

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



February 12, 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>
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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: *Olivia Matthes*
Prayer Leader: *Olivia Matthes*
Acolyte: *Olivia Matthes*
Ushers: *JoLynn & Don Stewart*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

See the green bulletin
insert for additional
important
announcements.

To the Glory of God

February Altar Candles: *available for sign up*
February Bulletins: *available for sign up*
February Newsletter: *available for sign up*

North Baltimore Food Pantry February requested donations include: instant potatoes and pork & beans. Thank you for your continued support of this vital community mission.

Join us on **Ash Wednesday, February 22** at 6:00 p.m. for soup, sandwiches, and fellowship at the church. Then join in person or online at 7:00 p.m. for worship.

Order of Worship

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany – February 12, 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 as you feel comfortable. Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.*

GOD GATHERS US

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 #836**

JOYFUL, JOYFUL WE ADORE THEE

***KYRIE, LORD HAVE MERCY**

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 120

***GLORY TO GOD**

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 121-122

GOD SPEAKS TO US

PROPHETIC READING

DEUTERONOMY 30:15-20

Reader: “Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. ¹⁶ For I command you this day to love the Lord your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy.

¹⁷ “But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, ¹⁸ then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy.

¹⁹ “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! ²⁰ You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the Lord, you will live long in the land the Lord swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.”

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

DISCIPLESHIP READING

1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-9

Reader: Dear brothers and sisters, when I was with you I couldn't talk to you as I would to spiritual people. I had to talk as though you belonged to this world or as though you were infants in Christ. ² I had to feed you with milk, not with solid food, because you weren't ready for anything stronger. And you still aren't ready, ³ for you are still controlled by your sinful nature. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your sinful nature? Aren't you living like people of the world? ⁴ When one of you says, "I am a follower of Paul," and another says, "I follow Apollos," aren't you acting just like people of the world?

⁵ After all, who is Apollos? Who is Paul? We are only God's servants through whom you believed the Good News. Each of us did the work the Lord gave us. ⁶ I planted the seed in your hearts, and Apollos watered it, but it was God who made it grow. ⁷ It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. ⁸ The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. ⁹ For we are both God's workers. And you are God's field. You are God's building.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 124

*GOSPEL INTRODUCTION

MATTHEW 5:21-37

In today's reading from Deuteronomy we are called to choose life by loving and obeying God. Much of today's gospel reading echoes portions of the Ten Commandments. Jesus' instructions to the crowd reveal a pattern of behavior that honors both God and the neighbor, resulting in life and health for the whole community. We too are invited to embrace these commandments, not out of fear of retribution, but because God has promised that to do so means life for us.

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 5. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: "You have heard that our ancestors were told, 'You must not murder. If you commit murder, you are subject to judgment.' ²² But I say, if you are even angry with someone, you are subject to judgment! If you call

someone an idiot, you are in danger of being brought before the court. And if you curse someone, you are in danger of the fires of hell.

²³ “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, ²⁴ leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God.

²⁵ “When you are on the way to court with your adversary, settle your differences quickly. Otherwise, your accuser may hand you over to the judge, who will hand you over to an officer, and you will be thrown into prison. ²⁶ And if that happens, you surely won’t be free again until you have paid the last penny.

²⁷ “You have heard the commandment that says, ‘You must not commit adultery.’ ²⁸ But I say, anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart. ²⁹ So if your eye—even your good eye — causes you to lust, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell. ³⁰ And if your hand—even your stronger hand—causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

³¹ “You have heard the law that says, ‘A man can divorce his wife by merely giving her a written notice of divorce.’ ³² But I say that a man who divorces his wife, unless she has been unfaithful, causes her to commit adultery. And anyone who marries a divorced woman also commits adultery.

³³ “You have also heard that our ancestors were told, ‘You must not break your vows; you must carry out the vows you make to the Lord.’ ³⁴ But I say, do not make any vows! Do not say, ‘By heaven!’ because heaven is God’s throne. ³⁵ And do not say, ‘By the earth!’ because the earth is his footstool. And do not say, ‘By Jerusalem!’ for Jerusalem is the city of the great King. ³⁶ Do not even say, ‘By my head!’ for you can’t turn one hair white or black. ³⁷ Just say a simple, ‘Yes, I will,’ or ‘No, I won’t.’ Anything beyond this is from the evil one.

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 #521**

O DAY OF REST AND GLADNESS

THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

We pray for Jim, 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.

.....In Jesus' name we pray the prayer he taught us 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**



GOD NOURISHES US

THE TABLE PRAYER

SETTING 2

Leader: The Lord be with you. **ALL: And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts. **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.

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.

GOD SENDS US

* **BLESSING**

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 136-137

* **THE AMEN**



* **SENDING HYMN #770**

GIVE ME JESUS

* **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.

TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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"*Joyful, Joyful WE Adore Thee*" TEXT: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1933 MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, adapt.

"*O Day of Rest and Gladness*" TEXT: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-1885. alt. MUSIC: German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X.L. Hartig, *Melodian zum Mainzer, Gesangsbuche*, 1833

"*Give Me Jesus*" TEXT: African American spiritual MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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Flowers+Candles+Media

The 2023 sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board for providing flowers for worship, as well as supporting the printing of the bulletins and newsletters and the candles used each week.





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 resources and opportunities to be the Hands of God for our neighbors in need. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Jim Wymer, 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.



God's Work - Our Hands



It has come to our attention that a member family in North Baltimore is in need of assistance. The family, wishing to remain anonymous, is needing financial support for paying a large bill. If you have been blessed and nudged by God to help with this need, please make your donation in a pink “Special Fund” envelope and mark for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. We will then see that your gifts are directed to the proper vendor. There is no gift too small. Please give as you have been blessed.

Thank you.

[2 Corinthians 9:7](#)

You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. “For God loves a person who gives cheerfully.”

Lenten Wednesdays Bible Study

In-person and online every Wednesday at St. Luke’s, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and April 5 @ **6:00pm**-Soup, Sandwich, & Dessert Supper (in-person) **7:00pm**- Bible Study in-person and online

The Story of Jesus. The Story of Us.

LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE
MIDDLE EAST CRISIS

FEBRUARY 2023

ELCA.org/disaster

On Feb. 6 two powerful earthquakes, one a magnitude 7.8 and the second a magnitude 7.5, hit Türkiye and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The two quakes devastated both countries, killing thousands of people and collapsing thousands of buildings.

Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to supporting ACT Alliance and other partners in responding to the earthquakes. ACT Alliance

member organizations are providing immediate aid; a comprehensive response will be coordinated as the full extent of the impact becomes clearer.

Gifts to “Middle East Crisis” will be used in full (100%) to assist those affected by the earthquakes and other disasters in the region. Together we can provide immediate and long-lasting support. Give today to support this response and others like it.

.....
Yes, I want to help!

- Lutheran Disaster Response: Where needed most \$ _____ DDG0010
 Lutheran Disaster Response: Middle East Crisis \$ _____ IDG0038

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Email address _____

Give through your congregation or make your check out to
Lutheran Disaster Response and send to:

**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gifts Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009** and write “Where needed most” or
“Middle East Crisis” on your check’s memo line.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Risky Business

Time after time we are called through the scriptures to leave behind familiar and predictable ways of life, risking a journey into the unknown and unknowable. Risks often have a very big and exciting “upside” which is matched by an equally steep and daunting “downside.” Many good and faithful people have a healthy fear of risk, but taking a risk with God is a very different venture. If God’s call to follow is risky, and we succeed, we can experience God’s presence and promise in profound new ways. However, if we follow God’s call to risk and it seems to fail, then we are still following in the footsteps of the one who formed us, loves us, and calls us by name.

In Deuteronomy, Moses had taken a risk and led Israel out of slavery and toward the Promised Land. He encourages the people to continue to risk by choosing life in God as opposed to the lures of life without him. Paul risked his life time and time again in order share the gospel, and he is encouraging the people of Corinth to risk walking a different route in Christ. In today’s gospel we hear Jesus offer tough teachings which may seem risky to preachers everywhere! These readings all seem to be filled with tough, risky teachings, but dig a little deeper and we can experience the grace-filled message of hope and new life rooted in God’s love. We can clearly hear a call to risk, but also the promise of God’s steadfast presence to be with all who faithfully follow, no matter the outcome. So take a deep breath, dare to risk, crack open the “tough exterior” and experience the love and grace of these texts.



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Church Office Hours M-F 9-1