

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



February 19, 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](mailto:StLukesNB@gmail.com)  
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: *JoLynn Stewart*  
Prayer Leader: *Beth Williams*  
Acolyte: *Hannah Hagemyer*  
Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes*  
Videographer: *Beth Williams*

### To the Glory of God

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

Wednesday, February 22, 2023

St. John's Lutheran Church  
McComb, Ohio  
Worship @ 5:00 p.m.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
North Baltimore, Ohio  
6:00 p.m. Soup &  
Sandwich Dinner  
7:00 p.m. worship  
in person &  
on Facebook

Ash  
Wednesday  
All Are Welcome.

Focus 2023: The Story of Jesus. The story of Us.

**North Baltimore Food Pantry February** requested donations include: instant potatoes and pork & beans.

### 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

# Order of Worship

Transfiguration of Our Lord – February 19, 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.*

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### 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 #838**

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

**\*KYRIE, LORD HAVE MERCY**

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 120

**\*GLORY TO GOD**

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 121-122

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## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

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### **PROPHETIC READING**

EXODUS 24:12-18

Reader: Then the Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain. Stay there, and I will give you the tablets of stone on which I have inscribed the instructions and commands so you can teach the people.” <sup>13</sup> So Moses and his assistant Joshua set out, and Moses climbed up the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> Moses told the elders, “Stay here and wait for us until we come back. Aaron and Hur are here with you. If anyone has a dispute while I am gone, consult with them.”

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses climbed up the mountain, and the cloud covered it. <sup>16</sup> And the glory of the Lord settled down on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days. On the seventh day the Lord called to Moses from inside the cloud. <sup>17</sup> To the Israelites at the foot of the mountain, the glory of the Lord appeared at the summit like a consuming fire. <sup>18</sup> Then Moses disappeared into the cloud as he climbed higher up the mountain. He remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights.

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

### **DISCIPLESHIP READING**

2 PETER 1:16-21

Reader: For we were not making up clever stories when we told you about the powerful coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We saw his majestic splendor with our own eyes <sup>17</sup> when he received honor and glory from God the

Father. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy.” <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard that voice from heaven when we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup> Because of that experience, we have even greater confidence in the message proclaimed by the prophets. You must pay close attention to what they wrote, for their words are like a lamp shining in a dark place—until the Day dawns, and Christ the Morning Star shines in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, <sup>21</sup> or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

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

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 124

## \*GOSPEL INTRODUCTION

MATTHEW 17:1-9

*Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration. At the transfiguration, God’s voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God’s voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.*

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 17. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Six days later Jesus took Peter and the two brothers, James and John, and led them up a high mountain to be alone. <sup>2</sup> As the men watched, Jesus’ appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus.

<sup>4</sup> Peter exclaimed, “Lord, it’s wonderful for us to be here! If you want, I’ll make three shelters as memorials —one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>5</sup> But even as he spoke, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy. Listen to him.” <sup>6</sup> The disciples were terrified and fell face down on the ground.

<sup>7</sup> Then Jesus came over and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” <sup>8</sup> And when they looked up, Moses and Elijah were gone, and they saw only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they went back down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

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 #318**

ALLELUIA, SONG OF GLADNESS

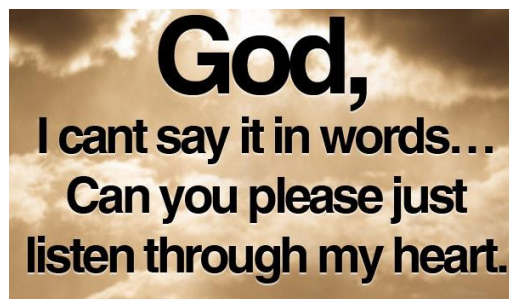
## **THANKSGIVING FOR OFFERINGS**

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

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

We pray for Janet, 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, Linda, Ann, Ed, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Cindy, Chris, Arlene, Logan, Don, Gus, Michelle, Barb, Riker, and Kelly.

.....who taught us to pray 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**



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## GOD NOURISHES US

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### 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.**

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## GOD SENDS US

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### \* BLESSING

SETTING 2 HYMNAL PAGE 136-137

### \* THE AMEN



### \* SENDING HYMN #315

HOW GOOD, LORD, TO BE HERE!

### \* 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.

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"Beautiful Savior" TEXT: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904 Music: Silesian folk tune, 19<sup>th</sup>. Cent.

"Alleluia, Song of Gladness" TEXT: Latin hymn, 11<sup>th</sup> cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, alt. Music: John Goss, 1800-1880

"How Good, Lord, to be Here" TEXT: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt. Music: W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

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# 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.

**Middle East Crisis** - on Feb. 6 two powerful earthquakes hit Türkiye and significantly impacted neighboring



**Lutheran Disaster Response**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

Syria. The first was a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in south central Türkiye, followed hours later by a magnitude 7.5 quake in the southeastern part of the country. The two quakes have devastated Türkiye and Syria, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Thousands of people have been killed, thousands more have been injured. Lutheran Disaster Response is committed to supporting ACT Alliance and other partners in responding to these earthquakes. Your financial gifts to LDR will greatly help those in distress in these areas. Give NOW through the church or LDR

<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/Our-Impact/Middle-East-Crisis>

## **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.”



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 Lutheran Disaster Response and all who have responded following the earthquakes in the Middle East. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Janet Goldner, 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, 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.

**GRIEVING:** The family and friends of **Gloria Hoffsis**, who passed away on February 14.

**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** (**E**vangelical **L**utheran **C**hurch in **A**merica), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, leaders, of the congregations of the **NWOS** (**N**orth**w**estern **O**hio **S**ynod), **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.

## Finding God in the Clouds

We often speak of mountaintop experiences as those joyous times we look forward to with excitement and look back upon fondly, such as summer camp or an annual hiking trip. The mountaintop moments in today's readings were different: awe-inspiring, yes, but also full of devouring fires, clouds, and fear. Vision is obscured, the familiar becomes unknown, and nothing is the same. People get lost in fires, clouds, and fear, unable to find their way, but God's presence is where we get both lost *and* found. Many biblical encounters with God involved fear, pointing to the awesome reality of God that is much more than the gentle shepherd we often imagine (though God is that, too). God is, as C. S. Lewis famously said, "not a tame lion" (*The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, London: HarperCollins Children's Books, 2001, p. 197). The truth is, we can no more plan our mountaintop times with God than we can stay there forever, as much as we think we would like to. God's place is to invite, ours to respond, faces bowed to the ground.

Eventually, of course, the that mountain, walking valley and getting dusty life. Many churches the Alleluias" today, the end of a glorious Christ's light and the real season of Jesus' and "valley" season of Lent.



time comes to leave with Jesus down to the with the ashes of daily symbolically "roll up recognizing that this is season celebrating entrance to a no-less-our own lives, the But that doesn't mean

there is nothing to do down in the valley. On the contrary, the traditional disciplines of Lent—fasting, prayer, and gifts to the poor—all help us maintain the eyes, ears, and heart to see and hear God whenever and however God appears.

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Church Office Hours M-F 9-1