

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



First Sunday of Christmas  
December 31, 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](mailto: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: *Pastor Elizabeth Hadler*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Janet Goldner*

Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*

Ushers: *Jill Guy and Zach Stewart*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*

## To the Glory of God

January Candles: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*

January Bulletins: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*

January Newsletter: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*

**The flowers** are given by Tiffany & Tom Mika in celebration of and honor of her father's, Dwight Patterson, birthday on January 5.

**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

First Sunday of Christmas, December 31, 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.*

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### 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: The days of watching and waiting have brought us to our celebration of the birth of the promised Savior who renews our spirits and changes our lives.

**ALL: Lord, our Savior, your light shines among us, your saving help surrounds us, your love blesses us.**

Leader: A star brought bright light to the Bethlehem sky.

**ALL: We too have divine light to guide us.**

Leader: Shepherds and magi traveled to welcome the Savior.

**ALL: We welcome the Savior into our hearts.**

Leader: The love of Jesus shines today in our world.

**ALL: We come and worship Christ, the newborn King.**

### \*GATHERING HYMN #296

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

## AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, the Word made flesh, our life and our salvation. Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

*Please take a moment for silent confession.*

Leader: God of love,

**ALL: you promise good news of great joy for all people, and call us to be messengers of your peace. We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. We nurture conflict and build barriers. We neglect the needs of our neighbors and ignore the groaning of creation.**

**Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.**

Leader: Hear the good news: We are children of God and heirs of God's promises through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In ✠ Jesus we are forgiven and redeemed. Sing with joy, for all the ends of the earth shall know the salvation of God. 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.

## \*CONFESSIOAL 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. Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.  
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: Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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## GOD SPEAKS TO US

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### FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

Reader: I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. <sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

<sup>62:1</sup>For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. <sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. <sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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

### PSALM READING

*(responsively)*

Psalm 148

Reader: Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

**ALL: Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

Reader: Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

**ALL: Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.**

Reader: Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

**ALL: who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

Reader: Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

**ALL: fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;**

Reader: mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

**ALL: wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;**

Reader: sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;

**ALL: young men and maidens, old and young together.**

Reader: Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.

**ALL: The Lord has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the Lord. Hallelujah!**

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

## **SECOND READING**

GALATIANS 4:4-7

Reader: When the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are

children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting 3

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## \*GOSPEL READING

LUKE 2:15-21

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Luke chapter 2. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. <sup>21</sup>After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.



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

## **THE MESSAGE**

### **\*HYMN OF THE DAY #288**

GOOD CHRISTIAN FRIENDS, REJOICE

### **\*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: Trusting in God's good news of great joy for all people, we offer our prayers for ourselves, our neighbors, and the world God loves.

### **\*PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

We pray for Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Jim, 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**



## \*SHARING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The hope, peace, joy, love, and light of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**ALL: and also with you.**

Leader: Let us share the peace of God.

*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 #186

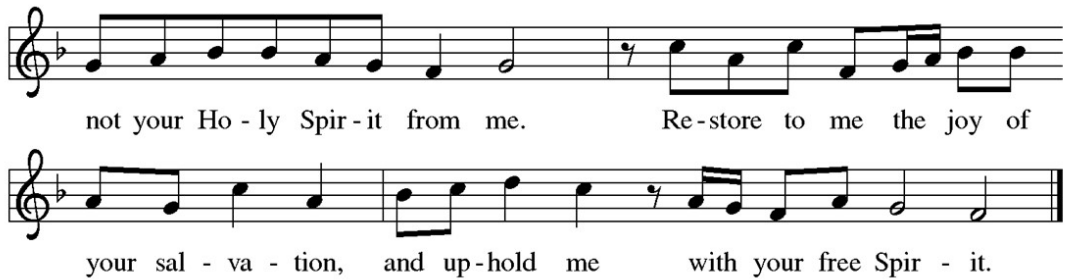
### CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right



spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take



not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

**ALL: God of abundance, receive and bless these gifts we have offered. Join our hearts with the song of the angels, and gather us at your table of celebration. Strengthen us to share with all the world the abundance of your grace upon grace, poured out in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Amen.**

# GOD NOURISHES US

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

Leader: Lift up your hearts in the hope of Christ. **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: The darkness has been shattered by the Word made flesh. Light has come into the world: Jesus Christ our Lord. And so, with all the universe and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending song ...**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. 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.

## \*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: Believing that the light of Christ came into our world and still shines in the darkness, come and take your place at the table.

**ALL: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**

## DISTRIBUTION

## \*HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #204

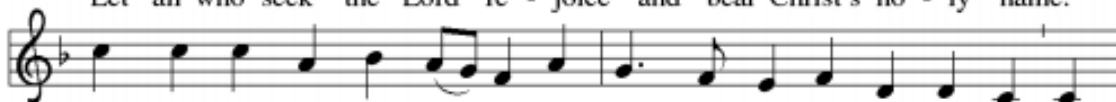
THANKFUL HEARTS AND VOICES RAISE



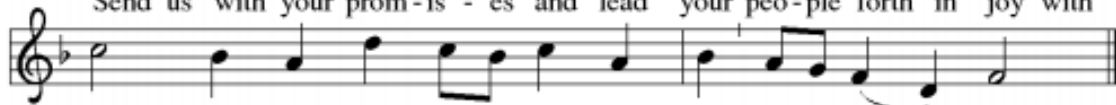
Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



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



Send us with your prom - is - es 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:** God our redeemer, you have fed us at this table with gifts of grace, truth, and life. As you have gathered us in joy, send us forth as messengers of your peace. Make us shine with the good news of your glory, born to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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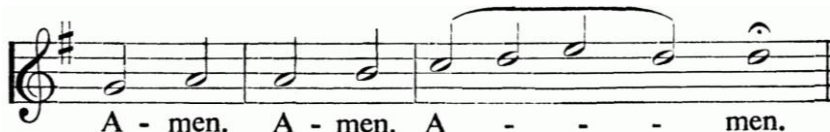
# GOD SENDS US

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## \*BLESSING

Leader: God bless you and keep you, ✠ Jesus grant you grace and truth, and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

## \*THE AMEN



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

## \*SENDING HYMN # 290

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

## \*DISMISSAL

Leader: Christ the Savior is born! Go in peace and proclaim this good news.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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**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.

**NORTH BALTIMORE Food Panty JANUARY** requested donations include canned fruits, veggies, and soups.

**Blessings for a Happy New Year!**  
**May God grant you peace, joy, and Love!**

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“*What Child is This*” TEXT: William C. Dix, 1837-1898 MUSIC: English ballad, 16<sup>th</sup> cent.

“*Kyrie*” TEXT: Dinah Reindorf, b.c. 1927 MUSIC: 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

“*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*” TEXT: Medieval Latin carol; tr: John Mason Neale, 1818-1866 MUSIC: German carol, 14<sup>th</sup> cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795-1856

“*Create in Me a Clean Heart*” TEXT: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 MUSIC: © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

“*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

“*Go Tell It on the Mountain*” TEXT: African American Spiritual, refrain; John W. Work, Jr. 1872-1925 MUSIC: African American Spiritual

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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 Christmas and the birth of our savior. 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.

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS:** 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.

**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.

## Go in Peace



With Simeon and Anna we receive consolation (Luke 2:25) and good news: Jesus frees us to go in peace. God’s Word is incarnate, and we have seen the light of our salvation (2:29-32). “Go in peace” is our call to action—a reminder that we are freed from sin and death and sent out to share that good news with the world. “Go in peace”

is also our prayer as life ends—a reminder of a love more powerful than death.

And yet . . . right along with these words of peace come troubling words from Simeon. The infant Jesus will be a source of turmoil for his people and his family. The words “and a sword will pierce your own soul too” (Luke 2:35) must have been the opposite of peaceful and comforting to young mother Mary. Luke even includes the detail that Mary and Joseph offered the least expensive purification sacrifice, a reminder that Jesus was born into poverty (Lev. 12:8). Even in the presence of God’s incarnate peace, all is not well with the world.

This is where we enter the story, full of questions. How do we experience God’s peace in our broken world? Faced with the reality of war, poverty, hunger, destruction, and loss, how do we speak of peace? How do we live God’s peace in our lives? Like Simeon and Anna, we have faith in God’s promise of peace because we have faith in the promiser. As Simeon and Anna witnessed, God’s word has been, is, and will be fulfilled.

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