I sing; from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

ALL: For I am persuaded that your steadfast love is established forever; you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

<u>Reader</u>: "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

ALL: 'I will establish your line forever, and preserve your throne for all generations.' "

<u>Reader</u>: You spoke once in a vision and said to your faithful people: "I have set the crown upon a warrior and have exalted one chosen out of the people.

ALL: I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him.

Reader: My hand will hold him fast and my arm will make him strong.

ALL: No enemy shall deceive him, nor shall the wicked bring him down.

<u>Reader</u>: I will crush his foes before him and strike down those who hate him.

ALL: My faithfulness and steadfast love are with him, and he shall be victorious through my name.

Reader: I will set his hand on the sea, and his right hand on the rivers.

ALL: He will say to me, 'You are my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.'

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

DISCIPLESHIP READING

ROMANS 16:25-27

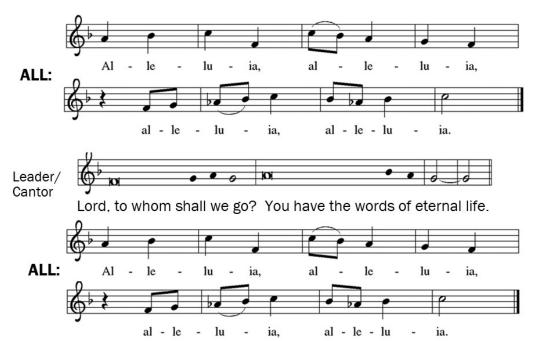
The mystery of God revealed in Jesus Christ

<u>Reader</u>: Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages ²⁶but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith - ²⁷to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting 2 pg 124



*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 1:26-38

In this annunciation, Luke makes clear that God comes with good news for ordinary people from little known places. This king will not be born to royalty in a palace, but to common folk in a stall. Here Luke highlights the role of the Spirit, a special emphasis in this gospel.

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

Leader: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." 34Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁶And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." 38Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

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

THE MESSAGE

*HYMN OF THE DAY #275

ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY

*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

<u>Prayer Leader</u>: 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



*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

We pray for Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Chase, Bob, Cali, Howard, Emelyn, Isabella, Kevin, Shirley, Cheryl, 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





WAIT FOR THE LORD

SHARING OF THE PEACE

<u>Leader</u>: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: and also with you.

<u>Leader</u>: Let the peace of Christ reign among us.

Please share God's peace."

Invitation for Offerings

<u>Leader</u>: 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

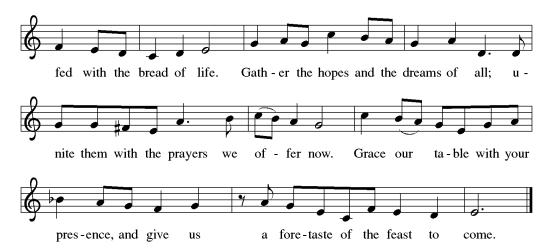
LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL



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



*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 our Savior. Amen.

GOD NOURISHES US

*THE TABLE PRAYER

<u>Leader</u>: 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

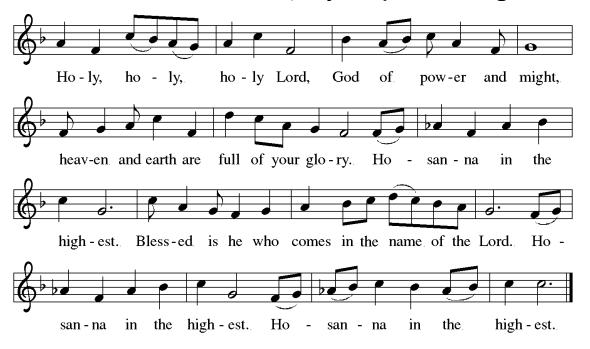
<u>Leader</u>: The God of love be with you. **ALL: And also with you.**

<u>Leader</u>: Lift up your hearts in the hope of Christ. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

<u>Leader</u>: 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...



*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

<u>Leader</u>: In the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, gave it to his disciples, saying

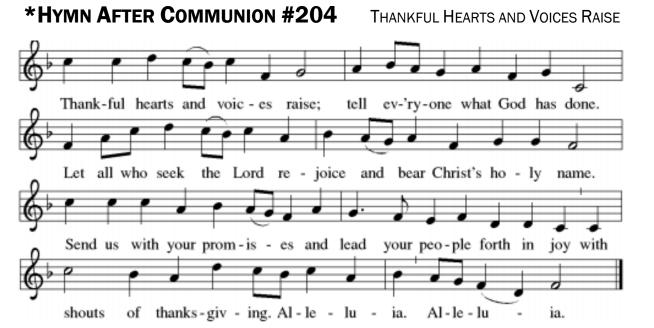
ALL: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

<u>Leader</u>: 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.

<u>Leader</u>: 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



*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join me prayer,

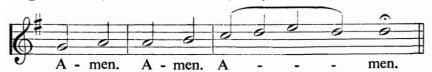
ALL: Generous God, in bread and cup you have revealed your glory for all people to see together. Nourished by this meal, send us out to proclaim your good news of liberation and release, brought to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

GOD SENDS US

*BLESSING

<u>Leader</u>: 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**



*SENDING HYMN #292

LOVE HAS COME

*DISMISSAL

<u>Leader</u>: Go in peace and share the good news of God's love.

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.

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

Christmas Poinsettias

Jill Guy, and Jan & Rick Stine in memory of Donald, Joanne, and Jo Lynn Shaffer
Kasey, Josh, Grace, & Hannah Hagemyerin memory of RJ
Lois & Russ Heilmanto the Glory of God
Bob Kelley and Familykind thoughts & Christmas wishes to all
may the reason for the season fill your heart
pray for peace this holiday season
Karen & Lynn Kraussin memory of Mary Krauss
in honor of Rose Marie Hosley
in memory of Gene Hosley
Caroline & Carl Lieser in memory of Caroline's mom, Maureen Doherty
in memory of Carl's mom and dad, Rebecca & Charles Lieser,
in honor of Caroline's dad, Peter Doherty, and family in the UK and USA
Arica & Matt Matthesin memory of Matt's dad, Carl Matthes
Tiffany Mika in honor of family and friends that have blessed my life
Ruth & Dwight Patterson in memory of Martha Patterson,
daughter Sara Potter, and David Bowers
in thanksgiving for their children
Tracey & Steve Pritts Merry Christmas to all

The **Spring Gathering** of the Central Conference Lutheran Women will be held on <u>Saturday</u>, <u>April 20</u>, <u>2024</u> at Trinity Lutheran Church in Findlay. The theme is "Earth Day," and Lauren Sandhu from the University of Findlay Biology Department will be our guest speaker. Mark your calendar NOW and keep watch for further details.

TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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"Kyrie" TEXT: Dinah Reindorf, b.c. 1927 Music: 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

"No Wind at the Window" TEXT: John L. Bell, b. 1949 MUSIC: Irish Melody; arr. John L. Bell Text and arr. © 1992 WGRG, Iona Community, admin GA Publications

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory" Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt., sts. 1-3; Salisbury Hymn Book, 1857, st4. Music: Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879

"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

"Love Has Come" Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950 © 1996 Integrity's Hosanna! Music Music: F. Seguin, Recueil de noels composes en langue provencale, 1856

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Holiday Office Closures Monday, December 25, 2023 Monday, January 1, 2024



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 HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE of the Advent Season. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Emily Meyerson, 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.

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

<u>GRIEVING:</u> Bertha and Jen 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.

<u>COMPANION CHURCH</u>: Mwanawotta Lutheran Church, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

<u>WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS</u>: all ministries of the ELCA (<u>E</u>vangelical <u>L</u>utheran <u>C</u>hurch in <u>A</u>merica), our presiding <u>Bishop Elizabeth Eaton</u>, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the <u>NWOS</u> (<u>Northwestern Ohio Synod</u>), <u>Bishop Daniel Beaudoin</u>, and our 15 Central Conference congregations.

<u>THE WORLD</u>: 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.

Those Who Hear and Do

Who is God's family? Where is God's home? In the church we often speak of our home parish as a family. Many of us grew up thinking of the church building as God's house. But the readings for this day call us to anticipate that Emmanuel might understand kinship and home in different ways. As we approach Christmas, which in our culture is increasingly a celebration of hearth and home more than a public festival, the inclusiveness of God's promise rings out from these readings.

The temple often stood in the imagination of Israel as the "house of God," but in 1 Samuel God expresses reservations before the temple is even built. The promise made to David is not about the building. Instead of the expected places of wealth and power, God chooses to dwell in a *people* instead of a "house of cedar" (2 Sam. 7:2, 7).



So if God is dwelling in a people, who is included in *that* promise? Although no one disputes that Jesus is born of the "house of David," Luke's gospel stresses Mary's lowliness instead of her bloodlines, reminding us that Christ became flesh in the most unlikely circumstances. Later in Luke's gospel, when someone mentions his family to Jesus, he says his family includes all "who hear the word of God and do it" (8:21). In today's gospel we see Mary acting out that definition of family.

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